

**Ryde Rowing Club.**  
Clubhouse, Appley Park, Ryde. Isle of Wight.

**A HISTORY OF RYDE ROWING  
CLUB AT THE SOUTH COAST  
ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS.**



**Ryde R. C. – South Coast Senior Champions – 1985 to 1987.**

**Steve Bull.**  
**Ryde R. C.**  
**January, 2006.**  
**Amended and Updated -**  
**January, 2023.**



Ryde R. C. Coxswains – Matt Bull and Steve Salter - following their traditional “dunking in the water” after steering their respective crews - Men’s Junior Open and Ladies Junior Open - to victory at the 1996 South Coast Championship Regatta at Bideford, North Devon.

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Ryde R. C. Archives; Hants & Dorset ARA Archives, Records from the IW South Coast Championships Committee Meetings of 1975, 1979 and 1987. IWCP Archives.

## **The South Coast Rowing Championships.**

The South Coast Rowing Championships were first held in 1957, the brainchild of Archie Fraser, from the Westover and Bournemouth Rowing Club who had the idea of an event involving the three South Coast Rowing Associations - the Hants & Dorset ARA, (H&D ARA) the Coast ARA (CARA) and the West of England ARA (WEARA) - who would provide a champion in each class to compete in a "champion of champions" race at the end of the rowing season.

The first Championship Regatta was hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA at Poole in 1957 where Christchurch were the winners of the first Senior event, for the Bideford Bowl, donated by the West of England ARA and BTC won both the Junior Senior and Junior Event. The following day officials from the three Associations met in Poole Yacht Club where it was decided that the Regatta should continue and be hosted by each Association in rotation. It was agreed that the host Association would provide six matched boats and include any supporting events of their own choice. The Hants & Dorset and Christchurch Rowing Clubs Toby Trowbridge was elected the first Chairman of what became the South Coast Council.

In the early years, there was a good deal of controversy between the Associations because of the differences in rules and because WEARA rowed in 36' river boats (now 42') but H&DARA and CARA Clubs used 30' staggered seat Coastal boats. However annual meetings of the representative South Coast Committee (now the South Coast Council) have established a set of acceptable rules and regatta format. In 1967, it was stated that the cost of staging the South Coast Championship Regatta was £270 - today it is around £25,000!

Although the supporting events had often included ladies' races there was no Championship event until 1976 - and in 1992 a Junior Ladies Championship event was added - with a Veterans Championship added in 2004 bringing the total of Championship events to six.

The 50th Regatta was held at Dartmouth and hosted by the West of England Amateur Rowing Association and included a celebration Dinner on the Thursday evening before the Regatta, a row-past on Regatta Day of some of those who had competed in the first Regatta in 1957 - and the inaugural Junior Regatta. To celebrate fifty years of the South Coast Championship Regatta a fascinating book was produced with full results, including winning crew's names and anecdotes from all the Championship regattas held between 1957 and 2005 and this is recommended reading for those who are interested in the event and the history of rowing. The books authors were the Coast ARA's Phil Challen and the Hants & Dorset ARA's Denny Woodford and the book is now available as a free download from the Hants & Dorset ARA's SCC web site – see the SCC section at [www.hdara.co.uk](http://www.hdara.co.uk).

Since 2006 there has always been a Junior Regatta staged – either on the same day or on the Sunday after the main regatta – and once on the Friday before – and this has proved to be increasing popular - although the numbers of events staged are restricted when the Championships are staged at a Coastal venue.

In 2007, it was the Hants & Dorset ARA's turn to host the Championships once again and they took the brave and at the time rather controversial decision to stage the event at the new, purpose built, international standard venue of Dorney Lake, Eton, where the 2012 Olympic Regatta was staged. Their decision was justified when the event proved to be one of the most successful and arguably the fairest ever staged prompting the Association to return to Dorney Lake for the 2011 Championship Regatta. The deteriorating weather conditions during the day had a significant impact on the 2013 Regatta, hosted by CARA, at Deal – where for the first time in its fifty-eight-year history – two Championship events – the Men's Junior Senior Fours and the Ladies Junior Fours were not completed.

The next Championships to be hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA in 2014 saw a return to a coastal location with Swanage the chosen venue – but once again the weather had a significant impact with the second days racing – involving the Juniors and small boats cancelled – although all the Championships events were completed on the Saturday – along with some of the Junior events. Although a very successful regatta was staged at the coastal venue of Herne Bay in excellent conditions in 2016 following the disruption to the 2014 event at Swanage the Hants & Dorset ARA have opted to return to Dorney Lake once again for this year's Championship Regatta – and many feel that this or a similar venue represent the future for the Championships as it pretty much guarantees that the event is not influenced by the weather – which has so often affected this event.

While additional Championship and supporting events have been added the format has remained much the same – the Champions and runners-up (or selected club) from each of the three South Coast Rowing Associations – the West of England ARA, the Coast ARA and the Hants & Dorset ARA – compete in each of the main coxed fours events for the title of South Coast Champion. Supporting events are also held in all the coxed fours events, including Novice, for the Crews who have not made the Championship event.

Currently the Championship events staged are – Men's Senior Fours, Men's Junior Senior Fours, Men's Junior Fours, Ladies Senior Fours added in 1979, Ladies Junior Fours – added in 1992 and Veteran/Masters Fours – added in 2004.

The supporting events are all the above plus Men's and Ladies Novice Fours.

The Championship Regatta is hosted by a different Association each year at a venue of their choice, subject to the approval of the South Coast Rowing Council. The original three-year cycle was changed to a four-year cycle with the regatta being held in WEARA every other year to counteract the disadvantage that WEARA crews suffered having to row in Coastal Boats – although this reverted to a three-year cycle again in 2011 following a proposal from the West of England ARA.

## **RYDE ROWING CLUB.**

### **Ryde Rowing Club at the South Coast Rowing Championships.**

Ryde Rowing Club did not compete at the South Coast Championships on a regular basis until the mid 1970's but in spite of this they have an impressive record at the event in the Championship and non-championship races, especially when you consider that they are one of the smaller Hants & Dorset Clubs and have the added complication of being based on the Isle of Wight, with the additional travel and expense that this involves.

