
















# Poole Harbour Boat Race

## Did you know that ...?

On the playing board there are a series of question marks with numbers. Each one corresponds to a fact about the harbour, which are listed here.

	At the <i>Great Dorset Beach Clean</i> (2003), volunteers collected 62,320 items of litter from 24 of Dorset's beaches in one morning... that's about 5 tonnes of rubbish! Remember. Always take your litter home with you.
	Due to the pull of the moon and sun on the surface of the earth, the tide comes in (Floods) and goes out (Ebbs) twice a day. Water rushes in and out of the harbour. Sometimes boats, sailing into the harbour against the tide, make no headway or even go backwards! Always check tide tables when sailing or visiting the shore.
	Worms are dug from the mud at low tide for fishing bait. It is important to follow the 'Bait-diggers' Code of Practice' to protect wildlife on the seashore.
	Poole Harbour is one of the favourite places for wind-surfing on the South Coast. The Wind-surfing area in Whitley Lake, Sandbanks is shallow and safe.
	The Dorset Wildlife Trust manages a nature reserve on Brownsea Island. Poole Harbour islands and the Isle of Wight are now the only places in southern England where Red Squirrels can still be found.
	Over 1000 Avocets and many other wading birds over-winter and terns nest on man-made islands in the Brownsea lagoon.
	In August 1907, Major General Robert Baden-Powell chose Brownsea Island for the very first Scout camp. The island now belongs to the National Trust.
	The channels of the harbour have navigation marks such as buoys. In Poole Harbour there are a total of 320 navigation marks, which include: 65 buoys, 188 stakes and a number of other beacons & piles, power & telephone cable markers, groynes & outfall markers. There are also non-navigational marks, which include 54 signs and 10 yacht race marks.
	Blood Alley reputedly got its name after a battle between smugglers and the Coastguard and Royal Navy, which resulted in the waters turning red from all the spilt blood.
	The sheltered harbour is an important nursery area for young fish such as Bass. For this reason, between 30th April to the 1st November you are not allowed to fish for bass from a boat.
	National, European and International nature conservation designations help to protect the harbour's very special wildlife.
	Iron Age jetties, discovered beneath the mud, tell us that the Port of Poole was importing and exporting timber, wine and pottery over 250 years BC...just like now!
	Poole Harbour is home to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). It is also the home of The Lifeboat College, where crews from all around Great Britain and Ireland are trained.

	<p>Oysters, clams and cockles are fished from Poole Harbour. They are sold locally and exported to the continent from the Port of Poole.</p>
	<p>'Aliens' are marine plants and animals, which have come to this country from other parts of the World (not from Outer Space!), growing on boats, shellfish or in ballast water. They might threaten our own marine wildlife. Slipper Limpets came from North America on imported oysters, over 100 yrs ago and Japanese seaweed came from the Pacific.</p>
	<p>To waterski in the harbour you need a permit. A permit is the Harbour Master's written permission to waterski in the approved area in the Wareham Channel. They are issued on application and payment goes towards administration, provision of harbour patrols and marking the area with signs and buoys.</p>
	<p>In 2002/2003 436,256 tonnes of cargo came in and out of the Port of Poole. This included imports of steel (from France and Belgium), stone, sand, bricks, grain and timber. Clay, grain and aggregates were all exported through Poole to other countries around the world.</p>
	<p>The Port has 5 cranes that help load and unload the cargo from ships. The largest crane can lift 32 tonnes in one go.</p>
	<p>The existing lifting bridge was built in 1927 and is the third to be located on the site. It has 7 time-tabled lifts a day and up to 10 unscheduled lifts for commercial boats. Some of the rules for the bridge date back to William IV's reign. The most road traffic recorded over the bridge was 22,000 vehicles a day, in 1988. The two halves of the deck weigh 180 tonnes each - but they are so well balanced that they can be lifted by hand.</p>
	<p>The Aquatic Management Plan designates a number of activity areas to help manage the different activities safely. These areas are; Waterski Area, Personal Water Craft (PW) Area, Windsurfing Area. The south side of the harbour is a quiet area.</p> <p>Did you know that the term 'Jetski' is a brand of PW, like 'Hoover' is a brand of vacuum cleaner.</p>
	<p>Many of the small spills and oily sheens seen on the harbour waters come from small boats. In case there is a large spill, as a result of an accident, Poole Harbour Commissioners have an Oil Spill Contingency Plan to help them manage their response. Every care is taken to prevent even the smallest amount of oil from entering the harbour.</p>
	<p>The Sandbanks Beach has up to 3,000 visitors a day during the peak season between July and September. They visit the Blue Flag and UK Seaside Award-winning sandy beach with its 485m of promenade and 248 beach huts. During recent years as part of the coastal regeneration project, eco-areas, including new sand dune areas, have been created.</p>
	<p>Poole Harbour provides a home in the winter to over 20,000 migrating birds (normally between November and March each year).</p>
	<p>The RSPB nature reserve at Arne is mainly heathland, covered in heather and gorse and kept clear of woodland over the centuries through grazing by sheep and cattle. Villagers in times past also used the heaths to cut peat and gorse for fuel, to take heather for thatching and sand and gravel for road building.</p> <p>Today, the whole area is managed as a nature reserve for wildlife including: Dartford Warblers, which nest in the gorse and heather, and Nightjars which nest on bare patches and catch moths over the heaths at night. In summer, huge numbers of insects feed on the nectar from the heather flowers and the whole heath is a mass of purple flowers.</p>
	<p>Furzey Island is part of the BP Wytch Farm Oilfield - one of the largest onshore oilfields in Western Europe. Oil is pumped to the surface using either beam pumps ('nodding donkeys') or electrical submersible pumps that are located down the oil well. The deepest well on Furzey Island is just over 1700m deep.</p>