

Ladies Who Launch An Introduction and Invite



Ladies who Launch aims to encourage more women into sailing and provide a fun and supportive “ladies only” learning environment.

Many sailing clubs are male dominated environments and typically, where women already sail as dinghy crew, many do not choose to helm, or perhaps have limited opportunity to helm. As a result many women are missing an opportunity to build sailing confidence which may be adding to their reluctance to helm - reducing their sailing confidence even further.

Ladies who Launch aims to break this cycle to generate as many confidence-building opportunities as possible for women to sail and to helm. To do this, we have created a calendar of fortnightly events for ‘Ladies Who Launch’ which provides the opportunity to sail, learn, have fun and socialise with other like-minded women.

With thanks to Lottery Funding Ladies who Launch are proud owners of two Hartley 12.2 dinghies with main sail, jib and asymmetric spinnaker giving us light and fast dinghies with enough sail configurations to provide good quality sail training opportunities. As an added benefit our dinghies are light and easy to handle on land, too. We also have the use of existing Club boats, allowing for solo sailing for ladies up for the challenge.

Since our first sessions (back in 2015) the Ladies who Launch group has gone from strength to strength. Skills have improved, we now have a fully qualified lady at the helm of the Safety Boat, and new members have become good friends. But we don’t want to stop there. The Hartley boats are now in full use, and we’re trying out other dinghies available at the Club so there’s plenty of room for new friends! Ladies who Launch would like to extend membership, free of charge for the first three visits, to women who are not members of ELSC but still have an interest in starting sailing or would like to try sailing in a women only group. At present, although a ladies-only sailing group, we do still need to have some men around to help with Safety Boat cover, and provide extra muscle when we really do need it.

In 2018 our intentions are to keep enjoying sailing together and enjoying the company of like minded women. We will continue our fortnightly events, keep the doors open to new women, and carry on with gaining qualifications to provide more power boat (Safety Boat) operator cover so that we become fully self-supporting. Building on our sailing skills we will also try sailing to a course, rather than always sailing with the wind!

This year we will continue to meet on alternate Friday mornings starting at 10am. Women are welcome to stay for as long as they can – we normally break for lunch, and, depending on the weather or our energy levels, continue sailing until mid-afternoon. We will remain informal, friendly and keen. All ages are welcome and no one has to attend every event, and we do understand that people may need to leave early due to other commitments.

Your Next Step?

Email us at info@sail-elsc.org.uk with the subject ‘Ladies Who Launch’ and one of our ladies will get back to you.