The Club had its first Hants & Dorset representative crew selected in 1978, a Men's Junior Four and in the same year won its first Open event - the open Ladies. They have since gone on to represent their Association on forty-two occasions and in all Championship events, winning nineteen of them. Ryde Crews have won the Open and invitation events on a further twenty-four occasions, have won Junior event five times since they started in 2006 and have won the Open events aggregate trophy three times. The only open events the Club has not won are the Novice Ladies and the Veterans/Masters – and the only Championship event - the Veterans/Masters.

The Club won its first Championship events - the Men's Junior Senior Fours and the Ladies Senior Fours Championship - in 1979. This was the first time the Ladies event had full Championship status, which was unfortunate as almost the same crew were Open Ladies Champions the previous year. The Club also won the Men's Junior Open Championship that year and won the Open Novice Championship the next year.

The Clubs most successful period at the Championships began in 1984 with a Junior Senior representative crew that finished 2nd. The following year the Club had another representative crew - this time at Men's Senior Fours - in the same season as the Club won its first Hants & Dorset Senior Fours points and the Association Championship. The crew went on to win one of the closest ever Championship races in an epic struggle with host Club Herne Bay a race which is rightly remembered as a classic from the following report by the late Arthur Chatfield, Hants & Dorset Association Secretary at the time relates - *"On a bleak and Cold Herne Bay coastline the supporting events gave little to enthuse about, and the Regatta needed a lift. The Senior Championship event provided the answer with a memorable race and a superlative performance from two crews, Ryde and Herne Bay that will live long in the memory. By halfway on this superb 2000 meters straight course, Herne Bay racing with all the flair of a host club giving a party, had established a three-length lead and appeared indestructible. Christchurch and Ryde in that order were the nearest challengers. Within 500 meters of the finish Ryde on the outside gave notice of intent by raising the strike to an incredible forty. Herne Bay responded both crews leaving Christchurch for dead. At 200 meters Ryde had reduced the lead to a length and were throbbing on all four cylinders, power was but part of their ploy, perfect timing and swing gave them the impression of being mechanized, hands steady as rocks, eyes drilled on the neck in front, it was perfection, they were gaining every stroke on a Herne Bay crew giving a repeat performance of perfection. Within 50 meters they were level, Herne Bay in desperation raised their strike yet again and inched to the front as a rogue wave raised the bows of both boats horrifying the watching supporters, but neither crew faltered. Courage was now the name of the game and Ryde were not found wanting as they threw their bodies forward with a*

*last-ditch effort that gave them the verdict of three feet at the line. The immediate silence on the crowded beach was indicative of having seen an epic."*

The Club also had two open event wins that day - the Men's Junior Fours, where another Club crew finished 2nd and the Men's Novice Fours, won after a re-row and in a borrowed boat. The Club was criticized after the event for the Championship winning Crew's dress at the Prize giving, perhaps with some justification, and were alleged to have used the Bideford Bowl as a rugby ball during the evening's celebrations which is strange as the Cup was locked away in the Captains Hotel room, much to the disgust of the crew, all that evening!

In 1986 the crew repeated their performance, with just a change of coxswain, and far more convincingly. This was arguably the crew's best performance as the race was in the less familiar river boats, although the Club had purchased its own riverboat by this time. The Club had a second representative crew at these Championships - in the Ladies Senior event - who also won convincingly, and the Club rounded up a very successful Regatta with a win in the Men's Junior Open Championship event.

The 1987 Regatta staged on the Isle of Wight and hosted by Ryde and Shanklin Rowing Clubs saw the Club with three representative crews - in the Men's Senior Fours, the Men's Junior Senior Fours and the Ladies Senior Fours and the Club went very close to winning all three. The Senior Crew, unchanged from 1986, in a season that had seen them clinch a 3rd consecutive Hants & Dorset Senior Championship and qualify for Henley, won the Men's Senior Championship race, on home waters at Ryde, after a controversial dead heat and a re-row, from their great rivals BTC. The Senior Ladies crew won their Championship race more convincingly and the Junior Seniors finished 2nd less than half a length behind the winners.

In 1989 the Club had two representative crews - but no successes, the Senior Men finishing 2nd in yet another close final - less than half a length and closing at the finish, while the Junior Men finished 3rd in their Championship event. There was some consolation for the Club - a win in the Men's Open Novice fours event.

A Junior Senior crew represented the Association in 1990 finishing 5th while the Club won the Men's Open Junior Fours event and in 1991 the Club avenged its disappointing result in the Junior Senior Championship race in 1990 winning this event for the second time. The Club represented the Association again in the Junior Senior Championships in 1992 finishing in 6th place.

The Club had no representative crews or open wins in 1993 and 1994 but came back strongly in 1995 with a representative crew in both the Men's and Ladies Junior Championship event - the Ladies finishing 4th and the men winning their event. Simon Jones a member of the winning Junior Men's crew has gone to achieve wins at Henley and represent his country at under 23 at Lightweight.

The Club had no representative crews in 1996 but managed to dominate the open events with wins in the Men's Junior Senior, Men Junior and Ladies Junior races - which also gave them the aggregate shield.

The Club emerged strongly from another two unsuccessful years in 1997 and 1998 to take the Men's Junior Senior Championship event in 1999 and represented the

Association again at this status in 2000 finishing 5th. They also represented the Association at Men's Junior - winning this event in a boat borrowed from Bournemouth University, at the last minute, after their boat had been stuck at the start with an open senior crew as the open events were held back by the appalling weather. Throughout the Junior Championship race the commentator had called Ryde as last - and it was only in the last few hundred yards that the Ryde Club realised the crew in last place was stern coxed and the Ryde Juniors were in a bow-coxed boat and actually winning!

