

NEW MEMBERS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do I find how the Club is organised? The front section of the Year Book includes the names of the Flag Officers, Trustees, key staff members and members of Committees. There is a “rogues gallery” with photos of the Flag Officers and key staff members on the Club website.

What are the Club’s Committees and how do I get involved? The principal Club Committee is the Management Committee. It normally meets 3 times a year (early March, mid-May & late October) in full, and once (in early July) to primarily consider any last minute new member applications. There is also a Sailing Committee that looks after sailing and powerboating etc, and a House Committee that looks after everything non-sailing! They normally meet 2 or 3 times a year. If you wish to get involved, probably the best person to talk to initially is the Club Secretary, alternatively a member of the one of the Committees.

What is the BSDC? The Bembridge Sailing Dinghy Club provides the focus for all Cadet & Junior Cadet sailing. Although it has a separate Bank Account, it is included in the Club accounts. It is headed by the Captain of the Dinghy Club (currently Amanda Bunbury) and has a small committee of adult helpers. It subsumed the Bembridge Optimist Association in 2010.

Who does what in the office? It’s a small team comprising of:

General Manager/Club Secretary - Daniel Jehan (also for general sailing matters)

Accounts Manager - Janet Snudden

Social Secretary - Jo Pascall (also for catering)

Office Support - Peter Farwell (also for IT matters)

Office Support - Caroline Samuelson (also for memorabilia & clothing)

Club Steward - Frank Vecsei

Assistant Steward - Richard Cottell

How do I find out what is going on at the Club? The annual programme is included in the Year Book (blue pages); we also circulate a fold out programme twice a year. The Club website (www.bemsc.org.uk) has a calendar that is updated regularly. The monthly e-news update that is sent out to all members with e-mail addresses at the end of each month also includes the social events for the following month. Do please get in contact with the office if you have any suggestions for new events. The various organisers of events are always looking for new ideas and input as well as support for such events.

How do I pay for bar, catering etc? You can of course pay for anything you purchase by cash; however most members have a Club Account with supporting Swipe Cards which we is the Club’s preferred method of payment. Details about Swipe Cards are included in the new Member “welcome” pack. At the end of every month that your account has been used you will receive an e-mail from the Accounts Manager with an attached Statement. You then have until about the 21st of the month to raise any queries (please e-mail the Accounts Manager janet@bembridgesailingclub.org direct). We then normally look to collect the balance shown on your Statement through your Direct Debit before the end of the month. Please note that in order to conform with the Licensing regulations (which do not allow us to give credit on bar sales) we will collect an additional £50 the first time you use your account. Subsequently, your statement will reflect the amount of money owed to maintain your account with a £50 credit balance. This “deposit” will be repaid on request should you decide to cancel your Club account/resign etc.

I have friends/relations staying, can I bring them into the Club? Yes, subject to the rules covering guests, you certainly can (and please do!). However, they must be signed in the Visitors Book that you will find on the right hand side of the bar. For full details see Section II paragraphs 28 - 32 of the Club Rules, or page 178 (2014) of the Year Book for a resumé. In simple terms a guest may be introduced 8 times a year, of which only 3 occasions may be during the period mid-July to mid- August. Note that your guests are not allowed to pay for anything in the Club.

What are the bar and catering hours? See page 177 (2014) of the Year Book. Catering is always available on Friday evenings, Saturday lunchtime and Sunday lunchtime. Note please that Club rules do not allow alcohol to be purchased by or for Under 18s.

Are children allowed in the bar? Unaccompanied children are not allowed in the bar at any time it is open for the sale of alcohol. However, other than over the peak summer period (mid-July to mid-August), accompanied children are allowed.

What are the main social events on the calendar? Our main social events normally include the following: Maundy Thursday - Ladies Annual Lunch; Good Friday - Fish Supper; Easter Sunday - Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Sunday Lunch; Late May Bank Holiday Saturday evening - a musical event, party or Club supper; Late July - New Members Welcome Party, Club BBQ; August - Salamander Ball (13 - 17 age group), Summer Ball, Regatta Supper/Party; late September - Laying-Up Supper. November - Charity Christmas Fair; December - Carols, Christmas Lunch & a New Years Eve Party.

