



PORTISHEAD YACHT & SAILING CLUB

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME PACK





Hello and Welcome!

We would like to offer you a warm welcome to PYSC. Having joined the club we hope you've had the opportunity to see us at Sugarloaf Beach and accessed our website and obtained current sailing programme booklet. We realise there is a lot of information, so this is intended to share a few pointers.

What is included

1. The facilities
2. Safety and what to wear
3. Sailing
4. Boats and boat hire
5. Training
6. Duties
7. Cadets
8. Social
9. How the club is run

The Facilities

We are a dinghy sailing club with our own slipway from Sugarloaf beach which is sailable from about two and a half hours before high water to half an hour after. Sailing is made possible by the existence of a back eddy running between Battery Point and the club slipway. We also have the use of Portishead marine lake for our cadet training.

The main room in the club house has a lovely view of the water and a balcony where you can watch the racing and chill out after the race with club members. You are welcome to bring friends with you who may want to watch the racing and we would be very pleased for you to bring fellow sailors to the club who may be interested in joining.

We offer a galley during races which is run by volunteers or may be on a self-service basis. The prices are reasonable and you will always be able to get a cup of tea or coffee and some chocolate. Often volunteers will bring down other treats to purchase.

The male and female changing rooms have shower and toilet facilities. Please note that members of the public do come and go during races so no valuables should be left in the club. We had a few thefts from the changing rooms so please ask where to store any keys etc.

Often before a race, members are engrossed in getting their boats ready to sail but are all still happy to help you or talk to you especially if you give them a hand moving their boats to the slipway.



Safety and what to wear

We have rescue cover on the water during sailing which is manned by club members. We need several people to help launch and retrieve the rescue boat.

Please remember to sign on whether you are racing, cruising or just going for fun and sign off when you get back in. This is because it helps us to know how many boats are on the water and to be certain that you have all arrived back safely.

There are many safety instructions and sailing rules to help keep you safe and we urge you to find time to read the information provided in the sailing programme and talk to members over a drink as they are always happy to share their knowledge.

Our waters are very tidal and we would recommend that you have a chat with members as plenty of members, with many years of experience, will be happy to explain the effect of the tide when sailing these waters.

What to wear –

- I. Buoyancy aid
- II. Suntan lotion
- III. Sunglasses
- IV. Hat and gloves
- V. Suitable warm clothing such as
 - a. Dry or wet suit
 - b. Rash vest
 - c. Wind jacket
 - d. Dinghy sailing boots
- VI. Harness if trapezing

We do have buoyancy which you are welcome to borrow if need be





Our sailing programme runs from April to December and although it is focused around racing, there are also training sessions and cruising. And most importantly anytime there is racing you are welcome to go out and free sail as there will be rescue boat cover – but you still need to sign on so that the rescue is aware you are on the water.

The sailing programme can be found here; <https://www.pysc.org.uk/>

People generally arrive at the club an hour before racing starts and if you ask around people will help out with rigging or locate a club boat for you, or try and find you a helm or crew.

If you are experienced you are welcome to join in any races, just have a word with the OOD (Officer of the Day) if you haven't sailed at Portishead before and they can give you some tips. Especially about the tide!

If you are inexperienced, it's worth making contact with one of the committee (try Sarah Long) and we'll try and arrange for you to crew for someone or for them to keep an eye on you. We have specific sessions for training that are always worth attending. If you want to have a go at racing Class 3 is always a shorter course contained in the bay and is a gentle introduction to racing. Pico's boats are perfect for this.

Cruises are a great opportunity to get involved as the club all head out together to a destination (the Sandbanks, Denny Island...) and we all try and stick together. You could even just come for a ride in the rescue boat if you prefer.

There is a crew wanted page on the website and we also have a facebook group. When you join, we will attach your contact details to a WhatsApp group which you can use to contact fellow sailors for crewing and helming if you wish. Not all members are on this group, but it is a growing communication tool as it is so easy to use.



You could also turn up on the off chance as there can often be other members looking for a sail.






Have a read of P11 of the Sailing Programme for Sailing Advice.

Boats and Boat Hire

If you own your own boat you can hire a space in the compounds. Or you may wish to hire a club boat.

Club Boats

We have a selection of boats for hire;

Boat	Description	No. avail		Cost
RS Vision	2 or 3 man boat. Has an assymetric spinnaker (the purple sail).	3		£15
RS Feva	1 or 2 man boat (great for 2 teenagers). Has an assymetric spinnaker (the yellow sail).	1		£10
Laser	1 man, face racey boat, best for those with some experience.	1		£5
Pico	1 man or 2 kids boat. Easy to handle.	2		£5
Topper	1 teenager or child. Very easy boat to sail.	4		£5

These can be booked out, although it is rarely necessary. Booking diary is in the race hut, money goes in a box in the race hut (next to the kitchen) and you can take a key to unlock them.

Training

We hold some training sessions at the club for any ability. Sometimes a course will be set for people to practice, other times we will just pair people with others who can help them improve. These are a mixture of on water practice and some theory and top tips in the club house.

We will run RYA Level 1 & 2 courses if we get sufficient interest; these will be run in the Marina and on the sea depending on the conditions. If there is not sufficient take up we can suggest courses in Bristol where you can learn the basics in a weekend.

We will always endeavour to help new members learn to sail in an informal setting, through providing crewing opportunities and access to our easy single handed fleet.

We also run rescue practical and theory sessions and Officer of the Day training at the beginning of the season. Where we have enough partakers, we have also run first aid, VHF radio and RYA instructor assistant courses.