2001 saw the Club with two representative crews - at Junior Senior men once again, this time finishing 3rd and at Junior Men finishing 2nd. The Clubs win in the Open Men's Novice fours was some consolation.

In 2002 the Club had another representative crew in the Men's Junior Fours, but they crew failed to finish, after being swamped by a rescue boat, in an event that had to be switched to Dartmouth from Torbay. Once again, the Club performed exceptionally well in the open events winning the Men's Open Senior Fours, after a re-row plus the Men's Open Junior Senior Fours and the Ladies Junior Open - to claim the aggregate shield for the third time.

The Clubs Men's Senior Crew who was runners-up for the Hants & Dorset Championship represented the Association in 2003 at Swanage finishing 2nd to the Hants & Dorset Champions BTC and in 2004, at Bideford, these two Clubs again represented the Association - but were each pushed down one place by the winning Shoreham Crew. There was some consolation in 2004 with the Clubs Junior Senior Crew winning the Open event - in near darkness - after a much-delayed Regatta.

At Bexhill, in 2005 the Club had two more representative crews – at Junior Senior where they finished third and at Junior Men – following the Clubs first Hants & Dorset Championship in this event. The crew rounded off a fine season with a convincing win in the Championship event – and had another win in the Ladies Junior Open, which helped the Club win the Archie Fraser Trophy – awarded by the Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association to the best performing Association Club at all events at South Coast Championship Regatta.

Ryde won two open events in 2006 – the Men's Senior Fours and the Ladies Junior Fours and had two representative crews – although neither won their Championship races – with both the Men's Senior Four and the Men's Junior Senior Four finishing in second place.

They returned to winning ways in 2007 at Dorney Lake when their Men's Senior Four completed the "Triple Crown" of Coastal rowing having already won the National Coastal Championships and the Hants & Dorset ARA Championship. The Ryde crew were briefly behind Coast Champions Bexhill, but they had eased into a lead, which they never gave up, by the 500m mark. From here on until they finished the 2000m course they were always in control in spite of a late challenge from BTC which took them past Bexhill and into second place behind Ryde who finished the race just over a length ahead.

In 2008 at Plymouth the Clubs Men's Junior Four won in a very close race against their Association rivals Southampton Coalporters. The Ryde Crew got off to its usual fast start and took an early lead, all be it only by about half a length, but the Coalporters crew fought back and at the half way mark held a slight lead. But the Ryde responded well rowing through Coalporters as the finish line approached to win by an official margin of half a canvas to take the South Coast title. However, there was bitter disappointment from Ryde's other selected representative crew, the Men's Senior Four, defending the title they won the previous year - the crew had a poor start from which they never recovered eventually finishing in 4th place. The Club also had a Men's Senior Four representing the Association in 2009 who also finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

2009 was the last time the Club had a representative crew until 2012 and had no success in the open events either but they did have wins in the South Coast Junior Regatta – introduced in 2010 – winning the Boys J14 Coxed Quad in 2010 and the Boys J14 Double Sculls in 2011.

At Bideford in 2012 the Club had two representative crews – a Men's Senior Four and the Men's Junior Senior Four. The Men's Senior Four crew got off to a good start and was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place just behind Bexhill, the CARA Champions at the halfway stage. Then, following their race plan exactly, they eased into the lead which was never seriously challenged, and they crossed the finish line more than 2 lengths ahead to take the famous Bideford Bowl Trophy back to Ryde for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. In contrast the Club's other selected crew had the closest possible race. Neck and neck with the runners-up from their own association, from Southampton Coalporters, throughout most of the race there was an agonizing wait after the crews finished – because of a protest following an incident at the start in which Ryde were not involved - before the Judges announced a win for Ryde by the narrowest of margins – just one foot! A great day for Ryde was rounded off when the Boys J16 Coxed Quad also won their race.

The Club travelled to Deal in Kent for the 2013 Championships but the weekend was not without its difficulties – a road traffic accident – after boat loading on the Thursday evening, resulting in damage to their minibus that prevented its use, left the Club struggling to get members and equipment to the event and the Club is very grateful for the support of Newport Rowing Club and St Mary's School, Ryde, in helping to resolve the issues at very short notice. Their efforts were well rewarded when the Clubs Men's Coastal Junior Four the seasons Hants & Dorset ARA Champions, represented the Association in the Championship event. They completed a great season with well controlled row, making them South Coast Champions at this status. The crew followed its race plan to the letter – with a good start over the 2k straight course that shoots Deal Pier. They eased into the lead at the half way stage and from that point onwards steadily extend their lead to win by three lengths over Shoreham and Association rivals Lymington. Life was a little more difficult for the Club second representative crew – the Ladies Senior Four - who were a late selection, following an injury plagued season. As they went afloat for their race the conditions were already beginning to deteriorate, putting the regatta at risk, and this had an impact on their performance, and they finished a disappointing 5<sup>th</sup> – and then suffered a battering from the waves while getting ashore resulting in a broken finger for one crew member. The Club also won the Boys J14 Coxed Quad.



At Swanage in 2014 the Club had a Men's Junior Senior Fours representing the Association, but they could only manage 3<sup>rd</sup> place – however the Club had two open wins in the Men's and Ladies Senior Fours.

In 2015 at Wimbleball the club had no representative crews but did well in the open events winning the Men's Coastal/Senior C Coxless Pairs, the Men's Novice Fours, and the Men's Novice single sculls.

At Herne Bay in 2016 the Club had two representative crews – in the Men's and Ladies Junior Fours – finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively.

2017 saw a return to Dorney Lake where the Club had a representative crew in the Ladies Junior Fours Championship. They produced a dominating performance, stamping their authority on the race from the start and eventually winning by more than five lengths in a time of eight minutes 35.12 seconds which was also the fastest time recorded for any Coastal Ladies Four at the Regatta – and a faster time than the Ladies Senior Fours Championship event.

