

TRAINING AT SCALING DAM SAILING CLUB

The club has been a RYA Training Centre since 1991 and runs RYA dinghy, powerboat and first aid training courses for the benefit of its membership and welcomes new members who wish to participate. Because our instructors are unpaid volunteers, our course fees are very low when compared to commercial establishments, but we do expect trainees to join the club before participating. For the spring courses, visitors to the area can reduce the cost of doing this by taking out a "Distant" membership at 50% of the relevant membership category. In the autumn the part season membership costs are significantly reduced for everybody. For people unsure whether they will take to sailing, we allow "Temporary" members onto the Dinghy Level 1 and Stage 1 courses for a higher course fee. If they then decide they want to proceed, they can convert their membership into the appropriate full membership category before taking subsequent courses. An attraction for members taking the dinghy scheme is that once they have gained their Level 2 (adults) or Stage 2 (juniors or youths) they can hire some of the club's boats at very attractive rates.

The club has "lifejackets" (buoyancy aids) in a wide range of sizes for course participants to borrow. After the courses members are normally expected to provide their own. Helmets are provided for use on the youth courses and if conditions require them, on the adult ones.

Dinghy Courses - Adult

Start Sailing – Level 1: This is run twice a year in May and September over a weekend consisting of the Friday evening (1800 start), Saturday (0900-1700) and Sunday morning (0900-1300). It provides a short introduction to sailing for novices. Wayfarer dinghies are usually used and instructors are aboard most, if not all, of the time.

The 2013 dates are planned to be the weekends of 17/18/19 May and 6/7/8 September. Cost: £70 (£100 for Temporary members.)

Basic Skills – Level 2: These run 2 or 3 weeks later than the Level 1 at the same times on the respective days. It takes the novice to the stage where he/she can sail a dinghy in light to moderate conditions under reasonable control without an instructor on board. Depending on the pupil, Wayfarers or GP14s are usually used, as well as other club boats such as the Mirror or Omega. In case weather conditions have not permitted enough progress to be made for pupils to reach the required standard over the 2 weekends of L1 and L2 courses, a further Sunday morning is scheduled into the club sailing programme to be used if needed.

The 2013 dates are planned to be 7/8/9 June and 20/21/22 September with Sunday mornings 16th June and 29th September to be also used if needed. Cost: £70. (For those signing up simultaneously to both L1 and L2 courses a discounted price of £120 is offered which also includes 6 boat hire vouchers. Also, if more than one person from the same address signs up for adult and/or junior courses simultaneously, the discounted price is further reduced to £100/person and still includes the boat hire vouchers.)

Better Sailing (Level 3) and other Advanced Modules (Seamanship / Sailing with Spinnakers / Performance Sailing / Start Racing) : The demand for these will be assessed during the early part of the season during the Refresher Course (see below), the initial Friday evening Club Nights and probably by an e-Newsflash questionnaire. If there is enough demand, one or more of these courses will be run either over a weekend or during the Friday Club Nights and publicity given through e-News flashes.

Level 1 and 2 Refresher Training: This is not an official RYA course, but is an informal day early in the season to refresh the memories of those who have taken the full courses the previous season (or earlier) and who would appreciate having instructors around for their first outings of the year using either club or their own boats.

The 2013 date is planned to be Saturday 20th April (0930-1630). Cost: £20.

Dinghy Courses – Youth (or Junior)

We expect children to have reached their 8th birthday before starting the Stage 1 course. Although the scheme extends to cover them, we find most 16 year olds and (and some tall for their age 15 year olds) prefer to participate in the adult scheme.

Start Sailing – Stage 1: This is run twice a year in May and September on the same weekends as the adult L1 courses and at the same times (i.e. Friday evening (1800 start), Saturday (0900-1700) and Sunday morning (0900-1300)) and during Sailcamp – see below. 2 courses are usually run each weekend: one in Optibat dinghies for 8-11/12 year olds and one in Toppers for teenagers. The courses provide a short introduction to sailing for novices. Note that participants on the Topper courses are required to wear wetsuits. (The club has a few old suits available, but ideally pupils should provide their own.)

The 2013 dates are planned to be the weekends of 17/18/19 May and 6/7/8 September. Cost: £70 (£100 for Temporary members.)

Start Sailing – Stage 2: These run 2 or 3 weeks later than the Stage 1 at the same times on the respective days. It takes the youngster to the stage where he/she can sail an Optibat or Topper dinghy as appropriate in light to moderate conditions under reasonable control.

