



# *Aberdeen & Stonehaven Yacht Club*

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Welcome to Aberdeen and Stonehaven Yacht Club (ASYC), located in the North East of Scotland and an active, friendly dinghy sailing club with a competitive racing program, family sailing and a strong junior program. The club is open to sailors of all ages and abilities and offers the unique opportunity to sailing in two very different locations during the year.

This membership information has been put together to answer some of the common questions asked by new members or potential new members to the club.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to sailors of all abilities and ages with the membership secretary, the focal point around support with helping you join the club and introduction to other members.

**Frequently Asked Questions** around membership

**How do you join ASYC:** All you need to do is download and complete a membership form from the club website. There are various classes of membership:

- Full £110:** Adult membership with each adult full member completing 3 club duties per year
- Family (Full) £210:** Membership for both adult parents and all sailing children under 18 with 3 club duties per year (these can be split between the adult members)
- Family (Restricted) £150:** Membership for one full member (sailing) and one social member and all sailing children under 18 with 3 club duties per year (these can be split between the adult members)
- Junior £35:** Under 18 membership of club with no duty requirement
- Student £35:** 18 – 24 year old's in full time employment, no set duties for this category but typically we see our student members helping where practical
- Social £40:** Membership for non-sailing members of club with no duty requirement
- Harbour Fee £75:** Harbour launching fee, payable to ASYC who pass through the Aberdeenshire Council (only applicable for members sailing at Stonehaven)
- Boat Storage £35:** For storing a dinghy at Stonehaven/Skene (1 x fee for both venues)

**What does it cost:** There are various types of membership and the cost is based on this (listed above). Membership fees can be paid annually or quarterly by standing order. Additional fees to membership are for boat storage during the sailing season, winter storage & the harbour launching fees (only applicable for members sailing at Stonehaven where the club collects this money and passes to Aberdeenshire council for use of the launching slips).

**How do the duties work:** The club is run on a volunteer basis and duties are essential to allow our sailing program to be run and shared amongst our members. Each membership category has a specific amount of duties each member will support with. These are chosen from the program calendar via an online system (dutyman), so you choose the dates that fit with your availability. The system can be used to swap dates and find contact details for other members. There is a sailing secretary who coordinates the program and will support with swaps and last minute changes. Duties include running racing (OOD), assistant to the OOD and rescue cover and rescue support. The assistant OOD & rescue

support need no prior experience and you will be teamed up with an experienced member who will show you the ropes.

**I would like to learn how to drive the rescue boat:** The club has several powerboat instructors and is a RYA approved centre. Powerboat courses are offered during the year to ensure that we have the best possible safety boat cover during dinghy racing and training. These are restricted to club members. RYA certificates for both Powerboat Level 2 and Safety Boat can be issued with these training sessions usually run over two days of a weekend several times throughout the season.

**What equipment do I need to join:** Usual kit to get started is wetsuit, boots (or trainers), spray top, gloves & buoyancy aid or lifejacket. The club has access to kit for hire at Skene (through Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust) and a limited selection of kit at Stonehaven collected over the years, suitable to get members up & running. All club members must wear a buoyancy aid or lifejacket whilst on the water.

**Can I join if I do not have a boat:** Yes, the club has a fleet of over 20 boats, suitable for children and adults (single & double handed), with a variety of performance depending on experience (see ASYC boat section for further information).

## ASYC BOATS

ASYC has a fleet of around 20 boats for members use including:

- Optimist
- Topper
- Laser with full & radial rigs
- RS Feva
- Blaze
- Laser 2000
- Laser Stratos

### Frequently Asked Questions around ASYC boats

**What does hire of ASYC boats cost:** Use of ASYC boats by under 18's (junior members) is free of charge. New adult members in their first year are not charged for use of the ASYC boats and then pay £5 for use of a single hander & £10 for use of a double hander per session. All sailors are required to wear suitable clothing and a buoyancy aid and should be competent to handle the boat in the prevailing weather conditions. Boats can only be hired while there is a rescue boat on the water and the OOD must be informed you are hiring the boat.

