

## Better than ... ?

(Amended from an article written for [Reading Sailing Club](#))

Could any sort of sailing be ... better than ... chasing each other around the marks?  
Some of our members could tell you. Here's just one example.



Small craft mingle with the tall ships during The Parade (from Semaine de Golfe website)



Sail and oar craft viewed from "Proteus" – (Paul W)

[La Semaine du Golfe du Morbihan](#) is a spectacular biennial event.

Imagine an inland sea about 10 miles across, connected to the Atlantic by a half-mile wide channel at the SW corner. Some of the 41 islands are inhabited; Ile D'Arz has a church, school, restaurants and a "Spar".

This is the setting for "an international maritime festival, gathering traditional and classic boats, *"of character"*".



Map of Golfe du Morbihan – (Public domain with PW additions)

At least 1,200 craft, from 10 footers up to tall-ships, registered for 2023 divided into 10 fleets according to type. "Proteus" was amongst 234 Sail-and-Oar craft in fleet 2. "Llafurio" sailed in Fleet 3b with 122 Small Traditional Leisure Boats.

The map indicates ports, highlighting those visited by Fleet 2 in May 2023. Each fleet has its own launching "base" to which it returns at the end of the week.

Days are spent sailing from port to port, fleets often crossing as they go.

A leader briefs skippers each morning, and each fleet is escorted by safety boats.



Morning briefing – (Paul W)



Oysters and Cidre – (Steve Morton)



Song and dance on Ile D'Arz – (Steve Morton)

Food (not only oysters) and entertainments are laid on at all ports. Coaches take crews back to their base each evening, and next morning return them to their boats. Accommodation is available near each base – this, and food and drink is about all you pay for. Almost everything else including the crews' coach shuttles, slipways, moorings and trailer parking is free! Would you believe it?

One snag – Sorry - Lasers and the like are not eligible, but the on-shore events are open to anybody, and you could watch from the banks or from the many passenger boats and ferries. Or take your "Mirror"?

Interested in taking part in 2025? Contact Paul W, Robin P or Steve M. (They might have room for crew.)

Paul W