CITY LIVERY YACHT CLUB

57TH ANNUAL INTER-LIVERY REGATTA

Foreword from the Commodore

It was a great pleasure to welcome the City back to Cowes for our 57th Inter-Livery Regatta in May. We had two great days of racing across three classes, with spirited competition between companies to win the Lord Mayor's Cup. The evenings saw us enjoy two convivial meals and I'm particularly delighted that we all raised a significant sum for the National Coastwatch Institution at Saturday's presentation dinner.



The Commodore during her speech at the Royal Yacht Squadron.

You can read more about the weekend from sailors below but on behalf of everyone at CLYC I'd like to thank everyone that took part for making it such a memorable weekend. We look forward to seeing you for the 58th Inter-Livery Regatta on 14-16 May 2027!

National Coastwatch Institution

The NCI is a fantastic organisation which runs watchkeepers around the UK cost to keep a visual watch on water users, monitor radio channels, and provide a listening watch in poor visibility. Watches are kept year round by circa 2700 highly-trained volunteers at 60 stations around the country, and those volunteers come from all walks of life. You must undergo thorough training before becoming a watchman, but all from the top to the bottom volunteer their own time to make this organisation work. A very apt charity for the Inter-Livery Regatta this year given our members and competitors utilise various stretches of the UK coast!

We were joined by Frank Moxon, Trustee National Coastwatch, at our Saturday presentation dinner, who took the time to share a few words with us all about the work of

the NCI and the type of support we all, as water users, can provide. Thank you to Frank for educating us on the NCI's integral involvement in the UK's water safety! Remember, you can call VHF65 to undertake radio checks/check local weather forecasts/obtain local navigation advice with the NCI rather than HM Coastguard.

The Scriveners – Eagle

On 16th May 2026, the Scriveners Company competed for the Lord Mayor's Cup, the oldest cup in inter-livery sport of any type. The regatta consisted of 20 yachts and 3 keelboats and was entered by the Scriveners, the Little Ship Club, the Bar YC, the Innholders, the Gunmakers, the City Livery YC, the Royal Naval Sailing Association, the Information Technologists, the Butchers, the Grocers, the International Bankers, the World Traders, the Educators, Portcullis SC, the Leathersellers, the Constructors, the Barbers and the Broderers.

Eagle flew the burgee of the City Livery YC high in the senior position on the starboard side and a burgee of a fierce pen-toting eagle (denoting the Scriveners) in the more junior position high up port side.



CLYC library photo of Class 2 in the 2025 City Livery Regatta.

Race 1 began on the RORC line at Cowes, and the yachts beat up to the Gurnard north cardinal mark just off Egypt point before a long-ish run of nearly 2.5 miles out past the Ryde Middle Bank. Due to confusion from the race course instructions, the Scriveners thought the race allowed no spinnakers but some yachts ahead launched theirs on the run and the Scriveners then launched the big heavyweight symmetric spinnaker, causing the boat to charge down the course, past several other competitors. It was very hairy as Eagle is tail-happy and very roly-poly on a run in gusty winds as we had here, the gusts occasionally reaching 22 knots. With twin spinnaker sheets and guys and a 3 times World Champion and Olympic medallist on the foredeck, the Scriveners completed a textbook dip-pole gybe on to starboard with 5 minutes to run to the mark, followed by a fine leeward drop at the mark, under the boom and "letterbox", down the main hatch. Beating up towards the RORC buoy (just south of the Bramble Bank) in a good fresh Force 5, the Scriveners showed a clean pair of heels to various companies and came round the RORC buoy in fine fettle, then charging for the Royal London Bouy at a very good hull speed of up to 7.5 knots. The result later showed that the Scriveners had done well, placed 2nd and

beaten by Kusima (the overall winner of the weekend) by only 45 seconds over a race of more than one hour.

For some reason, the Scriveners' Skipper went to pieces during the build-up to Race 2. Correctly charging for the outer distance mark at the start, the Skipper suddenly decided to go into lemming mode and followed others in the class in a luffing match in totally the wrong direction. Then Reef 1 got stuck in, making the sail area too small, then the Foredeck tried to bite the genoa during a tack, getting hit hard on the nose instead, then leaking blood over the decks. After the very hairy spinnaker action in Race 1, we then decided on a cautious genoa goosewing instead of using any spinnaker in Race 2, losing yet more time, though gaining some back by going very shallow inside the Lepe cardinal mark for less adverse tide round Lepe Point. Coming back with the tide on the beats up to the finish, the Skipper with total brain overload then overstood 2 more marks, losing further seconds and we finished a lowly 8th though with pride intact.



Photo John Cavanagh: the Scriveners Company crew with part of the Grocers' crew at the 2026 City Livery Regatta at the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Later, at dinner in the Royal Yacht Squadron, the Admiral of the City Livery YC, former Rt Hon Lord Mayor Prof Mainelli himself an entrant in the regatta, presented the Scriveners with the Sir Robert Green Trophy, for 2nd place in our class in Race 1.

