

NEXT STEPS – A LOVE OF SAILING IS TAKING HOLD, SO WHAT'S NEXT?

Buying a boat and Family Membership

"A sailing vessel is alive in a way that no ship with mechanical power ever be." — Aubrey de Selincourt

As a family with two adults and a few children the family membership offers many benefits on and off the water. We are all members of the club and can benefit from its many facilities and activities. The family membership fee is almost the same cost as an ordinary membership fee so provides more bang for your buck.

The children take part in Club junior section training sessions in Spring, Summer and Autumn and when Covid restrictions lift, possibly in winter also. Juniors can also race in monitored and coached junior races and regattas. The children also enjoy the social aspect of sailing before, during and after sailing. They get to know and build friendships with other members of a similar age and grow up with these friends over time. These friendships from sports clubs can last a lifetime.

The adults also sail in organised club races and social sailings. There are organised races, cruises, courses, social events and winter talks. There is great camaraderie (and rivalry) with adults where lots of tips, yarns and stories are shared. The social scene after sailing where races unravel over food and drink help to ease battered and some inflated egos.

The club has a great location in the town with unrivalled sea views which can be had from inside and outside the clubhouse. Private Parties and functions can also be held here, members get a discount on the bar, which helps the wallet.

Members both young and old help each out in many ways in and off the water, members also crew on other boats for other competitions and also offshore races and cruising. Many local sailor's race and cruise Ireland, North and South, Scotland, some further afield.

Sailing is a lifetime skill and is best honed with your own boat where you have the familiarity of your own controls to suit your skill. Boats unlike cars hold their values when maintained for many years (decades), there is little depreciation when maintained and can be sold on for similar money which used to purchase in the first instance.

Both kids and adults build a relationship with their vessels and enjoy rigging and working on their boat, it builds confidence in their sailing and also in themselves.

Well maintained boats can be bought locally (advertised in newsletters) second hand (Oppies <https://iodai.com/>)

sailing club websites <https://www.sailing.ie/TrySailing/Find-A-Club>

and other sites <https://adverts.ie>

<https://afloat.ie/sail/sailingclubs> and good old Google

Ask a member for advice before buying. Generally, the condition of the boat can be viewed if it has been maintained, how it has been stored, are there any scrapes, or repairs to the hull, how new the gear appears, how many sails there are, their condition, check the mast and rigging for scrapes, corrosion, dents, frayed wires. The state of the trolley or trailer. All these checks give an overall state of repair of a boat and how well loved a life it may have had.

Viewing a few boats with their asking price can give the buyer a gauge of what a boat is worth. <https://www.craftinsure.ie/> are also good for insuring your new purchase. It is recommended to insure your new purchase, approximately €55 will insure a dinghy boat for a year and covers third party insurance for racing.

Owning your own boat will allow sailors to head off whenever they like and aren't restricted to organised events, members are free to head out whenever the wind, tide and conditions permit.

"If you are going to do something, do it now. Tomorrow is too late"

—Pete Goss



Frances Holland of SCC showing us how to win Club races in a Laser, claiming first position in Race 1 earlier in July. The smaller 4.7 rig shown here offers a good way to get used to the boat, especially for lighter sailors

ADVICE FOR BUYING A BOAT

There is also a section in the SSC Parent Student Handbook with advice on buying a boat.

Boat Rental and Purchase Skerries Sailing Club have a limited number of boats to rent to sailors. These boats will be reserved for new sailors coming into the club, after which, following 2 or 3 seasons it is advised to invest in their own equipment and boat, leading to a better learning experience and ultimately a more committed sailor. Sailing is a sport for life and investment is needed to continue.

We do ask each sailor who borrows these boats to treat them with respect and look after each boat with care. These boats are used by many and will help new sailors to the club obtain a skill that they can enjoy for life. Boats require maintenance and we depend on volunteers to maintain and keep them in good condition. Instructors will reference this but please ensure your child knows the value of being entrusted with one of these boats.

We encourage sailors to invest in their own boats after a minimum of 2 seasons, sailors can start with a boat from €200 for Optimists and can upgrade if needed. There are plenty of second-hand boats available, the best place to find second-hand Optimists, Mirrors or Toppers would be sailing and Yacht Club websites. On their websites they will have a buy and sell option and

here are some names of Dublin yacht clubs, but there are many other yacht clubs around Ireland so shop around: Sutton dinghy club Malahide Yacht Club Rush Sailing club Howth Yacht Club The royal St. George Yacht Club The national Yacht Club The royal Irish Yacht Club

When purchasing a sailor's first boat it's a good idea to ask the advice of one of the sailing instructors or class captain. There are many kinds of boats, wooden/ fiberglass / plastic, we will advise you of what might be best for your sailor and family, this might be maintenance wise or if it comes with the correct gear. If we know your sailor from our Opti programs/track, is about to size or age out of the Opti, or to advance in ability, we will advise accordingly also. We do always think of what would or could be most enjoyable for each individual sailor as some prefer to socialise or work best with teamwork and others might prefer to sail alone. A more advanced skill set will always be learnt in a double handed boat due to the more complexity of the three different sails.

When purchasing the next boat please have a look at our SSC Juniors dinghy Pathway. These dinghy's have been the chosen dinghy's for skill bases progression in the club once a sailor has aged or sized out of the Optimist, but are also an options teens who have just started sailing. All boats must have insurance before being brought onto Club Property and proof by way of written declaration is required and completed on the application form.



Once a child has aged out or more than likely grown out of optimists, it is advised that the sailor moves to the more advanced dinghies as soon as

possible. Optimists are great learning boats, but they can affect junior sailors like for the sport greatly for good or for worse. A sailor who has grown too tall for the optimist will struggle and get extremely frustrated and, in some cases, can actually progress backwards as they tend to start gaining bad habits to try fit in the boat.