



# ROYAL OCEAN RACING CLUB

## *Membership Pack*

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**RACING CLUB**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) is a private members' club which organises offshore racing predominantly in north European waters, for members and non-members alike and is also closely involved in the development and management of yacht racing as a worldwide sport. Club membership is strictly limited to competent offshore yachtsmen and yachtswomen who qualify by completing a minimum mileage of offshore racing. There are currently 3,600 members of whom nearly a third are resident outside the UK.

The privileges of membership, in addition to being a member of an elite and influential organisation in the yachting world, include the use of the RORC's elegant clubhouse at St. James's Place, London, which the Club has occupied for over 50 years. The clubhouse offers a friendly and congenial atmosphere, with a licensed bar and dining room, and there are 17 bedrooms available for members at extremely reasonable rates. The Jolie Brise Room and the Fastnet Room are available for hire for private parties or business functions. The clubhouse is well used by members and their guests, always in the knowledge that they share an interest in offshore racing with others present. Members' subscriptions compare very favourably with other yacht clubs and London clubs alike, and there are reduced rates for those resident overseas and married couples.

The Club also maintains accommodation facilities in Cowes which are available to members at very reasonable rates.

The Club runs a large crew register database which is maintained throughout our season: it matches yacht owners with crew members interested in taking part in RORC racing. During the spring and autumn, regular social functions including lectures are held at the Club, with an annual dinner and prizegiving in November/December each year. Prizegiving parties are held after races, either at the destination of the race, if appropriate, or at the clubhouse in London at a later date. Each year a cocktail party is held on the lawn of the Royal Yacht Squadron during Cowes Week.

Members receive free every month the RORC's own magazine, Seahorse, the leading international yachting journal, which contains racing news, renowned technical features and a calendar of the Club's forthcoming events.

The RORC was founded in Plymouth in 1925 by a small group of dedicated offshore yachtsmen, following the first Fastnet Race which took place that year. Since 1925, the Fastnet and other races in the English Channel, North Sea, Irish waters, the Mediterranean and Far East have been run on a regular basis, interrupted only by the Second World War. The Fastnet is held biannually and is still the centrepiece of the Club's activities.

A handicap rule, which became the RORC Rule, was first developed by the RORC in 1925 for the first Fastnet Race. This Rule continued in use until the late 1960's when it was combined with the Cruising Club of America Rule to create the IOR Rule.

Through the Rating Office in Lymington, the RORC is the UK national body for the measurement and rating of offshore racing yachts. The Office was the rule authority for the Volvo (nee Whitbread) 60 Rule and developed and now manages the Volvo Open 70 Rule for the Volvo Ocean Race. The Office also provides services to regatta organisers by way of rating and measurement checking services and general consultancy.

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## **MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

### **FULL MEMBERSHIP**

A candidate is expected to have not less than 500 miles offshore racing experience, including at least two nights at sea and at least one RORC race. However, a candidate may be considered if he or she has similarly qualified in other offshore races acceptable to the Committee. The candidate must have a background of sailing experience and must be proposed and seconded by members of the Club who must write letters of recommendation. His or her application must be sponsored by a member of the Committee. (If the candidate does not know a Committee member, a meeting can be arranged.) A certificate of competency must be signed by the owner or person in charge during a qualifying race. If the candidate is the owner, the certificate is not required. At least one qualifying race must have been completed within the past five racing seasons. A joining fee of half the annual membership subscription is payable. Members who have resigned and whose application to re-join within 5 years of resignation is accepted are not required to pay a joining fee.

### **OVERSEAS APPLICANTS**

The criteria for Overseas candidates are the same as above. We are aware that it is not convenient for overseas applicants to come to London for the purpose of meeting a Committee member to sponsor their application, therefore we can accept the sponsorship of the Commodore of their local yacht club; please attach a letter of sponsorship to the application form. A joining fee of half the annual membership subscription is payable. Members who have resigned and whose application to re-join within 5 years of resignation is accepted are not required to pay a joining fee.

### **UNDER 28 MEMBERSHIP**

Candidates for Under 28 membership must meet the requirements for Full membership, and must be at least 15 and under 28 years of age. An Under 28 member pays no joining fee. Under 28 membership lapses upon the member reaching the age of 28, but an Under 28 member who transfers to Full membership without a break pays no joining fee.

### **PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

The candidate must be proposed by a Club member, who must write a letter of recommendation. The candidate must certify on the application form that he/she intends to qualify for Full membership during the next 12 months. Provisional membership is available for a maximum of two years. A Provisional member may use the clubhouse and other RORC amenities but may not wear the Club tie or fly the burgee. The annual subscription is the same as for Full or Under 28 membership. No joining fee is payable until election to Full membership.

