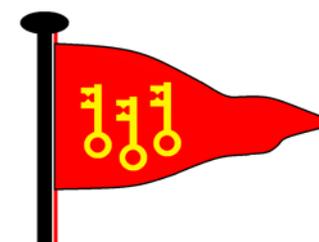


ELY SAILING CLUB

Founded 1946



WELCOME PACK

Roswell Pits

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www.elysailingclub.org

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Welcome to Ely Sailing Club

The Commodore, committee and all members of the club would like to extend you a warm welcome to our friendly and family orientated Sailing Club.

Ely Sailing Club was started in 1946 and is based at the Roswell pits, near to the centre of Ely. We have over 40 acres of attractive fresh water with islands, trees and banks. The sailing is always interesting, challenging and fun. There is dry launching directly from jetties, and crews are able to sail without getting their feet wet. We are a recognised Royal Yachting Association training centre for [sailing](#) and [powerboating](#), and have been awarded RYA Champion Club status for our race coaching. The club is family orientated and run by its members, for its members, with good value and enjoyment for all.

The area has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England in recognition of the geology and wetland habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

The club is run by its members for its members, in order to ensure that everyone gets as much from the club as possible, whilst keeping prices and costs as low as possible. The club is a non-commercial organisation and has no staff. Therefore, one commitment of your membership is to help run the club itself. You will be allocated a duty up to around 4 times a year to run or assist the activities on that day. The club is not able to function without you, and this is also a great opportunity to get to know other members much better.

The aim of this welcome pack is to be the first port of call for any questions you may have or any help you may require. The pack is split into sections to allow you to easily find the information you require. But as always at Ely Sailing Club, if you need any help or have any other questions just ask! If you have any suggestions as to how the club could improve its services, please pass them on to the committee as the club is always looking for positive ways to develop

In order to keep up to date and receive any important club announcements, please add donotreply@dutyman.biz and esc@webcollect.org.uk to your address books or Contacts. This is to prevent them going to 'Spam' and to ensure you receive communications from the club and know exactly what is going on.

Club Members

Club members enjoy the privilege of sailing on the delightful Roswell Pits. Members are able to take part in organised sailing races or just to sail for pleasure (social sailing), and have the use of the clubhouse and bar during appropriate sessions.

There are boats for hire to members and sailing and race training courses are arranged regularly.

At the end of each year we celebrate the season with our Laying up Supper, when race winners, model yacht racing winners and social sailors, as well as other deserving members receive their awards.

Each year a calendar is published:

- on the website [homepage](#)
- as brochures at the club
- on [Dutyman](#) – the club's duty allocator

The Role of the Committee

The committee is made up of elected club members and is there to ensure that the club runs smoothly and that the needs of club members are met.

The committee members always welcome your views and suggestions and will try to answer any questions you have or give you any help you need. A suggestions book is found on the bar for all members to pass messages to the committee.

For details of the current committee and how to contact the members, please see the current club calendar, the website [contact page](#), or the photo frame in the clubhouse.

A Club Season

Our sailing race season is generally from April until the end of October and social sailing takes place in the summer months. Please see the current calendar for the appropriate dates. Rescue cover is provided for all nominated club events between the times as detailed in the calendar. As a member you will be expected to take your turn at manning the rescue boats or assisting at the club.