What routine social events are there? Currently these include on the first Monday evening of the month - Scrabble/Rummikub; the first Thursday morning - Coffee morning; the second Thursday - mid-week lunch; the fourth Friday - No Fears Bridge. During the peak summer period, there are discos every week for the children/teenagers.

How do I book for Sunday Lunch or a Club Event? Contact the office by email: jo@bembridgesailingclub.org or telephone 01983 872237 or 01983 872686 (Club Steward). Alternatively, put your name on the lists that are on the main Notice Board by the entrance to the Dining Room. Sunday Lunch is very much an 'all comers' event. Extended families are equally welcome as are individuals, the latter will normally be seated on a 'club table' and the club's ethos is very much to make such members welcome. As with all club events members looking to make up tables for any event will be paired up and this is often a way that many members have met and formed friendships.

What if I need to amend or cancel a booking? Please e-mail or telephone the office at least 48 hours beforehand otherwise unfortunately there may be a charge incurred for staffing and food provision. For events where tickets are used (i.e Summer Ball), every effort will be made to "sell on" unwanted tickets but this cannot be guaranteed.

Can I use the club for weddings, funerals and private parties? Yes, of course you may. Please check the annual programme in the Year Book and then get in touch with the Social Secretary (Jo) to discuss your requirements.

Does the Club have a dress code? Yes; a copy is included in new Members "Welcome" pack. A resume is included on page 179 (2014) of the Year Book.

What is the Club policy regarding the use of Mobile Phones & Computers? See page 178 (2014) of the Year Book for mobile phones. The Club has unsecure wi-fi access (Salamander wi-fi) available throughout most of the Club. Laptops may be used at all times in the Club Room & Salamander Room unless these areas are being used for courses or other higher priority events. In an attempt to not be too prescriptive, members are asked to use their common sense and consider others when using electronic equipment.

Where can I park my car? There is a car park for use (on an own risk basis) by members and guests opposite the Club. To help identify members we have "car parking" stickers that can be purchased from the office. Parking along the Harbour Strand side of the road opposite the Club is obviously on a first come first served basis, however please do not park on the Club side of the road. There are three spaces on the gravel between the Club and the Toll Gate Café - again on a first come first served basis but please no large cars as they intrude onto the pavement. Finally, providing you are displaying a BSC car parking sticker, you may use the Car Park on Bembridge Point without having to pay.

Where can I smoke? No smoking is allowed within club buildings (including the bar & any marquees or tents). Smoking is permitted on open balconies.

Can I bring my dog in? We do not allow dogs in the Club or in the dinghy park. However, we turn a “blind eye” if in transit to a boat on the pontoon.

Is there anywhere I can leave “valuables” at the Club whilst I am out on the water? Currently you can leave car keys etc in the office.

Are there any restrictions on young children being in the Club? Other than in the bar (see earlier question), not really. However, you are requested to always ensure that they adequately supervised. Please don't let them use the lift unaccompanied, and also please remember that they must not go onto the pontoons unaccompanied and must always wear a suitable buoyancy aid when they are there.

What happens to Lost Property? Valuables will normally either be put behind the bar, or else in the office. If you have left clothing upstairs or on the balconies, then it will normally be put on the pegs outside the upstairs M & F Loos. Clothing left downstairs will normally find its way into the “lost property” buckets in the M & F changing rooms. These are sorted and unmarked items are disposed of on a regular basis.

What do I need to be aware of as far “Exclusion of Liability” goes? See page 10 of the Year Book (2014). Rule 50 of the Club Constitution & Rules 2012 says the following:

“Members, their Guests and Associate Members are bound by the following Rule which shall also be exhibited in a prominent place within the Club premises - “Members of the Club, their Guests or Associate Members may use the Club premises and any other facilities of the Club and participate in events organised by the Club (whether land or sea based) entirely at their own risk and impliedly accept that:

(a) The Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to Members, their Guests or Associate Members to the Club.

