

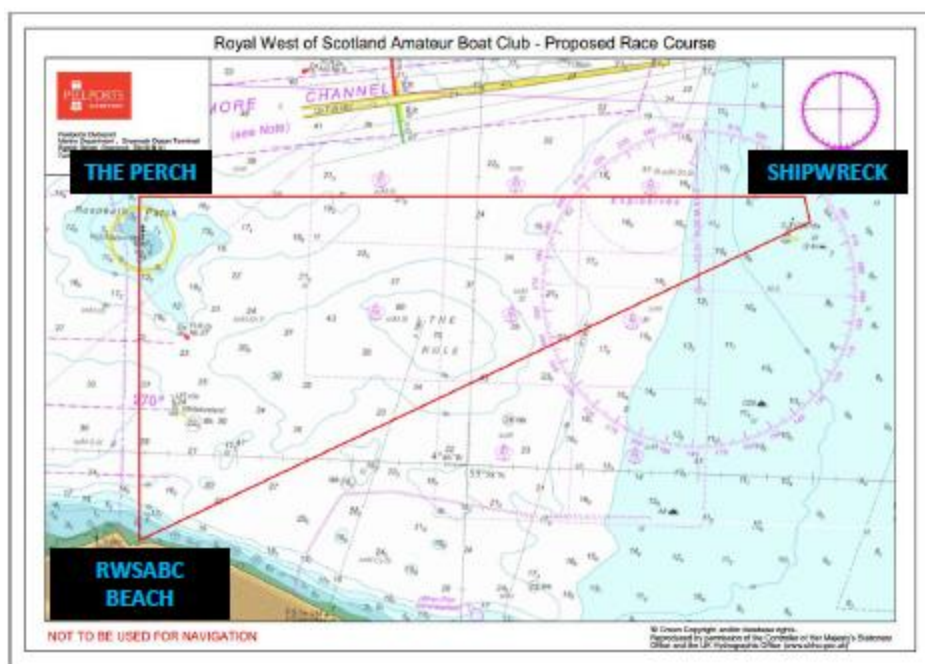
Tail o' the Bank Surfski / Kayak Race - 2018

The race will be on Saturday 1st September 2018 and is scheduled to start at 2 pm. Registration and payment of entry fee are required by 1 pm. The precise start time might have to be adjusted to take account of shipping movements - this will be advised by Estuary Control in advance of the race.

Course

The course will be the same as the past two years – from the Club's beach heading north to a Perch, turning east to go around the wreck of the Captayannis, and then back to the Club. The main race will be two laps but there will also be a one lap event from those who wish to do a shorter distance. Each lap is circa 5 miles so the main race will be 10 miles and the shorter race will be 5 miles.

Start and finish lines will be marked by buoys near the beach. The east most mark will be the turning mark for the start of the second lap of the race. The finish line will be between the east buoy and a marker on, or close to, the shore.



Course – Clockwise



Course viewed from the RWSABC Beach

Main race (circa 10 miles)

There will be two classes in the main race:

- **Performance Class:** Surfskis, White Water Racers and Fast Sea Kayaks (e.g. Rockpool Taran, Epic 18, Kirton or Nelo Inuik and Tiderace Pace) will constitute the Performance Class.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd male and female

- **Sea Kayak Class:** Traditional sea boats such the Valley Nordkapp, Tiderace XPIore, North Shore and P&H.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd male and female

Shorter “challenge” event (circa 5 miles)

The shorter “challenge” event is open to any category of kayak, except craft that would be eligible for the Performance Class. It is envisaged that most participants will use sea, or general purpose, kayaks.

As a minimum, prizes will be available for 1st male and female in each category. There are likely to be additional categories, and prizes, which will be determined once entries have been received.

The categories currently include:

- Junior – anyone under the age of 18 years who does not feel ready to compete in the main race
- An impairment which prevents the paddler competing in the main race
- A paddler who is only interested in completing a shorter distance

The challenge event may start at a slightly different time from the main race. If you want an additional category to be considered please email the organizers with your suggestion.

All competitors will receive an electronic Certificate of Participation.

Location / Facilities

The club is at the western end of the Esplanade in Greenock, the address and map can be found at www.rwsabc.co.uk/about/location.

There is adequate on street parking. Launching and recovery of boats can be made via the club's beach which is accessed via a gated entrance and ramp.

Male and female changing facilities, with showers, are available.

There is some space for overnight camping. If you wish to make use of this then please email canoeing@rwsabc.com. Please note space is very limited.

The Club has a licensed bar on the premises which participants are welcome to use after the race and into Saturday evening.

Personal safety

- Boats must be **seaworthy** with sealed buoyancy tanks and/or fixed buoyancy. Buoyancy must be capable of supporting the craft and paddler.
- Competitors must wear an approved, CE marked **Personal Flotation Device**.
- A **whistle** must be carried.

Safety cover & safety boats

The course, with the exception of the far side of the Captayannis, can be viewed with binoculars from the clubhouse. Race control will be in communication with the RHIBs by VHF radio.

A First Aid station will be available in the clubhouse.

Three RHIBs will be on the water throughout the event. All will carry a VHF radio and be briefed on what channel to use. A lead rescue person will be appointed prior to the race, who will most likely be in the RWSABC rescue boat.

Insurance

Participants must either be:

- full members of one of the home nation canoe associations, or
- have their own third party insurance for the sum of £2m, or
- join the RWSABC on a Day Membership and take out SCA Day Membership. On this occasion, Day Membership of the RWSABC is free but SCA Day Membership will cost £5.00.

Age of participants

The organisers must be notified in advance of any participants who are under 18 years of age. Special arrangements will be made for changing and showering.

Scrutineering

Boats, gear used by the paddler and equipment may be inspected. If any craft is deemed unseaworthy or a participant does not have the required equipment then they will not be permitted to participate. The decision of the scrutineers is final.

Race briefing

All participants must attend a pre-race briefing where the following points will be made:

- A graphic of the course will be presented on AV equipment. The course will be described along with a description of the turn marks.
- Participants will be made aware of the shipping channel that the course crosses. The event time might be modified to ensure there is no scheduled traffic throughout the event. Participants will be briefed that both powered and sail leisure traffic might cross the course.
- It will be stressed that any participant who sees another participant in distress is expected to go to their aid and attract the attention of one of the RHIBs. Time spent on such action will be deducted from the final time.
- Known hazards will be highlighted. Participants will be advised to keep at least 20m away from the Captayannis in order to avoid submerged parts. Submerged rocks next to the Esplanade, and those particularly on the shore near the finish line will be highlighted. Paddlers when crossing the lap/finish line are recommended to be close to the east marker buoy, as there are rocks near the beach marker buoy.

Registration and entry fee

Participants require to register to compete. Emergency contact details will be required.

The entry fee is £15 for those who register in advance via the event page (details of which will shortly be available on the RWSABC website). The fee is £20 for anyone who registers on the day.

Different registration and entry arrangements apply if you are a member of the RWSABC. Members are advised to speak to the kayak convener.

Timetable

10:00	Club opens
11:00	Orange marks positioned
11:00	Registration opens
13:00	Registration closes
12:00 – 13:00	Checking of boats and classification
13:00	Race briefing
14:00	Race begins
16:30	Race ends
17:00 (once all competitors changed)	Prize giving

Three race series

The Tail o' the Bank Race will follow on from Round Cumbrae race on 18th August and the Oban race on 25th August. Three weekends of great racing.

Contact details

If you would like further information or wish to communicate with the organisers then please email: canoeing@rwsabc.com.