

***Rollesby Broad
Sailing Club
Whit Series 2026***

***Race Reports &
Results Summary***

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Previous Events and Upcoming Programme

Summer is well underway and there are only a few months left to capitalise on being able to sail Rollesby Broad during the week. It may not seem long until 31st of October but as long as adequate safety cover is arranged (e.g. organising a small group via the WhatsApp community) you should get out on the water while you still can, and while it's warm! For full details of the sailing programme, see link here: <https://www.rbsc.org.uk/racing-2/programme-2026-27/>

- **Junior Sailing** – Block 2 has finished for the summer break, but don't worry Block 3 is less than one month away! <https://www.rbsc.org.uk/rya-training/>
- **Whit Regatta** – Sunday the 7th of June started off this new series <https://www.rbsc.org.uk/2026/06/spring-series-whit-regatta/>
- **Wednesday Evening Series** – almost wrapped up and very close in the mid-fleet, good turnout each week https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race_results/2026_we.htm
- **Junior & Novice Regatta** – 18th and 19th July was a great weekend of sailing <https://www.rbsc.org.uk/2026/07/junior-novice-regatta-july-2026-race-report/>
- **Summer Regatta & Social** – Sunday 2nd of August, club organised BBQ and prize giving after the event (read on for more!)
- **Broadland Youth Regatta** – Saturday 5th of September, we hope to take a team of Juniors to Barton Broad <https://puntclub.co.uk/broadland-youth-regatta/>
- **Race Training & Safety Boat Refresher** – Saturday 19th of September, further details to follow closer to the time.
- **Autumn Open Regatta** – Sunday 4th of October transitioning to 'winter' format of two starts, multi-sails followed by single-sail fleet.



Week 1 – Sunday the 14th of June:

A fresh north-westerly breeze met 15 dinghies at Rollesby on Sunday, with several sailors still away at NYBC and others returning after a strong showing there the previous day. Four juniors joined the fleet, with the wind direction and course setting providing lively plaining conditions in front of the clubhouse.

A Safety Boat issue forced the cancellation of the planned Eels-Foot Race, so the fleet continued with the regular series on the main broad. The faster boats soon broke clear, with Tony Fullford (Comet Trio), Mike MacNamara (Wayfarer) and Chris Barker (ILCA 6) enjoying clean air. Chris Foster (Wayfarer) looked set to join them until a navigational mistake sent him back to round a missed mark. Barker ultimately secured a comfortable win on corrected-time, MacNamara followed in second, and Ellie Edwards (Splash) stayed close enough to take third.

Race 2 brought a shift in both wind and fortunes, with the breeze veering west and becoming patchier, compressing the fleet and tightening the margins. This time MacNamara managed to break free just enough to finish first on the water and on handicap, by a narrow seven-second margin over Barker. Edwards again sailed consistently, taking third only four seconds behind Barker on corrected-time.



RBSC Training – [Flickr Album](#)

Week 2 – Sunday the 21st of June:

A warm north-easterly breeze met 22 dinghies at Rollesby this Sunday, with the pleasant conditions tempting four junior sailors onto the race course. True to Rollesby tradition, the wind refused to behave, shifting and gusting unpredictably throughout the day, keeping every sailor alert.

Race 1 quickly produced a small breakaway group, and by the halfway point they established a clear lead. Mike McNamara crewed by Ian Curtis (Wayfarer) led throughout to secure victory both on the water and on handicap. Chris Barker (ILCA 6) stayed close enough to make the corrected-time result interesting, but he ultimately missed out by just four seconds and settled for second. Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) followed in a comfortable third.

Race 2 unfolded in similar fashion, with a select group escaping early. Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) seized the initiative from the first lap, using clear air to build a good lead and claim a decisive win. MacNamara secured second place, while Bull repeated his third-place finish.

After lunch, with the breeze still holding, six boats returned for the final race. Howard Astley-Jones (RS Vaneo) and Fullford duelled at the front, pulling clear of the fleet. Astley-Jones ultimately made best use of his spinnaker to open a winning gap, leaving Fullford in second. Behind them, Bob Sparrow (Wayfarer) held off the remaining boats to secure third.



Busy windward mark! -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rollesbybroadsc/albums/72177720334311175>

Week 3 – Sunday the 28th of June:

A fresh south-westerly breeze met 20 dinghies at Rollesby this Sunday, and with several regulars away at the Gorleston Beach Regatta, the strong turnout for club racing was a welcome surprise. Though the conditions looked pleasant, powerful gusts made the racing physically demanding. The broad glittered in warm sunshine, and seven juniors were tempted out onto the course.

