

RS800 European & RS400 Eurocup 2024

Dates : Friday 21th – Monday 24th June

Host club: *Société Nautique de Larmor-Plage*



1) Location : Larmor-Plage, close to Lorient.

France : Largest RS800 Fleet out of UK (Potential 15 boats)

South of Brittany : Closest to the Ferry (2h to St-Malo, 4h to Caen)
No motorway toll in Brittany (from Avranches)
Atlantic sea and waves
Anticyclonic Summer weather
Thermal wind conditions
Largest RS800 Fleet in France (Potential 10 boats)

Lorient City : City of 5 harbours (city center, fishing, industrial, leisure, offshore)
History of WW2 (Major German Submarines bunkered harbour)
Offshore major hub (3 Ultime, 10+ Imocas, 20 Class40, 50+ Minis,...)
Fair amount of bars and restaurants

Larmor-Plage : Large amount of beaches (5 minutes walking, cycling, driving distance from the club)
Seaside city with nice sight on Groix Island, Port Louis (Vauban) Citadel,...
Easy access to French Boulangeries (special Mc Ewen!)

2) Host Club : Société Nautique Larmor-Plage (SNL).

The club celebrated in 2022 his 150th anniversary. This is one of the 10 first sailing club in France. It has been in the past a strong place for Vaurien dinghies, Snipe dinghies, then a windsurfer revolution major place.

SNL club is located at the entrance of the Lorient Harbour with an easy access both to Harbour/Sea sailing. The Club House is built on a German bunker with a wonderful sight on the Port-Louis Citadelle. The Bunker is used to store sails and for changing rooms. The slipways are East oriented, quite protected from West wind major pattern. Drawbacks? Yes, 3: Boat traffic, Current flow, No shower in the changing rooms.

SNL club is a volunteers driven sailing club with a warm welcome spirit. There are no sailing teacher: it's a owner sailing club! The club has keelboats sailors, motorboat owners, dinghy sailors, Catamarans sailors, windsurfer revival sailors. The club has a 2 sided organising will: local actions for their members (local racing, socials, ...) and national/international events organisation every other year.

3) Host Club : Facilities : Acces, parking, slipways, club house.

SNL has a 50 boats parking, a 30 cars parking. A single slipway, a beach, a 100 persons club house and a deck that can receive an additionnal 100 persons approx. The changing rooms (men/womens) are quite small and authentic (Bunker German rest room!). We have a special local where we can organise night repair. SNL has also a sails repairer partner, as well as a 100m shipshandler around.

For major championship the in-town sailing club can use additionnal areas: cars and trailers parking 100m away, a second slipway, another boat parking in front of the second slipway, and we can organise additionnal changing room in the bunker! So the SNL can prepare for a simple but efficient, authentic and warmful environnement.

Club house has a bar obviously, and there are 3 restaurants and 2 bars at walking distance around Kernevel leisure harbour. Perfect to organise a beer after club beer moment with your friend. Perfect to organise the crew's (renegade) union meeting.

For the socials, the plan is to organise a good meal at the club hopefully in the club house and under a barnum on the bunker deck with a overwhelming and satisfying view.

4) Racing : Sailing Area.

Lorient harbour channel is highly used by different type of working and leisure boats. For this reason, we are not allowed to race in the channel. We have to sail a bit with care to traffic before to get clean and fair area for a championship.

There are 3 potential racing areas that may be used depending on the meteo and the tide. Those areas are 1.5 – 2 NM of the sailing club, equivalent distance to Weymouth harbour crossing. The waves differ from one place to another, as well as the tide! Plenty to play with for an exciting and interesting racing event!

5) Racing : The race team.

SNL club as well as other volunteers from other clubs around Lorient are already looking forward to help and be part of the event. SNL has the race comity boat and only one rib, but members, and other clubs around are already planing their presence, so be sure SNL plan for around 1 boat/10 sailing boat ratio.

SNL has some experienced volunteers, we have local jury that won't cost much, but we will need an external Race comitee that has a national level. We are in the process to identify the better person to operate.

