



Deben Yacht Club

Members Handbook

Deben Yacht Club is a registered charity number 1183054



Welcome to the Deben Yacht Club!

This handbook is designed to explain things we think new members would like to know in a question and answer format, if you have a question that is not in here, please let somebody on the committee know and they will try to help you. It's also a source of general information about the club. Any suggestions and ideas are welcome and if you don't tell us there's a problem, we can't fix it.

Good sailing!

1. What are the club facilities?

Ask a club committee member for a tour of the club, including where different boats and their sails are kept, keys, codes, etc. You will find their contact details on the members' card and on the website: <https://www.debenyachtclub.co.uk>

2. Do I need my own boat to go sailing?

No, we have over 30 sailing dinghies for hire at club events which we hope will encourage you to try sailing different boats. They are available at all organized sailing events when there is safety cover. This is for insurance reasons. The following boats are available: Topper Argos, RS Fevas, RS Qubas, Toppers, Wayfarers and a Laser.

For more details - have a look at the Boat Hire Rules on the club website under **Sailing** then **Boat Hire**.

You can of course use your own boat. We have a Dinghy Park where members store their boats for a reasonable annual fee and a rack for kayaks.

3. How can I book a boat for hire?

Just turn up on **Club Sailing** events and you can choose and rig a boat. For other events, either book in advance using the website:

https://www.debenyachtclub.co.uk/wp_dir/sailing/boat-hire/ or just turn up to see what is available on the day.

Any problems, please contact the Club Boats Bosun either at the club or by email boatadmin@debenyachtclub.co.uk



4. How much does it cost to hire a boat?

The cost depends on the type of boat and club event – boats are free for cadet members (apart from Regatta Week) and we make a small charge for adults to encourage people to start sailing without having to buy a boat. More detail is provided online in the Boat Hire Pages.

5. How do you pay for a boat?

You can pay online using PayPal when using the **Boat Hire Calendar** https://www.debenyachtclub.co.uk/wp_dir/sailing/boat-hire where you can use a debit or credit card even if you don't have a PayPal account. You can also pay by cash or cheque on the day at the galley or direct to the NYC current account, details of which are available from boatadmin@debenyachtclub.co.uk

6. How do I report defects/problems, whether it's with boats, the website, changing rooms, etc.?

If there's a problem with a boat, please let us know using the form on the club boat noticeboard in the clubhouse. Report other problems to the galley or Officer of the Day who will contact someone who can help.

7. Launching and Recovering Dinghies

If you're using a club Wayfarer, these are usually on moorings, so you'll need to ask for a lift out to the dinghy on a safety boat. If you're using a boat from the Dinghy Park, then you'll need to use the launching ramp. Get your boat organized in the dinghy park so there's less to do on the ramp where you could be in the way of others. If you're sailing single handed then tie your boat to the ropes on the ramp sides while you park your trolley on the hard, remembering where you left it. When sailing back to the ramp, leading marks on the bank will show you where the edges of the ramp are so you can avoid stepping off into deep water. Don't forget to raise the centreboard.

8. How is the dinghy park organized?

If you have your own dinghy, you'll be allocated a space in the dinghy park. Please put your yearly sticker somewhere visible on your boat so the



membership secretary can see it's in date. If you have a road trailer or road base, you can either keep it under your boat or request an additional space for it, although there is a charge for this. (An additional benefit of keeping your dinghy on its road trailer is that it's less likely to get upturned in a gale!)

9. How about racing?

a. When to arrive?

We suggest you arrive at least 1 hour before the race start to give you time to rig your boat, get changed and get afloat. Race start times are shown on the sailing calendar.

b. How long do races take?

We either have two races, sailed back to back, of about an hour's duration each, or one longer race. Since the Deben is tidal, the start time is between 1 and 3 hours before high tide so we can get boats back before the tide turns. The ebb gathers pace soon after high tide and if there is little wind it can be challenging to get back upriver.

c. Racing fleets

Most of our races use the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick (PY) handicap system so different types of boat can race together; we usually have two fleets: fast and slow.

The Fast Fleet is for boats with a PY above about 1150; such as the Laser, Laser 2, Laser 2000, Laser Vago, RS Vision, RS200, RS300 and RS400. The Slow Fleet is typically comprised of boats such as Toppers, Miracles, Mirrors, RS Qubas and RS Fevas.

d. Race Courses – where to find maps and how to find which course is being used?

