

Southampton Sailing Club

In answer to your questions:

*** How many members there are in your sailing club?**

140

*** If known, where you draw your membership from - Are most of them from Southampton?**

We mostly draw our membership from Southampton and the surrounding areas although we do have a few members from further afield.

*** What you are doing to promote your activity to diverse communities in Southampton and to increase membership?**

We maintain a public access Facebook page and a website to publicise the club and hold an annual open day to encourage local people to try sailing. We are also an RYA Training Centre and offer very cost competitive training courses that also help us recruit new members. We strive to keep membership and boat storage fees affordable and have various categories of membership to try to make the club more accessible - e.g. student membership and cadet membership (14-18yr old).

*** Any expansion plans you may have**

The site offers little scope for physical expansion so our efforts are focussed on creating an active and engaging environment in which local people can experience waterborne activities.

*** Issues / concerns that you have about sailing on the River Itchen in Southampton**

For a small club like ours, run by volunteers on a very tight budget, costs are always uppermost in our mind. Currently we pay business rates (thankfully discounted by the council), rent and annual fees to the Crown Estates and ABP. The steady rise in these costs, which are not necessarily reflective of any rise in the the living standards of our members, remain the biggest issues for us.

More recently the coastal defence work undertaken by Balfour Beatty just downstream from the club appears that it may be causing erosion along the front of our clubhouse and we are monitoring the situation closely - we would hope that any further such work is followed up by the relevant surveys to see what impact protecting the bank in one place is having on another.

*** What developments / improvements you would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton?**

We would like to see the infrastructure maintained to a higher standard - the public slipway alongside the club is in a poor state of repair and is rarely cleaned by the council. We would also hope that any development work took in to account potential increases in traffic on the water. Situated as we are opposite Dockhead our main sailing area and moorings are immediately adjacent to the mouth of the river and potentially negatively affected if traffic increased significantly.

*** Any other comments that you would want to make about the River Itchen in Southampton**

It is probably worth mentioning that we have a close relationship with the University of Southampton Sport and Wellbeing section which is an associate member of the club and run many of their on-water activities from our club. Hopefully they have been included in your list of consultees.

I hope this feedback is of some use to your inquiry. The club would be happy to host a visit from the panel or members thereof should they want to see first hand the location and facilities.

Kind regards

Vaughan Tudor-Williams
Club Secretary