



SWANAGE SAILING CLUB

Hon Membership Secretary.
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About SSC

The Club's roots can be traced back to a momentous day in May 1935 when a small group gathered in a room over the fruit and vegetable shop in Institute Road. The proprietor of the shop was Mr James Day and the man responsible for convening the meeting, and the Club's first commodore, was Dr G W S de Jersey. From the start, the Club's aims have been to encourage the art of sailing for pleasure and competition. In 1935 this meant racing traditional clinker built craft, without buoyancy aids, life jackets or safety boat cover, an act that demanded considerable seamanship. The winner of the first race was Mr L Hardy, whom remains a member and elder statesman of the club to this day.

Since the heady days of 1935, the Club has grown into a vibrant and lively place from which both experienced and novice sailors can enjoy the water. Excellently situated at the southerly end of Swanage Bay, and nestling behind the town's Victorian pier, the present club stands on the same site used by its forebearers. The old timber clad fishing sheds that served the Club so well have now given way to a purpose built clubhouse with commanding views across the bay. Opened by the Rt. Hon Edward Heath KG, MBE, MP on the 10th August 1996, the clubhouse provides shower and changing facilities, licensed refreshments and food. The large first floor club room and outside balconies provide a comfortable vantage point from which spectators can watch all the thrills and 'spills'.

Swanage is first and foremost a dinghy sailing club with Wayfarers, Albacores, Lasers, and 'Cats' making up the mainstay of the fleet. The Club's ethos remains that of encouraging waterborne sport, be it cruising, racing, or just messing about in boats.

In 2005, Swanage Sailing Club was recognised by the RYA as a teaching establishment and we are now able to award certificates for levels 1, 2 and 3 in the National Dinghy Certificate Scheme, as well as Power Boat levels 1 and 2. As if encouragement was needed, now there is even greater incentive for members to get out on the water, irrespective of their age or ability. Training courses for adults and juniors are run regularly each year, but they are only open to members of the Club.

Our dinghy racing calendar starts in late March and continues through to early November. There is racing every weekend, with 'Series' races on Sundays and Cup races on Saturdays, tides permitting. Thursday evening races are also run from April to August. Racing tends to be kept to the confines of the bay, but Cup races can take the fleet as far as Bournemouth Pier. The club also enjoys an active cruising programme.



One of the highlights of the calendar is the Swanage Carnival & Regatta when the club organises open races for visiting sailors. The Regatta coincides with the town's Carnival so there is always an enjoyable holiday atmosphere and spectacular waterfront fireworks.

As well as sailing, SSC has a full programme of social events running throughout the year. These cater for all ages and tastes.

New Members Welcome

The Club welcomes new members, especially those who are keen to play an active part in the Club and its activities. Experience is not important, what is important is a thirst for sailing as evidenced by regular outings on the water. Our most enthusiastic members sail 3 or 4 times a week during the summer months!

We have a membership exceeding 600 members and have a turnover of between 25 – 50 members each year. You may apply for membership at any time but interviews, selection, and enrolment only take place in the early spring. Details on how to apply for membership are provided below.

With demand for membership outstripping availability, priority is given to applicants with a proven interest in sailing and opportunity for regular participation in club activities. Proximity to the club is an important factor and favours local people, but is by no means the only factor taken into consideration. Places are offered to those who the Management Committee feel have an empathy with the club, its principles and its objectives, namely to *promote and maintain the sport of recreational and competitive sailing through participation and contribution.*



Membership Categories

There are two main categories of membership – *Family* and *Single*, with further sub-categories for children. Annual subscription rates are based on the category of membership and the number and ages of children (under 12s going free¹). There is also a one-off Joining Fee.

Applying for Membership

A form is downloadable from the club website in .pdf format or available on request. Send your application to the Hon Membership Secretary at the address given above:

Applications must be Proposed and Seconded by current members of 2 or more years standing. This can be difficult for candidates with no links to the Club. They should visit during the season and introduce themselves to the Flag Officers and active sailors. By getting to know you we are better placed to provide proposers.

The best time to visit is on a race day, either Sunday lunchtime or Thursday evenings (summer months only). As well as discussing our racing, cruising and social calendars, we will be able offer a tour of the clubhouse. This will give you a proper taste of the Club, its friendly and welcoming atmosphere and the mix of people that make up its membership.

Selection procedure

Short-listed applicants will be invited to attend the Club for interview. The applicant(s) will meet a member of the Management Committee and other senior club representatives for an informal talk about their interests and sailing aspirations. The interview will provide an opportunity for the Club to raise any point of clarification regarding the information provided on the candidate's application, and, if there has not previously been an opportunity, to tour the clubhouse and its facilities. Interviews are typically conducted after racing at weekends and last around 20 -30 minutes.

Successful candidates will be notified in writing by the Membership Secretary and given 14 days to accept the offer. Membership will commence on receipt of the Joining Fee, Annual Subscription and Berthing Charge (if appropriate).

