

IRC at Royal Malta Yacht Club 2024

The Royal Malta Yacht Club has continued to run its calendar of keelboat racing under IRC.

There has been little change this year in the racing which consists mainly of coastal and round island races as well as weekend regattas and short series. Longer offshore races include passages to nearby Sicilian ports over a long weekend.

The fleet, composed mainly of production boats with a few boats of a more racing design has grown slightly with improved participation over recent years. Entries are normally divided between a Racing Division and a Cruising Division limited to Cruising production boats with a Single Furling Headsail among other criteria. An increased presence of boats raced with younger crew is encouraging and suggests that the efforts of the sailing schools of the RMYC and other sailing clubs which have been very active in recent years are having a positive effect.

The Malta Syracuse race is still held in partnership with the Lega Navale Italiana and is scored under both ORC and IRC.

The main event for the RMYC remains the Rolex Middle Sea Race which typically attracts over 100 boats from around 20 countries. The race is scored under IRC and ORC with the Rolex Middle Sea Race Trophy awarded to the overall winner under IRC, being usually the larger category. Boats may enter both categories and in 2023 of the 110 entries, 91 boats competed under IRC and 68 under ORC and 3 were multihulls.