(b) The Club will not accept any liability for personal injury arising out of the use of the Club premises, and any other facilities of the Club either sustained by Members, their Guests or Associate Members or caused by the said Members, Guests or Associate Members whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of them, the Flag Officers, Management Committee or servants of the Club.” Before inviting any Guest onto the Club premises or to participate in any event organised by the Club, Members shall bring this rule to the attention of the proposed Guest.”

Are there any Health & Safety responsibilities that I need to be aware of? The Club's H&S Statement states that all members and their guests are responsible for:

- a. their own health & safety and for that of any minor of whom they are the parent or guardian, and for the health & safety of all other persons at the Club who may be affected by their acts or omissions;
- b. reporting any hazard or potential hazard known to them to the Safety Officer (Club Secretary);
- c. ensuring that they only organise racing when adequate safety cover is available;
- d. ensuring that they adopt the same standards of care expected of a parent when they organise activities for those under the age of 18.

Does BSC have reciprocal membership with any other Clubs? We do not have any formal reciprocation with any other Club. However, during the winter (defined as the period of GMT), reciprocal arrangements are available with the following Island based Clubs: Brading Haven Yacht Club (the other Bembridge Harbour club), Sea View YC, Royal Solent YC, Royal Corinthian YC, Royal Victoria YC, Island SC & Royal London YC. You should always sign in when visiting another Club. Notwithstanding the absence of any formal agreements, many Clubs both home &

abroad, welcome visiting members. Please contact the General Manager/Club Secretary if you would like a letter of introduction.

Can I buy wine off-sales? Yes, most of our Club wines can be bought at off-sale prices. Just phone or e-mail the Club Steward with your requirements.

How do I purchase a ferry ticket? All travel tickets now have to be booked & purchased on-line. The link to take you to the Club discounted booking page can be found in the members section of the Club website. A 10% discount on Red Funnel tickets can also be obtained by booking through the link on the Club website.

What is the tipping policy? A “no tipping policy” operates throughout the Club. Members are therefore encouraged to contribute to the annual Staff Fund. Donations should always be channelled through the office. A Standing Order form is available for those who would prefer this means to make an annual donation or cheques should be made payable to BSC with Staff Fund noted on the back..

If I have a concern about anything, who should I approach first? This inevitably rather depends on the nature of the concern, however, the General Manager/Club Secretary is probably the best person to initially contact. That said, if your wine is corked or your meal is not up to scratch, you should raise it with the Club Steward or the senior member of the Catering Staff on duty at the time. For more general concerns, aside from the General Manager/Club Secretary, you are encouraged to feed sailing matters to the Rear Commodore (Sailing) & bar, catering and Club house matters to the Rear Commodore (House). By raising compliments as well as criticisms via the Rear Commodores any and all changes can often be made more effective.

I have an idea as to how the Club could be better organised/better run - who do I talk to? Either talk to one of the Flag Officers or the General Manager/Club Secretary.

When is the AGM and am I expected to attend? The AGM is normally on the Sunday evening after the Club’s annual Regatta in mid-August. If you are able to attend then it is obviously an excellent opportunity to hear how the Club is doing. Most male members will wear a jacket & tie. The Agenda and supporting paperwork is sent out in the Summer mailshot.

I am moving Overseas for a period, how do I become an Overseas Member? Providing you are going to be away for at least a year based in a country “outside” Europe, then you can apply to become an Overseas member and pay a reduced annual subscription. Please contact the General Manager / Club Secretary before you depart overseas to discuss. Finally, please note that although you are very welcome to use the Club as an overseas member if you are visiting Bembridge, this category of membership is not appropriate if you are going to spend a week or more here during the mid-July to end of August period.

