

Sailing Report 2025

Season Overview: January – October

The embryonic Cowes Keelboat Youth Charity (CKYC) proudly supported the Royal London Youth Academy (RLYA) by providing five Etchells to facilitate its 2025 operations, very much in the spirit of how David Franks set up the original fleet. The youth racing season commenced in January and ran over five weekends, concluding in April with the Etchells Spring Regatta and the Royal London Youth Trials.



CKYC continued its mission to nurture young keelboat sailors by identifying and supporting four youth teams each comprised mainly of RLYA alumni. This season's fleet included Shamal (Cameron Gardener and Thomas Leather), Pulse (Heather Quinn), Mano (Harry Blythe), and Ziggy (initially Maisie Harkess, later Biba and Dylan Downer with guidance from Kevin Downer and Tim Eccles).

The early season saw spirited performances at the Etchells Spring Regatta and RLYA Trials (5–6 April), where Shamal, Pulse, and Sumo contested a six-race series. Shamal led the youth standings, followed by Pulse and Sumo. Subsequent events, including the Red Funnel Regatta (12–13 April), saw Mano and Pulse continue to represent CKYC strongly.

Ziggy maintained consistent participation through the East Cowes Sailing Club Thursday Night Series and the Island Sailing Club Tuesday Night Series, achieving a remarkable first place overall in both the ISC series and IRC Class 2—a significant highlight for CKYC's youth efforts.



From May through August, CKYC youth teams campaigned actively across major Etchells regattas, including the Sir Kenneth Preston Trophy, Bedrock Trophy, European Championship, and Cowes Week. Mano emerged as a standout performer, taking overall victory at the Sir Kenneth Preston Trophy and securing consistent top youth and Corinthian finishes throughout the

season. Pulse and Shamal also achieved notable youth results, frequently ranking within the top three of their divisions.

The mixed-fleet participation of Ziggy under IRC further demonstrated the programme's breadth and inclusivity, culminating in a class win at the Taittinger RSYC Regatta and a second-place finish at Cowes Week.





The season concluded with strong representation across the South Coast Championship, Robert Watson Memorial Trophy, and David Franks Cup, showcasing continued growth and enthusiasm among CKYC's developing sailors.

Through these events, CKYC successfully provided opportunities for youth sailors to compete at a high level, gain valuable experience, and contribute to a vibrant Etchells community in Cowes. The charity's collaboration with RLYA remains a cornerstone of its mission to develop the next generation of keelboat sailors.

