



**International Topper Class Association – GBR National Race Series 4**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**  
**organised by Whitstable Yacht Club and Tankerton Bay Sailing Club,**  
**sponsored by ICOM**



## Welcome

On behalf of Whitstable Yacht Club and Tankerton Bay Sailing Club, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all Topper Association sailors, families and friends - and to those who may soon be joining the Topper Association – for the National Series Race 4 Championship on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2023.



*ITCA L&SE Racing at Whitstable Autumn 2022*

Over the past two years the two clubs have worked as one to create a new and different style of venue for the Topper Nationals Race Series. We have always been able to offer great sailing on our tidal waters, but working with the local council and a host of friends we can also provide the infrastructure for a national event as well as the warmth and hospitality that comes from two popular and family centred sailing clubs. We hope Topper sailors will come from right across the country and enjoy a new experience.

We look forward to welcoming Topper sailors and their families for a great weekend at Whitstable.

## Sailing Area

**The 5.3 fleet course and one 4.2 course will be set midway between the two clubs off the natural grandstand of the Tankerton Slopes.** The Promenade below ensures an easy walk from either club, and the beach will get spectators even closer to the action. A notable feature of the Whitstable shore is The Street, a natural strip of shingle bank, revealed only at low tide when it is possible to walk out along it. Up on the hill above Whitstable Castle a beach hut named “Becalmed” will serve as a spectator communications hub and our stewards will be present on the Slopes.



## About Whitstable



it but actually stands right on the beach.

A seaside town, just 55 miles from London, 7 miles from Canterbury, Whitstable has retained its unique charm, famous for its oysters, working harbour, maritime heritage, stunning sunsets across the Swale estuary, boat building and sailing. There is entertainment and local art on display all over town.

The town is criss-crossed by numerous small alleys, notably Squeeze Gut Alley which everyone needs to try. The Old Neptune PH nearby, known as the “Neppy”, is not next to the beach or by

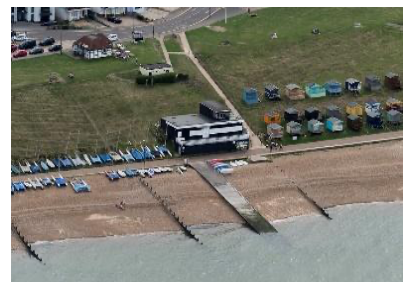
## About our sailing clubs

**After event entries close ITCA will allocate each sailor to Whitstable YC or to Tankerton Bay SC.**



**Whitstable Yacht Club (WYC)**, founded in 1902 next to the harbour for racing smacks and barges, is today one of the largest clubs in England. Many national and international championships have been held at WYC. The club offers sailing for dinghies, catamarans and windsurfers, with yacht moorings in nearby creek and is also a RYA recognised British Youth Sailing Club.

**Tankerton Bay SC (TBSC)** celebrated the club's diamond anniversary in 2022 and also enjoys dinghy and catamaran sailing and racing, with a relaxed family atmosphere. Both clubs are RYA Training Centres and have flourishing cadet and family sections.



Topper parents and families will be welcome to go between the clubs, about 1 ½ miles apart, a walk of about 25 minutes along the sea shore, by the beach promenade or passing by the castle and along the top. Cyclists are asked to dismount for pedestrian priority. There are two cafes on the Slopes and the “Bubble” by the promenade. Both clubs will provide all day café and tea bar meals and the club bars are licensed for visitor adult guests. The beach could be a good place for a picnic at the nearest point to the sailing.

WYC Website [Whitstable Yacht Club \(wyc.org.uk\)](http://Whitstable Yacht Club (wyc.org.uk))

TBSC Website [Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent \(tbsc.co.uk\)](http://Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent (tbsc.co.uk))

Entry Bookings: <https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/event.php?event=1210> .

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 19.00

On the evening prior to most people setting off for Whitstable, Tom Bruton, the Principal Race Officer, will give a briefing by Zoom to be arranged by ITCA to all competitors. This Pre-event Briefing will be important for the smooth running of the event. The Zoom link for the online briefing will be posted on the online event noticeboard, located at:

<https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/event.php?event=1210> .

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May from 16.00

Topper visitors arrive at WYC or TBSC to drop off boats and road trailers. Permits will be issued to vehicles booked for reserved parking where the special event charge rate starts at 17.00.

Both clubs will be open for social gatherings through the evening.

### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May Timings

(subject to sailing conditions)

Time Saturday	Event	Where
09.00- 10.00	Registration	WYC & TBSC
10.30	Competitor Briefing	WYC & TBSC
11.00	Tallying Opens	WYC & TBSC
11.15	Fleets launch	WYC & TBSC
11.55	1 <sup>st</sup> Warning Signal	Committee boats
12.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Race starts	Committee boats
12.00 - 16.00	4 back-to-back races	Viewing from Tankerton Slopes
16.00	End of Races	
16.30	All boats come ashore at clubs	WYC & TBSC
Time Sunday	Event	Where – as Saturday
10.30	Tallying Opens.	
10.45	Fleets launch	
11.25	1 <sup>st</sup> Warning Signal	
11.30	1 <sup>st</sup> Race starts	
11.30 – 15.30	4 back-to-back races	
15.15	End of Races. Boats come ashore at clubs	
16.00 or asap after races	Prize Giving	TBC

## Prizes

Engraved ITCA glass Trophies sponsored by ICOM will be awarded to:

- 5.3 Fleet: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 5.3 Fleet aged 12 or under on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 4.2 Fleet: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Endeavour award
- Local Club sailors: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>

WYC Website [Whitstable Yacht Club \(wyc.org.uk\)](http://Whitstable Yacht Club (wyc.org.uk))

TBSC Website [Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent \(tbsc.co.uk\)](http://Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent (tbsc.co.uk))

Entry Bookings: <https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/event.php?event=1210> .

## How to get here and what to do on arrival

**Car parks will be allocated after event entries close.**

Whitstable is just 60 minutes' drive from the fringes of London, and only 45 minutes from the M25 and Dartford crossing. Please follow these steps on arrival:

1. On arrival, Friday 19th May from 4 pm or from 7 am on Saturday 20th May: Go to your allocated club to drop off your boat and road trailer
2. Drop off the boat and road trailer as assisted by stewards.
3. If you have pre-booked car or motor home parking stewards will issue an In-vehicle permit.
4. You will be given directions to the reserved car / motorhome CPs.
5. Parking in the reserved car or motorhome parks will be available from 17.00 on Friday 19th.

### Directions to the clubs and boat drop off areas.

**For WYC**, most visitors follow the brown signs for the harbour through the town, but **do not use the WYC postal address with Sat nav for directions**. It will take you to a dead-end of Sea Wall, the narrow lane that the club is on. **Use the entry to Whitstable Harbour on Harbour Street for access to the boat dropping off area.** The club is 30 metres away. You can also access directions on the WYC website by this link: [Whitstable Yacht Club - Contact - FindWYC](#)



*Whitstable harbour accessed from Harbour Street. Go through the small harbour CP. The drop off area shown here is adjacent to the RNLI station with the beach and sea beyond. Stewards will be present to assist.*

**For TBSC**, on coming off the A299 for Whitstable most visitors take the Old Thanet Way / A2990 to the Chestfield and Swalecliffe roundabout, then 1<sup>st</sup> exit under the railway bridge along Herne Bay road to the one way system. **Go right around the one way system to take Marine Crescent for access the club.** You can also access directions to TBSC by using this link. [Location - Tankerton Bay Sailing Club \(tbsc.co.uk\)](#)



*The approach to Tankerton Bay SC from Marine Crescent. Stewards will be present to assist.*