6) Racing : SNL last events organized.

SNL has organized since Covid19 several local annual events for dinghies and keel boats. Major events in this period has been :

- 2021 (~~2020~~) 505 French National (30 boats)
- 2023 Surprise National (25 boats)

Always the sailors have gone back home with plenty of smiles, with major positive feedbacks locked on:

- Quality of the race team.
- Smiles from the hosts, club meal and atmosphere at the club.
- Simplicity : make it straight to the goal: fair and fun racing on the water, camaradry ashore.

7) *Other activities : History, beach, or offshore hub visits.*

Visiting: there are 3 remarkable things to visit in Lorient, where history and technology connect:

- Museum of East Indies Company in Port Louis Citadel: During the 17th Century, Lorient has been the hub of the East Indies French Company, protected by the "Citadel of Port-Louis". The Citadel can't be missed looking from the club, the museum can't neither.
- German Submarines Huge K1, K2, K3 roofed harbour: During WW2, the 3rd Reich limited the capabilities of the allies to help each others through their submarines network terrorising the traffic in the Atlantic and the Channel. Lorient was the hub of those Submarines. The enormous buildings have been built in 2 years to protect these assets from UK bombing. These impressive beasts can be visited.
- Museum of sailing: I must confess i would be astonished and tempted to smile if any of my UK friends would visit our very own museum of sailing. But in the mecca of offshore sailing, also home of Tabarly's Pen-Duick boats dynasty, this museum has a very special taste and address anyone in the family.

Going to the beach: From the club, you can swing or sunbath. You can walk 5 minutes in direction of the center of Larmor-Plage, and have other spots to choose: there are beaches all around, and even a in-town surfing spot. If you take a bike or car ride, you can go nord/west, and go around Kerguelen site, where the largest beach but also sailboat renting take place. There you can windsurf, wingfoil aswell: It's the spot!

Walking between sea and inland: If you are more attracted by nature and walks, i can advise the Laïta river walk. 20 minutes car drive, and you are along the salted river, under the trees, walking in a continuously changing light scenary. Are you at the seaside or inland? Can't decide!

Some days off: If you have some additionnal days off, you may consider take the huge ferry to go on the Isle of Groix. By cycle, you can make the most of the different landscapes in a full day: nature, local dishes, and meabe a swim? Relaxing island atmosphere guaranteed.

Offshore Hub Pontoon visit: Do you really think the offshore Ultims, Imocas, and other Class40 are touchable? You bet! You should, because they are: pontoons are accessible without security check neither duties. Everyone can walk along and take pictures and videos to create their very own Mozzy video. The sherry on the top? I'm pretty sure Héloïse Baizé and some other French RS800 sailors working in the teams can answer your questions during a visit!

8) *Where to stay? : The classic mix*

Larmor-Plage is a quite rich seaside resort, with quite expensive owners houses. Not necessary a huge offer of airBnb. But still the social mix exist and the full range of classical options exists, from hotels in Larmor-Plage, AirBnb, Camping, to Lorient offer which is obviously larger. Ploemeur is fine as well!

The thing to say is that if you don't find a walking distance spot, it's not a big deal, you can drive a bit, traffic and parking is manageable in June, in Lorient as well as in Larmor-Plage.

