

Learning to Sail at ELSC

Frequently Asked Questions



I'm interested in sailing is there someone I can talk to about it?

Yes. We are always happy to talk about the sport that we love and want others to experience, we do understand how difficult it can be to pick up a phone and ring a stranger to ask what you might think are silly questions. Firstly, they won't be silly and secondly we actually would like to talk to you as we'd like to know what you would like to achieve from your sailing, that way we can help find the best path. So if you'd like to email then our email address is on the website on the contact page. We're genuinely looking forward to hearing from you.

I've never sailed before but would like to give it a go - is this possible at ELSC?

Yes. This is the most frequent question and we are very familiar with introducing new people to their first experience of sailing. There are a number of events across the year specifically for new starters. We run the RYA Push the Boat Out days here once a year but if you can't make that we also have taster sessions which often run on request. They usually last just a few hours and you will sail with either an instructor or an experienced club helm.

I have some access needs but would like to sail, can you help?

Yes and how we can help largely depends on your access needs. The club is part of the RYA Sailability initiative and we own a Hansa 303 Access dinghy. So email us using the address on the contact page of the website and we can talk about your needs and how we can help you.

Is a dinghy sailing event safe for children?

Sailing is an adventurous activity and as such does carry some risk. So although no sailing activity is deemed to be totally safe, when the appropriate safety precautions are taken then sailing can be as safe as any other adventurous activity. We hold an RYA Push the Boat Out event once a year and can also arrange Taster events for children in the same way as we would for adults. We also hold informal sailing sessions for juniors on Sunday mornings from Easter onwards.

Do you run training courses at ELSC?

Yes. ELSC is an RYA Recognised Training Centre and we run a variety of RYA beginners and intermediate courses across the year. These courses are nationally recognised and on successful completion you will be awarded a certificate showing your progression.

Do I need to be a 'Club Member' to take part in the beginner's events?

No. Beginners' events are open to the public and are to encourage new people to experience sailing and consider sailing as a future pastime and sport. Oh yes, and to have a really great time while doing it!

Do you have any women only sailing events?

Yes. We have a group called 'Ladies Who Launch'. The group is run by women for women and they meet once a fortnight across the sailing season. There may still be men and other women (who are not part of this group) present at the club during meetings but they will not be part of the group's sailing activities.

Will the club help me choose a dinghy to buy?

Many club members have different dinghies which you can get to look at and talk to their owners, they will all have their own words of wisdom for you, and their suggestions based on your aims, ability, height, weight and many more factors. So although the club does not give specific advice on buying a dinghy, you'll find it very difficult not to get advice from the members!