

Cat Open 2025

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2025

Pre-Event Information

RO: Alpha Course - Eric Joyce

Bravo Course - Nigel Denchfield

Club Office - Saturday: Heather Dance/Sunday: Anna Aldridge

Launching:

Launching will be harder than usual due to the drop in the water level in the lake. There is still water over the slipways, but there will be mud on the slipway below water level. We recommend teaming up to help each other launch, especially the singlehanded boats.

We recommend beginning to launch sooner than you normally do. We shall monitor the process and if appropriate will postpone the first race each day.

Car & Trailer Parking:

Depending on where you decide to launch there are several options with parking.

Alpha course boats are recommended to use slipways 6, 7 & 8. Boats and vehicles can be parked at that end of the site.

Please park tidily, perpendicular to the road; we will have a lot to fit in.

Campers can leave their boats there and then move to their booked space.

Bravo course boats should park in the main visitors' car park. Boats can be rigged there and wheeled past the roundabout to the launching areas. Please don't go around the roundabout—see the no entry signs on the site map below. As with Alpha course boats, camping Bravo boats can be left and the vehicle moved to the camping area.



Event communications:

The Official Notice Board is online, so please bring a mobile device. The Notice Board can be accessed via <https://www.grafham.org/online-noticeboard.html>. Email for use during the event will be office@grafham.org

Wash down:

Boats must be washed down before leaving the Club to comply with non-native species guidance. Jet washes will be placed on shrimp alley, roundabout and a hose at the top of slipway 2.

Results:

Will be published online as soon as possible after the completion of racing on the GWSC website.

Prize giving:

Will be in the upstairs lounge at 1500 or as soon as practical thereafter.

Catering:

The café on the ground floor of the Clubhouse will be open. Cash or card can be used.

Breakfast will be available Saturday and Sunday morning.

The Saturday evening meal will begin serving between 1700 and 1730.

Safety & Security:

Please do not walk through fenced off areas: they are fenced off for your safety.

Take particular care of the coxswains' slipway (East side of the Clubhouse in front of the coxswains' shed) as there are regular tractor movements on this slipway.

The fire exits from the Clubhouse are marked – the fire muster point is on the grass of the roundabout on the landside of the Clubhouse.

Please do not valuables in the changing rooms. There are lockers (green) in the café area which take a £1 coin

Sailing

Competitor Briefing: There will be a short competitor briefing at 1030 outside the café unless it is raining, when it will be inside the café. Please make sure that you have read the SIs as it is not the intention to discuss them at the briefing.

The Alpha course starting order is initially Singlehanded- Hurricane- Double handed. However, if appropriate, the order can be changed, so watch for the class flag.

Race Area: Will be confirmed on the Online Notice Board and competitors' briefing.

Finishing: The first 3 boats may be the only ones given a finishing sound signal. If you are finishing in a crowd of boats, do note the sail numbers around you in case we cannot see your number. Note that boats within the fleets may sail different numbers of laps.

Trash: Carry your own personal supply of food, drink and kit, you will not be able to deposit your dry bags nor trash in the safety boats.

First race of the day: Our aim is to start on time: please allow adequate time for launching; take into account the number of competitors which includes club members trying to launch and plan accordingly.

Nigel Denchfield [PRO]