



Information for Members

Welcome

Welcome to Locks Sailing Club! Whether you are completely new to LSC, a returning member, or someone who would like to get more involved, we hope this pack will give you a bit more information to help you get the most from being a member.

Locks is a 'self-help' club with a long history of competitive dinghy sailing in Langstone Harbour. We are a small, friendly club, with no paid staff, which helps to keep our costs low and means that the club very much belongs to, and is run by, members. All the running of the club, from the organisation of sailing to the socials, bar and administration behind the scenes, is done by volunteer members. By everyone doing their bit in whatever way they can, we keep the club active and affordable for local people wanting to get involved in sailing.

Sailing

Sailing Calendar

The sailing calendar is published on our website (www.lockssc.co.uk) before the start of the sailing season in early March. The main calendar of sailing is from March to end September, however we also have an Autumn Series from October to December. Our events include a mixture of racing including low water races out of harbour, inter-club races and regattas and short sprint races. We also have junior sessions where junior members can come along with parents and develop their skills, and family fun days.

Racing

Locks SC prides itself on being an enthusiastic racing club. If you want to participate in the scheduled races, the sailing instructions are given on our website under Sailing=>Sailing Instructions, so take time to familiar yourself with these. The starting procedures for races are also listed under the Sailing => Race-Starting subsection of the Locks website.

If you don't have your own boat to race yet, Club boats are permitted to take part in the Club races when booked (see booking process below). For members new to racing who would like to get involved, there are usually fellow Club members on the lookout for crew, so if you want to get some racing experience without having to go-it alone, then contact the Sailing Secretary to get in touch with seasoned members looking for crew.

Junior Section

Locks SC has a Junior section which meets regularly during the Summer months (April to beginning of September) at both evenings and weekends. There is dedicated committee representation for the

Juniors and communications of the schedule for the Junior specific events is handled via the Juniors subsection on the Locks website.

The sessions offer children from the ages of 8 to 18 an opportunity to improve their sailing skills, learn how to race and, most importantly, have fun. The sessions are not aimed at the complete beginner but parents are welcome to use these sessions to teach their children to sail at a time when there are rescue boats and other children around. Portsmouth Watersports Centre also offers a range of courses for non-sailors and improvers.

There are also specific events on the Locks regular race calendar which are open to Juniors once they have achieved the required level of ability where they can competently participate.

Non-organised Sailing

As a member you are welcome to sail at any time. If you go out alone, we strongly recommend you let someone know when you expect to be back, and then let them know when you have returned. Remember to lock the club house and gates when you go out.

Club Compound

As you will have spotted, our compound is pretty small! However a large majority of boats in the compound are used regularly. We need to keep it this way as we don't have space for 'boat storage'. Our Bosun does a great job of making the best of the space, so if you want to keep your boat in the compound, please talk to him first to make sure there is space. Sometimes boats need to be moved around the compound for space reasons, so occasionally you may find your space has moved – it shouldn't be too hard to find your boat though!

Use of Club Boats

We have a number of club boats that can be used by members. There is currently no charge for this – something we are keeping under review – but we do ask that you make a donation towards their upkeep, particularly if you make use of them regularly. To book a boat there is an online system. This allows you to see whether a boat has been booked out in advance. **Please make sure you also note down any defects in the Dinghy Log Book in the race signing in box.** This is essential to tell us about repairs that need doing and to keep them in good condition. Our Dinghy Bosun is doing a fantastic job of regular repair and maintenance so please help him by filling this in.

Non-members sailing

If you bring a visitor to the club, for example to crew for you, they must be signed into the visitors book in the club house. A non-member can be signed in as a guest 6 times in any calendar year, after which they must apply to become a member.

Social

Bar

The bar is run by our Committee Member (Bar). We need volunteers to help open the bar which we aim to do after sailing sessions and at social events.

Club House

The Club House can be 'hired out' by members for private social use when it is not in use for club events. The [club house calendar](#) can be found on the website and all booking can be done through the Committee Member (Bar). We do not make a charge for this, it is a benefit of membership, but we do ask that you make a donation towards covering the additional running costs, the member must be on site at all times, visitors must sign in the visitors book and the intended use must be in keeping with the ethos and aims of the club.

There is a 'conditions and procedures for bookings' information on the website under 'club info/clubhouse calendar'

Social events

We have a number of social events through the year including a 'start of season social' in early Spring and a dinner and dance and prize giving around November. There are regular Quizes held a couple of times per-month on Saturday evenings and the dates for these are signed behind the bar and are also listed on the Social Calendar.

Look out for details on emails and the website, and if you would like to organise something, we would love to hear from you!

The Locks bar is usually open from 8pm every Friday evening even when there is no scheduled sailing planned for those members who just fancy an informal social evening with a few drinks.

Visitors/ Guests

Non-members can attend club events as guests. Please remember to sign your guests into the visitor's book in the club house. Visitors can be introduced as guests up to 6 times in any 12 month period.

Communications and organisation

Members meetings

In accordance with our constitution, a QGM, or AGM is held in October, January, April and July. These are open to ALL members and are the formal way for you to have your say in the running of the club and to vote . The AGM is also the time to vote in Committee members.

There is also an 'end of season wash up' at the end of the sailing season, to gather members' views on what is working well and what we need to consider for next year.

However, as a small, informal club, there are plenty of opportunities to talk to Committee members and make suggestions – most of us are regularly at the club and email addresses are available on the website.

The full list of Committee Members is on the club notice board and on the website.

Lots more information is available on Locks SC website including the full Club Rules, the Sailing Calendar and photos and news. You will also receive regular emails with news and information about events, or requests for help and our Face Book page is regularly updated with information and photos.

We hope this has been a useful guide and look forward to seeing you on the water!

Locks Sailing Club Committee

