3 HARBOURS ROWING

PORTSMOUTH • LANGSTONE • CHICHESTER

WELCOME TO 3 HARBOURS ROWING

Welcome to the first issue of 3 Harbours Rowing - a new shared resource for the rowing community across Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours.

The aim is straightforward: to bring together useful information, rowing stories, events and harbour news that are currently spread across club websites, emails and individual networks - and make them easier for the whole community to discover.



Rowing across three harbours - one shared community.

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This is a shared publication.

If your club has a result, event, story, photograph or useful harbour information, please send it in. The more the community contributes, the more useful 3 Harbours can become.

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EIGHT CLUBS OPEN THE WINTER SERIES

CELTIC WINTER LEAGUE • CHICHESTER YACHT CLUB • 10 OCTOBER 2026

Eight clubs from across the Three Harbours came together at Chichester Yacht Club for the opening round of the 2026/27 Celtic Winter League. The 3 km Open, Ladies and Combined races produced close racing, with Coastal Rowing Academy taking two wins and Witterings Rowing Club the Open race.



RACE WINNERS

OPEN 3 KM

Witterings RC - Selkie

17:52

LADIES 3 KM

Coastal Rowing Academy - Captain Tim

19:39

COMBINED 3 KM

Coastal Rowing Academy - Captain Tim

18:03



Captain Tim - Coastal Rowing Academy.



Sweare Deep - Langstone Cutters.

The results underline the strength of the shared local fleet: Witterings, Coastal Rowing Academy, Chichester Yacht Club, Dell Quay, Bosham, Langstone Cutters, Emsworth Sailing Club and Emsworth Slipper all raced. In the Open race, just five seconds separated CYC and Dell Quay in third and fourth. The series now moves to Emsworth Sailing Club on 14 November for the second round.



THE GREAT RIVER RACE

THAMES • 12 SEPTEMBER 2026



The Great River Race brought around 300 fixed-seat boats onto the Thames for the annual 21-mile race through London. It remains one of the most distinctive mass-participation rowing events in the country, bringing together a remarkable range of traditional boats and crews.

Among them, Dell Quay Sailing Club reported an excellent performance from its crew, finishing as the fastest mixed crew from Chichester Harbour and third-fastest mixed Celtic Longboat crew. Plaudits also go to crews from Langstone Pilot Gig Club, Langstone Cutters, ECA, Emsworth Slipper, Tudor and the RN Portsmouth Gig club who all completed the tough course.



Teylu - Coastal Rowing Academy



C Shel - Langstone Pilot Gig Club



Gladys - Langstone Cutters

LANGSTONE GIG CLUB REGATTA ON HAYLING BEACH



Nearly eleven months of planning came together in sunshine and a light northerly breeze as Langstone Pilot Gig Club staged its inaugural beachfront regatta on Hayling Beach. Crews travelled from across southern England for the Jurassic League finale, with Swanage taking many of the honours on the day and the overall league title.

The club credited its members and the wider community for the event's success and aims to run the regatta again next year.

OUR WATER

Water quality matters to everyone using the harbours. Regular monitoring, major investment in wastewater treatment and environmental restoration projects all contribute to a better understanding of the waters in which we row.

Monitoring water quality in Chichester Harbour

Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Chichester District Council continue to monitor water quality at 12 locations around the harbour, with samples taken twice monthly during the summer and monthly during the winter.

Results published for 24 August showed all 12 sampling locations within the stated minimum guideline thresholds used for E. coli and intestinal enterococci.

There is an important qualification. Chichester Harbour is not a designated bathing water, and these results should not be interpreted as a formal bathing-water classification or a guarantee that conditions are safe at every place and time. They provide a useful snapshot of bacterial indicators at the locations and times sampled.

For rowers and other harbour users, the monitoring provides useful evidence of changing conditions and an increasingly accessible source of information about the water around us.