Who are the shrimps? The “bembridge shrimps club” (bsc) was started in 2007 to make it easier for Mums (not to mention Dads and grandparents) to get together and introduce a new generation to the Club family. Initially just gathering for the last week of August, it has expanded dramatically with get togethers every holidays, half-terms and indeed any other time a few of them are around. The Queen Shrimps work tirelessly to include all newcomers, from the tiniest babies to when they start their Oppy courses. A real success story. For more information visit the shrimps webpage on the Club website. Alternatively e-mail the Queen Shrimps at:

bembridgeshrimpsclub@googlemail.com .

What are the rules about resigning? We are always sorry when members decide that they no longer wish to remain members, however we fully appreciate that circumstances & priorities often change. Club rules require resignations to be lodged with the General Manager/Club Secretary by 1st November for the following year, otherwise the following year’s subscription is required to be paid. Resignations can be by letter, e-mail or of course in person. If you subsequently find that you want to re-join you may do so without payment of a further entrance fee providing it is within 5 years of the end of your membership. For most, the reasons for resigning are a change in

circumstances or family wanting to do something else, however do please let the Club Manager/Club Secretary know if it is for a less obvious reason.

How do I book a parking slot for a RIB or Sailing Dinghy? We only have a very limited number of RIB/Motorboat berths and there is a long waiting list. To join the list, contact the Club Manager/Club Secretary direct. Slots for dinghies need to be booked on the Pink form that is included with the booklet. For 2014, priority is being given to dinghies that are known to actually get used (rather than just stored).

How do I book a sailing/powerboat course? Details of all the courses we run are in the annual Courses & Training Booklet that you will receive in your Christmas mailshot (or new members "Welcome Pack"). Please note that compared with commercial alternatives these courses are exceptional value for money so we do encourage you to support them. To book the courses run by BSC (VHF, CRO, Powerboat, 1st Aid etc) complete the Blue Form that you will get with the booklet, or contact Mike Samuelson (mike@bembridgesailingclub.org). For children's sailing courses (Cadet Weeks, Oppy Courses etc) you will need to complete the BSDC Course Application Form that is available from the Club website or Club Office. Please note that we are unable to accept non-members under the age of 18 on any of our courses; although it is possible for them to become temporary members, a parent or close relative has to also become a temporary member. If in any doubt, please contact the General Manager/Club Secretary.

Can I insure boats through the Club? All boats using Club facilities must be insured. Oppies, Scows, Lasers & Topaz can be insured through a scheme that we run with Admiral Marine. Premiums are extremely competitive and offer unbeatable value for money as there are a number of waivers built in (for instance, you can rent boats out, and sails & foils are covered during the summer if left under the boat cover or in the Oppy hut - providing they are regularly checked). A very simple application form is available from the office or can be downloaded from the website.

Is it possible to get a sail/crew in a Redwing or One-Design? Yes, it is, although it will obviously depend to a degree on your competence! The Captain of the One-Design fleet (Jos Coad) is certainly very keen to provide opportunities for new members to crew. "Turn up at the Club with a buoyancy aid or lifejacket and suitable clothing an hour before the scheduled race time (see Year Book etc) and you will normally always get a sail." If you wish to get to crew a Redwing, then best to initially contact the Hon Secretary (Joe Robertson) who will let you know who is looking for crew.

How can I get to sail an Illusion? The Illusion Class (mini-12s) sail roughly 2 weekends a month over the winter (from October to the end of April); although the standard of racing is very high - particularly at the top - they are very keen to encourage people to have a go and there are two "loaner" boats available to hire at minimal cost. Contact Rudy Jurg (07739 610760) to arrange.

Am I required (as in some Clubs) to help-out on the water? No, we do not require all members to undertake race management or safety boat duties. However, we obviously welcome & encourage any assistance you would like to offer particularly as assistant race officers. We run regular Race Officer and powerboat courses (details in the Courses Booklet). We have a real demand for assistants; you do not need to be a sailor, it's fun, you get out on the water, you'll understand racing better, you'll be appreciated and you get a free drink.