The Club had no representative crew in 2018 or any wins in the open events of Junior Regatta but in 2019 at Dartmouth the Club once more had a representative Senior Men's Four. The race was not without its controversy – Mike Ewing – a member of the winning Ryde crew takes up the story –

*“On a slightly overcast morning Ryde Rowing Club's senior men's crew of Owen Barnaby, Oliver Bottrell, Matthew Allsopp, Mark Chatwin and Mike Ewing prepared to go afloat for the biggest race of the season, the Bowl race! The boat lent to us by Quintin Boat Club had been polished to a glinting shine by Micky Jenner, all nuts and bolts checked. As the last of the tide ebbed out of the river Dart, the crew boated and headed for the start. Following a great warm up the crews were on the start and attempts at alignment commenced. After what felt like seven or eight attempts at getting aligned the crews were off, and Ryde had a reasonable start after a poor first stroke. As the crews approached the first bend the oars of Deal and Ryde became tangled, with violent clashing and many warnings given. Greenbank Falmouth then clashed with Deal in lane 3. With all three crews being impeded in lanes 1, 2 and 3, the crews on the far side of the course started to move away with the benefit of the first bend. Exeter and Herne Bay were then able to cut across the course negating any benefit that crews in lanes 1,2 and 3 were due from the inside of the second bend, with BTC not quite making it. Herne Bay crossed the line half a length ahead of Exeter with the trailing field a further two lengths back.*

*As a result of the multiple clashes and several crews being impeded, three crews immediately protested as they crossed the finish line. With emotions and frustrations reaching boiling point in exchanges between some crews and the umpire, a re-row was eventually granted. As the crews returned to the boating area it then unfortunately became apparent that a member of the Herne Bay crew was unwell and receiving medical attention in an ambulance. At this stage no one seemed sure of what was going to happen or when the re-row would be held. Just as the Ryde crew were tucking into their lunch at a quarter past four, the announcement came that the race would be re-rowed at five o' clock! Crews slowly began to launch and by ten past five the re-row was about to start.*

*Just before the race was due to start, more drama unfolded. BTC protested Herne Bay's use of an ineligible substitute (for their unwell three-man). The substitute was a member of Bexhill Rowing club who had raced for them earlier in the day. Herne Bay, who seemed genuinely surprised and upset voiced their opinions to the start umpires. Unpleasant communications between BTC and Herne Bay followed whilst the other three crews sat waiting to start the race. Eventually, at around five forty-five, after Herne Bay had left the course, and in the absence of Greenbank Falmouth (who appeared to be prioritising other events), the race got underway.*

*Ryde got off to a solid start going stroke for stroke with the crew from Deal beside them and both coxswains kept the crews apart. Punching into the strong flooding tide, all crews navigated the first bend successfully with Exeter and BTC drawing away up the inside of their bend. As the course straightened and with the second bend in sight, Ryde began to charge. Striking between thirty-seven and thirty-eight strokes per minute Ryde began making inroads. As the crews approached the chain ferry that marked the half-way point, coxswain Owen Barnaby spotted that the chain ferry had decided to cross the path of the race! Owen applied hard rudder to avoid a race-ending collision, missing the chain-ferry by the finest of margins. With Ryde forced into the path of BTC there was a brief clash, Owen fighting to take his crew back across to their lane. It was a skilful manoeuvre pulled off with nerve and style in equal measure.*

*Ryde now found themselves two lengths down on Exeter who were line astern after again moving across the course. Ryde started to lift the boat in front of their supporters along Dartmouth Quayside, increasing their rate of strike to thirty-nine. As Owen called 'length and a half', the crew sensed the opportunity, one that they were not going to give up. Ryde drew level with three-hundred metres to go and forged a slight lead as both crews began their sprint for the line in the shadow of a moored cruise liner that dwarfed the racing boats. Exeter made one final effort with a hundred metres to go as the crews emerged from the shadows into the bright evening sun, but the Ryde crew dug deep and showed how badly they wanted it. The finish cannon at Dartmouth Yacht Club fired twice in quick succession as Ryde claimed victory by a quarter of a length to win the South Coast Championship for the Bideford Bowl on what transpired to be a very dramatic day.*

The club had further success when the Buys J18 Coxed Four also won their race.

The South Coast Championship Regatta was due to be hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA in 2020 at the Victoria Country Park, Netley, Southampton – but the event was lost due to the Covid Pandemic – and eventually took place at that venue in 2021. The Club had a representative crew in the Men's Senior Championship Fours event with a crew of Matt Allsopp, Mike Ewing, Alex Miller and Tom Hammond, and coxed by Jo Gabber however they could only manage 4<sup>th</sup> place. However the Ryde Club did have some success in the open events where the Clubs Men's Junior Senior Four of Joel & Austin Smith, Dale Buckett and Ben Sanderson coxed by Emily Faithfull very comfortably won their event a feat they repeated in Paignton in 2022 with a crew of Ben Sanderson, Dale Buckett, Joel Smith, Austin Smith and coxed by Niamh Murphy who took an early lead in their final which the never looked like losing, eventually winning the race comfortably.

## **Isle of Wight hosted South Coast Championship Regatta's.**

The Ryde Club in partnership with the Shanklin Sandown Rowing Club has also hosted the South Coast Championship Regatta on the Isle of Wight on three occasions - in 1975, 1979 and 1987. The first occasion, in 1975 followed the successful introduction of a Hants & Dorset Championship Regatta on the Island, in 1972, jointly hosted by Ryde and Shanklin Rowing Clubs and held at Yaverland near Sandown.

The primary site for the 1975 event was at Shanklin, with an alternative course at Ryde, west of the pier, but like so many before and since the weather on the chosen day made the conditions unrowable at both venues. However, the next day, the Sunday, dawned bright and clear with a calm sea - but the South Coast Council had already made the strange decision to switch the Championship events only back to the mainland and they were eventually rowed in Southampton Water off Mayflower Park, much to the dismay and disgust of the local organizing committee. Without doubt all the events could have been staged successfully on the Island on the Sunday – the decision of the South Coast Council reflected the view that the Isle of Wight and its Clubs was a “rowing back water” – a view that soon changed as Ryde and Shanklin dominated the South Coast Men's and Ladies Senior Championships in the eighties! The decision may also have been influenced by the Regatta Committee which had an amazingly small Isle of Wight content – with just John Adams from Ryde and Alan Wigmore from Shanklin serving – with three of the other five committee members coming from the Southampton area.

