

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I contact the club?

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Or visit www.bewlvalleysc.co.uk where you will find information about the current sailing conditions at Bewl, weather forecasts, information about sailing and social activities and other useful information including a 'For Sale' board and lots of albums of photographs.

What boats can I sail at Bewl?

All sailing dinghies under 700 kg with a 6.2 m max length for monohulls and 5.5 m max length for multihulls are accepted. We race the following classes: Enterprises, Flying Fifteens, Lasers, Optimists and Solos. There are also races for Fast and Slow Handicap boats. (Fast handicap boats include asymmetrics such as the RS200, RS400 and RS600, ISO, Buzz, and slow handicap boats include Wayfarers, Toppers, Wanderers, Mirrors & Fevas).

What are the membership categories and costs?

These are listed on the Membership Application Form and on the website and are described in the accompanying leaflet 'Information for Applicants'.

Subscriptions and boat fees can be paid by cheque, paypal, online banking or using a debit or credit card.

I'm new to sailing, do I need any special kit?

Yes, you will need a buoyancy aid – no one can go afloat unless they are wearing one. You will also need a dry or wet suit if you sail between 1 November and 30 April. It is always colder on the water than ashore, and wet suits are often required during the summer, especially if it is windy. Wetsuit shoes or boots are recommended too. Make sure you have a good retainer for your sunglasses or you may lose them if you capsizes!

Can I join without a boat?

Yes, you can hire club boats if you are undertaking a sailing course at BVSC and club boats are also available for hire to adults on other occasions subject to certain conditions. Members looking for crews post their requests on the blackboard at weekends and you can ask the various fleet captains to put out a request if you would like to offer yourself as a crew. This is a good way to meet people too!

I cannot sail yet, what training is available for me and my family?

Dave Radford is our Club Professional who is responsible for the Training Programme and all courses are listed in the BVSC Training Prospectus. There are specific courses for children and adults and these lead to RYA certificates. Dave will also be happy to discuss your individual needs. Children can learn to sail from the age of 8 years.

I will probably buy a boat but would like to try different classes first, is this possible?

Yes, if you are a competent sailor you can hire one of the club boats. It is sometimes possible to crew in races in other boats, or members may take you for a cruise at Bewl. The Class Captains of the fleets will be able to introduce you to different helms and you can discuss the boats. Dave Radford will also be of help in this field.

Can anyone sail or must I take a course here first?

If you have experience of sailing and feel confident you can just join, come along and sail, but if you are unsure you are advised to take one of the courses listed in the BVSC Training Prospectus. If you are a little rusty, then a Saturday course will be ideal. If you want to sail when the Club's support boats are not on duty you must take a Competent Helm course. The details for this are listed in the BVSC Training booklet and on the website.

I am not interested in racing, does this matter?

No, there are many members who just come along to sail and a number of Cruising events are arranged. The 'Midweekers' are a group of members who sail on Wednesdays afternoons. However, even fun or novice races enhance your sailing skills and put you in contact with other members. Family Week (when you can camp too) involves mad games on and off the water for all ages, SCAMPS (Sailing and Camping) weekends have similar activities, and there are other one-off events every year.

How will I know what is going on at the Club?

The website is updated regularly and there is a bi-monthly house magazine, Beaver, which is posted to all members as well as being online. Additionally all members who have email will receive messages from their class captain. There are several noticeboards in the Club House too.

When can I sail?

At Bewl we sail throughout the year. There are support boats on duty on Saturdays and Sundays as well as Bank Holidays, some school holidays, the whole of August, and Wednesday evenings from May until September. Sailing hours are from 9 am till 6 pm or half an hour before sunset, if earlier. If you are a Competent Helm you can sail at any time on any day from 9 am until half an hour before sunset provided that you sign in (and out again!) at the Club Office. (See Competent Helm on the website)

What are the Club Opening hours?

The Club is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am till 6 pm. It is open from 10 am till 3 pm Monday to Friday.

What are the facilities in the Clubhouse and when are they available?

There are changing rooms, lockers for valuables and hot showers available at all times. In the clubhouse, the galley (canteen) and bar are open on sailing days. It is possible to obtain hot drinks from vending machines when the galley is closed. The times of the galley and bar are advertised in Beaver and on the website and, of course, these are when club sailing is going on.

What social activities are available?

These are always advertised on the website, in Beaver and on Club noticeboards. They include dinners, barn dances, Christmas party for children, barbecues etc. Joining the camping weeks and weekends is a great way to meet members. If you hate camping – just register and explain that you will be coming for the daytime only.

What are the facilities for families?

We have a dedicated Youth Coordinator, Jane Crane, who does a great job encouraging our young members.

There are races and training courses and Saturday Clubs for children (and others for adults). Family week in July is very popular and many families return annually. There are several SCAMPS (sailing and camping) weekends over the summer and Youth Week is in August. Wednesday evening is Fish and Chip night at the Galley after evening sailing in the summer months. BVSC sponsors keen young sailors to compete at local and national level. Some RYA coaches are available during the week to give additional training to young sailors

Are there any facilities for handicapped sailors?

Yes, there is an active fleet of disabled sailors called Mariners of Bewl (MOB) and the club has some boats adapted to their needs. See MOB on the website.

Can I bring my other boats to the club, e.g. a canoe or a RIB?

No, only sailing boats without an engine and windsurfers are allowed at Bewl. If you want to row, there is a canoe club at Bewl (www.bewlcanoeclub.co.uk) and a rowing club too (www.bewlrowingclub.co.uk).

Can I bring friends to the club?

Yes, during club opening hours but you must sign them in as guests at the office. Guests may come on a maximum of four occasions per year and after that we wish to get them to join too!! They could become a social member, an associate member or an individual member.

What are the main rules of the club?

There are a number of rules linked to safety and restrictions on our lease. You must wear personal buoyancy at all times when afloat; unless you are a competent helm you can only sail during club hours; some areas of the reservoir are reserved for wildlife; and you may not swim in Bewl Reservoir. There are some obvious parking restrictions too.

We hope that all members will become involved with the club and each member has to undertake a 'duty'. These are listed in the 'Information for Applicants' leaflet and on the website. This duty is not too arduous, is a good way to meet people, and you will be contributing to the volunteer ethos of the Club.

How can I find out about the local campsites, B&Bs and small hotels in the area?

They are frequently advertised on the website, and in the Beaver, and the Office has appropriate lists.