

Ladies Who Launch

Frequently Asked Questions



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

Yes. This is the most frequent question and we are very familiar with introducing new women to their first experience of sailing.

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 make contact with a stranger to ask what you might think are silly questions. Firstly, we won't think your questions are silly, and secondly we actually would like to hear from you and encourage you to take that first step. So email us at info@sail-elsc.org.uk and say you're interested in Ladies Who Launch and we'll get back to you.

I know a little bit (or even a lot) about sailing – can I still come to Ladies Who Launch?

Yes, of course – we would love to meet you, and for you to share your experience with us. We're all learning together.

Is there a fee for attending?

No, not for your first three visits. These three visits are free of charge, but on the day we usually have time for lunch so be sure to bring some sandwiches or whatever you like to eat with you.

Do I have to become a member of the East Lancashire Sailing Club to come to Ladies Who Launch?

No, for your first three visits you would be made most welcome if you were a member or not: we are interested in getting more women sailing. If you then find you are enjoying sailing, you will be more than welcome to become an ELSC Member to continue sailing.

Is there a waiting list?

No. Currently there is no waiting list, but occasionally we have to put beginners on a wait list to ensure they get the support they need.

Are there only women at the events?

The events take place at the East Lancashire Sailing Club which does have male members who occasionally either work on maintenance in the dinghy park or help us by providing safety boat cover. They do not take part in the sailing unless we invite them to assist us with support.

Can I come and sail with you if I don't have a dinghy?

Yes. We don't expect anyone to have a dinghy; in fact thanks to Lottery Funding, we have two Hartley 12.2 dinghies specifically for use by ladies, as well as a number of other Club boats.

I see ELSC has an access boat – would I be able to use it at Ladies Who Launch?

The Club's Hansa 303 Breeze dinghy was provided in 2016 through the generosity of the RYA Foundation, the Rotary Club of Accrington, and the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund. It can be used at Ladies Who Launch, but do get in touch first (info@sail-elsc.org.uk) so that we can fully assess your needs to make sure we can meet them.

Do I need special clothing or safety equipment?

No, but you should wear clothes and footwear that you don't mind getting wet, and bring a change of clothes with you just in case. Buoyancy Aids/Life jackets and spray tops are available in the Club.

Will I get wet?

Yes you will get wet, and if you're unlucky you might get soaked, but this is very rare. Either way, wear clothes and footwear that you don't mind getting wet, and bring a change of clothes with you just in case. We have changing rooms and hot showers. Most times out in a dinghy we come back in with damp feet but everything else is dry.

Are there changing rooms?

Yes. There is a communal women's changing room and toilets at the Club which we use on the day. There is also a hot shower if you do get too wet on the reservoir.