The strange decision to switch the 1975 Championships to the mainland only served to make these two Island Clubs more determined than ever to prove their point and stage a successful Championship Regatta and they won the right to stage the event again on behalf of the Hants & Dorset ARA the next time they were due to host the event in 1979. On this occasion the combined committee again selected Shanklin as the primary course and had two alternatives available - at Ryde, for the full programme and for Championship events only, a 1750m six lane course on the river Medina, which, in theory practically guaranteed that the event would take place in all but the most severe of conditions. However, the day dawned fine and clear and neither alternative course was required, and the Regatta went ahead very successfully at Shanklin with the two Island Clubs receiving many plaudits for a well-organized Regatta. The 1979 Regatta also had an all Island based organising committee – the only “foreigner” – being Pat Sherwin of Ryde & Southsea who chaired the committee. Ryde members who served on the committee were – Steve Bull, Paul Young, Mike Newnham and Bob Howard.

Ryde and Shanklin Rowing Clubs were asked to host the Championships again on the Island in 1987 and once again the primary course was at Shanklin with an alternative course at Ryde, but this time east of the Pier near the Ryde Rowing Club's Appley Park headquarters. A third course, for Championship races only, was again available on the river Medina. This Championship is probably regarded as one of the most controversial, as although conditions and the forecast on the morning of the Regatta were far from ideal, they were considered rowable - however they quickly deteriorated and after just a few heats in the invitation events the Regatta was stopped. By this time, it was too late to switch to the River Medina Course and the very brave

decision was taken to transfer the Championship races only to the Ryde course. A mad scramble followed as all Clubs with Championship crews rushed to load boats and move to Ryde where the final arrangements required were hurriedly put in place. While many Championship Regattas have been forced to switch to alternative venues this is the only one where the move has taken place after the Regatta has started! All the Championship Races were completed at Ryde on the Saturday although the depth of water over the infamous Ryde sands gave major cause for concern in the later stages of the racing. The Open and Invitation races were all completed at Shanklin on the Sunday in much calmer conditions. The hurried erection of the finish line at Ryde when the Regatta was switched from Shanklin led to one of the Championships most controversial incidents. Unfortunately, the barriers that had been planned to keep the finishing judges view of the finish line clear were not in place and at the finish of the very closely contested Men's Senior Championship race a lady walked in front of the judges with an umbrella up obscuring the view of the judges as the Ryde and BTC crews, who were racing neck and neck, crossed the line. The judges had no choice but to order a re-row which the home Club, Ryde, duly won - but BTC will always argue that they won the first race! Guest of honour at this Championship was Conservative MP and Minister of Sport – and now Lord – Colin Moynihan, who won a Silver Medal coxing the British Eight at the Moscow Olympics in 1980. He surprisingly agreed to cox in one of the open events – and steered a Ryde Junior crew – leading to a front-page photograph in the following days Sunday Times. The 1987 Regatta was again organised by a local committee with Pat Sherwin once again in the Chair. Steve Bull was Vice Chairman and Joint Regatta Secretary and Ryde members Reg Pink, Mike Newnham and Mike Merritt also served on the committee. The 1987 Championship Regatta was sponsored by Sealink British Ferries who at that time ran the cross Solent Passenger and Car Ferry service between Portsmouth and the Island. This sponsorship, negotiated by Ryde R. C. Member Mike Merritt – led to the sponsorship of the Ryde Club, providing them with cross Solent transport for their minibus and boat trailer – and was successfully renegotiated by Steve Bull when Sealink was taken over and became Wightlink IW Ferries – a sponsorship that continues to this day and is certainly the largest and longest in Coastal Rowing and is almost certainly one of the longest running rowing sponsorship deals. The Prize giving for the event – in the Theatre, on Shanklin Pier – was the last formal event held on the pier – as it was completely destroyed by a huge storm a few weeks later.

There have been many incidents involving the Ryde Club off the water at the Championships one of the most memorable was at Bexhill in 1997 when very early on the Sunday morning after the Regatta a member of the Ryde Club, Steph Hickman, was taking an early morning stroll to clear her head when she noticed a large wooden box in the middle of a Public Car Park. Memories of Ryde's three Senior Championships wins were still clear in her mind, and she thought she recognized the box - but was very surprised when she opened it to find the Bidiford Bowl inside. It had apparently sat alone in the Car Park all night! It was fortunate indeed that a rower, who recognized the box, was the first to find it!

There was also controversy following the Clubs 1986 Senior Championship win in River Boats at Plymouth when they used a newly purchased Front Coxed River Four, which was used again less successfully two years later at the Bideford Regatta. By

this time “front-loaders” were becoming increasingly popular and a number of Coastal Clubs borrowed this type of boat for the Championships – but with coxswains who, unlike Ryde, had little or no experience in them. As a result, there were a number of incidents and clashes blamed on the steering of the “front-loaders” – which led to this type of boat being banned from the South Coast Championship Regatta – the only Club being affected by this ridiculous decision being Ryde – as the only Club at that time who owned such a boat. The Club was forced to sell a boat just two years old – and purchase a stern coxed boat - which arguably cost the Club around £1,000. Predictably within a further four years the ban was lifted – as “front loaders” became common place – and many West of England Clubs purchased their own!

Steve Bull. Ryde Rowing Club. January 2023.

**The Crews representing Ryde A.R.C at the South Coast Championships.**

All crews representing the Hants & Dorset ARA plus Winning Crews in Open and Invitation events.

**Championship – winning crew.**

**1979. Men's Junior-Senior Championship.**

Malcolm Vaughan, Mark Singleton, Nick Pike, Mike Newnham.  
Cox – Warren Godfrey.