### **DATA PROTECTION ACT**

For some years the Club has kept its membership records on computer. These records are used mainly for subscription monitoring and for the production of the members' book. An applicant for membership is deemed to have consented to the keeping of membership records on computer for the normal uses of the Club.

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## **RATING POLICY**

The RORC operates a Rating Office to supply yacht rating certificates to members and non-members around the world. The Office also manages Classes and Class Rules and contributes nationally and internationally to the development of rating and measurement systems and related offshore racing activities.

The primary rule administered by the Rating Office, in partnership with the French club UNCL, is IRC. This is a general purpose cruiser/racer rule to rate as wide a range of boats as possible and is aimed principally at club and regatta events up to national level. IRC rating calculations are held confidentially by the Rating Office to minimise design obsolescence. IRC encourages owner declaration of measurements but also includes provision for endorsed or measured certificates. In 2008 a worldwide total of approximately 7,700 boats were rated under IRC with 25 countries having fleets of 25 or more boats. In 2003, IRC was recognised by ISAF as an International Rating System.

Other rating rules managed by the Rating Office include the RYA/RORC Sportsboat Rule and the MOCRA multihull rule.

In addition, the Office manages the Volvo Open 70 Rule for the Volvo Ocean Race. The Office also provides services to regatta organisers by way of rating and measurement checking services and general consultancy.

Rating Office Tel: +44 (0)1590 677030 Fax: +44 (0)1590 679478  
Email: [info@rorcrating.com](mailto:info@rorcrating.com) Websites: [www.rorcrating.com](http://www.rorcrating.com); [www.ircrating.org](http://www.ircrating.org)

### **RORC ONLINE CREW REGISTER** **Crew Match – to link owners to crews**

The RORC online Crew Register is maintained throughout our race season and aims to match yacht owners/skippers with crew members interested in taking part in RORC racing.

Details of the crew member's racing and sailing experience, special skills and availability during the season are kept on our online database for one month, so that owners/skippers can access this information in order to find suitable crew members.

You do not have to be a RORC Member to take advantage of this very useful resource, it is available to both members and non-members alike.

Simply log onto our website [www.rorc.org/crew](http://www.rorc.org/crew) to find the online Crew Register. Once here you need to scroll to the bottom of the page and click on either 'Crew Available' or 'Crew Wanted' and this will then take you into a list of crew who are available or skippers/owners looking for crew. Simply scroll to the bottom of these pages and you will find the option to add your details and information to the list that is already there.

### **THE DISRESPECT, COWES** 82 High Street, Cowes **NEED A ROOM IN COWES?**

The RORC has rooms in Cowes available to Club Members. Within walking distance of the marina, views over the Solent, fully furnished and equipped, they make an ideal weekend base.

To discuss your requirements ring Becci Brooke at the RORC on +44 (0)20 7493 2248

### **RORC CLUBHOUSE and SECRETARIAT**

20 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1NN

Tel: +44 (0)20 7493 2248 Fax: +44 (0)20 7493 5252

Email: [info@rorc.org.uk](mailto:info@rorc.org.uk) Internet: [www.rorc.org](http://www.rorc.org)

**Chief Executive Officer** Eddie Warden Owen

**Accountant** Anne Newton

**Membership Secretary** Siobhan Geraghty

**PA to the Chief Executive Officer** Sarah Montagu

**Racing Manager** Ian Loffhagen

**Deputy Racing Manager** Nick Elliott

**IT Support** Stefan Kunstmann

**PA to the Racing Manager** Becci Brooke

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Type of membership for which application is being made, please tick as appropriate:

Full       Provisional       Under 28       UK       Overseas

**Personal Details** (please print clearly)

Surname (include Rank/Title): \_\_\_\_\_

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address for mailing: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Details of Yacht** (if owned)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Sail No: \_\_\_\_\_ LOA: \_\_\_\_\_

Where Berthed: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership of other sailing/yacht clubs: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CURRENT RORC MEMBERS SUPPORTING APPLICATION</b>	<b>LETTER OF SUPPORT ENCLOSED (✓)</b>	<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: MEMBERSHIP No.</b>
PROPOSER'S NAME:		
SECONDER'S NAME:		
*SPONSOR'S NAME;		
SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE:		

\* Sponsor must be RORC Committee member or, in approved cases, Commodore of Yacht Club

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE FILL OUT AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE  
(for qualifications see membership criteria)

(a) Candidate's qualifying races\* which have been completed:

Race	Year	Miles**	Organising Club	Yacht
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				
_____				

Names and addresses of owners or persons in charge during the races:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* One of which was completed within the past five years  
\*\* Official distance according to the organising club – not distance logged

(b) Candidate's other RORC races giving names of yachts and years of races (please state whether these races were completed):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(c) Candidate's other ocean races, giving official distances, names of yachts and years of races (please state whether these races were completed):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(d) Candidate's cruising and other offshore sailing experience:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_