<p>Thursday Nights</p> <p>Introduction to Racing and “food” night, sailing from 6pm.</p> <p>Thursday nights are club nights and provide an ideal opportunity to relax by going for a social sail or to try out new techniques and to experiment. If you don’t fancy taking the helm it is still worth checking out what is going on, club members are always looking for crews. The club also stages short dinghy races. This is a great opportunity to learn and to get into racing – it is great fun and everybody is welcome to join in. Simple courses are set to make the racing easier.</p> <p>After the sailing why not stay for food and a chat, over a drink from the bar.</p>	<p>Friday Nights</p> <p>Social sailing, starting from 6:30pm.</p> <p>Running from around the middle of May to the Middle of August, the Friday evening social sailing sessions are ideal after a long hard week at work. Members can come down and sail in the glorious evening sunlight relieving all the stress of the week.</p> <p>An experienced rescue boat driver and sailor is on hand to answer any questions, help you rig, aide where you require, and even provide coaching if you want some!</p>
<p>Saturdays</p> <p>Social sailing from 1.30 pm until 5 pm</p> <p>Social sailing runs from spring until the autumn. There is normally no racing on Saturday afternoons. This social sailing session is available for you to enjoy a nice relaxing afternoon on the water or to improve your sailing techniques. You can use this opportunity to try out the different types of boat available at the club, it is also a chance to sail with other people and perhaps get some help or advice from other club members.</p> <p>As always at Ely Sailing Club, just ask!</p>	<p>Sundays</p> <p>Start at 1 pm or as otherwise stated in the club calendar.</p> <p>Sundays are for club racing. Everybody is welcome to join the club racing series or any of the various trophy events throughout the season. Check the calendar for dates and times.</p> <p>Club boats eligible to join in the racing are available to hire. There may also be club members looking for crew, which can be a great way to get into racing and begin ‘learning the ropes’.</p> <p>Other events may be held during the season, please see the calendar, website and social media for details.</p>

Other Events

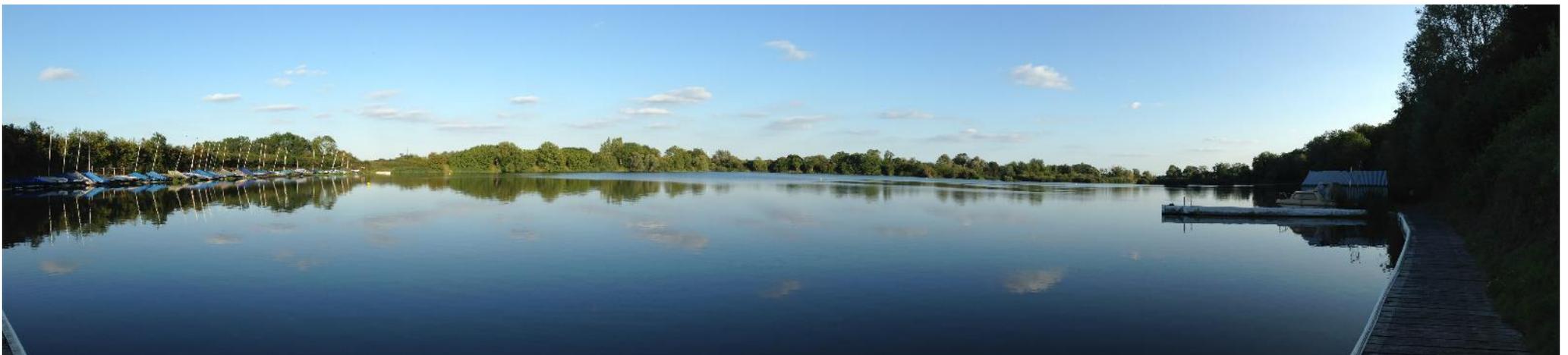
Open Meetings

Open meetings are races open to sailors from outside of our club, as well as our own members. Most races are part of a regional class series. Annual meetings are held for Topper, Laser and Solo classes, as well as the Youth League. The Cambridgeshire Youth League is a series open to cadets under 18 years old consisting of 5 events at Cam, Grafham, Ely, Hunts and Paxton throughout the year. Ely has a strong cadet squad and new cadets are more than welcome to join. Open Meetings are competitive and to a higher standard, so even if you don't join in, why not come along to watch? Help from members is also always appreciated at these busy times.

Club boats may be hired if you wish to join in at Open Meetings or the Youth League.

Non-Sailing Events

Check the calendar, [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for social events, like our summer barbecue or the spring social. On previous years we have met for ten-pin bowling followed by a Chinese take away in the clubhouse afterwards for our season opening social. In addition to the laying up supper at the end of the sailing season, mentioned in the introduction, we also organise a Christmas lunch at the clubhouse. Further social events may be organised, so it is worth checking the above for announcements and details.



Radio Controlled Model Yachts

Ely Sailing Club has a model yacht fleet. Sailing and racing takes place throughout the year. The summer season runs from April to September and takes place on a Tuesday evening from 6pm until dusk. The winter season takes place on Saturday afternoons during the dinghy sailing off season.

