

Grafham Grand Prix 43 Sunday 8 February 2026

Pre-Event Guidance

Welcome to Grafham Water for the 43rd Grafham Grand Prix. This is the rescheduling of the event.

Your team from Grafham for the weekend is:

Club Host and PRO:	John Aston
RO Fast Fleet:	Ian Kelly
RO Medium & Slow Fleets:	Nigel Denchfield
Club Office:	Heather Dance Anna Aldridge
Coxswains:	Tim Berridge Hilary Talbot Steve Long

Car & Trailer Parking:

The main gate will be open from 0800 hrs. Please follow the instructions of the Car Parking Marshalls on arrival. Due to the very wet weather we have had recently, it will not be possible to park cars on grass.



Registration

Sunday at the gate on arrival. You need only go to the Club Office (2nd floor of Clubhouse) if you have amendments to your entry. Note the office will not be open first thing as the Office Team will be manning registration on the gate

Event communications:

The Official Notice Board is online. The Notice Board is at <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. The main wash down facility is on the slipway to the west of the clubhouse.

Results:

Will be published online as soon as possible after the completion of racing on the GWSC web site (link on online notice board). The prize giving will be in the top bar on Sunday afternoon

Catering:

The café on the ground floor of the Clubhouse will be open. Breakfasts will be available from 0830. There is a pasta dish included in your entry fee: this is available from the café after sailing. The bar (top floor of the Clubhouse) will be open for the Prizegiving. Drinking water (for filling bottles to take on the water) will be available from jugs in the café.

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 land side of the Clubhouse.

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

Covid 19:

There are no specific restrictions in place currently at the Club. However, if you have symptoms of Covid-19 or have received a positive test result, please do not visit the Club.

Competitor Briefing

There will be a competitor briefing at 0945 on Sunday morning in the cafe. Everything you need to know however should be in these notes, the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions or on the Online Notice Board.

SAILING**Trackers**

Remember to collect your tracker from the table in the café before you go afloat, and to return it afterwards

Launching:

Our aim is to start on time on both days: please allow adequate time for launching and sailing out to the Race Area; take into account the number of competitors trying to launch and plan accordingly.

Race Area:

This is likely to be the West end of the Lake for the Fast course, and the Centre for the Medium and Slow Courses but this will be confirmed on the Online Notice Board and at the Competitor Briefing. To aid identification before the first race, the Committee Boats may display the relevant Class Flags (to be removed prior to the first Start sequence)

Courses:

These are as shown in the Sailing Instructions. Note the Slow and Medium Fleets will sail on the same course

Starting:

Orange will be displayed a minimum of 1 minute before the first warning signal (SI 12.3)

Note the Start sequence is 3-2-1-GO

The Black flag rule applies to all starts throughout the event (SI 12.1)

There will be a gap of at least 1 minute between the Medium Fleet Start and the Slow Fleet warning signal

Courses

Note that for the Medium and Slow Fleets the first mark has a chequered band (to distinguish from Mark 2)

Fast fleet note there is a spacer mark after the windward mark

The start/finish line is an obstruction sailing downwind on all courses (particularly relevant to the Fast Course)

There is an upwind gate on all courses – see SIs . This may be shortened after the Start by repositioning the Pin

Finishing:

Sound signals at the finish are optional: we will most likely signal only the first three finishers in each class.

Try and note the numbers of boats you finish close to, for use in the event of queries

John Aston

PRO