If you are a competent sailor & would like to support our children's sailing courses out on the water then you might also consider becoming an Adult Assistant Instructor. If your child is attending a summer course you will be expected to help out as a shore based Duty Parent or possibly a beachmaster. Most parents seem to enjoy participating in their children's learning experience.

Is there a launch service? The boatmen are always happy to take you to your boat when they are free but they do get tied up particularly prior to the start and after the finish of the Redwing & One-Design races. Outside normal working hours (particularly summer weekends when racing may well take place other than at HW) please contact the General Manager/Club Secretary to see what can be arranged.

Can I hire a Club RIB or Launch? The current policy is no.

Where can I find out when High water is? The calendar on the Club website includes weekend and holiday HW times; as does the programme in the Year Book (NB: HW Portsmouth corrected to BST as required). There is a tidal clock in the Entrance Hall and HW times are included on the Sailing whiteboard outside the Salamander Room.

What should I do if my boat breaks down on the water? If you breakdown away from Bembridge, then you should follow the normal procedures and contact the Coastguard on your VHF radio or mobile phone. Solent Coastguard monitor Ch 67 so unless it is an emergency (May-Day or Pan-Pan) you can talk to them direct on Ch 67. If you breakdown close to Bembridge and it's not serious enough to immediately call the Coastguard, you can try calling the office (Bembridge Base) on VHF Ch M2 or use your mobile to 01983 872237 and help will be arranged.

Can I ask the boatman to help me repair my boat? Rod has a wealth of experience and is always more than happy to provide advice, drill the occasional hole or show you how to do an eye splice! However, his (and Charlie's) workload is such that they are not able to make extensive repairs to members boats during working hours.

How do I get advice on what boat to buy and what the Club "supported" classes are? The annual Course booklet that is sent out as part of the Christmas mailshot (and included in new members Welcome packs) includes guidelines on the dinghy classes that we support and use for our Cadet & Junior Cadet courses and Club racing. If you need further advice, please get in contact with the General Manager/Club Secretary.

What boat should my child sail? See the guidelines & "roadmap" in the annual course booklet.

What is the Club Policy on wearing Lifejackets/Buoyancy Aids? See the Club Sailing Instructions (SI 2.5 & 2.6) & Sailing Byelaw 3 (back of the Club Constitution & Rules 2013). In simple terms, a lifejacket/buoyancy aid must be worn if you are racing in a dinghy, when the Y flag is flown if you are racing in a keelboat, and when in a Club RIB. All passengers in a Club launch shall carry an approved lifejacket or buoyancy aid at all times and wear it if so instructed by the senior member present as advised by the boatman. All members under the age of 18 shall also wear a personal floatation device when afloat (including on Club pontoons). We obviously encourage members to always wear a lifejacket/buoyancy aid when using their own boats at other times. Likewise we urge RIB (& equivalent) drivers to always wear a "killcord" when under way.

I lied on my application form and have no idea which is the front and which is the back of a boat! Where do I start? Give the General Manager/Club Secretary a phone! Also consider signing up for the annual GUSTO (Grown Up Sail Training Organisation) which is normally a two half day non-RYA course in late July, early August.

What Ensign should I display on my boat when in Bembridge waters? A Red Ensign. If you are a member of another Club and have a warrant for an ensign other than a plain Red one, the traditional etiquette is that you do not normally display it when in Bembridge. See page 180 of the Year Book (2014).

My children are working towards their Gold/Silver/Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, is the Club involved in the scheme? Yes, we are an "Access" organisation and are authorised to award access credits. Please contact the Club Manager/Club Secretary to discuss further.

If I want to "Part 1" Register my boat, do I have to have its "Port of Registry" permanently marked on the stern? No, we have an exemption to this requirement; you simply need to have "BSC" marked on the stern.

15th March 2013 (updated 22 February 2014)