

# *Catapult* CLASS ASSOCIATION

## **Bala Easter TT**

**Saturday 30 – Sunday 31 March 2024**

This year we shall be going to Bala not once but twice, because it is such a popular venue for *Catapult* sailors. First we shall be racing as part of Bala SC's annual Easter Regatta, and then we shall return in July (20-21).

The Association's liaison person for the forthcoming Easter event will be George Evans (01457 512216, 07931 336242, [george.evans76062@gmail.com](mailto:george.evans76062@gmail.com)).

### **The racing**

The first start will be at 13.00 on Saturday (briefing at 12.00). There will be probably be three races that day. The first start on Sunday will be at 11.00 with another three races planned, the last of which may be a pursuit race. A discard will come into effect when three or more races have been sailed. The Notice of Race, the club's standard Sailing Instructions and a Map of the Marks accompany this invitation, but they can also be downloaded from the Open Meetings page of Bala Sailing Club's website:

<https://balasailingclub.wordpress.com/open-meetings/>.

### **Entry fees**

The fee for the weekend is £35, and online entries are now open at:

<https://webcollect.org.uk/daymembership/event/easter-regatta-open-saturday-30th-and-sunday-31st-march-2024>, for which **the closing date is 27 March**.

### **The social scene**

The club will be offering a barbecue and bar at 18.00 on the Saturday evening.

### **How to find the club**

Bala Sailing Club is situated on the north east corner of Lake Tegid not far from Bala town. From the main crossroads at the eastern end of Bala's main street take the B4391 heading south. After crossing the north eastern end of the lake turn right on to the B4403. The entrance to the club is about 100m down the road on the right.

For those of you with satnavs the postcode is LL23 7BS.

### **Accommodation**

There are four campsites in the immediate vicinity. The closest to the sailing club is the Pen y Bont campsite, just 5 minutes walk away (01678 520549, [www.balalakecamping.co.uk](http://www.balalakecamping.co.uk)). The Pant-yr-Onnen campsite is very popular with members who like to build a holiday around the event ([www.balacamping.co.uk](http://www.balacamping.co.uk), 01743 718283), because you can sail off the beach there. The other two campsites are Glanllyn Lakeside ([www.glanllyn.com](http://www.glanllyn.com) 01678 520227) and Ty Isaf ([www.tyisafbala.co.uk](http://www.tyisafbala.co.uk) 01678 520574).

If camping is not your 'thing', then there are plenty of hotels and B&Bs in Bala and surrounding villages, because this is a major centre for touring Snowdonia

and the rest of North Wales. The official North Wales Tourism website is [www.gonorthwales.co.uk](http://www.gonorthwales.co.uk) (01492 531731), or there are several other websites offering accommodation in the area (eg [www.stayinwales.co.uk](http://www.stayinwales.co.uk)). The Sailing Club website also has a link to a list of local accommodation on its website (under the Visitors Information tab click on Where to Stay). Get yourself booked in now to avoid disappointment.

### **Local attractions**

Many members turn this event in to a great holiday by extending their stays before and after the weekend and taking the opportunity to tour the magnificent Snowdonia National Park. If you're particularly energetic, in addition to the great walking there is excellent mountain biking (and bike hire) in the Coed-y-Brenin Forest or white water kayaking at the National Whitewater Centre above Bala Town.

Into steam trains? There is the narrow gauge steam railway that runs along the lake right past the Sailing Club, and slightly further afield there are the Ffestiniog and Talylyn narrow gauge railways and the recently opened Welsh Highland line from Portmadog to Caernarvon.

These lines form part of North Wales's industrial heritage. If you want to learn more about one of the area's most famous exports, then you can go down a slate mine at Blaenau Ffestiniog or take a hair-raising zip slide ride across a quarry at over 70mph!

How about castles? There are more than you can shake a stick at: Conwy, Penrhyn, Caernarvon, Beaumaris, Cricceith, Harlech and many more.

Then there are the fabulous beaches generously spread around Cardigan Bay, the Llyn Peninsula and Anglesey.

For garden fanatics the world famous Bodnant Gardens near Conwy are within easy reach. Or how about a stroll through the Italianate streets of Portmeirion famous for its pottery and being the scenic backdrop to the 60s hit series the Prisoner?

This is the venue that has everything: fabulous surroundings and great sailing, so don't miss it!