Race 1 saw a small group break away from the main fleet after the first few legs. Chris Barker (ILCA 6) established an early, uncontested lead ensuring a comfortable win both on the water and on corrected-time. Bob Hawkins (Solo) headed the six-strong Solo fleet and held his position to secure second. Ellie Edwards (Streaker) suffered gear failure but stayed clear enough of the chasing Solos to take third.

A course change preceded Race 2, just as the wind strengthened. Barker again demonstrated dominance, with the more manageable Radial rig proving ideal in the punchier conditions, he built another decisive lead for a second easy victory. Hawkins also repeated his strong form, breaking from the Solo pack again to claim second place. Mark Porter (ILCA 7) capitalised on several powerful gusts, staying far enough ahead from the main fleet on handicap for third.



Fresh breeze and Sparrow port tacks the fleet off the line -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rollesbybroadsc/albums/72177720334448104/>

Week 4 – Sunday the 5th of July:

A variable westerly breeze met 18 dinghies at Rollesby on Sunday, with dark clouds threatening rain but delivering only unpredictable shifts that tested competitors' patience. The club celebrated notable successes away from home, with Daniel Bull taking overall victory in the All-Comers Fleet at the Gorleston Beach Regatta, while Michael MacNamara claimed his 25th Wayfarer National Championship title. The Rollesby Wayfarer sailors also earned the trophy for best club performance at the Nationals, with great results all round.

Race 1 began with Bull (ILCA 7) and MacNamara (Wayfarer) breaking clear of the fleet on the first lap. Boats stretched and compressed across the course as the wind faded in and out, yet the seven-strong Solo fleet remained close enough to pose a persistent threat to the leaders. Bull maintained his lead to take both line honours and the handicap win, finishing 11 seconds ahead of Bob Hawkins (Solo), with MacNamara only eight seconds behind in third on corrected-time.

In Race 2, Bull again established an early advantage, appearing set for a comfortable win. As the wind dropped, the Solos' fully battened mainsails proved particularly effective, compressing the fleet as they jostled for position. Despite sustained pressure, Bull held clear to win by another 11 seconds on corrected-time, with Kevin Postlethwaite (Solo) taking second place after just pipping Hawkins at the line.



Week 5 – Sunday the 12th of July:

A fresh north-easterly breeze met sixteen dinghies at Rollesby on Sunday, delivering lively gusts that sent white horses rolling down the Broad. Anyone who capsized found the water pleasantly warm, a welcome contrast to the brisk conditions. After last month's race was abandoned due to strong winds, Race 1 followed the 'Eels Foot' course with sailors completing half a lap of Rollesby Broad to create early separation before planing downwind toward the cut. The narrow channel to Ormesby Little Broad was tight with reeds pressing in from all sides, yet the fleet threaded through cleanly both outbound and on the return.

Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) and Mike MacNamara with crew Ian Curtis (Wayfarer) led the charge across the second broad and around the marks. MacNamara's expert handling through the cut on the upwind leg allowed the Wayfarer to power home first on the water. However, the cut favoured the more nimble single-handers, enabling the chasing fleet to close the gap. Ellie Edwards (Splash) gained most and claimed victory on corrected-time while Bob Hawkins (Solo) remained in touch to secure a narrow third.

After the tiring 1km beat back to the line and with some sailors deterred by unpredictable gusts, a reduced fleet of nine launched for Race 2. Roger Wilson (Streaker) established an early lead, but Edwards stayed close enough to secure a second corrected-time win and MacNamara (Wayfarer) finished third.



Start of the Eels Foot race, breezy again!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rollesbybroadsc/albums/72177720334674739/>

Week 6 – Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th of July:

Fresh north-westerly winds shaped a lively weekend at Rollesby, with twelve juniors competing in Saturday's Junior Regatta event, and fifteen sailors returning for Sunday's series racing. As the breeze built across both days, sailors young and seasoned faced the full Rollesby treatment of strong gusts, sharp shifts, and the occasional dramatic knockdown as sails flogged in the squalls.

