

Bolton Sailing Club: General Information www.sail.org.uk

For general enquiries, to organise a visit to our club or to book a 'Sailing Experience' please contact Lynne Hagan, New Members Secretary.

Call / Text: 07702 153007 or alternatively E-mail: newmembers@sail.org.uk

Background



Founded in 1952, Bolton Sailing Club is based at picturesque Belmont Reservoir on the A675 just north of Bolton. Its unrivalled position in the West Pennine Country Park, in the shadow of Winter Hill, can only be described as breath-taking, surrounded by open country and rolling hills; its position is ideal for dinghy sailing and is the perfect way to relax on a Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evening in the summer – particularly after a gruelling day at work!

The reservoir covers 98 acres when full and is over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long providing ideal sailing conditions for cruising or racing. Sitting approx. 250m above sea level we have excellent exposure to weather systems and sea breezes.

Our club has a long standing record of encouraging sailing at the highest level, enabling members to achieve their full potential and go on to compete in National class competitions including GP14 Opens. We're part of the GP14 Open calendar and host these exclusive races as part of its national status as a recognised centre for sailing excellence. We're also proud to host other Opens and training events, which have included Supernova, Lasers and Topper classes. The roomy, well appointed clubhouse¹ provides excellent facilities, with changing rooms equipped with fully tiled showers – keys to the clubhouse and barrier are available, for a small deposit, from the bar & Geoff Benson.

¹ Whilst Bolton Sailing Club is aware of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, and is working towards compliance, we regret that currently the clubhouse does not provide all the facilities that may be required by disabled people - although we do now have a new toilet and shower room.



There is a large galley, run by professional staff on a Sunday and cheery member volunteers at other times. We're capable of catering for up to 150 people and have a large comfortable lounge overlooking the water. A patio and barbeque area stands next to the children's play area.

The large Dinghy Park is wholly adjacent to the water, with concrete launching ramps allowing easy access to the launching beach and jetties for those you who not want to get wet immediately!

How is the Club run?

The club is run solely by its members who give up their time to ensure that everyone can enjoy their sailing and social life at the club. All policy decisions, initiatives and rule making are democratically voted by committee members and are made in the interest of the club and its members.

We very much welcome input, offers of help and support and any members interested in joining one of the committees need only ask an existing member!

Is there any Training available?

Yes, the Club runs two training schemes for adults and has an active juniors section – *The Bolton Pirates!* (For junior sailing please see next section).

Adults

1. For adults we run the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) level 1 & 2 course, run over 4 full Saturdays or a mid-week in July, which is very popular. The course comprises a well-balanced curriculum of theory and on the water training and is ideal for those who, following the 'Introduction to Sailing' course may want to delve a little further into the world of sailing and become nationally recognised as a competent dinghy sailor.

The fee for members is currently around £120.00. Further details will be advertised on the notice boards.

2. The club also organises Sunday morning race practice sessions, which boat owning beginners can use the to gain practice on the water in the presence of a fully trained instructor. Because of the way the sessions are structured those graduating from an RYA 1&2 course and 'rusty sailors' who are looking for a 'kick-start' back into sailing will benefit from them.

You may well be surprised by how quickly you can pick up the basics (although you may get wet along the way!) and we will encourage you to join our club racing on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings (perhaps initially in a boat you have hired, for a nominal fee, from the club, or maybe as a crew in a two-handed boat). Over the years we have found that racing is the best way to practice your skills – but don't worry, if racing is not your thing, it's not compulsory!

The club has a good range of single and double-handed dinghy's for training and new members can borrow these (free of charge) during RYA 1 & 2 training or by prior arrangement during your first season while considering which boat to buy. Helmets/buoyancy aids are also available in your first year.

The club also run Powerboat & Safety Boat Courses so that members can handle fast craft when performing safety boat duty.

On the Water Practicing

Friday nights through the summer months are practice nights and are for everyone, adults and juniors, to practice the basics and for the more experienced to hone their skills.

On Saturday afternoons members often get together and, in turns, provide safety-boat cover for other members who wish to participate in non-competitive sailing and to simply get out on the water and enjoy an afternoons sailing before Sunday racing.

Juniors

Can my Children Sail?



The Club recognises that junior members are our future. We have a Child Protection Policy to ensure the health, safety and protection of our junior members, and by carefully nurturing and teaching them, we hope they may become champions of the future. Juniors meet at the club every

Friday evening through the spring and early summer for practice and training. At Bolton we have adopted the RYA programme for junior training, but above all else we aim to make sure that the children have fun. In addition we organise junior racing on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings alongside the adult fleets.



Junior members often start sailing between the ages of 5 – 10. The important thing is not to dent their confidence and enthusiasm, but rather to make sure that they enjoy their sailing

Parents/guardians

please

**ensure that you supervise your children and help with the boats during their sessions (remember that the instructors are unpaid volunteers).
Don't leave children under 17 alone on club premises and take full responsibility for them at all times whilst they are at the club!**

General Qs

When can I sail?

When you are a member **and** once you have your own boat, you can sail almost any time you like – the exceptions are occasional events such as Open Meetings or the Children's Summer Camp, usually held July/August, these events are clearly advertised in the club house & on the website. Also if you're not actually signed on to race during scheduled racing, you **must check** with OOD for permission to sail (not usually a problem but avoids confusion).

Health and Safety is something we take very seriously so you must always wear a buoyancy aid when on, or around the water.

The club organises rescue-boat facilities during organised racing and training events, and until you become competent and confident in your ability you should limit your sailing to the times when these facilities are available.

Please note that as a club member you agree to help, up to three times a season, with the organisation and safety of the races.

What if I don't have a boat?

