

Weir Wood Sailing Club

Welcomes the
East Grinstead
Sports Council



It was all green fields around here...

The reservoir was built to supply the needs of Crawley New Town.

Construction of the dam commenced in May 1954 and filled by December that year.



280 Acres of water

Maximum depth – 11 metres (36 feet)

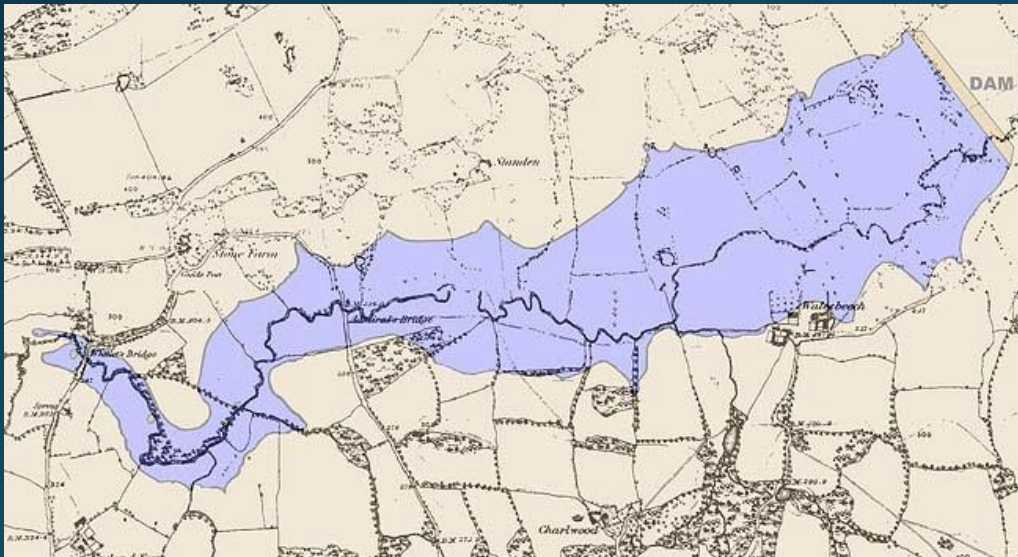
Maximum capacity – 1,237,000,000 gallons

Extract capacity – 3,000,000 gallons per day

Nature Reserve area – 152 hectares

Bird Sanctuary (restricted access) – 33 hectares

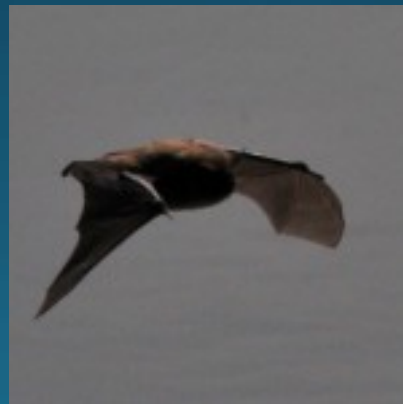
Water area in the Sanctuary – 19 hectares (when full)



Site of Special Scientific Interest and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- **Surveys have identified:**
 - 200 plant species, including some uncommon or rare in Sussex such as Orange Foxtail and Shore-weed
 - 257 species of bird
 - 28 species of butterfly, including White Admiral and Purple Emperor (both sometimes seen near the hide)
 - 17 species of damselfly and dragonfly
 - 140 species of moth.

A haven for wildlife



WWSC

- After much pressure the Water Company agreed to allow sailing and the Club was formed on 1 October 1966 as a Winter only sailing club.
- All boats had to be decontaminated after sailing.
- All year round sailing commenced in 1981.
- The Clubhouse was built in 1969 with a Sports Council grant, opened by Ian McDonald-Smith

Training and Coaching



Training has always been a strong part of our offer and we have been a Royal Yachting Association recognised Training Centre for about 40 years



We are an RYA Volvo Champion Club in recognition of our junior and youth race coaching