The **Course Card** lists about 20 courses and has a map to show the buoys to be rounded for each course. The Officer of the Day (OOD) chooses one suitable for the wind strength and direction. Your course number is shown on a board hung from the Crow's Nest Veranda about 15 minutes before the race start. Races may use Committee Boat starts downriver or start lines from the Crow's Nest



across the river to black and white leading marks on the other side of the river. Nearly all races finish at the club. Paper and laminated course cards are available from the Crow's Nest and a printable version is on the website.

e. What do the flags and hooters mean?

The DYC uses a 5, 4, 1 and 0-minute count down sequence, using flags raised and lowered at the Club House; each flag event is signalled by a klaxon. The **Fast Fleet** starts first; at five minutes the black and white "6" flag is raised, at 4 minutes the Preparatory flag "P" - a blue square with a white centre - is raised. At one-minute P is lowered and at the start "6" is lowered. The slow fleet's five minute, red and white, "F" flag is raised at the same time as 6 is lowered, P goes up and down at 4 and 1 minute respectively and F is lowered at the start of the slow fleet's race.

f. What is an OOD and what do they do?

The **Officers of the Day (OOD)** are experienced volunteers responsible for organizing racing and other events. They open the Club House, choose courses, start and finish the race, record times and calculate the results using the handicap system. They are also responsible for closing the clubhouse and checking that the sheds and dinghy park are secure.

g. If you are available to crew another boat, or if someone needs crew, how can the two get together?

Many of our members have two-person boats and sometimes have need of a crew. We are considering options to have a message board on our website to allow people to connect with potential crews. There is a WhatsApp group called 'DYC General Forum' where you can ask for crew or to crew. If you'd like to join it please e-mail the Honorary Secretary; secretary@debenyachtclub.co.uk Alternatively, pop a message onto the "**For Sale**" board in the Club House. Or, just turn up on the day and see if anyone can help (whether you're looking for a crew or offering to crew!).

h. When is there safety boat cover?

Club events are usually supported by 2 RIB safety boats manned by 2 persons each. There is also a displacement safety boat which is used for directing events



or acting as a committee boat. Club boats may only be hired when there is safety boat cover.

10. What voluntary duties are there?

Safety boat crews, OOD (Officer of the Day) and AOD (Assistant Officer of the Day), Galley team, dinghy and powerboat instructors and the Winter Working Party let the club operate on a self-help basis. At **Club Sailing** we're always looking for help rigging boats and getting them launched and recovered. Members are asked to commit to specific volunteer duties at renewal, ready for the new season.

11. What does each duty entail and what are volunteers expected to do?

The **safety boat crew** helps the safety boat helm from about 1 hour before racing until 1 hour after. You will generally get a free hot drink and meal. See 12 and 13 below.

Officer of the Day (OOD) organizes events and safety boat cover, sets the course, runs the start and finish and works out the results. See also 8 above for how racing is organised. The **AOD (Assistant Officer of the Day)** helps, often operating the flags and keeping an eye on the boats.

Galley help entails providing hot drinks and food in the club house for race days. Each year the Galley Team Leader prepares a rota. Each club event is assigned a galley lead and helper. The Galley lead will arrange the supplies and explain the duty. Galley duty will start before racing and end afterwards with cleaning up the galley. See 15 below.

The Winter Working Party maintains club assets, including the clubhouse, safety boats, club boats and dinghy park. They meet at the club on winter Tuesday mornings at 09.30 and lead hands organize activities.

12. What experience is needed on a safety boat?

Safety Boat crews need no experience; volunteers learn over time and may take qualifications such as RYA Power Boat 2 and Safety Boat Certificates. as you learn you'll do more responsible tasks. Choose what you feel comfortable with and build from there.



13. What clothing is suitable for boat duties (will there be a need to get wet / life jacket or buoyancy aid)?

- a) Warm clothes that are OK to get wet, hat & gloves/mittens, or sun cream in the summer!
- b) Use several thin layers or wet suit & layers to keep warm.
- c) Water and wind-proof jacket and trousers or a spray suit.
- d) Buoyancy aid (it's best to buy your own but you can borrow one from a changing room, Crow's Nest or locker under the key hooks near the Galley.).
- e) Wetsuit boots or other suitable footwear like old trainers (**not** garden wellies).
- f) Towel and a change of clothes in the unlikely event that you get back damp.
- g) One of the safety boat crew should be prepared to go into the water although this is very rare.