The predominant fleet is made up of Phantom class yachts. For further information please contact the [fleet captain](#).

Winter Working Parties

We try to get any maintenance jobs out of the way during the winter. From early January until the end of March, we meet every Sunday from 10.30am until the early afternoon.

The work can include all sorts of things from tidying up the clubhouse and clearing invasive weeds, to repairing fences or boats. To keep subscription costs down, club members carry out the jobs in their free time, but the club does provide lunch and lots of tea! You can join as many or as few working parties as you like and no special skills are required. All help is greatly appreciated and you will find this a good way to get to know other members. By keeping on top of the maintenance jobs we ensure we have a nice and tidy clubhouse, grounds and good boats for us all to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is normally held in late November. This is a good place to find out about future club plans and is a further opportunity to have your say and to elect the committee and Fleet Captains for the ensuing year. Please refer to the current club calendar for the date in the current season.

Fleet Captains

The Fleet Captains are a good source of information about either the class you sail or are thinking about sailing. They can advise you on class events, boat rigging tips, sailing tips and what to look for and where to look if you are thinking about buying a boat of your own (also see the Progressing Your Sailing section of this pack). Fleet information and captains can be found [here](#).

Club Boats

Hire of Club Boats

During club sailing sessions, Ely Sailing Club Sailing Members may hire and helm a club boat providing they have the relevant experience for the conditions.

We have a variety of boats available from single-handed Toppers to larger Wayfarers. See the club website and the notice board for information on the current club fleet. The Officer of the Day or the Rescue Officer will be able to advise you on which boat will be suitable on the day.

The club boats are hired on a first come first served basis on the day. If you want to sail a particular boat please arrive promptly.

The hire price is for the whole sailing session. Prices are available in the clubhouse and [here](#).

Use of Club Boats

Club boats may be sailed during organised sessions, when rescue cover is provided. Payment must be made and the hire book signed by a member of the committee prior to commencing rigging. The club boats are stored on the first set of berths.

If you are unsure how to rig or want some advice about sailing a different class of boat please speak to the Officer of the Day or relevant Fleet Captain.

Rigging demonstrations are held during the season and rigging guides are available in the clubhouse and online but as always at Ely Sailing Club, if you need help just ask. One very important rigging tip though is, never stand in the hull when the boat is not in the water, as your foot WILL go through the hull!

The club boats are for all of us so please look after them and ensure that when you are finished, they are put back where you found them, with covers on and tied down. Please also ensure the sails are as dry as possible, rolled as appropriate for the type of sail and returned to the same location where you found them. If in doubt ask! If you don't find a boat in the condition you would expect, please inform the Officer of the Day. In sailing, incidents do occur and things can get broken, lost or dropped in the water. If something does happen please report it to the Officer of the Day and fill in the relevant section of the hire book. That way the issue can be sorted out prior to the next person hiring boat (which may be you!).

Safety

Ely Sailing Club meets all the requirements of safety for Royal Yachting Association member clubs and safety is the highest priority of the club. The club is inspected on an annual basis to ensure standards are maintained.

Fortunately accidents and incidents are very rare in dinghy sailing but a few simple rules and precautions make it safer and more enjoyable for all of us.

Safety Around The Club

Incidents occur more frequently around the clubhouse and berths than on the water.

A few common things to look out for:

1. **Keep It Tidy.** Please ensure the area you are in is clean and tidy and if an item is obviously a trip hazard move it out of the way.
2. **Don't Run** as you may go round a corner to find a mast coming your way! Areas of the clubhouse may be slippery due to water on the floor. Mops etc. are available. If you see an issue you don't feel you can solve please raise it to the Officer of the Day.
3. **Wear Thick-Soled Footwear.** Due to the nature of the site, some areas have a high volume of spikey undergrowth that can get into feet or cut legs etc.
4. **Be Careful On The pontoons,** as there are gaps between the pontoons and the banks that can trap your foot and possibly twist ankles, so please be careful where you place your feet.
5. Please ensure **children under 17 are supervised at all times** either by **yourself or a nominated responsible adult** that you have arranged.
6. **Hygiene.** Please use the washing facilities that are available in the changing rooms and in the kitchen.
7. **Cover Cuts.** Due to the possibility of waterborne infections please wash and cover all cuts. If you have flu like symptoms then please visit your doctor and tell them you have been near open water.

