

NECRA – RYA North East Press Officer Enquiry

1. What is NECRA / Who is NECRA for?

North East Cruiser Racing Association is primarily for yacht owners and organises a programme of inter-club yacht racing, cruising and associated social events for yachtsmen on the North East coast of England. The racing programme is a mix of offshore, coastal and regatta events. The cruising programme links with the racing to meet at events but also has a series of independent events to encourage yacht owners to cruise, meet and socialise.

The association was formed in 1965 "to promote and assist cruiser sailing on the North East coast with a series of races and cruises", organising racing and cruising, moorings, social events and catering.

2. Where do the members come from?

NECRA accept racing members from the Yacht Clubs of Scarborough, Whitby, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Royal Northumberland, Coquet and Tynemouth Sailing Club. It also will accept temporary membership from visiting members of other yacht clubs.

Cruising members also come from those yacht clubs but include non-yacht club members usually from local Marinas as long as they have RYA membership.

3. What are the benefits of belonging to NECRA?

NECRA programme a series of races and cruises that link the yacht clubs on the North East coast allowing clubs to have joint racing, cruising and social events.

- The racing is organised by the host clubs
- Cruising is organised to link with racers at venues and for independent group cruises
- Discounted moorings are organised
- The events are programmed and details distributed
- Catering is usually available
- Members are brought together socially
- Organisation and information is shared

4. What activities can I join in with as a member of NECRA?

- Sail racing, Cruising and crewing
- Race & Cruise planning, organisation, safety and control
- Social events, catering and entertainment
- Group & club organisation

5. Do I have to race?

No.

There are many cruising members so that even if you're not a boat owner there are many openings for crew. The organisations also need personnel to organise and run events, record and publicise details, maintain records and media coverage.

6. I am relatively new to sailing, would I be welcome to join in?

Although the Association is primarily for yacht owners who would be encouraged to join in any of our events there is always a shortage of crew and volunteers who don't necessarily need to be members. Racing yachts in particular are always looking for crew. No experience is necessary as training will be given and experience gained the more you do.

7. What does it cost to join NECRA?

NECRA is a non-profit making organisation the fees being used to promote the organisation, provide prizes and subsidise social events. The annual fee, April 2020 to April 2021, is £20.

8. How do I become a member?

Log-on to our website: www.necra.co.uk, click on the menu: join necra and follow the instructions from there.

You can join online or print off the application form to join at the yacht clubs, marinas or by post.

9. How many members do we have compared with previous years?

The number of boat owners registered in 2019 was 51.

In 2018 – 27, 2017 – 22, 2016 – 24, 2009 – 35.

This coming year, although membership is not due until April we already have 24 boats registered of which 6 are cruising members. We are expecting a minimum of 55 boats.

10. What are our hopes for the coming year?

Our hopes for the coming year are to build on the membership, to get more boats out at our events and have more people getting involved with sailing. To promote sailing, the yacht clubs and to draw more young people into the sporting and leisure activities.

We have programmed a full calendar of racing events which take into account the club races that individual clubs have with:

- 8 Inshore races linking with Club Regattas
- 10 Offshore races sailing between clubs
- 1 Long distance race
- 8 Winter races

This year for the first time we are planning a similar number of Cruising events with:

- 7 long distance cruises to link with racers
- 5 short distance independent cruises

11. Key diary dates are:

- Whitby Regatta 23 May 2020
- Hartlepool Regatta 20 June 2020
- Roker Regatta 11 July 2020
- Scarborough YC North Sea Race 4 July 2020
- Race/Cruise to Tyne 30 August 2020
- RNYC Regatta 5 September 2020

12. More information?

- Website www.necra.co.uk
- Facebook
- Participating Yacht Clubs
- Steve Marsden – email: honsec@necra.co.uk