



Thursday Junior taster Session

Welcome, What to expect & FAQs

www.welshharpsailingclub.org
<https://linktr.ee/welshharp>

Hello and a very warm welcome to you from The Welsh Harp Sailing Club.

Our Thursday nights are a fun, social opportunity for those aged 8-16 to get out on the water. The taster sessions are open to non-members and provide an opportunity for those who are new to sailing, or new to the club, to come and have a try with no commitment. They are led by RYA qualified instructors and you can try one at a cost of £15 to help you decide whether to join. Please follow this link for all Junior taster, training and course bookings <https://webcollect.org.uk/whsc/category/juniors>

Where and when is it?

Your session will last for about 45 minutes between 6.30 and dusk on Thursday evenings. The address is The Welsh Harp Sailing Club, Birchen Grove, London, NW9 8SA - follow Birchen Grove to the very end and turn right into the public car park; the entrance to WHSC is at the far end of the car park. The gate should be left open between 6.15 and 6.30, but if it is locked just ask someone and they will let you in. **Please come to the welcome desk in the South Building to sign in; if it is your first visit, we will ask you to complete our medical and information form.**

Can I come alone?

No - each Junior must be accompanied by a parent / carer who must be over 18 and stay at The Welsh Harp and who will be responsible for you for the whole time.

What should I wear?

Wear clothes appropriate for the weather that you do not mind getting wet eg joggers and top - a wet suit if you have one - plus closed toed shoes with a grip. No barefoot, sandals, crocs or slip on shoes. We can provide splash jackets and buoyancy aids. Please bear in mind it can be colder on the water. Please also bring a change of clothes and stuff for a shower in case you get wet.

Can I change at The Welsh Harp?

There is family changing & toilets in the North Building. We ask that for safeguarding reasons, no adult uses these without being with their child - there are adult changing and toilets in the South Building.

Who is running the session?

They are led by RYA qualified instructors, overseen by an RYA qualified Senior Instructor and safety boat cover is provided by RYA qualified safety / power boat drivers. All have a wealth of experience, a love of sailing and stacks of enthusiasm.

What happens during a session

The approach is to build confidence, enthusiasm and skills through fun. After a quick intro, you will rig a boat with an instructor then get out onto the water for games and exercises that will give you a sense of what sailing is about. At the end of the session you will learn how to de-rig the boat and carefully put it away ready for next time.

I've never sailed before - is it OK for me to come?

Yes! We have a wealth of experience with people who have never sailed before and we would love to share our enthusiasm with you.

Can I keep coming after my taster session?

Yes - as a member you can keep coming as many times as you like and the sessions are free. If you decide to join, we will also refund you the money you spent on the taster.

How do I join the club

It's £80 for juniors plus £10 for their parent (less the money you spent on the taster session). If you'd like to join please follow this link: <https://webcollect.org.uk/whsc/subscription>

And if you have any membership queries, please email our membership secretary, Caro membership@welshharpssailingclub.org

Can I sail more often if I enjoy it? Do you run any other courses?

Yes! If you're interested in regular weekly sessions, as a member you can continue with the **Thursday evening** sessions, free of charge, and also join the Junior sessions on **Saturday morning** which have a small weekly cost. Maintaining the focus on having fun whilst learning, the Saturday sessions focus more on sailing development, with games and exercises each week based on different skills.

If you're interested in courses, we run **RYA certificate weekday camps during school holidays**. These will really help you develop your skills and also allow you to work through the formal RYA Youth Sailing Scheme. Members receive a discount on these courses, but non-members can also attend so you can invite your friends.

What should my parent do whilst they wait for me?

We are a club with volunteering at its very heart, so we would encourage parents to support the Juniors by helping as well - for example rigging and launching the boats (you will soon be able to teach them) and welcoming new parents and showing them where things are.

My parent / carer is interested in sailing or windsurfing is that possible, even if they've never tried it before?

Yes! On a Thursday evening we will be running adult sailing and windsurfing taster sessions for non-members and parent members. No experience is necessary and they will be taken out in a boat, shown how to sail and also have a go themselves. The cost is £25 per session, and this money is taken off the cost of your membership if you join. Chat to the Welcome Desk if you are interested

What other sailing is there at Welsh Harp Sailing Club for adults?

There is lots of weekly training, racing & leisure sailing you are welcome to join, as well as 16 club boats for use. All of this is available to adult members free of charge, once they have demonstrated a level of competence.

There are also full weekend or weekday RYA courses where you can boost your sailing ability and work your way through the RYA Training Scheme. These are discounted to members but also open to non-members so you can invite friends and family to join you. Please see the latest courses here <https://webcollect.org.uk/whsc>

What about windsurfing adults and children?

We have a lively windsurfing section here. There are regular Thursday taster and member sessions, as well as RYA courses, and once members have met a level of competence, you can borrow the club equipment and meet others at the reservoir for a surf when the wind is good. For more details please contact Loubna windsurfing@welshharpssailingclub.org

I have more questions - who should I ask?

You can ask the Senior Instructor on Thursday night or contact Cathy on thursdays@welshharpssailingclub.org