Safety on the Water

1. **Training.** The best way to ensure safety on the water is to have the right training and experience for the conditions. Even if you consider yourself experienced, the club recommends you take part in the sailing courses offered so you have the knowledge to cope with situations which can arise when dinghy sailing.
2. **Buoyancy Aids** must be worn when on the water. Having your own well-fitting 50N buoyancy aid, made to an international standard, is recommended. The club have some that can be borrowed; these are stored in the Sail Store. Please make sure the one you use is a good fit (if in doubt ask) and also return it as you found it for the benefit of other club members.
3. **Children** must always wear buoyancy aids past the top gate leading down to the pontoons and berths etc. It is also highly recommended all adult club members do the same.
4. **Rescue Cover** is in place for all club events as notified in the calendar. Club boats cannot be sailed without rescue cover in place. Please follow all instructions received from the Rescue Officer and Officer of the Day. Make sure the boat and conditions are suitable for you to sail in. If in doubt ask!
5. **Private Boat Owners** may also sail their own boats at other times but make sure the conditions are suitable. The club strongly recommends this is done with others so if you have difficulty help is at hand. There is **no** rescue cover provided out of hours.
6. **Clothing.** Make sure you are dressed and equipped for the conditions. If you feel that you are getting cold then head for the warmth of the clubhouse. At all times of the year be aware of exposure, as water has a vastly increased cooling effect than air. In the summer watch for sunburn and dehydration (water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink!).
7. Most medical conditions do not stop you from sailing but if you do have a condition e.g. diabetes, angina, asthma etc. please inform the Rescue Officer and Office of the Day to ensure an extra eye is kept on you!

If An Incident Does Occur

Stay calm and seek advice from the Rescue Officer or the Officer of the Day. Other members are also happy to assist you in times of need. The First Aid kit and Accident Book is found in the kitchen cupboard immediately left of the hand washing basin. The club telephone has instructions for contacting the emergency services. All rescue boats have safety equipment on board.

Duties

The club assigns various duties to members during the year. These duties are for the main roles required in running a sailing session. Please look at the club calendar as this details the dates a duty is required and which duty is assigned to what club member. If a duty has been assigned to you and you can't make it, it is **your responsibility** to ensure you find someone else to replace you. Please ensure you arrive in good time for your duty so the sailing session can start on time. The club uses [Dutyman](#) to allocate, send reminders and to allow members to swap duties with one another to more suitable days. Once new members have been allocated a duty by the calendar organiser (often not in the first year as duties are allocated during the close season, but volunteers are helpful for dates where a volunteer is required as stated by Dutyman), they will have an account set up on Dutyman and will receive login details.

Officer of the Day

The Officer of the Day runs the sailing session. On a race day they will organise and run the races and will ensure club boats are signed out and paid for. For social sailing they will also provide assistance to the Rescue Officer and provide general assistance to other club members. For any type of sailing session please follow the Officer of the Day's instructions.

Rescue Officer

The Rescue Officer's main role is to provide rescue cover on the water, please also follow any instructions they give you. The rescue officer will have completed an RYA Level 2 Power Boat course.

Assistant

The Assistant's main role is to provide support to the Rescue Officer on the water; giving them an extra pair of hands and providing help to get capsized sailors into the rescue boat and to move marks and buoys for racing etc. Before the sailing starts the Assistant may also help the Officer of the Day to prepare the Starter's Box.

On a Saturday, the Assistant may also provide support by looking after the clubhouse, taking money etc.

A **Walkthrough Guide For Duties** can be found [here](#).

Club Etiquette

To ensure everyone gets the most out of being a club member the following is a guide to the Etiquette at Ely Sailing Club.

