



**QUEEN MARY**  
**SAILING CLUB**

## **BYE-LAWS**

April 2009

# **QUEEN MARY SAILING CLUB BYE-LAWS**

Compliance with these bye-laws is a condition of membership of Queen Mary Sailing Club (the “Club”). Any failure of Members and their Guests to comply with them may prejudice the Club’s lease. The Club may therefore bar any Member or Guest who does not comply with these bye-laws.

Throughout these bye-laws the word ‘boat’ is deemed to cover all approved craft having the right to use the reservoir under bye-law 5. The use of the word ‘sailing’ is deemed to include all water based activities (e.g. dinghy sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, rowing, power driven craft, raft-building, dragon boat racing, model boat racing, etc). Words incorporating the masculine gender only include the feminine and neuter genders and words incorporating the singular number only include the plural and vice versa.

## **1. APPLICATION OF BYE-LAWS**

- (a) These bye-laws apply to all categories of members of the Club, including but not limited to hon. life members, fee-paying non-temporary members (even if dues not paid, unless otherwise specified), crews of boats with a crew pass, temporary day sailing members, open meeting competitors and sailing school students (“Members”) and visitors.
- (b) All those to whom these bye-laws apply are also bound by the Club Safety Policy and any applicable sailing instructions and/or hire conditions, all as may from time to time be in force.

## **2. TIME OF SAILING**

- (a) The reservoir may only be used for sailing during the published on-water hours.
- (b) Sailing may only take place when a competently manned safety boat is ready for immediate use and the Club Flag is flying.
- (c) All boats, tackle and gear must be removed from the water, with the exception of keel boats on club moorings, and all boats must be properly stowed away before the published closing time.

### 3. AREAS OF ACTIVITY

- (a) Members may only use the Club's facilities when they have paid an appropriate membership fee.
- (b) Club sailing shall take place only in the part of the reservoir specified on the notice board in the foyer ("Daily Information Board"). Those attending courses or organised racing events may sail in other areas designated by their instructor, coach or race officer.
- (c) Landing of boats on the bank (other than whilst under instruction or as described in (e) below) is allowed only in case of emergency.
- (d) Sailing within two hundred metres of the inlet to the reservoir (south western corner) or the outlet (north eastern corner) is prohibited.
- (e) The launching and recovering of boats must be from the pontoon, hoist, slipway or the area of bank close to the pontoons. Boats may not be tied onto pontoons and left unattended.
- (f) Club members are not permitted beyond the perimeter of the Club's land between the gate behind the secure windsurf racks and the gate on the northeast bank.
- (g) No boats may be allowed to interfere with any other activity on the reservoir authorised by Thames Water (e.g. bird watching, dredging, etc).
- (h) The areas bounded by the dredgers' anchor buoys, known as "exclusion zones", are obstructions to sea room and sailing within them is prohibited.
- (i) Boats shall keep clear of barges and motor vessels.
- (j) Members and Guests shall follow the instructions of the person shown as the duty officer on the Daily Information Board ("Duty Officer") at all times.

#### **4. ORGANISATION OF SAILING**

- (a) A race officer will be appointed for each day or part of a day on which racing takes place. The instructions of this race officer must be obeyed without demur.
- (b) During racing the Club's sailing instructions must be observed.
- (c) Boats which are cruising must stay well clear of boats which are racing.

#### **5. BOATS THAT MAY BE SAILED**

- (a) Only craft approved by the Club's Sailing Committee may be sailed on the reservoir.
- (b) No outboard motors or power driven boats other than those approved for use on the reservoir under (a) above are allowed.
- (c) Certain classes of non-spinnaker multihulls may be sailed on the reservoir provided that the Club's Sailing Manager or Duty Officer approves the helmsman. Day sailing membership is not available for the purpose of sailing multihulls.

#### **6. INSURANCE**

Each boat-owning Member, including day sailors, visiting competitors or temporary members shall have insurance cover to the value of £2 million on his or her boat and the user or users thereof against third party liability and shall keep the Club and its officers indemnified against all or any third party claims which may arise in connection with his or her boat or any user thereof.

