

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1984

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The following account and summary of the weather during 1984 has been compiled from Ryde's records during the year with comparisons and averages now spanning 67 years since 1st. January, 1918.

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Rainfall

The total of 31.04 in. (788.9 millimetres) was close to the 65-year annual average there of 30.45 in. and compared with totals of 30.13 in. in 1982 and 24.23 in. in 1983.

During 1984, January (5.62 in.), March (3.20 in.), May (3.48 in.), October (3.57 in.), November (4.36 in.) and December (4.09 in.) had monthly totals in excess of their long-term averages.

February (1.69 in.), April (0.04 in.), June (0.37 in.), July (1.40 in.), August (0.97 in.) and September (2.25 in.) had below average monthly totals.

The wettest days of 1984 gave 1.00 in. of rain on March 23 and 1.14 in. on July 24 in 24 hour periods from 9 a.m. G.M.T.

On average a fall of 1 in. or more during this 24 hour period occurs about five times in two years, one inch of rain being equivalent of 101 tons of water to the acre.

During 1984 Ryde had 156 'rain-days', exactly equal to the annual average (a 'rain-day' is defined as a 24 hour period from 9 a.m. G.M.T. during which at least 0.01 in. of rain is recorded).

Sunshine

The 1984 total at Ryde of 1,764.2 hours (estimated on the basis of readings at neighbouring resorts) was very near to the 65-year average there of 1,739.1 hours and the 1982 and 1983 totals of 1,737.2 hours and 1,764.6 hours respectively.

During 1984 above average monthly totals occurred during January (88.5 hours), April (230 hours), June (285 hours), July (265 hours) and December (65 hours).

In contrast, March (87 hours), May (155 hours), September (133 hours) and October (96 hours) had below average totals.

During the other months sunshine totals were near to average – February (74.7 hours), August (215 hours) and November (70 hours).

Of the 70 sunless days (annual average 63), 12 occurred during December, 11 in each of January and November, nine each during March and May (a new record for this month).

Only three in total occurred during the four months from June to September inclusive.

A particular feature was an exceptionally sunny final eight days of a very dry April during which there were 87.5 hours of virtually unbroken sunshine.

Temperatures

The maximum shade temperature at Ryde reached or exceeded 70°F on 54 days during 1984 compared with an annual average of 39 such instances.

There were 18 days in this category during each of July and August.

The warmest day of 1984 gave a reading of 80.8°F at Ryde on July 28, the only occasion during 1984 that the 80°F mark was reached.

During 1984 minimum air temperatures at Ryde fell to 32°F exactly on only two days (February 15 and 16).

This proved in marked contrast to an annual average of 23 air frosts at Ryde and the record number of 69 during the year of the 'big freeze' in 1963.

From my researches into the Ryde records since 1918, 1984 is the only year during which a minimum temperature lower than 32°F has not at some time been recorded at Ryde Esplanade.

The coldest day of 1984 was on February 26 with a maximum of 39.2°F.

The 1984 mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures at Ryde of 57.6°F and 47.1°F were above the long term annual means of 57°F and 46°F.

Snowfall

Despite severe weather with blizzard conditions experienced in the north of Britain during January, the Island escaped without any significant snowfall during 1984.

Thunder

Thunder was heard on nine days during 1984 with a heavy thunderstorm and torrential rain during the night of July 24/25 as easily the most severe.

Gales

The year was not without its usual quota of gales – the most notable being from a SW direction on January 2, 13 and 16 and on February 6, November 22 and 23 and from a NW direction on February 8 and September 20.

This summary relates to Ryde's official meteorological records (except for sunshine estimates) and although some variations have naturally occurred at other Island resorts, the general weather pattern depicted broadly indicates that experienced throughout the Island and adjacent mainland coastal areas of central southern England.

Differences would be most marked in regard to rainfall intensities during thundery activity even between weather situations only a few miles apart (in this connection, 3.60 in. of rain was measured at Hayling Island during the heavy thunderstorm on July 25).

With regard to temperatures, Ryde's long term averages and extremes closely accord with those of other Island coastal resorts although inland, around Newport and district, minima on the coldest nights can be up to 6°F lower than those on the coast while maxima on the hottest days of summer might well exceed by 3 or 4°F those readings taken on Ryde Esplanade.

For example, Mr Denis Simmons, at Shide, recorded maximum temperatures of at least 70°F on six days in succession between April 21 and 26 although the Ryde readings were never above 66°F through the effects of a NE sea breeze.

Summing up, the most notable memories of 1984 will include another warm, dry and sunny summer to rival those of 1899, 1911, 1921, 1933, 1940, 1947, 1949, 1955, 1959, 1975, 1976 and 1983.

An exceptionally dry and sunny April followed a mild winter with an absence of snow and severe frosts.

The dry summer was countered by above average rains during January, March, May, October, November and December.

The four days of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May proved duller, wetter and colder than the previous year's Christmas period!

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF WEATHER AT RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT 1984

Month	Hours of Sunshine	Rain mm.	Screen Temperature		Temperature Extremes		Mean Monthly Temperature °C
			Mean Max °C	Mean Max °C	From °C	To °C	
January	88.5	142.7	8.8	3.8	12.5	0.4	6.3
February	74.7	43.0	7.6	3.4	12.1	0.0	5.5
March	87.0	81.4	8.4	3.4	12.1	0.6	5.9
April	230.0	0.9	12.8	5.7	19.2	0.8	9.3
May	155.0	88.4	13.9	7.7	21.5	4.1	10.8
June	285.0	9.4	20.0	11.8	24.9	7.4	15.9
July	265.0	35.5	21.3	13.9	27.1	10.3	17.6
August	215.0	24.7	21.5	15.1	24.1	11.3	18.3
September	133.0	57.2	18.2	12.7	23.0	9.0	15.5
October	96.0	91.0	15.5	10.1	18.1	3.1	12.8
November	70.0	110.8	12.4	7.9	16.2	2.4	10.2
December	65.0	103.9	9.8	4.9	13.2	0.2	7.3
TOTALS	1764.2+	788.9mm (31.04') 25.4mm = 1"	Annual means 14.2°C (57.6°F)	8.4°C (47.1°F)	Annual Extremes 27.1°C (80.8°F) 0.0 °C (32.0°F) July 28th Feb 15th & 16th	Annual means 11.3°C (52.4°F)	

Note ± From April to December the hours of sunshine were based upon local observation combined with the daily recordings from neighbouring resorts.