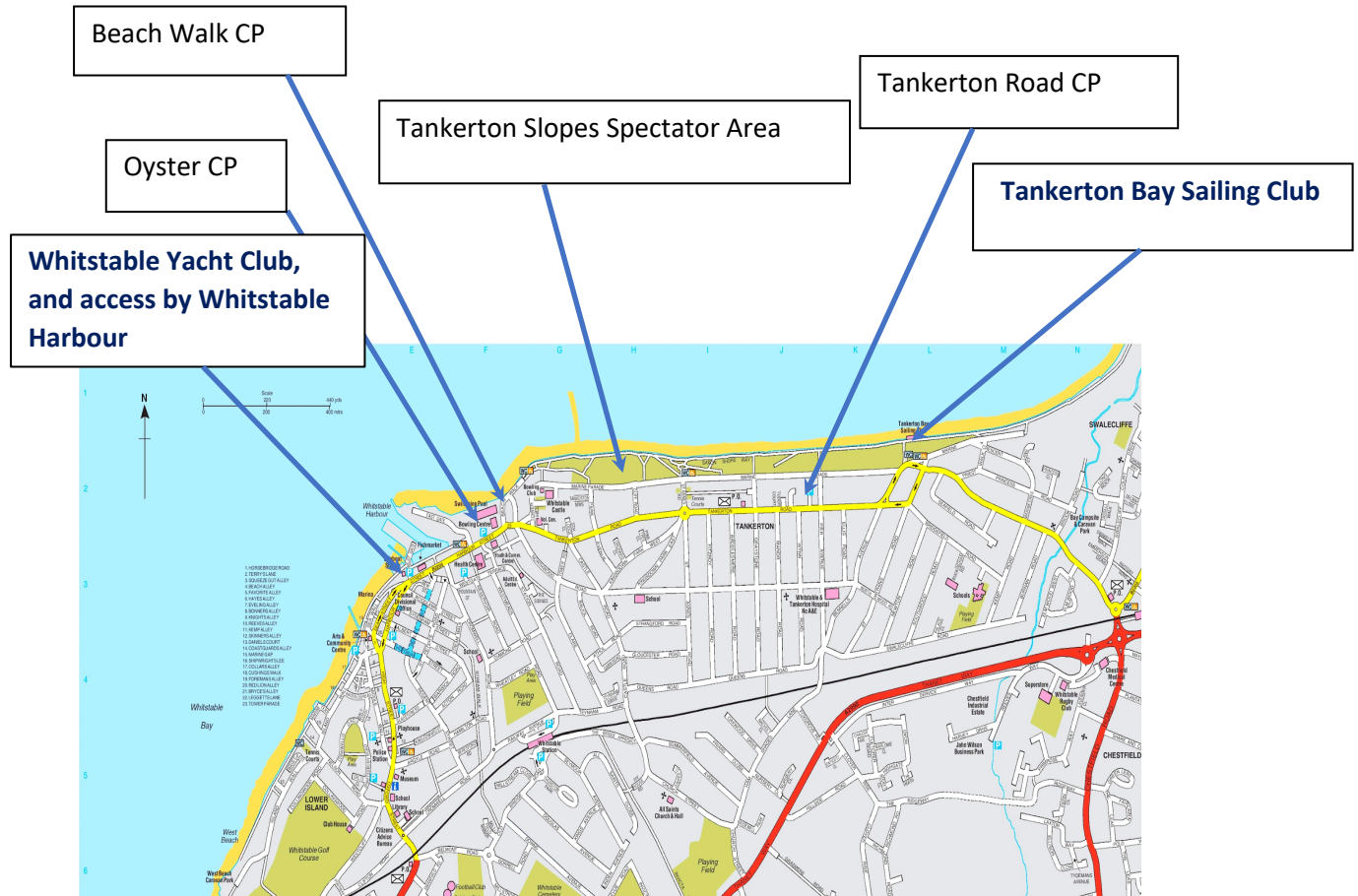
WYC Website [Whitstable Yacht Club \(wyc.org.uk\)](http://wyc.org.uk)

TBSC Website [Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent \(tbsc.co.uk\)](http://tbsc.co.uk)

Entry Bookings: <https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/event.php?event=1210> .



## Map of Whitstable, the locations of the sailing clubs and vehicle parking



**Beach Walk CP is allocated by Canterbury City Council for ITCA campervan parking**, with just the promenade between the site and the beach. Beach Walk has a water point, but no electricity is provided. Club facilities at WYC are nearby (5 mins walk) or at TBSC (15 mins).

WYC Website [Whitstable Yacht Club \(wyc.org.uk\)](http://Whitstable Yacht Club (wyc.org.uk))

TBSC Website [Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent \(tbsc.co.uk\)](http://Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent (tbsc.co.uk))

Entry Bookings: <https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/event.php?event=1210> .

## Reserved parking



### Oyster CP Whitstable

- Located at the entrance to the harbour East Quay
- 43 spaces for WYC topper visitor cars
- Pay by Ringo set charge for ITCA parking
- @ £15 per 24 hours
- Stewards in attendance



### Beach Walk CP

- by special arrangement for the weekend
- 30 spaces for campervans
- With use of nearby showers and toilets at WYC
- Pay by Ringo set charge for ITCA parking
- @ £25 per 24 hours
- Stewards in attendance



### Tankerton Road CP

- 39 spaces for TBSC visitor cars and 4 daytime motorhome parking spaces
- Ringo set charge for ITCA parking
- @ £15 per 24 hours.
- Stewards in attendance



Signage for the event

Alternative car parking can be found in car parks such as the Gorrell Tank CP, 200 metres east of Whitstable Harbour. On-street parking in Whitstable and Tankerton is generally free of charge but may be some walking distance from either club.

**To be sure of reserved parking we would encourage ITCA-GBR visitors to take advantage of the special provision by booking in advance, first come first served.**

## Other caravan parks, camping & motorhome parks and accommodation

**Seaview Holiday Park, St Johns Road, Swalecliffe, CT5 2RY – Park Holidays**  
<https://www.parkholidays.com/> : sea front location, permanent caravans and camping pods, but do not take campervans/motorhomes or camping, ¼ mile E of Tankerton Bay SC, excellent facilities with direct access to TBSC (and WYC) by the beach promenade on foot or by bike.

