



Staunton Harold Sailing Club

New Members Guide

The Club

Welcome to Staunton Harold Sailing Club, this guide has been produced to help you settle in at the club more easily, by providing you with information you might require.

The club was founded in 1975 and enjoys the use of 130 acres of sailing water at Staunton Harold reservoir.

Enviably located within an area of renowned natural beauty, the clubhouse provides perfect panoramic views over the entire water, Staunton Harold Sailing Club is perfectly situated to ensure an enjoyable day's sailing. Sailing in one form or other takes place from January through to December 26th when the year finishes with our traditional Boxing Day bash.

The sailing programme is made up of club cruising, club racing, open meetings which attract top sailors from around the UK and various special events such as our annual "disabled day" which attracts between one and two hundred visitors to the club.

The club also has a thriving junior element that organises junior weekends, camps, training and racing.

Alongside our sailing programme the club runs a number of varied social events throughout the year.

The facilities of the modern clubhouse and training centre complement the superb sailing environment. Various light snacks and hot meals are prepared and served from the well equipped galley, whilst alternative liquid refreshments are available from the fully stocked new bar. The clubhouse has full changing room and hot shower facilities.

The club is an RYA teaching establishment offering a full programme of sail training courses aimed specifically at the novice or inexperienced sailor. The sailing school has a specially selected fleet of dinghies (RS Visions, RS Fevas, and Laser 13s), ideal for those new to sailing. Buoyancy aids are provided on all courses and a suitable range of wet-suits and spray-tops are also available. The RYA Level 1 & 2 National Dinghy Certificate covers the theoretical and practical basics of dinghy sailing, providing an enjoyable insight into the world of sailing. Young budding sailors can also learn the ropes with a special sailing course designed to meet their energetic needs. For those seeking to advance to the next levels, the club offers start racing courses and sailing with spinnakers, details of which are on the club website or displayed on the notice boards. The club also offers a number of powerboat and safety boat courses.

Current club membership stands at approximately 300 or (750 people) making it one of the largest and most active sailing clubs in the region, with active sailors ranging in experience and ability from novice to world class and of all ages. Sailing takes place under the supervision of safety and rescue crews - no sailing is allowed without a safety crew being present on the water. Staunton Harold Sailing Club prides itself on being a friendly family club and can boast of family memberships spanning 3 generations, all new members are warmly welcomed, with established members only too pleased to offer help advice and assistance.

What you need to know

All members are expected to carry out duties either supporting the racing or in the galley. They have to ensure that security of the club and the dinghy park is maintained. They must have insurance in line with the membership requirements, and pay their subs by the due dates. All boats need to be registered before they are brought to the club and non fleet status boats must be approved by the sailing committee. Once the boat(s) is registered you will be allocated a parking slot in the dinghy park.

How is the club run?

The club is run by committee on a non profit making basis, the committee is elected annually with any member being eligible to stand for election. An AGM is held each year for members to attend.

How can I make the most of my membership?

The best way is to get involved with club activities both on and off the water as often as you can. There are many social events arranged throughout the year which allows the opportunity to meet other members. And the bar is always full after race days! Club racing also draws members closer particularly when you are racing as part of a fleet. As the club relies on people to help it is really worthwhile getting involved in voluntary activities as often as you can, particularly those of you who ply a trade.

How do I get access to the club?

All members are provided with (if requested and paid for) a red dot key which allows you to open the padlocks on any of the gates from the visitor centre down to the club including all dinghy park gates. The same key will let you into the clubhouse and turn off the alarm. Please note that the top gates should always be kept closed and always locked if you are the last person to leave the club, likewise the clubhouse must be locked if you are last to leave.

Members are allowed into the clubhouse or dinghy park as and when they require.

Your key will also allow you into the key cabinet by the main entrance to the clubhouse to gain access to the boathouse.

Both changing rooms and the training centre have coded locks for security. You will be advised on the codes when you join the club, and advised if and when they are changed.

When can I sail?

You can sail as advertised on the sailing calendar available as a handout or from the club website. You can also sail at other times but you must have two people to man the safety boat and one person on shore in radio contact with the safety boat.

What if I have my own boat?

