

Somerset Scout Sailing Sessions

Sutton Bingham Reservoir



Date: April to October

Venue: Sutton Bingham Reservoir Sailing Club

Cost: £25 per boat for the session

Booking: email: sailingSB@somersetscouts.org.uk

County Scout Sailing at Sutton Bingham



Sutton Bingham Reservoir is situated about 5 miles south of Yeovil and takes the form of the letter “T”. It is owned by Wessex Water, and the Sutton Bingham Sailing Club has an arrangement with Wessex Water to sail on the Reservoir. The County Scout Sailing Section pays a Membership Fee to Sutton Bingham Sailing Club to sail there. All three organisations have rules that we must work within to ensure Sailing is conducted in a safe and approved manner. All Sailing is at the discretion of the Duty Officer at the Club and will only take place if a Safety Boat is in operation.

We have 3 Comet Trio sailing dinghies available for use. These are good stable general purpose dinghies, but in the hands of a skilled crew, and in the right wind conditions, can be quite competitive craft. Each boat has to have a Helm {Permit Holder} and can take up to 3 young people at a time. We do not permit Beavers to sail. We suggest a maximum of 6 young people per boat per session which will give them about an hour and a quarter each on the water. This is enough for a taster session which is designed to introduce them to sailing but not to teach them to sail. For those wishing to gain more experience or make a repeat visit please discuss options with us for taking it further. We may be able to help with working through badges or towards RYA qualifications although these will need a number of sessions and some classroom work.

Of course this activity is principally governed by the wind - no wind, no sailing. On the other hand if the Helm feels the wind level is near the level that an inexperienced crew cannot cope with, he/she will cancel the session.

The morning session runs from 10.00am – 12.30pm and the afternoon session from 1.30pm – 4.00pm (followed by half an hour to pack the boats away). The helms need a break between sessions for lunch and a rest. If booking a Large Group for a whole day it is better to bring half at a time.

There will be a briefing session at the start of each session. Please arrive 30 minutes before the session starts. This gives the Helms a chance to assess the conditions and talk to the Duty Officer before dealing with Scouts. This gives time for the young people to get changed, and help to prepare the boats for launching. Separate male and female changing rooms with showers are available for use by both Club Members and Visitors

Safety: All adults and young people either sailing or assisting near the water, or on the pontoons must wear life jackets (provided by us). All those sailing must be comfortable in the water and able to swim at least a short distance. Young people will not be allowed on the water unless they have a complete change of clothes including footwear and windproof top (no flip flops, no jeans). This is for their own safety. Hypothermia can quickly set in if they get wet and cannot change into warm dry clothing. If glasses are worn they will need to be tied on. If it is very sunny, sun cream and a hat are essential.

All young people must be under the supervision of their Leader. We have had complaints from Club Members of disruption in the past. There is little for them to do whilst waiting on shore so please consider bringing a quiet activity to occupy them – they could practise their knots!

Costs: These are currently £25 per boat per session (morning or afternoon). Full payment is due at least 2 weeks beforehand. A cancellation fee of 50% of the total cost will be due if we have less than 48 hours cancellation notice. Cheques should be made payable to “*Somerset County Scout Council*”

Helms: We arrange the helms for each boat but as we only have a very limited pool of Helms, this can restrict the use of the boats. If you were prepared to gain a Scout Sailing permit it would be extremely useful to us.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above please contact us:

Chris (Chairman) sailingSB@somersetscouts.org.uk Helen (Booking Sec) sailingSB@somersetscouts.org.uk