

# Symonds Yat Slalom

## Div 2/3

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Thank-you for entering Symonds Yat slalom. We are very lucky to have access to compete in such a stunning location, but with all of the land around the rapids being privately owned we have to work hard to maintain good relationships with the land owners including; the forestry commission, canoe centre, pub and hotel owners. Please take your time to read through the information below as requirements do change from slalom to slalom.

### Directions

Map: 162 Ref : SO561160

Sat Nav: HR9 6JL

**Please be aware the event is taking place at Symonds Yat East.**

Travelling along the A40 leave it where sign posted Symonds Yat East and travel along the B4229. Turn right where sign posted for Symonds Yat East and Symonds Yat Rock, crossing over the river. Continue along this road until you reach a right hand turn sign posted Symonds Yat East. Take care, this road is narrow with passing places and can be busy. Parking is on your right as you enter Symonds Yat East, at the Wye Dean Canoe Centre.

Please be aware if your sat nav takes you via Symonds Yat Rock the road down is very narrow with small passing places. It is **not** suitable for motor homes or caravans. Cars will find the turning to Symonds Yat East at the bottom of the hill on the left. Parking is on your right as you enter Symonds Yat East, at the Wye Dean Canoe Centre.

**Car Parking- At Wye Dean Canoe Hire only. Please do not try to park elsewhere.**

The car park will open at **7:30am**, please do not arrive before then as you will block the road and stop the centre staff from arriving.

Car parking is very tight. Please park within the spaces marked with white lines. Car park charges will apply, currently these are **£8 per day**, payable at the machines which do accept debit cards but not credit cards, cash in the machine is often quicker though. If your vehicle takes up more than 1 space you will need to pay for more than one space

The launch fee of £2.50 per craft per day was the reason why you paid an enhanced entry fee, so this year **you do not need to pay a launch fee when parking**. However, if you wish to paddle on the Friday before the event you will need to pay a launch fee for that day.

There is to be no parking on the approach road (which is narrow and busy) or within the hotel car park. **Please do NOT park in the hotel car park for any reason.**

Boats can then be launched directly from the car park and it is just a short paddle/walk down to the course. If you choose to walk please be careful of moving vehicles.

## **Toilets**

There will be portaloo toilet facilities located near the control tent. There are also toilets located behind the Wye Dean Canoe Hire shop. These are public toilets and should not be used as changing rooms. Please be discrete when changing as this is a busy tourist spot. Toilets in the Royal Lodge are for patrons only. If there are any problems with the toilets please come and tell us at control and not bother the staff at any of the local businesses.

## **Accessing the water**

Initially the river should be accessed by putting on at the steps at the car park. During the event we have been given permission to use the access at the Royal Lodge Hotel. Take out is below the finish on river left where there are some steps up the bank. Paddlers should not be on the island at any point, nor is there any need to use the river right bank.

Please be aware that river cruisers do use the river above the slalom course so care should be taken when paddling to the course and/or warming up. The boats will also need to turn in a similar area to prestart so please don't get on too early for your run as this leads to congestion on the water. If in doubt please speak to pre-start.

## **Camping**

Unfortunately, there is no longer any camping available at the venue. Possible campsites include:

River Wye Caravan and Camping Park, Symonds Yat West, HR9 6DA. Tel. 01600 890672

Elmsdale Camping, Marstow, Ross on Wye. HR9 6HD. Tel 01600 890782

Bracelands Campsite, Forest of Dean Bracelands Drive Coleford GL16 7NP

Phone bookings: 024 7642 3008

Biblins Youth Campsite, The Doward, Whitchurch, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 6DX

Tel 01600 890 850 [biblins@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:biblins@woodcraft.org.uk)

(We hope that the water level is higher than the div 3 and 4 run previously so there is no access to the island in this event. The walk, to the bridge at the Biblins and then up to the rapids on the river left bridge, is 1 mile.)

## **Refreshments**

Regrettably, there will be no bacon butties being served this year by the guides. However, the Royal Lodge Hotel at the top carpark is selling bacon/sausage/vegetarian baps along with hot drinks. Menu is at the end of this document. There is also a pub which serves food.

Please be aware if you wish to eat in one of the local pubs (Royal Lodge Hotel, Saracens Head) on an evening you are best to book in advance.

# Event information

## Control

Control will be open from 8.00 a.m. each morning. Please report to control as soon as possible if asked to do so on the start list. It is probably about your payment or judging. All recent promotes who have not yet received their bibs should bring their PUK membership card to control as proof of membership. **All those who have been promoted since putting in their entry will need to bring cash to pay the difference. Please try and have the correct change.** The jury can be contacted through control.

## What's app group

In order to try and reduce the amount of time people spend around control we will try and send out class results after first and 2<sup>nd</sup> runs on the what's app group

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbBojmBlnlqO9LfhsD29>

We know reception isn't great but if it helps at least some people then it is worth a try.