Latest results and sampling information are available from Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

£25m investment at Chichester



Southern Water is undertaking a major upgrade of Chichester Wastewater Treatment Works at Apuldram, with new treatment tanks, pipework and associated infrastructure.

The £25 million project is intended to increase the works' treatment capacity by around 57%, helping the system cope with population growth and reducing pressure on the surrounding environment.

Completion is currently expected in spring 2029.

For harbour users, the significance is clear: the treatment works ultimately discharge into the wider Chichester Harbour environment, so investment in capacity and treatment forms part of the longer-term picture of improving water quality.

Bringing native oysters back to the Solent

The Solent Seascape Project is working to restore native oyster habitat across the Solent, including activity within our own harbour area.

Native oysters are an important part of the marine ecosystem. Oyster reefs create complex habitat for other species and, as filter feeders, oysters process substantial quantities of seawater.

The restoration work is not simply about introducing oysters. Monitoring is an important part of understanding whether restored reefs establish successfully and what effect they have on the surrounding ecosystem.

That work leads directly to another story close to home: temporary monitoring buoys in Emsworth Channel, which we look at on the next page.

HARBOUR WATCH

Three temporary yellow monitoring buoys in Emsworth Channel are supporting research into native oyster restoration in Chichester Harbour.

Rowers using the northern part of Emsworth Channel may have noticed three yellow buoys positioned on the western side of the channel, north of the Verner Port lateral mark.

The buoys have been installed temporarily to support monitoring associated with the Solent Seascape Project's native oyster restoration work.

Rather than marking a new navigational feature or restriction, the buoys identify monitoring locations being used to help researchers understand the development and effectiveness of oyster restoration in this part of the harbour.

Their presence has been notified by Chichester Harbour Conservancy in Local Notice to Mariners 09/2026.

For rowers, the practical message is straightforward: the buoys are monitoring equipment rather than navigation marks, but crews should be aware of their position when using Emsworth Channel and give them appropriate clearance.



WHY MONITOR THE OYSTERS?

Restoring native oysters involves more than establishing a new reef. Researchers need to understand whether oysters survive and reproduce, how the reef develops and what wider effects restoration has on the marine environment.

Monitoring over time helps build that evidence and informs future restoration work elsewhere in the Solent.

For those of us rowing regularly in the harbour, it is also a useful reminder that our familiar waterways are simultaneously a working harbour, recreational environment and important natural habitat.

WHERE ARE THE BUOYS?

The three monitoring buoys lie close together on the western side of Emsworth Channel. Their positions are shown on the map above.

Map based on the positions published by Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Mariners should continue to use current official charts and Notices to Mariners for navigation.

WINTER VISITORS RETURN





Autumn and winter bring large numbers of waders and other birds back to the Solent harbours, while harbour seals remain a familiar sight around quieter mudflats and creeks. For rowers, the guidance is simple: enjoy wildlife from a distance and avoid forcing resting birds or seals to move.

ROWING THROUGH THE WINTER

The colder months need not mean putting the oars away. Clubs across the Three Harbours continue training and racing through the winter, while RowFit and indoor sessions provide another way to maintain fitness when conditions keep crews ashore.

As ever, check weather and tide before launching, wear appropriate buoyancy and carry a means of calling for help.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

24 October	Swift Winter Series - Bosham
14 November	Celtic Winter League - Emsworth Sailing Club
28 November	Swift Winter Series - Itchenor

HELP US TELL THE 3 HARBOURS STORY

Future issues will be stronger if clubs and rowers help supply the material: race reports and results, forthcoming events, new boats, expeditions, training initiatives, restoration projects, useful harbour information and - especially - good photographs.

If something is happening in your part of the rowing community, please send it to the 3 Harbours editorial team.

editor@3harboursrowing.uk

SEE YOU ON THE WATER

3 Harbours Rowing is intended to grow with the community it serves. The website and newsletter provide the starting point; the stories, knowledge and participation of local clubs will determine what comes next.