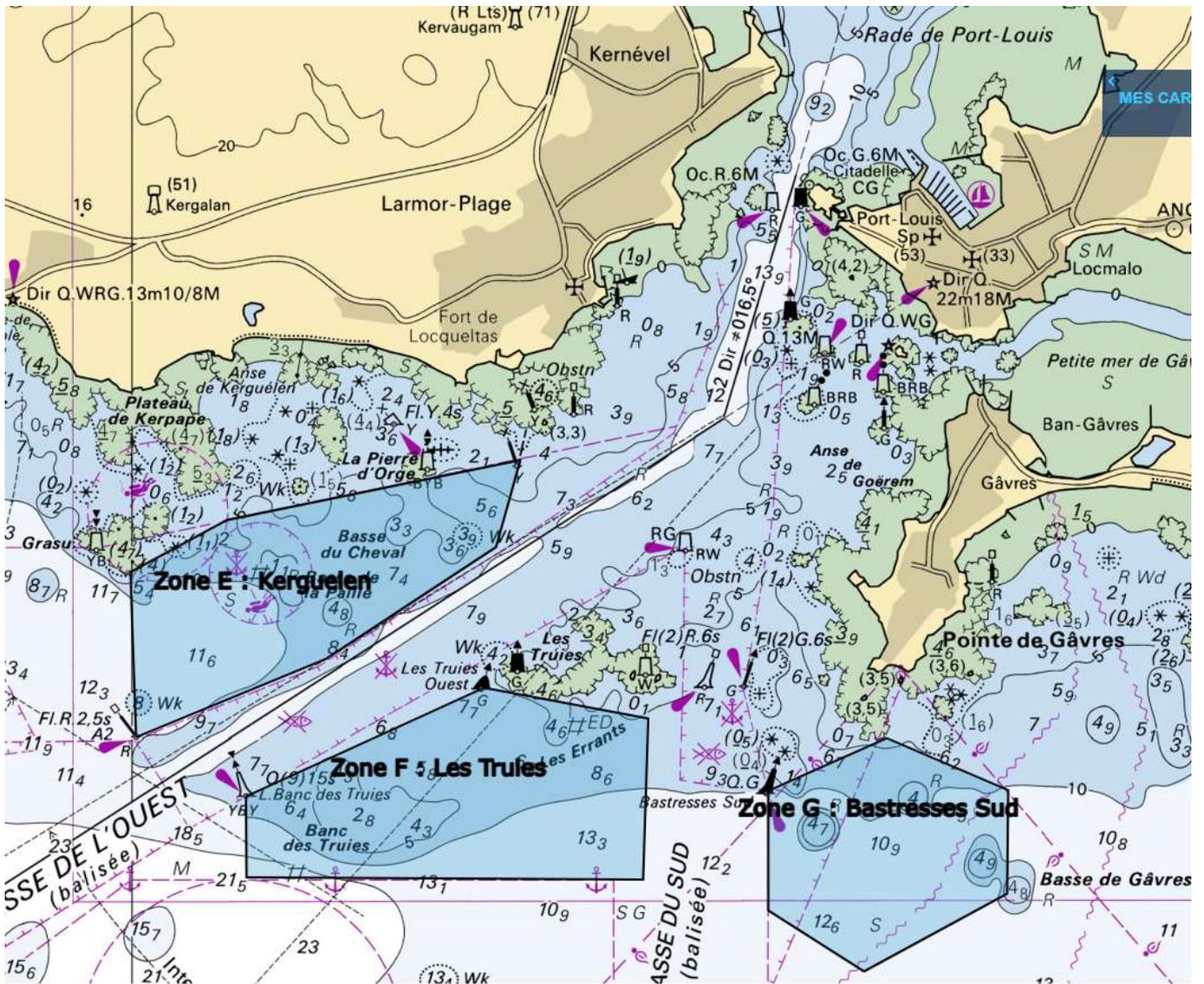
9) *Who you think you will be racing against? : The French lads*

For the RS400, i'm sorry to tell: there are no French dynamic, but i'm pretty confident if you still here reading the 9th paragraph that you are now fully convinced you can in Larmor-Plage share this wonderful event with your friend, with the RS800 class, and with the SNL host club and our volunteers!

For the RS800, if you think you have ennemies, you are wrong: East Indies Vaissels Cannonades are over

for a while and French sailors are now spritz ready to share beers and discussions with their UK fellow competitors. If you think the level of the Europe and France fleet is too low (or too high !) and do not worth the trip, you are probably wrong! The thruth is the French fleet is quite diverse and distributed along the results table. Whatever your level is, you may find a french boat to play with! You may earn a beer or learn some french words to re-do the (battle) race at the bar!





Patrick Le Lay











