



Introduction

As a new member we appreciate that joining any club can be a daunting prospect. At this club it shouldn't be - we try and operate with the minimum of rules and keep notices telling us what we can and can't do, down to a minimum.

I hope this guidance is of use to all members, we've done it to integrate new members into the club, so they quickly know the ropes and their time as members is a long and happy one.

It's easy for me I've been a member for many years now and you can lose sight of some of the more obvious questions new members have.

Further information can be found on our website - www.pdsc.org.uk. When you become a member we will give you a password to our members page where you will find further information and links.

Communication - as well as the website the club has a very active Facebook page. When you become a member we will add you to our members' email list so that you will get the latest information. We also run various Whatsapp groups for members with specific interests to keep in touch (e.g. currently we have groups for: Laser racing, Tera parents and Pirate parents). If you are interested in joining any of these groups please let us know.

What we're about: A non-commercial (private) sailing club run by members for members. Dinghy racing on Saturdays and Wednesday nights (light permitting) and supported Open/Recreational sailing sessions on Friday evening and Sunday afternoons, as well as individual sailing/watersports at other times. Training and developing beginners (juniors, youth and adults).

As a new or prospective new member, you can join via our on-line membership system (on the website under membership) - but there is no need to join straight away. You can sail up to three times before you should join - that way you can decide whether the club is for you.

Running the Club

The club is run by **elected un-paid volunteer members** for members. The club management is in the hands of a committee of club members, club officers (like chairperson (we call Commodore) treasurer, secretary, membership secretary and training co-ordinator).

If you think there is/are better ways of doing things or you just want to speak to a committee member then talk to whoever is behind the galley to point you in the right direction or you can use our on-line Suggestions box (on the Members page of the website).

Committee meetings are held once a month and in November there is an Annual General Meeting where reports from the various officers are given and elections are held for the committee and all the posts.

New committee members are elected to the committee at the AGM.

Club Key: For a deposit of £10 you can get a club key. This enables you to use the changing rooms, showers and toilets (ie go sailing) when the club is closed. See the Membership Secretary.

Insurance. To keep or use a boat at the club you must have insurance of at least £5,000,000 third party claims.

A boat park space See the dinghy park supremo: June. Spaces are allocated on the basis of paid subscription, type of boat and historic use. Please don't go in a slot that's empty - the owner might be away for the day with their boat at an Open event.

Slipway - It's a good idea when taking your boat down the slipway to let the boat go first. That way if there is weed or mud about and you slip, the boat won't run you over.



Please rig your boat on the left hand side of the slipway, that way someone launching can pass on your right hand side (no particular reason -we just do it that way).

Cars - Please leave your car in the car park.

Cars are allowed into the dinghy park now (they didn't used to be) in order for members to do jobs on their boats or to tow them away etc. However, you will be very unpopular if you drive in on a sailing day and even more unpopular if you just park there (at any time).

Boat House

This belongs to the club and houses: safety boats, racing buoys, the gear for club boats, and the grass mowers and barbeque. They do not house private gear.

New members who want to contribute to the running of the club are welcome to do so through helping the committee and taking part in working parties. It is this way subscriptions are kept at a (very) reasonable level.

Safety Cover

By club rules, safety cover is mandatory during club events (racing, training, open sailing and cruising) and normally consists of at least one safety boat being in a state of readiness on the water. Youth and Juniors can sail only when an adult (parent or guardian) is present.

Recreational & Open Sailing (Watersports)

Many of our members enjoy kayaking, paddleboarding and other watersports as well as sailing at the club.

Members may use their own boats at any time at their own risk. (We strongly advise that you seek advice if you are new to the club).

In addition, organised sessions with a safety boat and a qualified instructor / coach, are run on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons from April until October

Racing

The club caters for all levels of sailors and every type of boat with friendly competitive club racing. Racing is run on a handicap system. The handicaps are based on the type of boat not your experience.

To join in racing, ask a more experienced member. You need to sign on, get the course and know the time of start. The signing on and course sheets are put on a table in the clubhouse about half an hour before a race, so you have plenty of time to get organised and launched.

Training Opportunities

The club is a Royal Yachting Association Recognised Training Centre which means we can deliver certified training courses to a certain level. We can teach beginner sailing up to advance dinghy sailing level and racing to an intermediate level, Advanced racing courses can be organised at the club using club facilities on a self-help basis.

Club Boats

The club owns suitable training boats which can be hired by members on club days when not being used for training purposes. This enables non-owning boat members to gain experience using club boats before taking the step of buying their own boat. In addition, there is a limited amount of clothing (wetsuits and buoyancy aids) available for use by club members whilst training.

Ken 2021

with input from John & Kate Jones {new members} and Jo and, Cathy & Steve