

WEST LANCASHIRE YACHT CLUB 24 HOUR RACE GOES ONLINE FOR 2020



Due to the global pandemic, the West Lancashire Yacht Club 24 Hour Race committee has made the tough decision to cancel the 2020 edition of the 24 Hour Race in its traditional format. In its place, we will be hosting an alternative, virtual eSailing event, with the aim of embracing all possible elements of what we all love about our unique race.

*Full details of this digital event will be released on **Wednesday 1 July**. Click here [<https://bit.ly/24-esail-interest>] to register interest and be the first to receive details of this exciting new format.*

Why we've made this decision

From February to May routine life has changed for so many of us, and even though September is still a fair way away, it's just not possible to predict when we will return to normal or what the new normal will look like. We appreciate that the cancellation of the full 24 Hour Race is disappointing news. But over the weekend, with up to 2000 people expected on site (including 800 competitors plus as many as 250 volunteers keeping the event going), we cannot ensure the health, safety and well-being of everyone involved. Your safety is of paramount importance, to ensure that we can all meet again at many other events in the future.

I want to thank you all for your support over the years and for the many words of encouragement for the long term future of the 24 Hour Race. If you have already entered this year's race and paid your fees, or have entered but not yet paid, the Race Secretary will be in touch with your Club via the email address you used to enrol. In the meantime, please bear with us while we prepare the 2021 Notice of Race and entry forms; we will release the new documents as soon as possible.

In summary, although the cancellation of on-the-water racing may well come as a great disappointment, we hope that you are as excited as we are for the launch of our eSailing alternative. We look forward to seeing you online **19 / 20 September 2020** for our eSailing 24 Hour Race; then back on the water next year: **11 / 12 September 2021**.

Sail safe
Rob Pickering
Head of 24 Hour Race Committee
WLYC

| 21 May 2020