Date	Event	Boats Participating	Fleet Size	Results Summary
Jan – Apr	RLYA Training & Early Season	Five Etchells provided to RLYA	6	Youth teams formed: Shamal (C. Gardener & T. Leather), Pulse (H. Quinn), Mano (H. Blythe), Ziggy (M. Harkess → B. & D. Downer)
5–6 Apr	Etchells Spring Regatta & RLYA Trials	Sumo, Pulse, Shamal	6	Shamal – 3rd overall, 1st Corinthian, 1st Youth Pulse – 4th overall, 2nd Corinthian, 2nd Youth Sumo – 5th overall, 3rd Corinthian, 3rd Youth
12–13 Apr	Red Funnel Regatta	Mano, Pulse	8	Mano – 5th overall, 3rd Corinthian, 3rd Youth Pulse – 6th overall, 4th Corinthian, 4th Youth
18 Apr – 21 Aug	East Cowes SC Thursday Night Series	Ziggy	30	18 races – Ziggy 18th overall
22 Apr – 26 Aug	Island SC Tuesday Night Series	Ziggy	20	18 races – Ziggy 1st overall, 1st IRC Class 2
3–5 May	Sir Kenneth Preston Trophy	Mano, Shamal, Pulse	12	Mano – 1st overall, 1st Corinthian, 1st Youth Shamal – 9th overall, 5th Corinthian, 3rd Youth Pulse – 10th overall, 6th Corinthian, 4th Youth
24–26 May	Bedrock Trophy	Mano, Pulse, Shamal	11	Mano – 9th overall, 3rd Corinthian, 2nd Youth Pulse – 10th overall, 4th Corinthian, 3rd Youth Shamal – 11th overall, 5th Corinthian, 4th Youth
3–6 Jul	European Championship	Mano, Pulse	13	Mano – 9th overall, 2nd Corinthian, 3rd Youth Pulse – 10th overall, 3rd Corinthian, 4th Youth
4–6 Jul	Taittinger RSYC Regatta	Ziggy (IRC Class 3)	18	Ziggy – 1st overall
12–13 Jul	Southern Area Championships	Pulse, Shamal	9	Pulse – 5th overall, 2nd Corinthian, 1st Youth Shamal – 9th overall, 5th Corinthian, 2nd Youth
3–9 Aug	Cowes Week	Mano, Pulse, Ziggy	Etchells: 12 IRC 3:18	Mano – 6th overall (Etchells) Pulse – 12th overall (Etchells) Ziggy – 2nd overall (IRC 3)
23–25 Aug	South Coast Championship	Mano, Pulse	12	Mano – 8th overall, 2nd Corinthian, 2nd Youth Pulse – 11th overall, 4th Corinthian, 3rd Youth
6–7 Sep	Robert Watson Memorial Trophy	Pulse, Shamal	9	Pulse – 7th overall, 3rd Corinthian, 2nd Youth Shamal – 9th overall, 5th Corinthian, 3rd Youth
20–21 Sep	David Franks Cup	Mano, Pulse, Shamal	14	Mano – 6th overall, 1st Corinthian, 1st Youth Pulse – 12th overall, 4th Corinthian, 2nd Youth Shamal – 13th overall, 5th Corinthian, 3rd Youth
4–5 Oct	Ice Bucket & Women's Championships	Pulse	6	Results pending (4 races)
18–19 Oct	Saida Cup	TBD	–	Results TBC

Cowes Youth Keelboat Event and Future Plans



A Cowes Youth Keelboat event had been planned with great enthusiasm from local youth sailors; however, poor weather conditions led to its cancellation. Despite this disappointment, interest remains high, and CKYC hopes to organise a one-day regatta before winter, or alternatively, an event in Spring 2026 to allow young sailors to experience the Etchells class.

Several youth sailors have already expressed interest in joining the Island Sailing Club Tuesday Night Series and East Cowes Sailing Club Thursday Night Series next season. Supporting their participation would provide an outstanding opportunity to further CKYC's charitable aims and would align closely with the goals of Cowes Yacht Haven, whose support has been invaluable throughout the year.



Participation Summary

The table below summarises CKYC sailors' participation across all events in 2025, showing the number of races, number of CKYC sailors, and total race entries. In total, 1,104 CKYC sailors participated in races throughout the season.

Of that number 180 were Cowes based sailors.

Event	Number of Races	Number of CKYC	Total
RLYA	15	20	300
Spring Regatta	6	12	72
Red Funnel	6	8	48
SKP	9	12	108
Bedrock	3	12	36
European	7	8	56
Southern	7	8	56
South Coast	8	8	64
RWM	6	8	48
DF	6	12	72
Ice Bucket	4	4	16
Tuesday Nights	18	4	72
Cowes Week	6	12	72
Taittinger	3	4	12
ECSC Thursday Nights	18	4	72
		Total	1104

The Year Ahead

CKYC looks forward to continuing its close relationship with Cowes Yacht Haven and hopes to receive renewed backing from its original financial supporters. This ongoing support is vital to the charity's mission of promoting grassroots sailing and encouraging more young sailors to participate in the sport.

Over the winter, CKYC's Etchells will undergo servicing and maintenance in preparation for the 2026 season. One of the key challenges remains the cost of sails, which currently exceeds available funds.

CKYC will appeal to the Etchells fleet community for donations of sails no longer in use, helping sustain the programme without imposing financial barriers on youth teams.



The upcoming Etchells AGM in November will also consider the introduction of Vakaros electronic devices across the fleet. Should this proposal be adopted, the associated costs would be significant and would need to be passed on to charterers. CKYC will continue to seek cost-effective solutions to maintain accessibility for young sailors.