The International Bankers – Protégé

The WCIB Sailing Club was delighted to take part again in the City Livery Yacht Club Regatta in Cowes for the weekend. We proudly displayed our new WCIB banner when berthing at Cowes Yacht Haven. The weather was promising, sunny and windy. The Team set sail from Port Hamble Marina on Friday to reach Cowes for the Friday supper at RORC Cowes. Our Team was Barrie Martin (Past Commodore of the Little Ship Club) skipper with crew Celia Greetham as First Mate, Liz Thrussell, Gwyneth Macaulay, David Pfeiffer, Alan Greenwood, and Dayne Paulding.

With variable winds it promised to be an interesting race. WCIB in Class 2, with white sails only, came in 3rd in the first race but sadly 9th in the 2nd race as we were over exuberant and sailed an extra buoy. However, we made up for it coming 2nd in the Sunday race.

On Saturday evening, the presentation dinner for the Lord Mayor's Cup held at Royal Yacht Squadron, with wonderful views over the water, allowed us to mingle with other Livery Company crews to share our racing experiences. A good weekend was had by all.



The international Bankers aboard their home for the weekend.

The Constructors – Sonar

Thursday 14th May 2026

We had decided to make it an extended weekend break in Cowes and be prepared for the CLYC Regatta on Saturday. With my eldest son Matt, we took a leisurely drive down from London to Hamble where fellow Crew and friend, Cara Golden, lives. We then took her Hardy 20, a comfortable motor boat with an 80HP outboard that delivers 15kn to 20kn on the plane, over to Cowes. We visited the Island Sailing Club (ISC) to familiarise ourselves and book a training sail for the next day, my younger son, Ben, came down from London just in time for curry and a beer. What fun and such a great start to the weekend.

Friday 15th May 2026

Now fully in relaxed Regatta spirit, we looked at tides and weather and did a bit of prep for Saturday. Had a lovely bacon sandwich for Brunch and then set off to ISC. After kitting us out with safety gear, life jacket, and radio, we had a safety brief and Andy took us out to the moorings to meet our Sonar for the weekend, "MISCREANT". None of us had sailed a Sonar before, so we wanted to fully familiarise ourselves on boat set up and boat handling.

We did a number of beats and runs and we all slotted into our positions. Matt on helm, Ben on Main, Cara front of boat and tactics, and me in the middle of the boat. In the couple of hours we trained the wind built and then started to die - seemed like this was likely to be the same on Saturday although more wind was forecast. Tuned the rig and felt good with our spinnaker hoists and gybes. Prep done.

We were then off the water to have a debrief in the Bar, a couple of beers and then home to get ready for the CLYC Welcome event at the RORC Club. It was good to meet fellow sailors, enjoy the buffet, and a few more beers.

Saturday 16th May 2026

There was a regatta briefing from the Race Officer down at Cowes Yacht Haven at 9am, and hopefully a few tips on the course. The plan was 2 races starting off the RORC Line,

playing in the Central Solent Area. Perfect. Our 1st Start was11.20hrs. Plan was to get down to the ISC around 10am to get the boat rigged and ready to go.

We dropped mooring and straight away got into race mode, rigging for Port rounds, and then watching the previous starts for line position and bias... Ohh the course comes over the Whatsapp and its Starboard rounds! Short course, 3 marks and perfect with a beat, spinnaker run and shy reach to the finish. Reset the boat for Starboard rounds and settled into the Start.
Race 1 11.20hrs - Ben handled the countdown whilst Matt jockeyed the boat for a mid-line but closest to pin start, a great start and we were off! Leward of our competitors but in front. Round 1st mark, popped up the kite and off we go to 2nd mark not looking back. Good drop round the mark and shy reach to finish. Competitors a long way back - that preparation paid off!
Time for a sarnie and a well-deserved race winning Double Decker.



Race 2 13.05hrs - Slightly longer race and the wind was building. Same format; 3 marks, Starboard rounds. Tactic was to take the pin and go for it. It was a free and quick start with competitors inside and to windward. We had to make a choice nearing the 1st mark; take a boat up but end up down tide of the mark, or let them pass and round 1st. We chose to let them round just in front and then hoist our spinnaker. As we hoisted, the wind increased and flicked right so we were on a reach. We were moving fast and soon won back the lead. Half way along the leg, the wind went further right so we dropped the kite and tightened up towards the 3rd mark. After a tight battle, we rounded the 3rd mark just in front, with a white sail reach to the finish.

Just as our competitor rounded the mark, our mainsheet broke off the boom! Disaster!! Quick thinking was required so I grabbed the end of the main sheet, did a quick loop over the end of boom, and recovered the main in towards the boat centre. With a quick loop around the traveller, we fashioned a jury rig to tie the main sail in position. Whilst this was going on Matt and Cara sailed the boat onward and fortunately managed to maintain our route to the finish without being overtaken - winning by 30secs in a 54minute race.

