**Welcome to our 2019 Sailing Calendar – Members notes**

**General -**This year we are offering a broader range of sailing events that provide better links to our training and social programmes. This means Saturday sailing, more fun events and more events that cater for beginner and intermediate sailors that will help bridge the gap from the recently trained to those hardened old salts! Saturdays will be more laid back with Sundays generally focused on racing. 2019 is a challenging year with respect to tide times, however we have events planned for every Sunday from late March through to early November and most Saturdays from May through to September. We hope there is something for everyone and we look forward to seeing you early in the season. See some headlines below to whet your appetite.

**New Season Update – Sunday 17th March** midday at the club. Come and hear in more detail about the sailing, social and training calendars for the year as well as a reminder on safety and security both on and off the water. It’ll be an opportunity to brush up on what the duties entail, meet our new members, hear about the works over the winter and what’s planned over the next year. It’s also your opportunity to help shape some of the more informal days – by letting us know what you’d like and how you can help. All helped by the offer of soup and crusty bread over a beer and a natter at the bar. That’s what we call easing the season in gently!

**Sunday is race day** – apart from a couple of events, Sunday will be the clubs race day, but if new to us, don’t be put off, this is a great way to hone and learn your skills against more experienced sailors. It’s all done in a relaxed atmosphere with plenty of breaks for banter and refreshments on our balcony or in the clubroom.

**Push the Boat Out – Sunday 5th May.** An RYA supported event offering an opportunity for us to open our doors to friends, family and the wider community to get them out on the water and experience the joy and fun of sailing and to generally show off our club and sport. We’ll need plenty of volunteers for this, both on and off the water, so save the date – everyone can help on this day

**Thursday Sailing** – A relaxed sail, in company with experienced sailors, very often in the afternoon or early evening, more often than not to the Neptune Pub for a pint and natter, that runs from May until September when tides and conditions are suitable. To join in this relaxed sail, you need to sign up to the *Tempura* WhatsApp group – just provide Tom Gardener with your mobile number and he’ll add you to the group. This sail isn’t covered by a support boat and as such club boats will not be available for use. A view will be taken on the day as to whether the conditions are suitable, and if you're not planning to sail your own boat every effort will be made to get you on another member's boat if there's room, but this cannot be guaranteed*.*

**Training** – As an RYA Training Centre we now have an established training programme for those new to sailing and for those who wish to improve. This year we have blended this in with the general club racing and sailing programme to better provide that springboard for newly trained sailors to improve their skills in a fun and friendly environment. For more details on the training planned for 2019 click [here](https://www.tbsc.co.uk/training/)

**Sailing Against Slavery (SAS) series -** This year we are using this series as a charitable event to help raise the profile and issues of modern day slavery and human trafficking by teaming up with a local NGO group. We are proposing a voluntary series joining fee that will be levied against each boat and we will all hear more about how we can raise the awareness of the this very modern problem at the start of the series.

**Saturday Workshops** – We have introduced three Saturday workshops this year. These are designed to help improve all of our sailing skills in a fun but structured way with some off the water discussions followed by on the water practices. Ross Power will lead the first event on the 18th May – but we are looking for the more experienced sailors amongst you to help support these. Each will be followed by a social event.

**Saturday Cruises** – We are running four Saturday supported cruises, the first three will be local to the Whitstable Bay area with exact locations being determined in the few days before the sail, depending on the weather. These cruises are generally better placed for experienced helms, however please look to crew as they a great way to see more than just our local slopes. The fourth cruise is planned over two tides and we are hoping to make one of the Thanet beaches - so this is very much only suitable for experienced helms and fast handicap boats with suitable safety equipment. (Separate safety guidelines will be issued before each cruise for you to assess if you have the skills, the boat and the right equipment to sail as a helm of join as a crew).

**Saturday Free Sailing** – These generally align with dates when our RYA Training Centre is operating, so whilst the club is open for sailing, the safety boats will be concentrating on the trainees, so will be unaccompanied.

**August Bank Holiday** - The tides for this bank holiday are unusually unkind, however we will be making the most of the weekend. The Saturday sees our two tide cruise (see details above) – if you cannot sail then a road crew to meet at the chosen Thanet beach would be a great way to join in. Sunday then follows with a late afternoon Dinghy relay run by Fred Lynds. A great way to test your skills – with everyone welcome to join in. Check out previous years from the videos on our website. The Sunday is then our family fun day – but with a twist. The tides mean that we’ll be looking to use the beach and the shorefront for games and fun that are not sailing! The fun will be helped by good food, beer and banter from the best balcony on the North Kent coast

**Bart’s Bash – Sunday 15th September** Tankerton achieved astonishing results in this charity event last year, with three sailors in the top 10, 2 sailors taking 1st and 2nd in both the Grand Master and Great Grand Master categories and 2nd in the lady helm category – WOW! Please don’t miss this great international event

**Ending the year on a high** – Our **AGM is on the 19th October** – please come along to join in the formalities which will be followed by a very sociable meal. Derigging and club tidy then follows on Sunday the 17th November. The season ends with a bang with our Flagship black tie Laying Up Supper at the Marine on the 30th November. Please sign up early to avoid disappointment.

**Duties and volunteering** - We are a club run by its members for its members. Most of you will be allocated some duties on race day - please check out your duties on DutyMan by clicking [here](https://www.tbsc.co.uk/pages/33/Dutyman/), where we have some easy to follow crib sheets. Remember none of this happens without volunteers. So if you haven’t got involved yet and can help, please let us know and give it a go, we are sure you’ll find the experience rewarding.

**Social** – Most of our social activities will tie in with the sailing calendar. Jenny Campbell and Jane Mills are always on the lookout for help, so give them a call. For social updates click [here](https://www.tbsc.co.uk/pages/61/Social/)

**Be safe** – Our general sailing instructions can be found on the club notice board or on the [club website](https://www.tbsc.co.uk/pages/24/Sailing-instructions/). Over and above these instructions please use the following guidelines to help make your sailing a safer experience: -

* **Weather and sea conditions** – check these online before you sail. Remember NE and N winds can produce heavy onshore breakers that can make launching and recovery difficult
* **Check the times on the programme** – these are launch/start times, so get down to prepare in plenty of time for each event
* **Boat and equipment** – check your boat, rigging and personal gear. Take a bailer, paddle and spare rope
* **Clothing** – always wear personal buoyancy when afloat and appropriate wet or dry suit and splash jacket with gloves and hat depending on conditions. Remember if you don’t take it, you can’t put it on!
* **Your accessories** – sun block, waterproof watch, compass, multi tool and drinking water
* **On longer sails –** additionally take a phone in a waterproof container or a FHF radio and refreshments
* **Signing out -** Always always sign out if sailing from the club and let the duty team or someone know when you return. Never free sail without letting someone know where you going and when you plan to return.
* **If in trouble** – stay with the boat and drop the sails. Or make for the nearest shore and contact the club
* **Know your limitations** – Be responsible, know your limits, practice capsizes (they happen to us all), righting and man overboard drills in good conditions.

**Can we improve?** – If you have any suggestions or can offer to help please speak to one of [the committee](https://www.tbsc.co.uk/committee.php). We all want to ensure TBSC remains the best sailing club on the North Kent coast.