



PRESS RELEASE

PORTISHEAD YACHT CELEBRATES FOURTH CONSECUTIVE WIN OF SHANGHAI CUP, BRISTOL CHANNEL IRC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Portishead, 27th May 2025 – Over two weekends in May, Portishead Cruising Club (PCC) and Cardiff Bay Yacht Club (CBYC) hosted the annual Bristol Channel IRC Championships. With two legs, one off Portishead and one off Cardiff, the event is attended by crews from across the Bristol Channel - from Thornbury to Pembroke. Recognising the event's continued success, this year, the championships were sponsored by North Sails who provided a fantastic prize showcase.

The first leg, held in Portishead, was run over the weekend of 4th/ 5th May. Delivering 'champagne conditions' across the weekend with slightly more breeze on the Sunday, the crews enjoyed bright sunny skies. Racing used a number of the navigational marks in Kings Road off Portishead, including the shoots bouy by the Prince of Wales bridge and Denny Island, to offer a variety of courses that tested the skills of the competing crews. Racing was close on both days with only a few feet separating the boats on the water and a few seconds on the corrected time scoreboard. Crews played the tide to generate additional pressure with tight spinnaker margins on day two. After the racing, crews enjoyed a drinks reception at the Portishead Marina boat hoist to dissect the day's racing.

The second and final leg took place over the weekend of 24th/ 25th May in the waters outside of Cardiff Barrage. With mixed conditions expected, the first races saw less wind than forecast with holes and shifts scattered over the course. As the breeze filled in, the racing became fast and furious with the lighter boats planing downwind and all crews being tested to the limit with some impressive broaches as the wind speed climbed towards a force 6. After 3 races the teams returned to the bar at CBYC.

With Sunday's racing cancelled on safety grounds, the podium positions saw representation from the length of the Bristol Channel with boats from Cardiff Bay and Pembrokeshire taking second and third. The winner, for an impressive fourth consecutive year, was the Portishead J109, Ctrl-J skippered by Andy Williams, who was awarded the stunning Shanghai Cup and a host of prizes from event sponsors North Sails. The full regatta results can be found [on the event website](#).

PCC extends a huge thank you to the organising committee for another successful Bristol Channel IRC Championships, to Cardiff Bay Yacht Club for their generous hospitality, and to event sponsor North Sails for their much-valued support.

If you'd like to join future races but don't know where to start, [contact us](#) to find out about the latest crewing opportunities that may be available. You don't need a boat to join in the fun.

Notes to Editors

About PCC

Portishead Cruising Club (PCC) was established in 1932 as a hub for local people to enjoy the sport of sailing. Now in its 93rd year, it has an active membership across both yacht cruising and racing fleets with boats moored at both Portishead Marina and the River Avon in Pill. An RYA affiliated club, it promotes access to sailing for all both on and off the water with a range of courses, talks and social events organised throughout the year. To learn more, visit the website at www.pccsail.com or [contact the team](#).

Press Contact

Tim Pearson

publicity@pccsail.com

Supporting Images

Image credits: Tim Gifford



Shanghai Cup - Portishead Leg - May 4th. Credit: Timothy Gifford



Shanghai Cup - Cardiff Leg - May 24th. Credit: Timothy Gifford