**1979. Ladies Senior Championship.**

Candice Lloyd, Tanzie Hersey, Sue Lathem, Pip Hersey. Cox - Not known

**1985. Men's Senior Championship.**

Russell Page, Mark Singleton, Nick Pike, John Pike. Cox - Nicky Catton

**1986. Men's Senior Championship.**

Russell Page, John Pike, Nick Pike, Mark Singleton. Cox - Lee Rayment.

**1986. Ladies Senior Championship.**

Olivia (Libby) Wheeler, Tanzie Page, Louise Bridle, Pip Hersey. Cox - Lee Rayment.

**1987. Men's Senior Championship.**

Russell Page, John Pike, Nick Pike, Mark Singleton. Cox - Lee Rayment.

**1987. Ladies Senior Championship.**

Wendy Richardson, Alison White, Louise Bridle, Tanzie Page. Cox - Not known.

**1995. Men's Junior Championship.**

Simon Jones, Jason Salkeld, Chris Van-Wyk, Tim Young. Cox - Steve Salter.

**1996. Men's Junior-Senior Championship.**

Dominic Pivonka, Jason Salkeld, Tim Young, Simon Jones. Cox - Steve Salter.

**1999. Men's Junior Senior Championship.**

Dominic Pivonka, Lee Morey, Chris Van Wyk, Mark Young. Cox - Dave Hanson.

**2000. Men's Junior Championship.**

Matt Coggins, Stephen Salter, Ben Ade, Matt Allsopp. Cox - Claire Salter.

**2005. Men's Junior Championship.**

Ben Churchill, Sam Cocker, Christy Sullivan, Con Sullivan. Cox – Jodie Cocker.

**2007. Men's Senior Championship.**

Ben Ade, Mike Jenner, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden, Cox - Bryony Reeve.

**2008. Men's Junior Fours.**

Callum Lowe, Tim Wiggins, Francis Moore, Tom Clark, Cox - Bryony Reeve

**2012. Men's Senior Championship.**

Tom Clark, Sam Cocker, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden. Cox - Ed Newnham.

**2012. Men's Junior Senior Championship.**

Charlie Norman, Harvey Kirkby, Charlie Gedling, Joe Norman, Cox - Max Reeve

**2013. Men's Junior Fours Championship.**

James Cleary, Stephen Johnson, Ollie Gove, Adam Edwards, Cox - Sam Brading.

**2017. Ladies Junior Championship.**

Courtney Edmonds, Kate Whitehurst, Lisa Murphy, Catherine Murphy,  
Cox - Emily Pike

**2019. Men's Senior Championship.**

Ollie Bottrell, Mike Ewing, Matt Allsopp, Mark Chadwick, Cox - Own Barnaby.

**Championship – other representative crews –**

**1978. Men's Junior Championship. 4th place.**

Malcolm Vaughan, Mike Newnham, Nick Pike, Mark Singleton.  
Cox – Warren Godfrey.

**1984. Men's Junior-Senior Championship. 2nd place.**

Graham Smythe, John Pike, Richard Gawn, Russell Page. Cox - Not known.

**1987. Men's Junior-Senior Championship. 2nd place.**

Malcolm Woon, Mike Jenner, Neil Lacey, Steve Titmus. Cox – Nicola Terry?

**1989. Men's Senior Championship. 2nd place.**

Steve Titmus, John Pike, Nick Pike, Neil Lacey. Cox – Nicola Terry?

**1989. Men's Junior Championship. 3rd place.**

Tim Ash, Simon Saunders, Brian Ingle, Steve Wort. Cox - Tracey Wort.

**1990. Men's Junior Senior Championship. 5th place.**

Tim Ash, Simon Saunders, Brian Ingle, Steve Wort. Cox - Tracey Wort.

**1992. Men's Junior-Senior Championship. 6th place.**

Steve Cook, Mike Merritt, Tony Hayles, Jason Grundy. Cox - Nicola Terry.

**1995. Ladies Junior Championship. 4th place.**

Gemma Kirkwood, Sam Lamb, Sonja Steer, Lena Steer. Cox - Steve Salter.

**2000. Men's Junior-Senior Championship. 5th place.**

Pete Nevill, Chris Jenkins, Richard Adams, Ian Hayden. Cox - Ashley Maitland.

**2001. Men's Junior-Senior Championship. 3rd place.**

Ben Ade, Stephen Salter, Richard Johnson, Matt Allsopp.

Cox - Penny Abdulkarimzdesch.

**2001. Men's Junior Championship. 2nd place.**

Chris Walker, Matt Bull, Lee Bennett, Mike Palin. Cox - Sam Billington.

**2002. Men's Junior Championship. Did not finish.**

Oliver Bottrell, Nick Christopher, Stuart Johnston, Steve Hunns. Cox - Kim Salter.

**2003. Men's Senior Championship. 2nd place.**

Ben Ade, Ian Hayden, Nick Pike, Matt Allsopp. Cox - Claire Salter.

**2004. Men's Senior Championship. 3rd place.**

Mike Jenner, Ian Hayden, Nick Pike, Matt Allsopp. Cox – Tom Clark.

**2005. Men's Junior Senior Championship. 3<sup>rd</sup> place.**

Stuart Johnson, Nick Christopher, Ollie Bottrell, Ashley Maitland. Cox - Kim Salter.

**2006. Men's Senior Fours. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.**

Mike Jenner, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden, Nick Pike. Cox – Penny Glazzard.

**2006. Men's Junior-Senior Four. 2<sup>nd</sup> place.**

Adam Drockett, Matt Evans, Dave Squibb, Sam Cocker. Cox – Penny Glazzard.

**2008. Men's Senior Fours. . 4<sup>th</sup> place.**

Mike Jenner, Adam Dracott, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden, Cox - Bryony Reeve.

**2009. Men's Senior Fours. 4<sup>th</sup> place**

Russell Page, Mike Jenner, Nick Pike and Ian Hayden, Cox - Bryony Reeve.