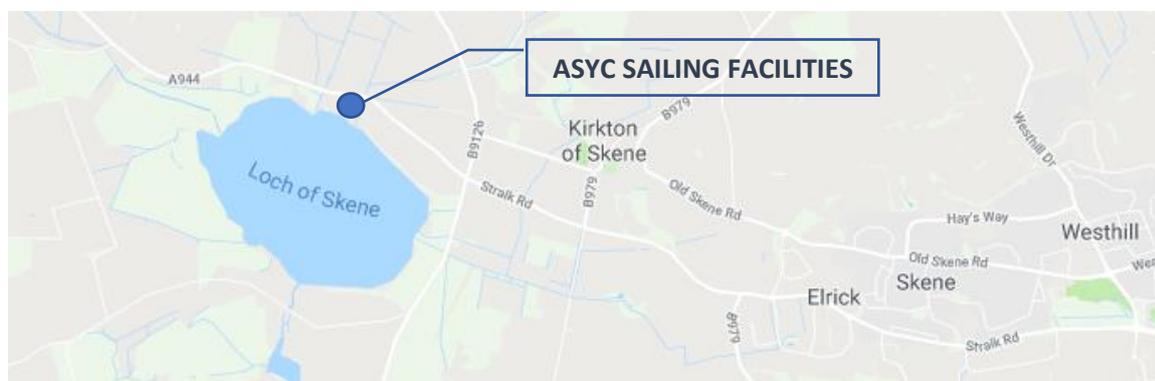
**How do I rig the ASYC boats:** Members who are unsure how to rig or where the boats/equipment is kept, should contact a member of the committee (or ask around the club and the experienced members will support). Boats should be returned to their place of storage in the condition they were found in.

**How do I book use of an ASYC boat:** Boats can be booked online through the website or on the day at the club and paid for in the honesty box or through online bank transfer.

**What happens if I break something:** It happens to all us and as long as we know about it we can fix it for the next person using the boat. All we ask is if something happens or gets broken please notify the committee. A charge may be levied in the event of equipment being damaged by negligence but this is very rare.

## LOCH OF SKENE

Sailing takes place at Loch of Skene situated 4 miles west of Westhill. The club is accessed from the A944 at postcode reference AB32 6YJ.



The club itself is contained within the gate house building on the left of the arch, with the boat parking on the banks of the loch beside the clubhouse.

### Frequently Asked Questions around Loch of Skene

**When do you sail at the Loch:** We sail from the first Sunday in March through to the end of May. Racing takes places on a Sunday (March-May), Saturday (April-May) & Wednesday night (April-May). Our agreement with Dunecht Estates, the Loch's owner allows us only to sailing during the agreed club program times and no social sailing is allowed out with these times.

**I am a beginner, will Skene be suitable:** Yes, Skene is a sheltered small Loch which provides excellent sailing waters, with limited waves making it ideal for beginners. The loch is fully enclosed, has a soft (mud) bottom and is relatively shallow.

**What facilities do you have:** The Skene setup is basic but functional. There are ladies and gents changing but no showers and one shared toilet facility. There is also a clubhouse facility including basic cooking facilities. Drinks, snacks & sweets are available for sale in the clubhouse. Entry to the facilities is via a keycode system (available on membership approval).

**Can we park at Skene:** Yes, there is a private carpark with ample parking spaces straight off the A944, but it does start to get busier on the warmer weekend days. All cars should be parked on the gravel surface (avoiding the grass areas). Please do not park in front of or around the building on the right (as you face the arch) as this space is reserved for our neighbours who live in this building. Please respect the neighbours by keeping noise to a minimum and as you pass through the arch they have garden and areas they have landscaped on both sides of the track which should not be walked over. No vehicles are allowed through the arch and all boats are hand pulled down to the parking area beside the loch. Dogs on leads are welcome.

**How does the boat parking work:** Boats are parked on a first come first services basis beside the loch typically in fleets (there is plenty of room to store boats here). Trailers are parked under the trees on the right as you come down the bank. We recommend all boats are tied down to the ground with stakes/rope to prevent them blowing off their trolleys.

## STONEHAVEN

Sailing takes place in Stonehaven bay, with the club house & boat parking located in the harbour close to the centre of Stonehaven at 19 Shorehead, Stonehaven AB39 2JU.



ASYC SOUTH BEACH  
DINGHY PARKING

ASYC Clubhouse

ASYC DINGHY PARKING  
& CRUISER SHED

### Frequently Asked Questions around Stonehaven

**When do you sail at Stonehaven:** We sail from the first Sunday in June through to the middle of November. Racing takes places on a Sunday (June-November) & Wednesday night (June-September). Members are free to sail anytime from Stonehaven, however we recommend sailing during the organised program as rescue cover is available.

**I am a beginner, will Stonehaven be suitable:** Stonehaven is a challenging sea venue with a harbour to sail through before entering the bay sailing area. The bay is tidal and exposed with frequent swell and waves. Our junior fleet actively sail at Stonehaven and beginners should not be put off sailing at Stonehaven, it just needs common sense on when it is suitable to sail. Many of the club members and committee are extremely experienced sailors who will help with guidance on when to sail and are happy to support new members and get you out on the water.

**What facilities do you have:** Stonehaven has good club facilities with a 4 storey clubhouse. Ground floor is the bar & clubroom, 1<sup>st</sup> floor is the galley with kitchen and eating areas, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is female changing, toilets & showers and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is male changing, toilets & showers. Drinks, snacks & sweets are available for sale in the galley. Entry to the facilities is by key (available by deposit on membership approval).