Some of our members have also been on dinghy sailing holidays with

www.minorcasailing.co.uk

www.neilson.co.uk/Sailing

www.rockley.org/watersports

www.plasmenai.co.uk/courses/

Duties

The club relies on its members to do duties to function. There are mainly four types of duty;

- Officer of the Day (OOD). The person who sets the course and is overall in charge. Needs experience of sailing and to know the sailing area.
- Rescue Helm. In charge of the rescue boat. Competent at driving and recovering sailing boats in all conditions.
- Rescue Crew. Supports the rescue helm. Has completed the safety boat training course provided by the club.
- Galley. Makes tea and coffee and a mean bacon butty. Bakes a cake if possible. Is smiley.

If you join in the middle of the year you won't be assigned any duties, but if you offer to cover a duty for someone anyway you will make a friend for life.

Rescue boat training generally happens at the beginning of the year and then you can be assigned to rescue boat crew as well as galley. You will be assessed for competency as part of the training so please do not feel that you will be asked to do something beyond your experience. Check the sailing programme at the beginning of the year for your duty dates.

Generally, most individuals will get rostered for no more than 5 duties a year, but if this will cause a significant problem please get in touch with the General Committee.

There are instructions on what is expected of each of the duties in the sailing programme.

Inevitably you will need to swap duties at some stage, and this can be done via the website or facebook.



Winter Working Parties

From January to April on Sunday mornings members meet to help with club maintenance. Jobs include gardening, cleaning, mending boats, recovering buoys, mending fences, installing boilers etc. If you have any particular skills it would be great to know them and they would be extremely welcome, otherwise a pair of gardening gloves and some elbow grease will suffice.

Cadets

Cadets aims is to teach a range of sailing skills to our junior members in the safe environment of the Lake Grounds and when the time is right introducing them gradually to the more challenging conditions found off of the club at Sugar Loaf Beach.

PYSC through its association with Training Saints is an RYA accredited training centre and a qualified volunteer instructor team is in place for each session. By following the RYA Youth Scheme syllabus in teaching the Cadets to sail or improve their skills we are able to award RYA certificates.

We will aim to get kids onto the water and into cadets as soon as they join the club. However, RYA level courses may have a waiting list.

Saturdays - 9.30am - at the Lake grounds. Following the RYA syllabus with volunteer instructors. If the conditions are suitable (tide and wind) we will sometimes aim to hold the Saturday session at the club. There may be a waiting list for this session.

Thursdays (in the summer) - 6-8pm at the Lake grounds. This is an informal opportunity for kids (or adults) to get out on the water in a safe environment. No formal instruction is in place and adults must stay with children. There will always be someone about who can provide some advice and help rig the boats when this session is running.

For both sessions we will email and facebook if sessions are cancelled or not in the usual place - keep an eye out for notifications. Email Tony March on cadets@pysc.org.uk if you want to be added to the cadets mailing list.

We always need adult volunteers to help whether this is moving, launching or recovering boats or helping with the sailing instruction. If you are interested please let us know!



Socials

The main social of the year is in January when we hold our Annual Dinner Dance and Prize Giving - a great excuse for a black-tie bash.




We also try and hold a few socials in the pubs around Portishead throughout the year.

Keep an eye on facebook or the weekly club emails for announcements about socials.

Some sailing events culminate in a BBQ or American supper and even sail to Shirehampton sailing club for a bbq.

Sources of Information

The Sailing Club Programme	If you haven't got one, try and pick one up when you are at the club. There is lots of information about the sailing programme, duties, club boats and rules and regulations
The PYSC website	https://www.pysc.org.uk/ 
The PYSC Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/20329926672/ This is a closed group, so notices only go to people who have joined up. It's a useful tool for communicating, but not all the members use it, so don't expect any notices to reach everyone
The PYSC weekly newsletter	This should hit your inbox once you're a member. Have a quick scroll through for any new announcements or changes to the programme each week.

How the Club is run?

The club is run entirely by volunteers who make up the committees.

The General Committee (GC) is responsible for membership, safety and the club facilities.

The Sailing Sub Committee (SSC) are responsible for sailing, training and boats.

We always need more hands to help out so welcome new volunteers to become part of either committee. Or if you feel you have time and/or skills to offer but don't necessarily want to be on the committee, please contact us.

The two committees meet monthly and make decisions for the benefit and functioning of the club. If you have any suggestions for club management, please email one of the GC who will raise them at the next meeting.

The AGM is held in October each year (see programme booklet for date) at The Royal Inn and is a chance to consult all membership on any proposed changes to the club.

Anything Else?

If you've got any other questions, feel free to email anyone on the committee (details in the front of the sailing programme) and we'll do our best to help. The main thing is just to come and get stuck in. The more time you spend standing on the balcony the more you'll learn about sailing!

See you on the water soon.

Here are a few pics of some club members who will always help you out. There are more on the board in the clubhouse

General Committee - look after facilities and members



Dave Herbert
Commodore



Anne Clubb
Secretary



Rod Hoare
Treasurer



Stephen Brooks
Webmaster



Brenda Romans
Membership Sec



Steve Gill
Vice Commodore



Mike Chorlton
Rear Commodore
& Chair Sailing Sub



Jonathan Cooper

(some of the) Sailing Sub Committee - look after sailing programme and boats



Chris Romans



Colin Jarvis



Andrea Willcocks

Other Friendly Faces



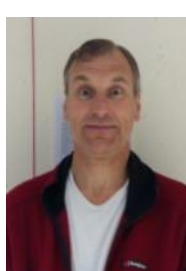
Andy Willcocks



Christine Jarvis



Paul Roberts



John Clark



John Whitehead