**2013. Ladies Senior Fours. 5<sup>th</sup> place.**

Sophie Brown, Hayley Spall, Lou Maidment, Maddie Dunn. Cox - Sam Brading.

**2014. Men's Junior Senior Fours. 3<sup>rd</sup> place.**

Stephen Johnson, Adam Edwards, Ollie Gove, James Cleary. Cox - Sam Brading.

**2016. Men's Junior Fours. 6<sup>th</sup> Place.**

Dom Douglas, Jacob Redstone, Ben Toms, Joe Groves. Cox - Austin Smith.

**2016. Ladies Junior Fours. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.**

Kristy Newnham, Lisa Murphy, Ayesha Russell, Catherine Murphy. Cox - Mick Jenner.

**2021. Men's Senior Fours. 4<sup>th</sup> Place.**

Matt Allsopp, Mike Ewing, Alex Miller and Tom Hammond, and coxed by Jo Gabber

**Open & Invitation Event – Winners.**

1978. Ladies Open.

Annette Trickett, Tazie Hersey, Sue Latham, Pip Hersey. Cox - M. Jenner.

1979. Men's Junior Open.

Richard Gawn, Paul Hawker, Allan Evans, Russell Page. Cox - Not known.

1980. Men's Novice Open.

Graham Reeve, Mike Jacobs, Gordon Fox, Ian Butler. Cox - Not known.

1985. Men's Junior Open.

Steve Wort, Tony Bradford, Quinton Lloyd, Mike Jenner. Cox - Not known.

1985. Men's Novice Open.

Simon Wall, Steve Titmus, Malcolm Woon, Steve Dear. Cox - Tony Hayles

1986. Men's Junior Open. .

Steve Wort, Graham Reeve, Mike Merritt, Tony Hayles. Cox - Not known.

1989. Men's Novice Open.

Lee Lacey, Graham Oakley, Ian Godfrey, Matt Beaton. Cox - Not known.

1990. Men's Junior Open.

Matt Leal, Miles Tetlow, Steve Dear, Tony Hayles. Cox - Rebecca Spinks.

1991. Men's Junior-Senior Open.

Matt Leal, Miles Tetlow, Jim Murphy, Steve Dear. Cox - Megan Davies.

1996. Men's Junior Open.

Pete Nevill, Lee Morey, Perry Fisher, Simon Williams. Cox - Matt Bull.

1996. Ladies Junior Open.

Louise Hewison, Emma Lloyd-Jennings, Imogen Hoyle, Lisa Morgan.

Cox - Steve Salter.

2001. Men's Novice Open.

Oliver Bottrell, Nick Christopher, Stuart Johnston, Steve Hunns. Cox - Claire Salter.

2002. Men's Senior Open.



Ben Ade, Ian Hayden, Nick Pike, Matt Allsopp. Cox - Claire Salter.

2002. Men's Junior-Senior Open.

Chris Walker, Matt Bull, Lee Bennett, Mike Palin. Cox - Ashley Maitland.

2002. Ladies Junior Open.

Jodie Cocker, Hannah Firth, Rebecca York, Claire Salter. Cox - Kim Salter.

2004. Men's Junior-Senior Open.

Chris Walker, Matt Bull, Mike Palin, Ashley Maitland. Cox – Jamie Lawson.

2005. Ladies Junior Open.

Jodie Cocker, Chloe Attrill, Steph Goodey, Claire Salter. Cox - Matt Bull

2006. Men's Senior Fours.

Con Sullivan, Christy Sullivan, Ollie Bottrell, Steve Salter. Cox – Clare Salter.

2006. Ladies Junior Fours.

Aimee Dibbens, Hayley Edwards, Rachael Brimstone. Kim Salter, Cox – Adam Edwards.

2014. Men's Senior Fours.

Mick Jenner, Nick Pike, Ben Ade, Sam Cocker. Cox - Jodie Cocker.

2014. Ladies Senior Fours.

Steph Kissick, Jodie Cocker, Lou Maidment, Maddie Dunn. Cox - Matt Brading.

2015. Men's Coastal/Senior C Coxless Pairs.

James Smith and Will Ford

2015. Men's Novice Fours.

Ben Toms, Dom Douglas, Jacob Redstone, Joe Groves. Cox - Austin Smith

2015. Men's Novice single sculls.

Stephen Johnson.

2021. Men's Junior-Senior Open.

Joel & Austin Smith, Dale Buckett and Ben Sanderson. Cox - Emily Faithfull. very comfortably won their event a feat they repeated in Paignton in 2022 with a crew of f who took an early lead in their final which the never looked like losing, eventually winning the race comfortably.

2022. Men's Junior-Senior Open.

Ben Sanderson, Dale Buckett, Joel Smith, Austin Smith. Cox - by Niamh Murphy

**Junior Regatta – wins. The Junior Regatta has been staged since 2006.**

2010. Boys J14 Coxed Quad.

Dale Bucket, Max Reeve, Sam Corney. Harvey Kirkby. Cox - Bryony Reeve coxing,

2011. Boys J14 double scull.  
Harvey Kirkby and Charlie Norman.

2012. Boys J16 Coxed Quad.  
Sam Corney, Dale Bucket, Andreas Hicks and Max Reeve. Cox - Bryony Reeve.

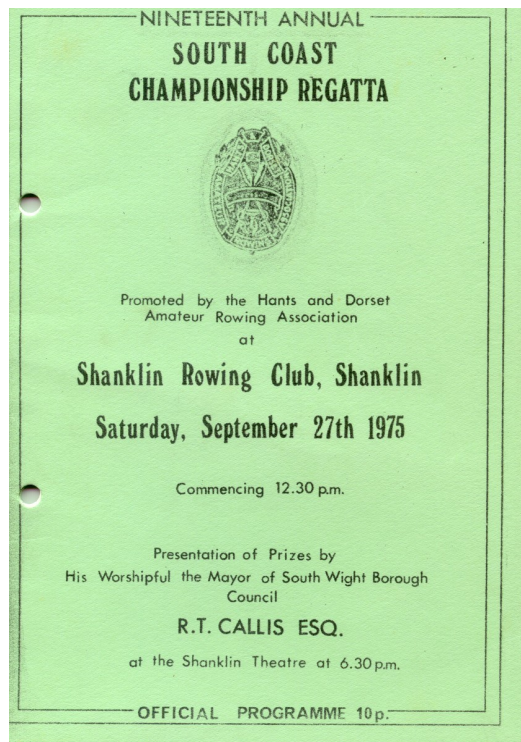
2013. Boys J14 Coxed Quad.  
Matt Jeacock, Joe Groves, Joel Smith, Jacob Redstone. Cox - Austin Smith.

