

Catapult CLASS ASSOCIATION

Bala Gala and TT

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 July 2021

Our annual Bala Gala is always special, but this year it is even more special than we had planned. Bala SC have had to condense their sailing programme for a second time because of the extension of Covid restrictions in Wales. Out has gone the Great British Sailing Challenge, and our event has now been merged with the Club's Long Distance Weekend. We will still get our fun races on the Friday afternoon, and now we have not one but two long distance races to look forward to over the weekend. For veteran Catapult sailors it will bring back happy memories of the Enduro long distance race which was a feature of our Bala Cat Club events in the noughties. They say that change keeps one on one's toes, so this should be interesting!

The Association's liaison person for the event will be Stuart Ede (01904 738158, 07575 059339, catamaranstu@outlook.com).

The sailing

The Gala starts at 14.00 on Friday with an afternoon of fun races, which may include any or all of: a Pairs Race, when improvers are paired up with an expert for some on-the-water tips, a Pursuit Race based on personal handicaps, a Relay Race (always good for a laugh) and a Team Race.

The start for the first long distance race will be at 13.00 on Saturday (briefing an hour or so beforehand). Sunday's long distance race will start at 11.00. Both races will count for our TT and Personal Handicap Series.

Entry fees

In order for the Club to accommodate us under the Covid restrictions we will be awarded temporary membership. Temporary membership costs £16 per day so the weekend will cost us £32. They are running our fun races for free. Fees will be collected on the day. The club accepts cash or cheques only. The £5 CCA levy will be collected separately.

The social scene

The Lakeview Cafe on site will be organising a barbecue on the Saturday evening, and while tickets can be bought on the day they would like to know how many people to expect, so please **let Stuart know by Sunday 4 July**.

On the Friday evening members will be fending for themselves. Continuing Covid restrictions make it difficult to organise a fleet meal, and in any case the straw poll for Bassenthwaite showed there is considerable wariness amongst members about eating out.

Lakeview Cafe

On the subject of food the Lakeview Cafe in the sailing club's clubhouse, run by Adam, a qualified chef, it is open to the public between 9.00 and 5.00 serving breakfasts, lunches, snacks, ice creams etc. More details can be found on the @adamslakeviewcafe page on Facebook.

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

By now regular attendees will have booked their accommodation. If, however, for whatever reason you have had to leave arrangements to the last minute, here are some suggestions.

The best place for campers is obviously the Pen y Bont campsite just 5 minutes walk from the Sailing Club (www.balalakecamping.co.uk, 01678 520549). It may well be full now, but it is worth trying to see if there have been any cancellations. There are other campsites at Pant-yr-Onnen, which has a faithful following amongst those who grew to love it when the old Cat Club was based there (www.balacamping.co.uk, 01743 718283), Glanllyn Lakeside (www.glanllyn.com 01678 520227) and Ty Isaf (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 (01492 531731), or there are several other websites offering accommodation in the area (eg www.stayinwales.co.uk). The Sailing Club website also has a link to a list of local accommodation on its website ([Bala Sailing Club - A family club on the largest lake in Wales \(wordpress.com\)](http://Bala Sailing Club - A family club on the largest lake in Wales (wordpress.com))) - 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? Bala boasts its own narrow gauge steam railway that runs along the lake right past the Sailing Club, and slightly further afield there are the Ffestiniog and Talyllyn 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 Lleyrn 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. It is the high spot in the **Catapult** calendar, so don't miss it!