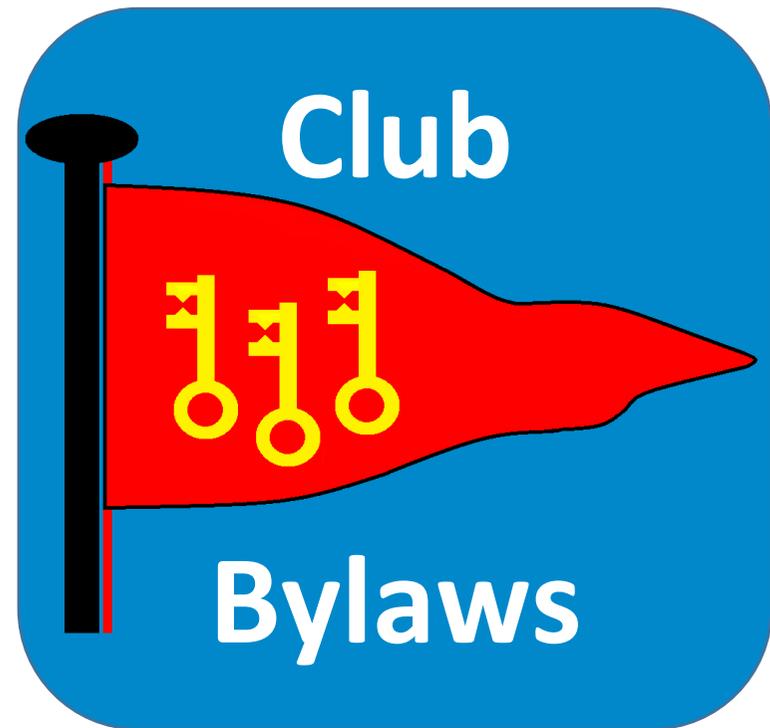
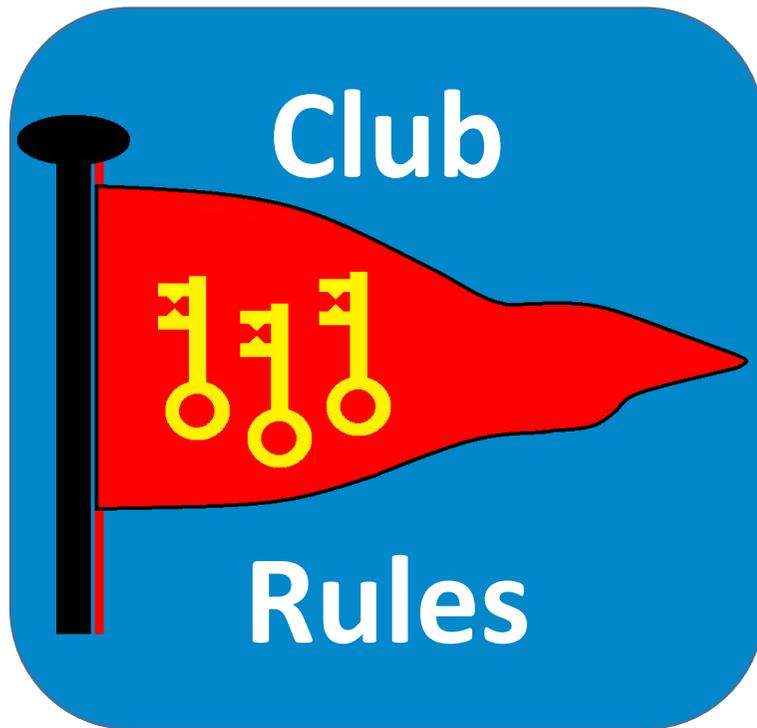
- In the Clubhouse, you are welcome to use the club crockery etc. but please wash up after yourself. The cleaner doesn't do it so it will eventually have to be done by other club members when the cupboard becomes bare!
- Please tidy up after yourself. If you come into the clubhouse dripping after sailing or any time and get water on the floor, please mop it up to prevent others or yourself from slipping.
- If you borrow any club items please return them to where you found them.
- Breakages do happen, if you find anything damaged please tell the Officer Of the Day.
- Please don't run on the walkways near the water.
- While at the club, all children under 17 must be supervised by a nominated responsible adult.
- No deliberate swimming, getting run over by a boat hurts.
- All members should promote 'Clubmanship'.