No problem. If you are a beginner we will teach you, via the approved RYA Level 1&2 courses, to sail in a variety of different club boats, and when you think about buying your own we have lots of expert advice available. We can organise a "buddy" and team you up with someone more experienced who can offer advice, support and encouragement on all aspects of sailing and the club itself. In addition, during your first year of membership, and once you graduate from one of the training programmes you can hire one of the club's training boats at a cost of £10 - £15 per 3-hour session. If you don't want to buy and helm your own boat immediately you can generally team up with someone else in a two-person boat. Members will be more than willing to invite you to crew for them.

If you do want to sail your own boat, good second-hand dinghies can be purchased from a few hundred pounds up to several thousand, and we can advise you of the best places to find them. There are also usually a few boats up for sale on the notice boards for each of the classes and members will also pass on your intentions of buying a vessel to other prospective sellers.

What type of boat should I sail?

At Bolton we sail both single handed and two-person dinghies. Class racing is organised for GP14's with other classes competing in a handicap fleet. We

realise that joining a new club or sport can be quite daunting, but you'll find lots of people willing to offer you advice when you decide that you want to buy.... *Our advice?* Experience as many boats as possible and then buy a 'starter boat' for a few hundred pounds **ASAP** so you can really appreciate the freedom and enjoyment of sailing!

Will I be able to race?

Most definitely, when you feel competent enough you will be encouraged to take part; this is an excellent way of practicing your skills and developing your expertise. Racing takes place on Sundays from the 25th March to the beginning of December and on Wednesday evenings from 11th April until September. We have members who have won Area, National and even World Championships and these sailors will be happy to pass on tips and advice (until you start to beat them!).

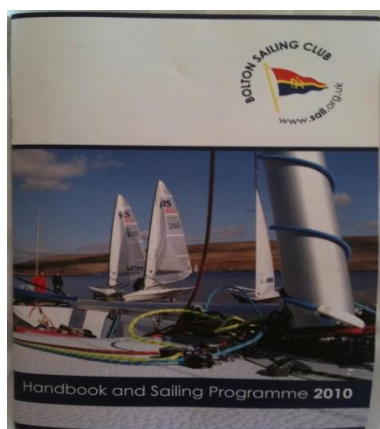
Is there a Social Life?

Yes, sailing is a social sport and there are many important events throughout the year all of which are advertised in the clubhouse, on Facebook, via email or telephone, the website and on the

New Members Board



handbook



* You'll get a copy of our Handbook when you join us. It contains essential information.

Please Note:

All members are required to participate three times a season, in a rota, to ensure safety on the water during racing.

Smaller events such as Brewery trips and



Curryokes (*yes you guessed it, Curry and Karaoke!*) are advertised by posters, email, Facebook and word-of-mouth around the club.

These events all help to bond new friendships and recount stories of sailing past, in time you will get to know the good storytellers these are the ones who stand around the bar and are always the last to leave.

When can I start?

If you can already sail you can start immediately. If you're new to sailing we're planning, at £120, a choice of 3 RYA 1&2 Courses. If you have your own boat, the club also provides race practice on Sunday mornings – see training programme overview at end of document.

The club also offers:

1. An "Introduction to Sailing Workshop" held in advance of 'Sunday Training', run over three evenings. It comprises a variety of short theory sessions and practical dinghy sailing experience on the water.
2. A 'Sailing Experience' Voucher – an individual tour of the club and use of the facilities for the day, including a '1₂1' sailing 'taster' with an experienced sailing club member – *an ideal 'look-see' for yourself or as a present for someone special!*

These are both very good ways to meet new, prospective and existing members of the club and to experience a true taste of what dinghy sailing is all about.

The cost for either of the above is currently £50.00 per person and those who decide to apply for full membership to the club, in the same year following either experience, will have their joining fee waived.

Clothing: it's not essential to have these items before you start learning ... but it will make your sailing much more comfortable! They can be sourced cost effectively, online or in person;

- For expert, friendly, personal advice & fitting, speak to Mark at **1st Mark Chandlery** 01942 273372
or try
- Decathlon, Brookbank, Wetsuit Direct etc. (contact details on the internet)

1. Buoyancy aids **are compulsory wear for everyone on or around the water:** they can, initially, be loaned by the club but it's much more convenient for you if you get your own, well-fitting one as a priority
2. Wet suit ... it's very cold when you capsize without one!
3. Wet Gloves to protect your hands from the ropes and strings
4. Wet boots; old trainers are ok **but don't wear wellies; they're not safe**
5. Spray jacket: can be very useful in wet, chilly weather
6. Woolly hat or cap / sunglasses
7. Sunscreen: sunlight is reflected from the water beware!

Training Programme - 2012



Event	Date	Cost
'Warm-up' back to sailing day	24 th March	Incl. in membership
First Day of Sailing/Racing Programme	25 th March	Incl. in membership
Introduction to Sailing Taster Workshop	17 th 19 th 26 th April	£50 adults, £15 children. Club joining fee (£50) waived if you join the club in the same season.
Sunday morning Race Practice	Starts – TBC on notice boards	Incl. in membership
Junior Registration	TBC 13 th April & On-going see Richard Craig, Junior Captain or juniors@sail.org.uk	Incl. in membership
Junior Sailing	6 th May onwards	Incl. in membership
On Board & SailAbility (Schools & Accessibility)	July & August	Free by prior arrangement
RYA level 1 & 2 courses: Spring Midseason, Midweek Autumn	12 th , 19 th , 26 th May, 9 th Jun 24 th , 25 th , 26 th July 22 nd , 29 th September, 6 th , 13 th October	£120
Seamanship / Assistant Instructor / Instructor Power Boat / Safety boat / First Aid Other courses are offered according to demand.	TBC & will be advertised on the notice boards and on the Bolton Sailing Club Website: www.sail.org.uk	TBC