2019. Boys J18 Coxed Four.  
Tom Starkey, Austin Smith, Ben Sanderson, Tye Cameron. Cox - Dan Sanderson.

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Steve Bull.  
Ryde Rowing Club.  
January, 2005. Amended and Updated 2020.

**Programme Covers, memorabilia and Photos from the Isle of Wight based South Coast Championship Regattas.**



The cover of the 1975 South Coast Championship Regatta Programme, staged at Shanklin, I.W. Organised by a Committee drawn from H&D Clubs with limited Island Club representation.



The cover of the 1979 South Coast Championship Regatta Programme staged at Shanklin, I.W and organised jointly by Ryde and Shanklin Rowing Clubs.

The cover of the 1987 South Coast Championship Regatta Programme staged at Shanklin, I.W and organised jointly by Ryde and Shanklin Rowing Clubs.

The regatta sponsorship by Sealink led to their sponsorship of the Ryde Club – continued by Wightlink IW Ferries after their takeover.





A promotional box of matches from the 1987 Regatta plus – and the key ring given to all competitors at the event.



Colin Moynihan (now Lord Moynihan) then Minister of Sport with Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government - and an Olympic Silver Medallist steering the GB Eight in 1980 - as guest of honour at the 1987 Championship Regatta on the I.W. He steered the Ryde R. C. Open Junior Crew (Paul Hawker, Mike Merritt, Tony

Hayles and Quinton Lloyd) - a first experience of Coastal Rowing. (Note name of boat).



**Photos of some of Ryde R. C. South Coast Championship Crews.**



**1978. Ladies Open Winners.**

Tanzie Hersey, Annette Trickett, Cox - M. Jenner, Pip Hersey, Sue Latham



**1979. Ladies Senior Championship.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> South Coast Ladies Championship Event.**  
Pip Hersey, Candice Lloyd, Sue Lathem, Tanzia Hersey, Cox - Not known.



**1985 Men's Senior Championship Winners.**  
John Pike, Mark Singleton, Nicky Catton – cox, Nick Pike, Russell Page



**1985, 1986 & 1987 Men's Senior Championship Winners.**

Mark Singleton, Nick Pike, Cox - Lee Rayment (Nicky Catton – not pictured – coxed



the 1985 Crew) John Pike, Russell Page.

**1986. Ladies Senior Championship.**

Olivia (Libby) Wheeler, Tanzia Page, Louise Bridle, Pip Hersey.  
Cox – (in the bow) - Lee Rayment.



**1995. Men's Junior Championship.**

Steve Titmus (Assistant Coach), Simon Jones, Jason Salkeld, Cox - Steve Salter, Chris Van-Wyk, Tim Young, Nick Salter (Coach).

Simon Jones went on to compete for GB at Under 23 and Lightweight.



**1999. Men's Junior Senior Championship.**

Mark Young. Dominic Pivonka, Chris Van Wyk, Cox - Dave Hanson, Lee Morey.





**2000. Men's Junior Championship.**

Stephen Salter, Ben Ade, Cox - Claire Salter. Matt Allsopp, Matt Coggins.



**2001. Men's Junior Championship. 2nd place.**

Steve Bull (Coach and author) Matt Bull, Mike Palin, Cox - Sam Billington, Lee Bennett, Chris Walker, (Petra Saunders – Assistant Coach).



**2002. Men's Senior Open Winners.**

Cox - Claire Salter, Ben Ade, Ian Hayden, Matt Allsopp. Nick Pike,



**2002. Men's Senior Open.**

Ben Ade, Ian Hayden, Nick Pike, Matt Allsopp. Cox - Claire Salter.



**2002. Men's Junior-Senior Open Winners.**

Matt Bull, Chris Walker, Ashley Maitland, (Cox) Sam Billington (Cox)  
Lee Bennett, Mike Palin.

Repeated open win in 2004 with Ashley rowing instead of Lee and  
Jamie Lawson coxing.



**2002. Ladies Junior Open.**

Jodie Cocker, Hannah Firth, Rebecca York, Claire Salter. Cox - Kim Salter.



**2005 Men's Junior Championship Winners.**  
Christy Sullivan, Sam Cocker, (Squad member – Matt Evans), Ben Churchill,  
Con Sullivan. Cox – Jodie Cocker.



**2007. Men's Senior Championship.**  
Ben Ade, Mike Jenner, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden, Cox - Bryony Reeve.



**2008. Men's Junior Fours.**

Callum Lowe, Tim Wiggins, Francis Moore, Tom Clark, Cox - Bryony Reeve



**2012. Men's Junior Senior Championship.**

Charlie Norman, Harvey Kirkby, Charlie Gedling, Joe Norman, Cox - Graham Reeve



**2012. Men's Senior Championship.**

Tom Clark, Sam Cocker, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden. Cox - Ed Newnham.



**2013. Men's Junior Fours Championship.**

James Cleary, Stephen Johnson, Ollie Gove, Adam Edwards, Cox - Sam Brading



**2017. Ladies Junior Championship.**

Courtney Edmonds, Kate Whitehurst, Lisa Murphy, Catherine Murphy,  
Cox - Emily Pike



**2019. Men's Senior Championship.**

Ollie Bottrell, Mike Ewing, Matt Allsopp, Mark Chadwick, Cox - Own Barnaby.