

## [Rooster RS800 National Tour Preview](#)

Hopefully you saw the full calendar for 2023 drop at the end of last year. You can get your old-school print out here (<https://www.rs800.org/documents/p1gkq060fth48714j12oc1a103.pdf>). Do take a look and block out those weekends now!

As always, the spine of our calendar is formed by the National Tour which once again is being supported by the wonderful [Rooster Sailing](#). We are thrilled to have a selection of wonderful venues on the calendar this year 😊

So what is the deal this year?

🧐🎉 Following the successful formula we trialled at the end of 2022, every event will include a training / learning element and a top notch social. The most prestigious prize in sailing, the Social Conch, will of course be up for grabs.

🚤 Seven tour events in the diary. Best four results to count. Of course we'd love to see you at all of them. 🥇🥈🥉 This year we are running a Platinum, Gold and Silver fleets to increase competition throughout the fleet. Tour prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall. 1st Gold Fleet. 1st Silver Fleet.

So where are we going?

### ★ Tour Event 1: Rutland Water Spring Championships, 4-5 March

Things kick off at Rutland in March with the Spring Champs. To help sailors get up to speed at the start of the season we will be running coached racing as part of the event (more info to follow soon). As the largest reservoir in England, Rutland provides plenty of excellent inland water to bash about on. Rigged the kite wrong? It's got some lovely soft nature reserve areas to do some mid-race fixes in. Get some early scores on the doors and kick back in the cheap club accommodation after the inevitably lively social.

### ★ Tour Event 2: Stokes Bay, 29-30 April

Stokes Bay has to be one of my favourite sailing clubs and this event is always a classic. Nothing beats a sun drenched Solent with beautiful views of the Isle of Wight and some punchy sea breeze. Sailing aside, there is the famous Dan Vincent quiz which always includes some bizarre form of team building. So much fun. Once you've spent some time experiencing the bar there is also the option to camp in the boat park (watch out for badgers). Perhaps the biggest incentive to make the trip is the opportunity to win a famous Stokes Bay Sailing Club mug. The perfect cup.

### ★ Tour Event 3: Hayling Island Salcombe Gin RS Summer Championships, 24-25 June

Hayling boasts a good number of home boats and so we are expecting a bumper turnout for the Summer Champs. Led by an extremely experienced race team we are going to be spoiled with a weekend of high quality racing in one of the UK's premier venues. With a formal Summer ball and music in the evening it is going to be a wonderful weekend of socialising too!

### ★ Tour Event 4: Castle Cove, 8-9 July

My old club, my spiritual home, it's 'go left' Portland Harbour. Castle Cove always deliver on and off the water. It's an extremely friendly, volunteer run club with a penchant for making large quantities of cake. Our event will form part of the larger Weymouth Regatta and so not only is there an opportunity to get some good tour results on the board, but the chance to conquer some other classes too.

### ★ Tour Event 5: Royal Lymington, 12-13 August

Want to experience the home waters of the unstoppable Luke and Emma McEwen? Come and enjoy the sea breeze happy Solent for this fixture in the RS800 calendar. In recent years we've been blessed with some great racing all topped off with a donut at the top of the slipway.

★ Tour Event 6: Grafham Water Rope4Boats Inland Championships, 30 Sep-1 Oct

Following on from the Noble Marine Nationals in September, the fleet is always red hot and as keen as mustard. Hence the Inlands usually sees a healthy turnout of boats looking to do battle once more. And where better to host such a showdown than Grafham Water. Last year's instalment saw some great wind for high quality inland racing, an excellent tuning workshop from Tom Morris and some dubious behaviour / nudity in the social. What more do you want?? Camping on site is highly recommended for maximum bar game enjoyment.

★ Tour Event 7: Rutland Water RS End of Season Championships, 4-5 November

After a busy season of boshing about, we bookend 2023 with another trip to Rutland for the End of Season Champs. This is where the tour results come to a head and the final standings decided. We will finish things off with a laying-up supper with an informal prizegiving to celebrate all the wonderful fails and mishaps that go hand in hand with skiff racing. It is also another perfect opportunity to stick the bow in the nature reserve and check out the mute swan numbers as you re-rig the kite again.

A wonderful selection of events! We know that alongside great venues, opportunities to learn and the chance to catch up with friends in the bar, turnouts are important. If you know you are coming to an event then get yourself signed up early as it does help drive entries for better racing and more.....energetic socials.

See you on the Rooster Tour in 2023!

By Hugh Shone