**Homing Park, Church lane, Seasalter, CT5 4BU - [www.homingpark.co.uk](http://www.homingpark.co.uk)** – booking online in advance, 40 electric pitches for camping or motorhomes, family pods, excellent facilities, swimming pool,

WYC Website [Whitstable Yacht Club \(wyc.org.uk\)](http://Whitstable Yacht Club (wyc.org.uk))

TBSC Website [Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent \(tbsc.co.uk\)](http://Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent (tbsc.co.uk))

Entry Bookings: <https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/event.php?event=1210> .

laundry, luxury loos, etc., convenient access from A 299/ Thanet Way slip road for Whitstable, 1¼ miles West from Whitstable Yacht Club.

**Primrose Cottage Caravan Park, Golden Hill, Whitstable CT5 3AR, conveniently accessed from the old Thanet Way / A2990 overlooking the town - [Primrose Cottage Caravan Park in Whitstable, Kent \(campsites.co.uk\)](http://campsites.co.uk).** This small and pleasant site welcomes tents and tourers, set less than 10 minutes' drive from Whitstable's high street. Campers are welcome to turn up and there's no need to book ahead. It's laid back and relaxed. Camping is on grass pitches with optional electric pitches, while all touring pitches include electric hubs. Site facilities include hot showers, toilets, a washing up area and free WiFi. Site reception includes a shop. The park is two minutes from a local Tesco superstore and a dog walk is available just off site. Call 01227 273694 to book.

**Booking.com link** for places to stay in Whitstable: <https://www.booking.com/>

The **Whitstable Travelodge and Premier Inn** are accessed from the A299 Thanet Way.

## Acknowledgements

Whitstable YC and Tankerton Bay SC wish to acknowledge the support and help of the many organisations, clubs and individuals in bringing the Topper National Race series to our waters.

ICOM UK, Blacksole House, Herne Bay and Ian Lockyer (Manager) – our prime sponsors; Canterbury City Council and particularly Derek Theobald (Events Officer), Colin Perris (car parks); Barton Marine Equipment, Marine House, Tyler Way, Whitstable; Kent Schools Sailing Association; Herne Bay SC; Minnis Bay SC; Oyster Water Sports Centre; King's School, Canterbury; Tom Bruton Esq. PRO and Sponsor; WYC, TBSC and Topper Class Association volunteers on the water and stewards; ITCA L&SE rep Oliver Yates and the ITCA-GBR committee especially Tracey Francis, Events Manager

## Other things to do

- Explore Whitstable and the town's 120 alleys
- Kite flying on Tankerton Slopes
- Walking or Cycling along the shore side – you can go for miles W to the Swale marshes or E towards Thanet
- The "Crab and Winkle", the world's oldest steam passenger railway is now a cycle and walking pathway between Whitstable and Canterbury
- Wild Wood Trust, 4 miles from Whitstable, has over 300 native animals set in ancient woodland where you can also see bears, wolves and bison plus many more animals in one of the UK's leading animal conservation charities
- No need to park in Canterbury. The historic city and cathedral are just 20 minutes from Whitstable by a regular bus service.

## Contacts at Whitstable Yacht Club and Tankerton Bay Sailing Club

Richard Maltby – WYC/ TBSC Events Coordinator. [richard.maltby@wyc.org.uk](mailto:richard.maltby@wyc.org.uk)

Ashten Campbell – TBSC Event Organiser. [ashtencampbell@gmail.com](mailto:ashtencampbell@gmail.com)

Ian Mills – Commodore TBSC. [ian.mills1634@gmail.com](mailto:ian.mills1634@gmail.com)

Andrew Jackson – Commodore WYC. [Andrew.jackson@wyc.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.jackson@wyc.org.uk)

Steve Gray – Rear Commodore Sailing WYC. [steve.gray@wyc.org.uk](mailto:steve.gray@wyc.org.uk)

Maureen Bush – WYC Club Manager. [office@wyc.org.uk](mailto:office@wyc.org.uk)

WYC Website [Whitstable Yacht Club \(wyc.org.uk\)](http://Whitstable Yacht Club (wyc.org.uk))

TBSC Website [Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent \(tbsc.co.uk\)](http://Tankerton Bay Sailing Club - Whitstable, Kent (tbsc.co.uk))

Entry Bookings: <https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/event.php?event=1210> .