A copy of the club Rules and Bylaws can be found on the website [here](#) under Membership – Documents.



Club Rules

The links below take you to a copy of the club rules and bylaws, located on the Membership page of the website, under the heading 'Documents'.



Progressing Your Sailing

Ely Sailing Club offers many ways to progress your sailing. Please look for notices in the clubhouse, on the calendar, club website or speak to the [Training Co-ordinator](#) to find out more.

Courses on offer include RYA Sailing Level 1 and 2 and Stage 1, 2 and 3 for cadets/juniors. Training dates for [Sailing Courses](#) can be found on the website. In addition, [Powerboat Level 2 and Safety Boat](#) courses can be undertaken. Race training for cadets and adults is also available upon request. Other courses include: racing rules evenings, rigging demonstrations, dinghy recovery techniques for the rescue boat drivers, and [First Aid](#).

Other ways to progress include:

- Sailing and crewing with other club members.
- Sailing other boat classes.
- Ask to help the rescue boat driver or the Race Officer to see how 'it works'.
- Starting to race.
- Taking part in the Cambs Youth League, if you are lucky to be young enough.
- Taking Part in Open events both at Ely and at other clubs.
- Joining the Royal Yachting Association (RYA).
- Read some of the sailing media available.
- Visit the RYA Dinghy Show to see hundreds of sailing boats, attend talks, speak to fellow sailors and purchase sailing gear.
- There are also a lot of resources on the internet.



Buying / Owning Your Own Boat

Ely Sailing Club has a limited number of berths available for rent to members with their own boat. If you wish to rent a berth please speak to the [Membership Secretary](#) regarding availability.

Due to the size and conditions at Roswell Pits some boats are not suitable for racing. As a general rule a hiking dinghy of up to fourteen feet in length should be suitable. Classes raced at Ely include: Topper, Laser, 2000, Gull, Enterprise, Pico, Solo, Mirror, Graduate, Comet, Streaker, GP14 and Miracle. If you have or are thinking of buying a dinghy different to these, please contact the [secretary](#) for a decision confirmation of its suitability.

If you are thinking about buying a boat it is worth having a look at those sailed at Ely Sailing Club and speaking to the Fleet Captains and other club members before deciding what is suitable for you. Try sailing the club boats to get an idea of what you like. There are plenty of options around, both classic and new dinghies. When you have narrowed down your list it may be worth chatting to the relevant class associations about the boats and what to look for when buying one. Once you have made up your mind, there are some very good websites available for seeing what boats are for sale.

Finally don't forget insurance. In line with other sailing clubs, to berth and sail your boat at Ely Sailing Club you need to have at least relevant third party insurance of a minimum of £3 million pounds. There are many dinghy insurance providers that can be found on the internet.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I hire the clubhouse?

A: Members may hire the clubhouse for private functions. This is done at a very reasonable charge but is at the discretion of the general committee. Please speak to the Membership Secretary or the Honorary Secretary (contact details: [here](#)).

Q: Can I bring guests?

A: The club has no objections if you bring guests to watch. Guests can also sail with you during the social sailing sessions on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons. If you race and would like to sail with a guest this is fine for up to three race sessions a year per guest. If this becomes more frequent then we would like your guest to join our Club. Any guest you bring must be signed in via the Guest Book, which is kept behind the bar.

Q: When is the Bar open?

A: The bar is subject to the current applicable licensing laws. It is generally open at the end of sailing on a Thursday evening, a Sunday afternoon or after an Open Meeting. It is also open for club events such as the Spring Social, Annual General Meeting or Christmas Dinner.

Q: How is my membership renewed?

A: Subs are due before the start of the season. The Membership Secretary will email you via WebCollect detailing membership prices for the season and enclosing the renewal form. Our membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December meaning renewals occur between the 1st January and the start of the season in April. Alternatively, you can renew your membership [here](#) for the following year after the 1st January.

Q: How do I update my contact details?

A: Visit [WebCollect](#) and login to your account. Then you can change your details, addresses or passwords under the 'My Profile' section.

Q: What is the Clubhouse phone number?

A: 01353 667830