On Saturday in the 'Gold Fleet', Harvey (Splash) set the pace in Race 1 as the fastest boat on the water. However, Henrietta (Optimist) stayed close enough to secure the handicap win, with Dalton edging out Hattie in a tight Topper finish for second and third. Race 2 saw Dalton again leading the Toppers, yet Henrietta repeated her dominance with another clear victory and Josh (Topper) sailed smartly into third. After lunch, Hattie struck early in Race 3 and converted her lead into a decisive win. Stanley (Topper 4.2) thrived in the fresh breeze, earning equal second on corrected-time alongside Henrietta, with Dalton in third. Henrietta's consistency sealed the Gold Fleet trophy, with Dalton taking second ahead of Hattie on a points tie-break.

The 'Silver Fleet' tackled a shorter, simpler course but Noah (Optimist) was untouchable, mastering the gusts to take three straight wins, first on handicap then later on the water. Angus and Victoria began the day duelling in their Toppers, yet soon found themselves battling the shifting breeze instead. Victoria's composure earned her second in Race 2, while Angus secured handicap seconds in Races 1 and 3. Noah claimed overall Silver Fleet victory, with Angus second and Victoria third.

Sunday's racing opened with Daniel (ILCA 7) breaking clear early, but Roger (Streaker) steadily closed the gap while Ian (Solo) and Ellie (Splash) advanced through the mid-fleet. Despite being first on the water, Daniel was knocked off the podium on handicap, with Roger taking a narrow two second corrected-time victory ahead of Ian, with Ellie only 11 seconds behind them in third. The wind strengthened for Race 2, prompting several retirements, yet Roger pressed on unfazed to secure a second win. Daniel held firm for second place, and Ellie once again stayed close enough for third.

Week 7 – Sunday the 26th of July:

A lively westerly wind met 23 dinghies at Rollesby on Sunday for the final races of the Whit Series. With only a handful of points separating the top five boats, the stage was set for a tense and hard-fought conclusion in challenging conditions.

Race 1 saw the breeze shifting unpredictably and creating sharp contrasts across the course, with some sections left becalmed while powerful gusts tore across others. Darren Pike (Phantom) broke away early and looked comfortable out front, but the Rollesby wind was not in his favour and the chasing fleet reeled him in on the final lap. The faster boats finished in a tight cluster, yet Chris Barker (ILCA 6) stayed close enough throughout to snatch victory on handicap by ten seconds. Mike MacNamara (Wayfarer) secured second place, with Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) taking third, with only five seconds separating them both on corrected-time.

A revised course preceded Race 2, and with the wind building further several sailors chose to remain ashore. Strong gusts forced additional retirements, leaving just 15 finishers. These conditions suited Barker perfectly, and he delivered another assured handicap win, this time by a 20-second margin. Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) mastered the gusts to claim second, while Bull added another solid third. Barker's two victories today sealed the overall series title. MacNamara edged Bull for second, both counting only podium finishes across the series.



Daniel goes for an early dunk due 'Rollesby Wind' at the start of Race 2 -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rollesbybroadsc/albums/72177720334862533/>

Summary & Overall Results

Another great turn out of competitors for this series, with an average of 18 boats out each week. There was also increased junior participation throughout, the warmer weather no doubt encouraging the more fair weather among you to come sailing! Over the seven weeks, lots of sailors travelled for competitions leading to them not having many races to spare. As a result of these travels, Rollesby put on some successful showing away at events, demonstrating our club produces and keeps good sailors.

There were 45 individual entries for the series, although only around half of these qualified for a position, this is still a high number of regular racers. Unfortunately, not enough third races were sailed to have anyone qualify for the afternoon whit series, so no prizes were awarded for it this year.

A few notable weather or environmental events occurred over the course of these last seven weeks. Very hot and dry conditions, coupled with almost no rainfall lowered the water level of the broad significantly (still ongoing drought!). The water is low enough that half the slip way is exposed and the area around the pontoons very shallow, making launching and recovery more tricky than usual. We have also had more breezy weeks than what is typical of Rollesby Summer sailing, with most reports describing the wind as 'lively' or 'fresh' whereas normally hot weather brings light airs.

The overall results were anyone's game each week, nothing was fully decided until the final race, with the race wins and top placements being shared around. We have a variety of classes sailing regularly, but as popular as ever are Laser/ILCA's, Solos and Wayfarers. You can see the final positions published online linked here: https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race_results/2026_wh_am.htm

<i>Overall Results</i>
1. Chris Barker (ILCA 6) – 9 points.
2. Mike MacNamara & Various Crews (Wayfarer) – 14 points.
3. Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) – 16 points.
4. Bob Hawkins (Solo) – 19 points.
5. Ellie Edwards (Splash/Streaker) – 20 points.