Phew! 2 Races 2 wins for the Constructors with a bit of action and great team work. It was a very enjoyable day on the water, and we had a trophy to collect at the Royal Yacht Squadron! Super dinner, great company and a very enjoyable evening. Regatta well organised and great fun.

The Constructors will be back next year to return the trophy and either fight to maintain our win, or possibly compete in the bigger boat class. The Sonars are such a fun, easy to sail dayboat!

Portcullis Sailing Club – Silver Fox

Silver Fox Skipper's Recollection:

My partner Naomi and I made the commitment to campaign the City series this year, after a 2-year gap for me from sailing the series in the past on a different boat.

So, together we faced a very rushed two weeks getting Silver Fox pulled out of the water, cleaned both inside and out, polished, anti-fouled, varnished and replacing all the halliards, only to have the spinnaker halliard mouse line jam at the top of the mast, resulting in the skipper being sent up the mast to sort it out, which I can tell you is really no fun on a 23 foot boat in a gusting force 5 wind! we managed to leave our little harbour at Hillhead to get to Cowes for the Friday night welcome drinks.

We enlisted the assistance of Cally, a good friend to assist as crew, who was a "New to the boat" crew member, we embarked on our race adventure and the City Livery regatta!



Silver Fox is a 1982 Copland Fox Terrier 22 made in Ventnor on the Isle of Wight.

Despite my not too shabby start! on the first race, unfortunately my plans did not come to fruition as to how we might do overall!

I found myself confronted with spinnaker twists, riding turns, slow tacks all the while watching our lead disappear. My silver lining though despite it all, was to still make the top three with nothing or no one breaking!

Silver Fox Crew's Recollection:

We were new to sailing together, but looking forward to performing to our best (not overly experienced) abilities! We thought the start was ok, but reluctant to inflate the skipper's ego too much!

We occasionally heard shouting from the helm, but just assumed that it was "motivational" comments from the skipper… so ignored them!
We smashed it! And everyone knows if something goes wrong it's always the Skipper's fault!

It was so good to see the event being so well supported, with a good range of yachts taking part across 3 classes. We would like to extend our thanks once again to all those involved in the arrangement and execution of this regatta and making us feel so welcome!

RESULTS

Class 1 Results

Class: '2026 City Livery Class 1'						
Rank	**Sail No**	**Name**	**Helm**	**Race 1**	**Race 2**	**Net pts**
1	**GBR 7001T**	Challenger	Adam Ballard	1	1	**2**
2	**GBR 1805X**	Sovereign	Marianna Voudoulogrou	2	2	**4**
3	**GBR 2721L**	Solid Air	Richard Strong	3	3	**6**
4	**GBR 8886 T**	Innholder 2	Richard Hourahane	4	5	**9**
5	**GBR 9859 T**	Innholder 1	Rob Gibson	6	4	**10**
6	**GBR 7380R**	Lightning Reflex	Rebecca Stubbs	5	6	**11**
7	**GBR 2598L**	First Rule	John Absalom	7	7	**14**
8	**GBR 9089T**	Spirit	Peter Harper	8	8	**16**
9	**GBR 3553L**	Dodger of Gosport	Mike Elliott	9	11/DNF	**20**
10	**IRL 9742**	Abraxas	Daryn Hufton-Rees	11/DNF	11/DNF	**22**

Class 2 Results

Rank	Sail No	Name	Helm	Hcap	Race 1	Race 2	Net pts
1	GBR 4519	Kusima	Eleanor Bellfield	938	1	4	5
2	GBR 9171T	Skybird	Robert Bellfield	912	5	1	6
3	GBR 5131L	Silver Fox	Richard Cooke	1090	4	3	7
4	GBR 123	Xara	Jonathan Rolls	906	8	2	10
5	GBR 9065 R	Eagle	Jim Miller	990	2	8	10
6	GBR 2933	Protege	Barrie Martin	945	3	9	12
7	GBR 4722L	Temptation	Rene Chinnery	1025	7	5	12
8	GBR 5300 T	MIURA	Talan Skeels-Piggins	1006	6	7	13
9	GBR 785	James Myatt	Bill Jermey	1018	9	6	15
10	GBR 4891 T	Encounter	Michael Mainelli	996	10	11/DNF	21

Class 3 Results

Class: '2026 City Livery Sonar Class'						
Rank	**Sail No**	**Helm**	**Hcap**	**Race 1**	**Race 2**	**Net pts**
1	**614**	Tim Mills	1.0000	(1)	1	1
2	**579**	Paul Spraggs	1.0000	(2)	2	2
3	**562**	Tom Merriman	1.0000	(3)	3	3