

Overall Winners- South Staffordshire Sailing Club



South Staffordshire Sailing Club, situated on Gailey Reservoir, within a stones throw of Junction12 on the M6 is very much a club run **by** the members **for** the members. The club aim is to encourage and promote amateur dinghy sailing by providing a safe sailing environment for adults and juniors of all abilities.

The club has around 400 members, aged from 6 to 95 and their annual 'Try Sailing' open day attracts nearly 100 new sailors, many of whom go on to take up training courses, so new members are always in good supply.

South Staffordshire Sailing Club continually strive to better themselves, and signing up to OnBoard last year is testament to this. They had to reschedule an already packed sailing programme to accommodate the additional junior club and schools sessions, but while doing this, they also managed to free up more time to run informal coaching sessions for less active adult members, as well as recruiting more volunteers.

A fantastic array of social events, including ballroom dancing, bonfires, quizzes, treasure hunts and dinner dances, ensures that members visit the club throughout the year, and even when the lake is frozen over members can be seen working, replacing old wooden jetties.

The club invests in its members by providing a range of free courses, including powerboat training, dinghy instructor, race coaching, seamanship, first aid and VHF. In recent years the club has trained 20 Dinghy Instructors, 7 Senior Instructors, 9 Race Coaches and 7 Powerboat Instructors resulting in them being in the enviable position of claiming 'We have more willing instructors, assistant instructors and race coaches than we have facilities to teach.'

Glossop and District Sailing Club



Glossop and District Sailing Club based on Torside Reservoir in Derbyshire, is a welcoming sailing club in a beautiful environment with good facilities and enthusiastic members. The club is run entirely by its members, who share the duties throughout the year.

As a club they have faced difficult times in recent years; problems with the dam required the complete emptying of the reservoir in 2006, but the members have worked tirelessly to preserve the club identity and retain members whilst sailing at other venues. Since being allowed back on their own water in 2008, membership has steadily increased, with 50% of members being active junior sailors. During the summer months, Friday nights are fun evenings for 8 to 18 year-olds with structured and supervised water-based activities for junior members and visitors. Grown-ups are also encouraged to help and gain skills too!

A varied programme of sailing and windsurfing activities, including coaching sessions for adult dinghy sailors, powerboat training for parent volunteers, junior race series to build skills and confidence, junior powerboat training, Saturday afternoon junior windsurfing, school holiday sailing camps, Activate your Laser days, with visit from Paul Goodison along with a range of club boats available to hire ensures that there is something on offer for everyone.

Sailing and Cruising Association



Sailing and Cruising Association, is a 'virtual sailing club' with no fixed club house. It is a dynamic and friendly sailing and boating club, mainly made up of lesbians and gay men, but one which is open to and welcomes everyone.

Current membership stands at 400 with members from all over the UK and beyond. Over 100 members own boats of all shapes and sizes providing plenty of opportunity to get afloat in a safe and organised way. Members' experience ranges from ocean girdling Yachtmasters to the complete novice and from sprightly youngsters to those of more mature years. The Association also has a thriving women's section with a growing number of female boat owners.

Every month members meet socially in London and Ipswich giving boat owners a chance to meet potential crew. Throughout the year the club organises a range of 'on the water' activities on the East coast, South coast, in the North West, with charters here in the UK and further afield in Europe taking place several times each year.

The Association creates and provides opportunities for everyone to learn, develop and enjoy the experience of sailing in different locations, on different sizes of boats; opportunities which may well not otherwise come about.

Hollowell Sailing Club



Hollowell Sailing Club, based on Hollowell Reservoir in Northamptonshire is another 'can do' club.

They provide a stable, safe and fun base for beginners and experienced members to enjoy sailing. All aspects of the club are undertaken by members and it is this team work and commitment from the volunteers that makes the club friendly and inviting to new members, in particular families.

Over the last couple of years the club has made substantial improvements to their on-shore facilities including building refurbishment, disabled access and toilets, a new galley, lounge and bar refurbishment.

The friendly and sociable culture of the club ensures that everyone is able to contribute their skills and talents in a range of interesting and challenging roles.

A large fleet of club dinghies is available for members to hire with a view to them settling on a type of boat they like and purchasing. This includes single and double handed boats both for adults and juniors.

Sailing courses are run to encourage new members to get out on the water and these are supplemented by an instructor being available a couple of weeks after the course to help and encourage novice sailors. Last year additional sailing activities were also programmed including Start racing, Team racing, Short Races, Spinnaker training as well as the ever popular Ladies days.

Spinnaker Club



Spinnaker Club is based on a small reservoir on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire. They offer a wide range of sailing activity to the whole of the local community with over 30 different community organisations and affiliated groups using the club on a regular basis.

Spinnaker pride themselves on being a friendly club that encourages sailing for all ages and abilities. A range of training, racing and more 'social sailing' activities are offered to encourage people out on the water. A fleet of over thirty club dinghies, including Fevas, Visions, Q'bas, Fireflies, Toppers, Lasers and Optimists ensure that not owning a boat is not a barrier.

Their Annual Open in May continues to attract many visitors, with nearly 500 people getting out on the water, with a healthy conversion rate to members this helps to feed new people in to the club.

Never content to 'stand still', this year the club has plans to extend their club house and provide better changing facilities for less able bodied sailors and families along with a bespoke training room.

Spinnaker Club have carefully managed the balance between having full-time paid staff working alongside member volunteers. They put a large element of their success down to the number and calibre of its volunteers, without whom just could not manage.