Once you have registered your own boat with the membership secretary you will be allocated a parking slot on the dinghy park. You are responsible for ensuring that it is tied down securely - stakes for tying down must not be above ground level, and you must maintain your plot in a tidy state (there is a mower available for members).

What if I don't have my own boat?

If you do not have your own boat, as a club member you can hire club boats - Laser 13s, Lasers, Toppers, Visions and Fevas. Details of charges and who to contact are displayed on the clubhouse notice board.

What if I don't have my own boat and am new to sailing?

If you have just learnt to sail you might find that crewing for an experienced helm is a good starting point. This allows you to try out different types of boat and gain valuable experience. Members are often looking for regular crews as good ones are hard to come by. If you don't want to commit to a regular crewing position then turn up on any sailing day put up a note on the course board and chances are someone will be looking for a crew.

How can I find out what's going on and when?

The club has its own website www.shsc.org.uk which contains all the information you should need. The club publishes a quarterly news update which is sent to all members. And, of course, there is a lot of information posted on the clubhouse notice boards. And please ask other club members....they will be happy to help.

Where can I find out about boats?

The best place to start is to look at the website for the different fleets, and each fleet has a captain who will be able to help you. Once again...please ask other members.

Where can I get kitted out?

The best places to look for clothing, gear or new and used boats are on the web, or in the most popular dinghy sailing magazines such as Dinghy, or Yachts & Yachting. All major chandlers have their own websites. And there are regularly items for sale on the club website. Talk to the fleet captains and sailors.

Who should I call if I am still confused or unsure?

All the committee members are listed on the club notice board or website. You can ring any of them for help or advice. And check the club website.

Are there any local rules that are important?

The main rules are:

- 1. If the red or no flag is flying – no sailing**
- 2. No safety cover – no sailing**
- 3. If the siren sounds then the water must be cleared as quickly as possible as it signals a possible chlorine leak from the water treatment plant.**
- 4. Road trailers are not to be left on the dinghy park without permission from the committee. If permission is granted a fee is payable**
- 5. Buoyancy aids must be worn on the water.**
- 6. The officer of the day is in charge and his / her word is final.**
- 7. No swimming or paddling is allowed**
- 8. Dogs and other animals are not allowed on the site other than registered help dogs.**

What duties am I expected to carry out and how will I find out about them?

Doing the club duties are one of the best ways of getting to know your fellow club members and “getting into” the club. All adult sailing members must carry out 3 duties each year or 4 in the case of a family membership where both adults sail regularly. You choose your duties on dates convenient to yourselves and register them on “Dutyman” on the club website, or by advising the Duties Officer (details again on the website). Early in the season there is sometimes a duty board in the clubhouse on which you can register yourself for duties. Obviously the more experienced members will help you until you get into the “swing” of it.

Prior to your duty you will receive an email and the OOD will contact you to inform you of times etc

Duties carried out:

Officer of the day – organises racing and safety cover, hears protests and scores races.

Assistant officer of the day – assists OOD

Safety driver – Drives the rescue craft

Safety crew - Expected to enter the water if needed and help recover people and craft

Galley –Makes sandwiches, teas, coffee etc

What happens when the season ends?

When the season ends the club carries out repairs, improvements and maintenance. These are normally working parties on Saturdays and Sundays, and these are advertised at the club, on the website and by email. Club members carry out all these activities on a voluntary basis, and keeps membership costs down by not paying contractors etc. Another great way to get to know your fellow club members...

Do I need any qualifications?

You do not need any formal sailing qualifications to sail at SHSC.

What Fleets are recognised at Staunton Harold?

Laser, Fireball, RS200, GP14, Scorpion, Comet, Enterprise, Optimist, Phantom and Topper.

Handicap covers all other types of approved boat.

Are there any restrictions on types of boats I can sail?

There are restrictions on boat types, no fixed keel boats are allowed or boats with a PY number less than 900. Boats that are not in a recognised fleet need to be approved by the sailing committee before they are brought to the club.

Anything Else?

Please ask fellow members and any of the members of the committee – there is a board with their names, titles and contact details on the board in the clubhouse. And the website can answer most things.

Enjoy the club and its members! And enjoy the sailing!!