

Royal Escape Race - The Trophies

There will be up to TWENTY TWO trophies up for grabs at the 2026 Royal Escape Race in May. Boats with an IRC certificate will be racing for the IRC trophies, namely the Centenary Cup and Mott-Ewbank Preece Trophy. Other boats will race under the SCCH (Sussex Combined Clubs Handicap) system and will be eligible to have their names engraved on the Originator's Cup and Portsmouth Yardstick Clock.



The Originator's Cup
SCCH 1



The Portsmouth Yardstick Clock
SCCH 2



The Centenary Cup
IRC 1



The Mott-Ewbank Preece Trophy
IRC 2

Those boats that brave the crossing shorthanded will be rewarded with the SCCH and IRC shorthanded trophies. The former being a unique hand shape that was cast from the actual hand of Frank Kay, a past contributor to the Race whose legacy lives on, or should that be handacy?

The IRC shorthanded award (framed picture) was originally awarded for single handed sailing, however from 2024, this is awarded to shorthanded IRC boats to equalise both awards.



Shorthanded Trophies



In the run up to the race, boats will be able to declare which of the other special trophies they are competing for. Family trophies are awarded to the fastest yachts in SCCH and IRC which are crewed by at least three family members spanning two or more generations. Maiden trophies are awarded to the fastest yachts where either the skipper or the yacht are undertaking their maiden channel crossing on the Royal Escape Race.



The Editor's Scroll
SCCH Family Trophy



The Starboard Light
IRC Family Trophy



The Maiden Trophy
SCCH Maiden Crossing



The Port Light
IRC Maiden Crossing

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As well as winning in their race division (SCCH or IRC), the boat with the fastest overall time out of the whole fleet will be awarded the Ambex Defence Trophy, a glorious yacht sculpture to grace their table at the Prizegiving in June!



The Ambex Defence Trophy
Overall Winner

There are also two awards for Line Honours. While all other awards are presented based on corrected time, these two are presented to the first IRC and SCCH boats that cross the finish line.



Fécamp Chamber of Commerce Cup
IRC Line Honours



Neville Russell Jubille Trophy
SCCH Line Honours

Boats also have the chance to combine their results to win a trophy for their club. The Team Trophies for SCCH and IRC are presented to the club with the highest placed third team member, thus recognising the efforts of a number of participants. Another team trophy is contested between SYC and SRF only (sorry BMYC!) This is the Boysons Memorial Trophy which is awarded based on the total corrected time divided by the number of yachts in each team, giving two joint corrected times.



Old Ship Hotel Silver Jubilee Team Trophy
SCCH Team Trophy



Silver Salver Team Trophy
IRC Team Trophy



The Boysons Memorial Trophy
SYC/SRF Team Trophy

French boats have their own prize to compete for. The fastest boat on corrected time from the French fleet is awarded the European Shield



NEW FOR 2026!

The fastest boat (on corrected time) with at least 40% female crew will be awarded the Marabu Cup

(excludes shorthanded entries)



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The 2023 Royal Escape Race saw some of the highest winds recorded in the history of the race. It was a record breaking year, with the new fastest crossing time recorded by BMYC's Red Eye, skippered by Pip Tyler. The record had been held since 1997. Pip and his crew were awarded the Tattersell Cup for their new record crossing time of 7 hours, 10 minutes, 57 seconds.

Will the new record hold for the next 26 years?



The Tattersell Cup



Clearway Cup
SCCH Corporate



IRC Corporate Challenge Cup
IRC Corporate

Corporate entries to the Royal Escape Race have the chance to win either the Clearway Cup under SCCH, or the IRC Corporate Challenge Cup.

A special award for outstanding seamanship, or fellowship in connection with the Royal Escape Race, may be awarded each year. The decision rests with the Chair of the Royal Escape Race Committee.

This trophy was donated by John Bacon and bears his name.



The 46th Royal Escape Race sets off from Brighton on Friday 22 May 2026. There will be an "on the water" prizegiving in Fécamp on the Saturday evening where winners will receive champagne sourced from our wine partner Caves Berigny. Presentation of trophies will take place at the UK Prizegiving Evening at Sussex Yacht Club on Saturday 13 June.

Enter the race now at:

www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk/royal-escape-race/race-entry/