

THE COLLECTION OF THE TARRAGONA NAUTICAL CLUB IN THE PORT OF TARRAGONA ARCHIVE

Founded in **1878**, the **Reial Club Nàutic de Tarragona** is the oldest club in the whole of Spain in its speciality, rowing, and the first in the whole of Catalonia.

The first social premises was located in the Serrallo district, in front of which, in 1917, construction began on a building that was destroyed by flooding of the Francolí river in 1930. After the reconstruction of the building, during the Civil War fascist aviation bombs damaged it again, and it was not rebuilt until 1945.

During the sixties, the Maritime School was inaugurated, which was responsible for spreading the love of sea sports among the young people of Tarragona. As a result of this formative work, the Club received sporting recognition through countless titles and championships, which fill the showcases of the social headquarters. The construction of a new marina outside the scope of the commercial port and the determined collaboration of the **Port Authority of Tarragona** laid the seed so that in 1997 King Juan Carlos I, now emeritus, inaugurated the current headquarters of the Club.

Since then, a young and dynamic club works every day to promote nautical sports and promote knowledge and respect for the sea.



Transferring the collection

Due to their situation and the landscape they share, the Nautical Club and the Port of Tarragona are closely linked, and have been modifying their areas and carrying out their urban transformation almost together, as in other social and sporting activities.

More than 140 years later, the Nautical Club of Tarragona decided to transfer part of its historical and administrative documentation to the Archive of the Port of Tarragona.

This transfer was made in several stages, a small part in 2006, and the other between 2022 and 2024, which has made us gradually adapt the classification table.



What can we find?

As a result of this, we have an exhaustive inventory with various documentation that provides us with very important information not only regarding the history of the club, the port and the city of Tarragona but also of other sports entities or cities.

Apart from the documentation of general management and organisation and the documentation of economic management, which provides us with interesting data that helps us complete some of the stories and small investigations that we have been able to share on social networks, we should highlight the management of the sports activity, divided into different sections: the Marine School, Motorboating, Swimming, Rowing and Sailing.

No less important, but quite the opposite, because it tells us part of the social history linked to the world of sport, is the management of social activity, since the Tarragona Yacht Club, apart from that it counted and continues to count with his own restaurant, it organised several events beyond sports activities, such as fairs on designated dates, often accompanied by orchestras, about which we have different documents and ephemeral material, as with the different sections of the sports activity,

Other elements that should be highlighted are the more than two thousand records of people associated from the 1940s to 2019, the library and the newspaper library, with a large collection of periodicals related to both sport and the maritime world , and the photographs.

It is an extensive fund collection, and while we have been inventorying it, we have tried to describe it in as much detail as possible and disseminate it to show its patrimonial value. This is an aspect that we hope to enhance thanks to the digitisation we have carried out. So that, either in person or online, anyone who is interested can consult the Yacht Club Fund of the Port of Tarragona Archives, or do documentary research.

