

Welcome to Sully Sailing Club

Information for new members - 2017 season.

Race results and current information on weather, tides, the Club Rules, Risk assessments, race-day duties, and Newsletters, are published on the web site, and updated regularly

Sailing Activities

Organised sailing takes place every Sunday from the beginning of March to mid-December. However, some members sail informally on Sunday mornings in January and February when the weather permits

Club racing takes place on most Sundays from March to December

From mid-April to September an informal Wednesday night sail, commencing 6 – 6.30 p.m. takes place every week.

Between the start of May and mid-July both youth and adult training sessions run (on demand) on Wednesday evenings.

Also an annual 'open day' is held in May/June to publicise the Club's activities by offering taster sailing sessions to Sully residents & interested other people.

During the summer months some local cruises are run (weather permitting). Normally up channel to Flatholm or Penarth, and very occasionally down channel to Barry and Cold Knap.

The Club organises monthly work parties to cut the grass & deal with essential maintenance matters, such as improving sea defences, clubhouse painting etc and you are asked to contribute to these events.

You are also expected to act as Patrol Boat crew or help out on the slipway on 4 occasions in the year as per the published programme. It is important that you turn up on these dates, or make arrangements to swop duties with another member, if the allocated date is inconvenient. You will be sent reminders of your safety boat duty by email via 'Dutyman' software.

Racing

Racing is organised on a 2 fleet basis, using a handicap system, based on the current Portsmouth Yardstick scheme. The current RYA dinghy racing rules are used.

- The 'Fast' fleet of under PY 1102 i.e. Lasers, RS400, Dart catamarans etc
- The 'Slow' fleet of PY 1102 and over i.e. Mirrors, Toppers, Laser radial, Topper Topaz, Enterprises, Wanderers, GB 14s etc

Races are started in a similar fashion to the World Sailing starting sequence i.e:

- Advance notice (both lights flash) then:
- 5-minutes 1 light + horn
- 4 minutes 2 lights + horn
- 1 minute 1 light out + horn
- Start both lights out + horn

Lights are displayed above the club balcony.

Average lap times are used to decide a race's outcome i.e. races normally last for approximately 40 minutes when a flag/horn is displayed. Boats then continue the lap they are on to finish the race.

In the Spring the 'Early Bird' race series is run from March to mid-June.

In July/August a 'Summer series' of races is held

From September to December the 'Transom' series of races is run, with a club Regatta in September.

In addition there are a number of Trophy Races, and some 'fun' activities.

Currently the club has the following trophies, which are competed for annually.

- Sharpe trophy - all boats
- Watler Cup – fast fleet only
- Laser Cup – lasers only
- Centripump Cup – slow fleet only
- Commodores Plate – a handicap race around Sully island, open to all boats
- Bill Brien Trophy – awarded to the best overall combined result of the Spring & Autumn race series
- Driftwood Trophy – round Sully island race. This is an honesty trophy as it is self-timed. It involves crossing our start line, rounding the island in a clockwise direction, and finishing around the start buoy with a hook finish. Times can be entered, using the logbook in the club hut.
- The Regatta Shield – presented for the best performance in the 4 races on Regatta day in September
- Mirror shield – best overall mirror performance
- Roger Dykes trophy – best youth contribution
- Colin Lake Memorial Pursuit Race Trophy

In addition there is the Jubilee trophy awarded for most launches in a season, and the Ken Hughes trophy awarded to the most improved helm during the season.

Sailing / kayaking / windsurfing information

Please make sure that every time you put out to sea you sign the logbook in the clubhouse, on leaving and returning. This is for your own safety, and so that the club has an accurate record of launches each season

You must have appropriate third part insurance cover for your boat (minimum £3,000,000) and crew, and you and your crew must wear buoyancy aids and appropriate clothing for the conditions (wet-suits, dry-suits etc).

The club owns several boats, which are available for your use viz., 4 Lasers, 3 Toppers and 2 Topaz dinghies. These are well used, and should be booked in advance in the log book, if possible.

If sailing on your own, or on club cruises, your boats should be equipped with paddles, and some means of summoning help in case of difficulties (mobile phones in waterproof containers will work or personal VHF radio).

Our slipway is long enough to reach low tide on neap tides, and on spring tides boats can be trolleyed over the bedrock for 50 metres, and then a muddy (sometimes sandy) beach appears, which is firm enough to land/launch from.

Launching/recovery is best between an hour and four hours after high tide. A high tide and a southwesterly (SW) wind cause waves to buildup on the slip making landing difficult.

The tide rise and fall, in the Bristol Channel, can exceed 15 metres on spring tides, so sometimes the tide flow in Sully Bay is 4 to 6 or even 8 knots. Until you are familiar with the tide changes, you are advised to remain in the bay if on your own. We have had, on occasion, to call the RNLI, when new members have sailed up channel on a falling tide. The wind has then dropped, the tide has turned, and they have been unable to return against the rising tide! The basic rule is 'sail against the tide, if the wind drops you can always drift back!'

Also, members have experienced big changes in wind strength and direction, which have turned a calm sea into big waves, in a very short space of time. It is vital that you are able to sail into the wind effectively, as a strong SW wind with a rising tide will sweep your boat up channel or dangerously close to the island.

The area around the island is tricky! There can be large overfalls off the eastern end of the island, and the tide race between the island and Swanbridge can be as much as 10 knots. especially over the causeway. If you sail too close, you also run the risk of angry fishermen! Further along the coast the area around Lavernock Bay can be particularly hazardous and develops very big seas. It is best avoided by sailing well out to sea.

The basic rule is to check with experienced club members on how the wind and tide are likely to affect your sailing, before setting out.

Other information

- On joining you will be given a key to the compound and a key to the changing rooms/showers on receipt of a £10 deposit. If the clubhouse is used mid-week it is important that it is left clean and secure with lights turned off etc.
- The club publishes a newsletter, which is sent to all members 2/3 times a year, keeping you up to date with events etc.
- Your road trailers can only be kept in the compound under your boat, and preferably secured in some way.
- Occasionally the club holds social events, such as barbecues, a drink at Christmas, and our annual presentation dinner in May.
- Our Annual General meeting is at the beginning of March each year.
- Also we have arranged visits to places like 'The Boat show', 'come and try it' days at Topper International, Swansea coastguard station etc.
- Social activities are advertised in the newsletter and at the club, and in the winter months talks are arranged on nautical matters.