**Can we park at Stonehaven:** Yes, there is a free parking along the harbour front, which can be busy over the summer months. Please respect our neighbours at the harbour, particularly next to the club house and cruiser shed by keeping noise to a minimum and not blocking their entrance drives.

**How does the boat parking work:** Boats are parked on a first come first services basis in the two dinghy parks at the harbour front typically in fleets. Space is more limited in Stonehaven due to the size of the dinghy parks, with the house and grounds committee member acting as a focal point here around space allocation (during the June work party setup). All trailers should be parked on the bank at the far end of the south beach dinghy park (or taken home if possible). The south park dinghy park has wires secured into the hardstanding that boats can be tied down onto, to prevent them blowing off trolleys. Single handers with removable masts can be stored in the shed in the dinghy yard park. All other sheds should remain clear of members boats to allow our junior fleets, equipment & rescue boats to be stored. The cruiser shed can be used on request (to house & grounds) by members for maintenance over the summer months .

## JUNIOR SAILING

ASYC is a RYA recognised training centre with an active junior program supporting all those that want to learn to sail or improve their sailing techniques. The program is supported by a training committee member who will support with any questions around the junior program.

**Frequently Asked Questions** around junior sailing

**When does the junior sailing program take place:** Junior training sessions are run between Easter and the end of the school term. Training is held on either a Saturday or Sunday morning, with the more experienced juniors race training with the adult club racing . On the last Sunday in May the annual Junior regatta is held as a fun day of sailing with a BBQ. When the club moves to Stonehaven, the final training sessions are complete here.

**How is the program delivered:** Training is delivered by club volunteers who are qualified RYA instructor. Various training sessions are held to support different levels of experience and ability. Parents are expected to help facilitate the lessons by getting involved with teaching, driving safety boats or helping out on land.

**How do we sign up for training:** Registration for training opens in February and places are typically allocated at the beginning of March with returning sailors allocated first and then the remainder on a first come first served basis. The junior training program is typically limited to around 40 places.

**Can Juniors sail with the scheduled racing:** Yes, juniors are actively encouraged to become involved in the scheduled racing when their ability allows. Novice sailing is organised at Skene (Monday evenings) & Stonehaven (Tuesday evenings) as a stepping stone for less experienced adults & juniors to get into racing.

**Do you offer adult sailing lessons:** We do not offer adult lessons but the club recommends Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust, who we work closely with.

## WINTER & STORAGE

The club comes to a close with the autumn sailing series and work party in mid-November.

**Frequently Asked Questions** around winter & storage

**Does the club completely stop over the winter months:** Sailing completely stops over the winter months, but the club holds some social events including the annual prize giving (ceilidh in a local hotel at the end of the season) and social evenings in the Stonehaven clubhouse (typical prior to the start of the new season in February).

**Can I store my boat at the club over the winter:** During the closing work party, members boats are stored in the club sheds over the winter period or in the club dinghy parks (due to the winter storms we recommend use of the main dinghy yard only and with masts removed). Spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis for a small charge (dinghy yard in no cost), with storage applications being released in September/October through the house grounds committee focal point.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

<b>Club Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.asyc.org.uk">www.asyc.org.uk</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	search Aberdeen & Stonehaven Yacht Club
<b>Sailing Duties &amp; Program:</b>	<a href="https://dutyman.biz/dmmain.aspx?id=A0002180">https://dutyman.biz/dmmain.aspx?id=A0002180</a>
<b>Sailing Results</b>	<a href="https://www.halsail.com/Result/Public/20258">https://www.halsail.com/Result/Public/20258</a>
<b>Tides:</b>	<a href="https://www.tidetimes.org.uk/stonehaven-tide-times">https://www.tidetimes.org.uk/stonehaven-tide-times</a>
<b>Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust:</b>	<a href="http://www.aberdeenshiresailing.org/">http://www.aberdeenshiresailing.org/</a>

## COMMITTEE

<b>Commodore</b>	Francis Neill	<a href="mailto:commodre@asyc.org.uk">commodre@asyc.org.uk</a>
<b>Vice Commodore &amp; Training</b>	Ditta Neumann	<a href="mailto:training@asyc.org.uk">training@asyc.org.uk</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Hamish McLulich	<a href="mailto:secretary@asyc.org.uk">secretary@asyc.org.uk</a>
<b>Sailing Secretary</b>	John Deacon	<a href="mailto:sailing@asyc.org.uk">sailing@asyc.org.uk</a>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Niel Ritchie	<a href="mailto:membership@asyc.org.uk">membership@asyc.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Phil Rose	
<b>House &amp; Grounds</b>	Colin Davies	
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Nadia Yeamans	
<b>Bosun</b>	Gerry Park	

We hope the information in this guide has been helpful. Please let the committee know if you have any further questions or would like us to show you around the club, introduce you to some of the members or organise a taster sail?

We look forward to seeing you at the club.

*ASYC Committee*