

# ***Catapult*** CLASS ASSOCIATION

## **Bala Gala and National Championships**

**Friday 15 – Sunday 17 July 2022**

Our annual Bala Gala is always special, but this year it is even more special since Bala Sailing Club (<https://balasailingclub.wordpress.com>) will also be hosting our National Championships. We shall be racing alongside the club fleets and a visiting fleets of Tinkers.

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

### **Fun Racing Friday**

The Gala starts on Friday with an afternoon of fun races starting at 14.00 (time tbc). These 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 Nationals**

The first start for the Nationals will be at 13.00 on Saturday (briefing at 12.00). There will be three races that day with a break ashore. The first start on Sunday will be at 11.30 with another three races planned with a break ashore. A discard will come into effect when four or more races have been sailed.

### **Entry fees**

The entry fee for the Gala will be £25. Fees will be collected on the day. The club accepts cash or cheques only. There may be a small additional fee for the fun races. The £5 CCA levy will be collected separately by Stuart.

### **The social scene**

The club will be operating a do-it-yourself barbecue and bar on the Saturday evening. Bring your own food and cook it on the club's BBQ. The provisional plan is to organise a fleet meal at a local hostelry on the Friday evening, but that is subject to consultation with those attending (see accompanying email). Arrangements will be confirmed when the consultation is complete.

### **Catering**

The Lakeview Cafe (<https://balasailingclub.wordpress.com/lakeview-cafe/> or Facebook page @adamslakeviewcafe), run by Adam, a qualified chef, is situated in the clubhouse and will be open between 9.00 and 5.00 every day serving breakfasts, lunches, snacks, ice creams etc.

### **Annual General Meeting**

For those of you that want to have your say at the Annual General Meeting, or just listen to what's happening in the Association, that will be held at 17.30 on the Saturday evening in the clubhouse. The AGM Notice is issued alongside this invitation, and the papers will be sent out nearer the time. All members are welcome to attend.

### **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.

There are four campsites in the immediate vicinity. The Pant-yr-Onnen campsite is very popular with members who 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. If proximity to the sailing club is your priority, then the Pen y Bont campsite is just 5 minutes walk away ([www.balalakecamping.co.uk](http://www.balalakecamping.co.uk), 01678 520549). 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 Lleyllyn 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!