## Calling All Judges

We are always in need of judges as the club has very few ranked paddlers. If you can spare some time to help us please report to control as early as possible both mornings to let us know. Bibs will be provided for those who have entered as officials – please collect from control once you have checked the start list for your number.

The Judges meeting will take place at 10.00 am on both days outside control.

## Provisional Program

A provisional start list will be available a week before the event, but please check the full start list at control.

### Saturday

Free practice (safety not provided)  
Official practice: 10:00am  
First Runs: 11:00am  
Second Runs: 13:30pm

### Sunday

Free practice (safety not provided)  
Official practice: 9:00am  
First Runs: 10.30am  
Second Runs: 12:30pm

Prize Giving will happen shortly after the end of protest time. We hope this will be around 3:30pm on the Saturday and 2:30pm on the Sunday.

There will be times when the event will need to be stopped in order to allow groups of Open Canoes to pass down the rapids. Please be patient with us while we allow this to happen.

Course changes for Sunday will be done as soon as possible after the completion of the event on Saturday.

## Start times

Please note the approximate individual start times on the start list are for guidance only. On the day it may be that the event runs ahead of or behind schedule. Competitors are asked to closely follow the progress of the event and please ensure you are at the start to follow the previous competitor. Competitors who are not available at the start when called may miss their run.

## Prizes

The number of prizes awarded will depend on the number competitors entered two weeks before the event. Where numbers allow, we will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each class and junior prizes.

## Safety Information

“Canoeing and Kayaking are ‘Assumed Risk’ – ‘Water contact sports’ that may carry attendant risks. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own action and involvement”.

You are kindly requested to consider your safety, and that of others at all times. Please take care when transporting equipment and do not leave boats etc. where people can trip over them.

On the slalom course - PaddleUK rules apply.

- Please wear bibs at all times on the water.
- Equipment may be checked for PUK standards competition rules.
- You are reminded that all competitors must stay at/in close proximity to the finish until at least TWO following paddlers have completed their runs to provide safety cover. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

## Weil's Disease

Weil's Disease is a RARE but very serious illness which is caused by bacteria carried in the urine of rats (and some other animals). It can be contracted anywhere but especially around waterways. The descending scale of risk is: Stagnant water, canals and slow-moving rivers (particularly after flash floods), swifter streams.

Precautions:

Avoid capsizing or rolling in stagnant or slow-moving water

Wash or shower after canoeing

Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster

Use footwear to avoid cutting feet

Should you become ill after canoeing (2-19 days) with a flu-like illness (temperature, aching limbs & joints) call your doctor and tell him/her you are a canoeist and that you may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria.

## Safety Points

Juniors are not to climb/play on the slope directly behind control.

Please take care on the riverside path there are some points where the path has collapsed slightly, and care needs to be taken when passing by on this narrow point.

## Caring for the environment

Please remember that Symonds Yat is a SSSI and therefore we should be extra careful to minimise our environmental impact.

There is particular concern over invasive non-native species so please; **Stop the Spread Check, Clean and Dry canoes & wet equipment after use**. Always take these bio-security measures to minimise the risk or prevent the spread and environmental damage from invasive non-native aquatic species and diseases. Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms, plant fragments etc. - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect. Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them. Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for up to 16 days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere. NB. Current research has found that soaking small items at 45deg C or above for 5-10 minutes is an effective method of killing most invasive species.

## Rubbish

All participants must be responsible for taking home their own rubbish from the car park. Please also be careful not to litter any part of Symonds Yat which is an AONB and SSSI.

## Emergency Information

First Aid - A First Aid box and First Aider can be located at Control.

## Supervision of Juveniles at Slalom Events

Children must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or nominated adult, who shall assume responsibility for the child throughout the time the child is at the event. Neither PUK nor the Event Organiser will assume responsibility or be liable for a child who is unaccompanied or unsupervised. Note: that while the definition of a child is a person under the age of 18, the statement applies particularly to children under the age of 16.

**Juniors are not to climb/play on the slope directly behind control.**

## Additional Information

Video & Photographs:

Please will anyone wishing to take photographs, other than of their own children, please report to control.

Mobile phones: Please be aware that Symonds Yat East has very poor reception for telephones.



# **The Royal Lodge**

**AVAILABLE 09.30 – 15.30**

**SLALOM WEEKEND 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**OCTOBER**

**TAKEAWAY TEA, COFFEE &  
HOT CHOCOLATE £3.75**

## **TAKEAWAY**

**BACON BAP & SAUCE £7.95**

**SAUSAGE BAP & SAUCE £8.95**

**VEGAN SAUSAGE BAP & SAUCE £8.95**

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**FULL LUNCH & SNACK MENU  
& CREAM TEAS**

**BEAUTIFUL GARDENS & RIVER VIEWS**

**DOG FRIENDLY & ALL WELCOME**

## Map of site – Symonds Yat East

