



New Members Guide

Welcome to Upton Warren Sailing Club. We have produced this guide to briefly explain how the club operates.

When can I sail?

The site is operated by Aztec Adventure, and the Club pays to use their facilities. This means that Club sailing is restricted to times advertised in the Sailing Calendar. The Club provides safety boat cover for members during these sessions. You will find an up-to-date calendar on the home page of the UWSC website. The calendar gives the start time of the race or if it is a cruising session, the time at which you can go on the water. You will need to arrive about 45-60mins before a race in order to get changed, rig your boat and receive your sailing instructions. Notice that in April and September our Tuesday evening sessions start 30 minutes earlier, as it can get dark before 8pm.

Please be aware that there will be other people using the water, particularly on Sundays. Kayaks and paddleboats can be erratic in their behaviour so give them lots of room. After launching, please do not leave your trolley on the beach, where it will be in the way of kayakers or canoeists.

In September the club holds an annual regatta of 6 or 7 races spread over the weekend. Members will be contacted to sign-up in advance of the event.

Aztec operate "Pay and Play" during summer weekends and school holidays, when members of the public can hire paddleboards, canoes and (if suitably qualified) sailing boats. The times of this are on the Aztec website. We have an agreement that any club member can pay a reduced launch fee and sail their own boat or a Club boat (Comet or Laser) during these sessions.

Club House

The Club uses the Lakeside classroom behind the boat park, during Club sessions. There are toilets there but the changing rooms and showers are in the main brick built block by the road. There is a small kitchen off the classroom and the Club provides free tea and coffee; please make yourself a drink. If you are an accompanying parent of a young sailor, please help yourself to a warming cuppa; watching can be a cold job. We are required to leave the kitchen clean and tidy with cups washed and put away and the floor of the main room vacuumed.

The door to the classroom has a keypad lock; the Membership Secretary will give you the code. Please lock the door if you are the last to exit particularly if there are other groups about.

A café operates from the main building overlooking the lake and the balcony is for the exclusive use of their customers.

Boats available

During Club activities, members can sail the training boats owned by Aztec (Bahias, Picos and Bugs) free of charge. If you have not rigged a Bahia before please get help, as there is a support wire for the mast that must be tensioned before hoisting the main sail.

Members can also use Comets and Lasers owned by the club. There is a charge of £3 a session to cover insurance and maintenance. There is a notebook in the classroom to record your use and periodically you will be asked to pay your debt.

Both Centre and Club boats are insured but in the event of damage, an excess may be payable by the member concerned. If something breaks on a boat or a part is missing, please report it.

Please ask if you need help in locating the boats and their parts and please put everything away securely after use.

Key Rules

- If the safety boat is not on the water- no sailing. The Club flag will fly when the safety boat is ready.
- Buoyancy aids must be worn on the water and on the pontoons. These can be borrowed from Aztec's storeroom but must be returned after use.
- If the bell sounds continuously, boats must get off the water as quickly as possible. The alarm is most commonly triggered by a thunderstorm.
- The Duty Officer is in charge of safety and his / her word is final.
- Always sign your name, membership number and boat on the signing on sheet and remember to sign off again after coming off the water.

Types of Races

The Club sails a mixed fleet of boats with different inherent speeds. To allow them to race against each other, each boat is allocated a handicap. We sail two types of races:

- Pursuit races when start times are staggered so the slowest boat starts first. These races are of fixed duration, generally 45 mins. Place is determined by position on the water, when the finish bell is sounded.
- Handicap races when all boats start together. When the finish bell is sounded, each boat must finish its lap. Average lap time is calculated for each boat and then an adjustment made, based on handicap, to determine final place.

What duties must I carry out?

All members who are 14 or over are required to do duties, although generally not until their second year with the club. These may seem onerous but are a good way to get to know other members

Club Duties

The safety boat is manned by club members. Most sessions require 3 Officers:

- Duty Officer who drives the rescue boat and holds a RYA safety boat qualification
- Assistant Duty Officer who assists the DO. This is the preferred duty for many new members
- Race Officer who runs the race from the Committee boat and records results on the Club computer.

The Vice Commodore will send you a personal log-in to the DutyMan website where you can sign up to duties on dates that suit you. (Parents are welcome to do duties on behalf of their child. This may be attractive if you have to remain on site, whilst they sail)

The list on DutyMan includes a Junior Race Officer. This is a voluntary position for juniors (or adults) who would like to learn how to run a race.

Aztec or Centre Duties

Part of our agreement with Aztec, is that adult members will provide 4 half days assistance to the Centre each year. How you provide assistance is very flexible; it depends on your preferences and skills. From time to time, we will forward an email from Aztec asking for help at particular events. The Club sometimes arranges maintenance sessions for Aztec boats. If you have a trade that might be useful to the Centre, you may like to approach Aztec directly and offer your services. A disabled sailing group sail regularly on Friday evenings during summer and the sailing club provide much needed help in both launching and helming boats. Because this support is essential, it is set up as duties on the same DutyMan calendar as Club duties, but with the label "Aztec Duty" attached. Assisting with WYSA sailing events, also counts as an Aztec duty.

Sailing your own boat:

Private dinghies sailed at Upton Warren must have Third Party insurance cover to a minimum value of £1million. If you wish to store your boat on site, then contact the Membership Secretary who administers the dinghy park. Note since the dinghy park is very small, spaces are only available to boats that are sailed regularly at Upton Warren.

WhatsApp

The Club has recently set up a **WhatsApp Group** so that members can contact each other quickly. It was primarily started to find out who is sailing on days of very light or heavy winds and inform members if sailing has been cancelled at short notice. It is proving a good medium for any member to send out a general message asking, for example, about a lost item or a request for a crew, or just who is sailing. If you wish to join it, please contact the Vice Commodore.

Guests and Children

Spectators are always welcome. The café with its balcony is a good place to view the water and is open most sessions or your family is welcome to join you in the red classroom that we use as a clubhouse. You can sign in guests to sail on the water up to four times per year but please first ask the permission of the Duty Officer of the day. Experienced guests may helm at the discretion of the Duty Officer. Children aged 5 – 12 must be under the constant supervision of a competent adult member. Buoyancy aids and safety helmets can be borrowed from the store underneath the balcony but please return them.

Anything Else?

Please ask fellow members if there is anything else that you would like to know. We like to feel that we are a friendly bunch. Most of all enjoy your sailing.