#### **7. SAFETY**

- (a) No boat may sail on the reservoir without sufficient buoyancy to enable it to float and support its crew when capsized or holed. If requested, this must be demonstrated to an official of the Club.
- (b) All persons must at all times whilst afloat, on the pontoons or on the sloping banks wear a personal flotation device ("PFD"), appropriate for their weight, except that competent persons over 18 may wear a 'windsurfing harness' instead of a PFD whilst windsurfing. A wet suit or dry suit does not constitute a PFD.
- (c) No person shall be afloat during the winter months from 1st November to 31st March, unless wearing a full body wet suit or dry suit appropriate for the conditions.

- (d) During the summer months from 1st April to 31st October, all persons sailing windsurf boards must wear a wet suit or dry suit, appropriate for the conditions.
- (e) Appropriate footwear with non-slip soles should be worn by persons sailing or engaged in safety or other duties afloat.
- (f) Safety boat crews may act in the interests of safety as they see fit, which may include taking the crew off a boat and abandoning it.
- (g) A red flag flown on the Club flagpole signifies a strong wind warning. When the red flag is flying, only experienced sailors should attempt to sail; less experienced sailors should return to shore immediately.
- (h) When the Club flag is lowered, all boats (other than safety boats) must return to shore immediately.
- (i) Deliberate bodily immersion (swimming) is not permitted except for the safe launching and recovery of craft, or as part of an official training course.
- (j) If in need of assistance a sailor should give repeated blasts on a whistle or continuously raise and lower both arms to a point above the head, with fists clenched and arms uncrossed; this should be done standing or kneeling on the boat facing the direction in which it will be seen and understood. A sailor in difficulty should remain calm and stay with his boat.
- (k) Any person should exercise care on the sloping banks and pontoons, which may be slippery, especially when wet.

## **8. POLLUTION**

- (a) Pollution or other contamination of the reservoir is absolutely forbidden. Litter must be deposited in the bins provided.
- (b) Boats and other equipment must be clean prior to launching to avoid pollution of the reservoir. No antifouling paint or chemical may be used which is not approved by the Club.
- (c) Interference with Thames Water or Reservoir Aggregates plant, valves, machinery, drains and apparatus of any kind is forbidden.
- (d) Trees, plants, hedges and bushes must not be cut down or damaged in any way and soil, clay and sand are not to be dug or removed.

- (e) Interference with wildlife of any description, shooting or fishing are not permitted.
- (f) Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) and other animals are strictly prohibited anywhere on the Club's land.
- (g) Advertisements and notices shall not be placed in or around the Clubhouse without the permission of the Club.
- (h) VHF radios or walkie-talkies shall not be used on the Club premises without the permission of the Club.

## **9. CHILDREN**

- (a) Parents, or another adult designated by them, must supervise persons under the age of eighteen and will be responsible for their safety, actions and behaviour at the Club. The Club accepts no responsibility to exercise supervision or control.
- (b) Children must be kept under strict control and must behave in such a manner that they will not detract from the enjoyment of the Club's facilities by other Members. Children under fourteen years of age are not permitted in the carpeted bar area when the bar is open.

## **10. SAILING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- (a) Any person under the age of eighteen years may sail if:
  - (i) he has satisfied the Club that he is competent to sail a boat (this would usually imply that a minimum of RYA Stage 3 is held), or
  - (ii) he is accompanied by a competent person aged eighteen years or over or
  - (iii) he is taking part in a sailing school course or organised youth group.

## **11. PARKING**

- (a) Vehicles shall be parked only in the lower car park except for those with passengers with mobility difficulties which display a Blue Badge (Disabled Parking Permit) which may park on the upper level in the designated place.
- (b) Vehicles may be temporarily parked on the upper level for a maximum of 20 minutes while loading or unloading equipment.
- (c) Boat trailers shall be parked only in areas allocated for the purpose.
- (d) Tents, camping and other forms of overnight stay are not permitted anywhere on Thames Water property.

## **12. BERTHING**

- (a) Boats must be berthed in positions allocated by the Club.
- (b) All boats must be properly secured and tied down in the approved manner when left in the boat park. Halyards are to be made fast in such a manner as to prevent them rattling on masts.
- (c) Windsurfing boards and ancillary equipment (e.g. masts, sails and booms) must be placed in the secure cages.
- (d) The Club must be notified in writing of any change in boat or windsurf board ownership.
- (e) The Club at any time and without notice to the Member may move any boat and any piece of equipment, trolley or trailer associated with it, from its authorised berth or mooring or from any other part of the Club's premises to another berth or another part of the Club's premises:
  - (i) for the safety of the boat or any other boat, or
  - (ii) for the proper, secure and efficient running of the Club or
  - (iii) where membership has expired and/or where fees are in arrears.