Where the Club reaches an unfavourable decision, or is prevented from offering membership because of space limitations, the applicant will be notified in writing and invited to reapply the following year. The Club is not obliged to give a reason for unfavourable decisions and all such decisions are final.



2010 Subscription Rates and Joining Fees

Category	Fee
Single (Applicant, plus children under 12)	£74.97
Family (Applicant, partner and children under 12)	£109.15
Junior (Age 12 to 15 inclusive)	£23.15
Student (Age 16 to 25, and in full-time education)	£39.69
Joining Fee:	
Single	£57.33
Family	£143.33

¹ Age as of 1st February

FAQs

Is there a Joining Fee?

We charge a Joining Fee which is used with other sources of income to cover our running costs. We are a non profit making organisation and therefore our charging structure is simply geared towards balancing income with expenditure.

Is there a waiting list?

The Club is a victim of its own success. Due to our popularity we only have a limited number of places each year for new members. We do not operate a waiting list as such; applications for membership are accepted throughout the year but only processed in January and February for enrolment in the spring. Unsuccessful applicants are notified in writing and must reapply the following year if they still wish to be considered for membership.

Can I be a member of SSC without owning a boat?

You don't have to own a boat to enjoy sailing at Swanage. We have a growing number of one and two person boats for hire to members. Within the fleet we have a large number of two-handed boats whose owners are frequently on the lookout for willing and able crews. In fact, we encourage new members to crew for other sailors as this provides an opportunity to try different classes of boat before purchasing your own. The notice board on the Club Website is the place to offer your services and to find a sail!

Can I sail any boat?

Within reason, provided that it is within your ability to launch and recover the boat safely. We have a wide variety of boats within the fleet, ranging from small monohulls, through asymetrics, to powerful cats. Our preferred classes are Wayfarer, Albacore, Laser, Dart 15/18 , Stratos and Vision

Are non sailing family members welcome at the club?

Our non-sailing members are an important element of the club and do much to ensure its success, often volunteering their services to make things run smoothly. The Club provides a relaxing and safe environment from where to watch the sailing and enjoy the splendid views across the bay. Guests of members can also use the club up to 3 times in any one year.

Can children sail?

We have a very active Junior Sailing section with many planned activities throughout the year. Junior sail training takes place in the spring and the more competent are able to compete in their own race series. There is no minimum age for participation, but parents must be on site at all times.

Can I use the facilities when there is no racing?

Safety Boat cover is only provided for race events and organised cruises. Members are free to use the Club's facilities at any time and can access the changing rooms, galley and club room. Hot water is constantly available for showers. Naturally, the Club cannot accept liability for personal injury arising out of use of the club's facilities, and the members must use their own discretion when deciding whether to sail.

How is club racing organised?

A comprehensive racing calendar is organised at the start of each year and published in the Club Handbook. In addition to 15 separate 'Cup' races, there are weekend and weekday evening Series races. Typically each 'series' comprises 10 races, the best 6 results counting. The racing is handicapped (Portsmouth Yardstick) and all results are computerised. There is one start for Cup races and separate starts for catamarans and monohulls in Series races.

Do I have to enter club racing?

The Club's ethos is to encourage the art of sailing for pleasure and competition. It matters not therefore whether your preference is racing or cruising; it is active participation that counts. With pressure on berthing space, it's a source of frustration that some boats are rarely used. Ideally we want to see all the boats in our fleet in active use; one of the best ways of improving your sailing skills is to participate with the fleet in closely contested races.

What safety cover is available?

All sailors are responsible for their own safety on the water. During organised club events members provide safety cover on a rota basis. Typically there will be a Committee Boat and two or three rescue boats out with the fleet, until all competitors are safely back ashore. We also appoint a Beach Master to oversee the safe launching and recovery of boats. During a race the Beach Master retreats to the clubhouse from where there is an excellent view of the fleet, providing an extra set of eyes on the lookout for boats in difficulty. The Race Officer, Beach Master and safety boats are in continuous radio contact so that their actions are coordinated and safety cover can be directed to where it is needed.

When are the Bar and Galley open?

The bar and galley opens on Thursday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays to coincide with racing. They are open Sunday lunchtime all year round. A range of hot and cold meals/snacks are normally available at these times.

Do I have to do club duties?

Yes, we expect all members to give a few hours of their time to the club each year. You can elect how you would like to help, or leave the decision to the Management Committee. All active sailors are expected to take their turn on the safety boats. Assistance is also required with the running of the bar and galley and major social events. Regrettably we cannot waive duties simply because members live out of town, so this should be taken into account before applying for membership.

Have you got space for my boat?

There is a limit to the number of boats we can accommodate on the beach at the club. When berths become available they are offered to existing members first, as equitably as possible, recognising that not every class of boat will fit in every slot! It is not uncommon for new members to wait 12-18 months for a berth.

How does SSC benefit from its RYA status?

In 2005 Swanage Sailing Club was awarded RYA Training Centre status. We organise and run courses for club members only, accredited to the RYA national sailing syllabus. A full range of sailing and power boat training is offered to both adults and juniors; most courses starting in the spring. Training is not offered to non-members.