



NOTICE OF EVENT

OSTEND CRUISER RALLY Friday 30th May 2025

Rally Starts:	Harwich to West of North Shelf Buoy at 06:00 BST <u>LW</u> Harwich is 08:16 BST
Pre-Rally Briefing:	Online from 19:00 on Thursday 29th May
Entry Fee	£25-00 does NOT include mooring fees or food

The Ostend Rally aims to encourage yacht sailors of varying experience to make a North Sea crossing in company. The Rally will be sailed with the enjoyment and safety of the participants paramount. Those of a competitive nature are expected to sail keenly while maintaining a sporting and fair demeanour. The use of engines is permitted as necessary to make a minimum average speed of 5 knots through the water.

Because of tidal conditions, all boats will start this year's rally at Harwich. The start time is just over 2 hours before Low Water Harwich, and the start will be a line directly west of the North Shelf port hand navigation buoy in Harwich harbour, within the designated yacht track; careful attention to depth will be needed. The intention is that "average" speed boats should arrive near the Long Sand Head buoy at about 10:00.

The Course shall be:	Start: 06:00 North Shelf to port Cliff Foot to port South Cork to port Long Sand Head to starboard. <u>Note the time you pass it.</u> 12 NM off Belgian coast hoist Q Flag & BEL courtesy flag
	Finish: Binnenstroom Bank Buoy to port bearing 270°T <u>Note the time you pass it.</u>
	Moorings: Proceed 2.2NM from the finish to Royal Yacht Club Oostende, where moorings have been reserved.

In the event of light winds at the start, all participants are encouraged to use the engine to make sufficient speed to pass the Long Sand Head before 10:30.

- Every entrant must record and declare the time they pass the Long Sand Head Buoy.
- All use of engines after the start must be timed, logged, and entered on the declaration form.
- BST is the time zone used to record all sailing activities; other times, such as prizegiving or other activities arranged during the Rally, are in Belgian local time (CEST).

Prizes will be awarded for meritorious performance and other very silly things.

Given the rally's objectives, the Committee's decisions on handicaps, etc., are not open to question, and no protests will be considered.

The prizegiving and dinner will be held from 18:00 on Saturday, 31st May, at the Royal Yacht Club Oostende.

Customs and Immigration Clearance

The entry rules for non-EU citizens require us to register online with the Belgian Police by submitting a Pleasure Craft Declaration. The website for submitting the required information is <https://digital.belgium.be/iaf/hil/police/pcdec/>. You may change the language of this website in the top left corner of the page. You must complete this form before setting off from the UK, and it is strongly advised that you complete it several days before our departure for Ostend.

Be advised that non-EU citizens must have their passports stamped on arrival and departure from the Schengen area. You and all your crew must ensure that an incoming stamp is obtained on arrival in the first Schengen country (Belgium) and that you get an outgoing stamp confirming departure from the last Schengen country visited on this trip. Failure to obtain an exit stamp within 90 days of entry could bar you from future entry to the Schengen area.

Navigation in ports

Harwich Haven guidance can be found here:

<https://hha.co.uk/safety/>

Ostend does not appear to have an equivalent publication for yachts. They publish a Notice to Mariners, which may contain similar information, but it is mainly in Flemish: <https://www.agentschapmdk.be/nl/publicaties#baz-2025>. Guidance in English is available from current almanacs.

Entry Form and Agreement

The 2025 entry form and agreement will be sent to all skippers whose details we hold. Please share this notice with other skippers who may be interested in joining us. The organisers' details are below; don't hesitate to get in touch with Andrew in the first instance if you have any questions.

Joint organisers for this event are:

Andrew Priestley andrew@arpriestley.com 07454 709 579

George Wright george@gwfarms.co.uk 07831 888866

The closing date for entries is Saturday, 17th May 2025

PLEASE NOTE – The Rally is a Cruise in Company, NOT A RACE