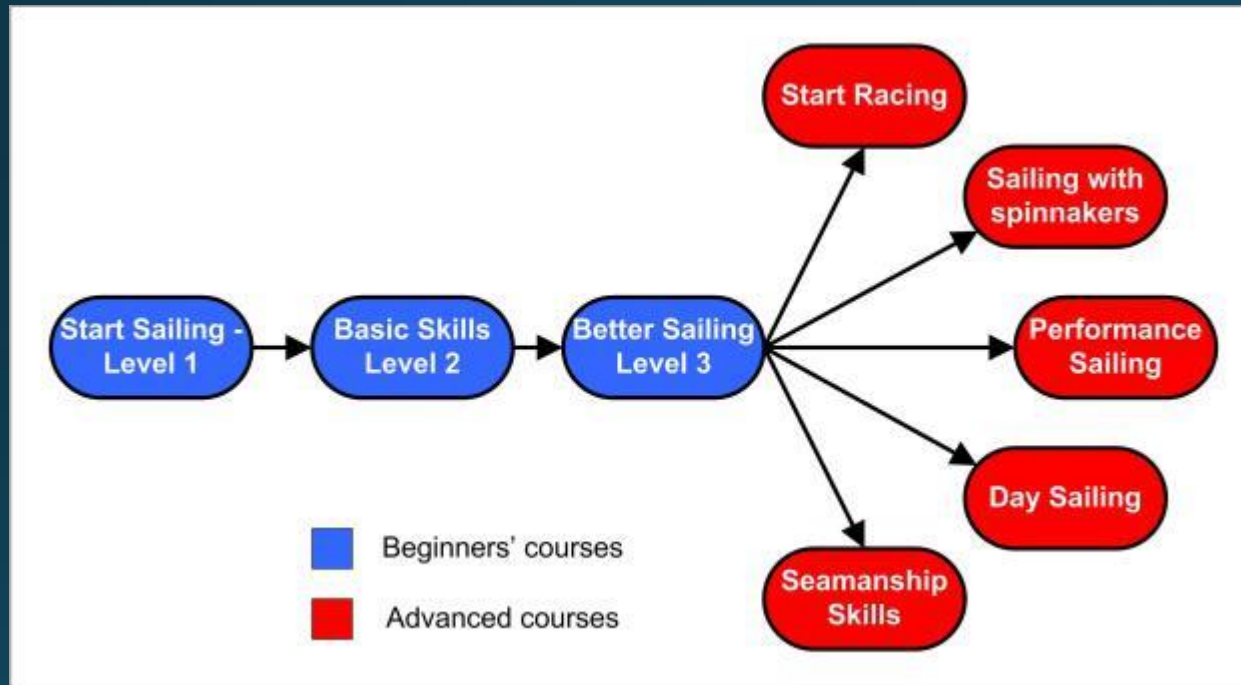


We were awarded an RYA On Board centre last year for our schools and Junior/Youth programmes

Members' Achievements

- Emma Baker represented GBR at World Youth Sailing Championships in Malaysia in 2015
- Sam Pascoe is current International 14 class World Champion
- Megan Pascoe is the current 2.4 class World Champion and Paralympic sailor
- Rob Greenhalgh past British Champion in the Moth class, past International 14 class World Champion, past 18' Skiff class World Champion and watch captain on the Volvo Ocean Race team Mapfre
- Rob's sister, Libby was Navigator on Team SCA in the Volvo Ocean Race
- Paul Cambell James on the Ben Ainslie Racing team, watch this space...

Training



The Racing Scene



The Social Scene



The Cruising Scene

Regular Solent crossings visiting the Isle of Wight



Bart's Bash

In memory of Andrew "Bart" Simpson,
Gold Medallist at the Beijing Olympics
who died while training for the
Americas Cup in 2013.

117 Entries, 12th largest in the World!



Our Lease

- Our Landlord is a local Angling/ Property Development Company who acquired the Head Lease from Southern Water thinking that there was potential to develop eco-cabins on the site.
- Our lease was up for renewal in March 2014, the terms would have sunk the club in a few years
- A long period of negotiation followed including serving Notice to Quit!
- Result! We have just agreed a 50 Year lease on more reasonable terms

Membership

- In the glory days of the 1980's and 1990's membership was around 700 membership units
- More recently membership has fallen and currently stands at 313 membership units (about 500 individuals)
- This decline in sailing club membership is not unique to WWSC
- Exit questionnaires show that people have more choices in leisure time activities, less time to spend, reduced disposable income to spend on sport, ageing membership.

Is the cost of sailing a deterrent?

- Membership costs are very reasonable,

- Single £163

Boat hire (member) £15 per half day

- Family £209

- Couple £194

- Cadet £92

- Senior £117

- Boat Park £117



Boat ownership costs vary, starting at about £500 for a second-hand model to several thousand for a new whizzy boat.

The Future of Weir Wood Sailing Club

- We would like to recruit more members
- We would like to redevelop our Clubhouse
- We seek closer engagement with the local sport clubs
- We will continue and expand our training and coaching offer
- We would like to adapt our club for disabled sailors
- We will seek funding and sponsorship to enable these aims

Thank You, enjoy the sunset...