### **13. GUESTS**

- (a) A full member, family member or junior member may bring a person who is not a Member onto the Club's premises provided that
  - (i) The member enters the name and address of his visitor ("Guest") and his own name in a book kept for such purpose and at no time leaves the Club premises while the said Guest is thereon.
  - (ii) The Guest agrees to comply with these Bye-laws and acknowledges that he uses the Club premises under the conditions set out in clause 18 below.
  - (iii) No member may introduce a Guest more than six times in any calendar year.
  - (iv) No member may introduce more than two Guests in any one day.
  - (v) A Guest may not use the amenities of the reservoir more than three times in any calendar year, irrespective of who introduces him/her.
- (b) Any member shall be responsible for ensuring that his Guest complies with these bye-laws.
- (c) Members may not bring people who are not Members onto Club premises except if they comply with clause 13(a) above.

### **14. FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS**

- (a) Food and drink may be supplied by the Club's caterers to Members and Guests.
- (b) Members and Guests who bring their own food and drink may not consume it on the upper deck.
- (c) Council may authorise the sale of intoxicating liquor to persons over the age of eighteen years.
- (d) No person may purchase or attempt to purchase intoxicating liquor for consumption by a person under the age of 18 within the Club premises, except that a person over 18 may purchase beer, wine or cider for a person over 16 who is having a meal.

## **15. PREMISES**

- (a) Smoking is prohibited in any part of the clubhouse, outbuildings or on Club boats.
- (b) No one in wet/dry suits, sailing attire including wet sailing shoes shall use the upper deck.
- (c) Council may authorise the Club's Commercial Manager to hire the Club's premises to any responsible individual or organisation, provided that paragraphs 8, 11, 14(c), 14(d) and 18 and other relevant clauses of these bye-laws are complied with.

## **16. KEEL BOATS**

- (a) All launching and recovery of keel boats is the responsibility of the boat's owner and may only be carried out by methods approved by the Club.
- (b) No more than two keel boats may be left adjacent to the Clubhouse for the purposes of scrubbing and washing down only.
- (c) Moorings are the property of the Club and must not be adjusted or in any way altered by anyone other than a Club official.
- (d) Keel boats may dry sail using berths approved by the Club.

## **17. BEHAVIOUR**

All Members and Guests shall conduct themselves at all times, ashore or afloat, in a manner such that they will not detract from the enjoyment of the Club's facilities by others or give offence thereto, or infringe the safety of others or bring the Club into disrepute.

## **18. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Members, Guests and other visitors use the premises and any other facilities of the Club entirely at their own risk and by doing so accept that:

- (a) The Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to Members, Guests and other visitors.
- (b) The Club will not accept any liability for personal injury arising out of the use of the premises or any other facilities of the Club, or out of participation in any race or any other activity organised

by the Club, whether sustained by Members, Guests and other visitors, or caused by the said Members, Guests and other visitors, whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed or contributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the officers, members or servants of the Club.

- (c) Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Club and for which the Club is proven to be responsible in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Club shall not be liable to any person beyond that of a duty to exercise reasonable skill and care.
- (d) The Club is not liable to Members or any third party for any indirect or consequential loss or damage, profit, revenue or business, howsoever caused (whether arising out of any negligence or breach of these rules or otherwise).
- (e) Before bringing any Guests or visitors on to the premises or to participate in events or other activities organised by the Club, members are required to draw their attention to this rule.
- (f) If any provision of these bye-laws is held to be void or unenforceable by any court of law or any competent governmental or other authority, the remaining provisions of these byelaws shall be severable and enforceable accordingly.

## **19. RULES APPLICABLE**

Boats using the reservoir shall be governed by:

- (a) the current Racing Rules of Sailing together with any other rules that the Sailing Instructions for an event may incorporate, when they are both racing.
- (b) the current Part B of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS), when one (or both) is not racing.