The 2013 dates are planned to be 7/8/9 June and 20/21/22 September. Cost: £70. (For those signing up simultaneously to both St1 and St2 courses a discounted price of £120 is offered which also includes 6 boat hire vouchers. Also, if more than one person from the same address signs up for adult and/or junior courses simultaneously, the discounted price is further reduced to £100/person and still includes the boat hire vouchers.)

Start Sailing – Stage 3: If conditions have been suitable on the Spring Topper Stage 1 and 2 courses and the pupils have made good progress, they will be signed off for some or most of the Stage 3 syllabus. If the course looks as if it could complete Stage 3 with another half day session, this will be arranged for the same Sunday morning as is set aside for finishing the adult Level 2 course (if the latter is needed).

The 2013 date set aside for potentially completing the Topper Stage 3 course (see above) is Sunday 16th June (0900-1300).

Sailcamp: Stages 1, 2 and 3 courses are also expected to be run during Sailcamp, as well as some of the Advanced Modules or Stage 4. The exact courses are agreed with the participants' parents prior to the start of Sailcamp.

See elsewhere on the website for further information on Sailcamp.

The 2013 Sailcamp dates are 4th - 9th August.

Powerboat Courses

The club policy is to only allow youngsters aged up to their 17th birthday to drive a powerboat under the active supervision of an adult who holds PBL2 (or higher qualification). In the case of 8-11 year olds, this adult must be on board the boat being driven by the youngster.

Introduction to Powerboating – Level 1: This one day course is run in the spring and is intended to give those who haven't previously been in powerboats a practical introduction to boat handling and safety. The course uses the RIB and the Dory and is also the 1st day of the Level 2 Course (see below).

The 2013 date is planned to be Saturday 6th April (0900-1600). Cost: £35.

National Powerboat Course – Level 2: This is a 2 day course and is usually run once or twice a year depending on demand. It teaches boat handling and seamanship in powerboats and uses the range of powerboats that the club operates (i.e. wheel steered RIB and Dory, and tiller steered Jeanneaus.)

In 2013 a spring course is planned for the 6th and 13th April (0900-1600,) but additional courses may be arranged at other times to suit the participants. Keep an eye on "Dam e-News" or contact the Powerboat Chief Instructor – Alan Holmes – alaninwhitby@hotmail.com. The cost is normally £70, but those planning to become Dinghy Instructors or Safety Boat Principals will not be charged in return for undertakings to assist club activities.

Safety Boat Course: This is a weekend course and participants must already hold PBL2. They are taught rescue techniques for dinghies, windsurfers and canoes.

The 2013 dates are planned to be 27/28/29 September (Frid 1800 start, Sat 0900-1630, Sun 0900-1200) but additional courses may be run as for PBL2 above. The cost is normally £70, but those planning to become Dinghy Senior, Powerboat Instructors or Safety Boat Principals will not be charged in return for undertakings to assist club activities.

Safety Boat Principals Refresher Course: This is not an official RYA course, but is a day planned to give refresher training for those who have recently completed the Safety Boat Course (see above) and to give those who have completed PBL2 some training in dinghy and windsurfer rescue techniques so they can more effectively perform rescue boat duties prior to taking the full RYA course. Participation on the course is the minimum requirement for those volunteering to become Safety Boat Principals in the club and is strongly recommended for all those planning to help with training or junior/youth activities.

The 2013 date is planned to be Saturday 2nd March (1000-1630. Free to participants.

First Aid Courses

The club runs the RYA First Aid course so that Instructors and other key volunteers can keep their 1st Aid qualifications valid. Usually one course is run early in the season and other courses may be run if there is the demand from instructors requiring renewal.

The first 2013 date is planned for Saturday 9th March (0930-1630). It is probable that an additional autumn course will be run and publicised in an e-News flash. Priority on allocation of places is given to Instructors and Safety Boat Principals for whom no charge is made. If there are spare places available, other club members can take the course at a cost of £35.

Factfile

At the start of 2013 the Club had 8 Senior Dinghy Instructors, 25 Dinghy Instructors, 1 Powerboat Advanced Instructor, 6 Powerboat Instructors and 1 First Aid Instructor.

In 2012 course attendance was Level 1: 34, Level 2: 32, Level 3: 5, Stage 1: 25, Stage 2: 27, Powerboat Level 2: 17, Safetyboat: 13 and 1st Aid:18 . Note these figures ignore junior attendance at Sailcamp where most of the 40 attendees gained at least one certificate.