14. What should I wear for sailing?

Always wear a buoyancy aid. Layers are good. A long wetsuit with waterproofs to keep the wind off is suitable if it's chilly or windy and a short wetsuit for summer is fine. Don't wear wellies. If you don't have wet-shoes or dinghy boots a pair of trainers or other soft soled shoes work well. If it's sunny wear a sun hat, sun screen and take a bottle of water. If it's cold wear or bring extra layers. There are many good websites to buy kit from and also several chandlers not too far away. At Seamark Nunn at Trimley St Martin, Felixstowe, the DYC gets points every time you shop, so do mention you're a member.

15. Do you need to be able to bake or cook to do Galley duty?

No. The normal fare is sandwiches, rolls, hot dogs, bacon sandwiches, cake and hot & cold drinks. Most basic supplies and drinks are part of Galley stock. Cakes, bread, milk etc. can be bought at places convenient to the volunteer or made at home. We always put a new volunteer with a more experienced helper, so they can "learn the ropes".



16. Who will contact you before your duty, and how long before?

Safety boat, AOD and OOD: We use Dutyman, a computer timetabling system, to manage our duties; this lets you volunteer for duties when you are available and you can swap duties if you change your plans. Dutyman emails information and instructions and the lead helm or OOD will contact you before your duty.

Galley: We will send you the year's rota, information and instructions before the start of the sailing season. This will tell you all you need to know about helping run a Galley session. These documents are also on the Club Website https://www.debenyachtclub.co.uk/wp_dir/theclub/information-for-members/gallery-roster) and in a folder in the galley along with volunteers' contact details. Galley Lead galley@debenyachtclub.com) always contacts galley volunteers in the week before each sailing session, so can answer any queries or pass on useful information.

17. When can I use the clubhouse?

Members, their families and guests may use the clubhouse at almost any time. We have an "honesty box" in one of the galley cupboards near the sink so you can pay for any drinks you make when the galley is unmanned. Milk pots are usually available in the fridge. There may be a private function when the clubhouse is used for a party or meeting a few times a year. Then, please just use the changing rooms or access the pontoon. Access may be restricted if there's a need for emergency maintenance.

18. Can I go sailing any time I like?

If you have your own boat, you can go sailing whenever you want. However, it's important that you've told someone what you're doing. We also like you to record your trip in the "Leisure Sailing" book in the clubhouse. Please do not leave the clubhouse unlocked and remember to take your key fob so you can get back in again!

19. Does the club run any courses?

Yes – dinghy sailing, powerboat and safety boat courses, some early in the season and others later in the year. The club has RYA accredited dinghy and



powerboat instructors but may use outside qualified tutors for aquatic first aid and other courses.

20. How to find out which courses are running and when

We advertise courses by email circulars. Otherwise, contact the club's training team using links on the club website:

https://www.debenyachtclub.co.uk/wp_dir/sail-training/ You can book a course either using the email details or just follow the link.

21. What are 'Club Sailing' and 'Flotilla Sailing'?

Club sailing is an organized event for all abilities with safety boat cover. A sailing area is decided at the briefing beforehand (normally between the club and the island) and everyone attending should sign in and get a coloured wristband that identifies their ability. It's "simply messing about in boats"!

Flotilla Sailing is an organized group sailing together, usually down river to Waldringfield or 'The Tips' for a stop ashore. The OOD decides the destination with the safety boat leader at the briefing and if you'd like to bring a picnic the safety boats will take it for you. The briefing is 15 minutes before setting off, sign on the sheet, and be ready on the water, to go at the appointed time in the programme. You need to be a competent enough helm to keep up with the flotilla but it's not a race and we stay together with the safety boats.

22. Is it possible to have private lessons or go out 'Buddy sailing' to gain confidence?

The club does not provide formal private tuition but if you'd like to have some informal training please e-mail our Dinghy Chief Instructor; ryadinghytc@debenyachtclub.co.uk, who can put you in touch with one of our dinghy instructors or experienced helms. You can also go along to Club Sailing and get some casual, supervised help.

23. Where can I find information about Health & Safety, Club Policies etc.?

This can be found on the website and in folders on the bookcase inside the clubhouse lounge. You can always talk to a committee member.



Deben Yacht Club
www.debenyachtclub.co.uk

