

Catapult CLASS ASSOCIATION

Bala TT

Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 July 2023

Bala is deservedly an enduring favourite venue for Catapult events, because it offers an ideal opportunity to build a great holiday around the sailing. 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).

The racing

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. In a break from tradition it is intended to start our fleet and the club fleets from a Committee Boat with the Tinkers running their own races from the Race Hut. A discard will come into effect when four or more races have been sailed. The club's standard Sailing Instructions and a Map of the Marks are available for download from the Open Meetings page of Bala Sailing Club's website: (<https://balasailingclub.wordpress.com/open-meetings/>).

Entry fees

Although the Notice of Race has not yet been posted, online entries are open, for which **the closing date is 13 July**. The fee for the weekend is £25. To enter go to the Bala SC website's Open Meetings page (link as above). The Notice of Race and BBQ booking form will be posted there in due course, so keep an eye on the website at intervals.

The social scene

The club will be offering a barbecue and bar at 18.00 on the Saturday evening. The menu comprises: Cheese Burger, Sausage, Pasta and Salad - £10. Vegetarians £8. A children's meal costs £5 and includes a Cheeseburger or Hotdog, Pasta and Salad.

The Lakeview Cafe has closed, but club members will be offering snacks from the clubhouse kitchen at other times.

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, 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, 01678 520549). The other two campsites are 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 (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 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 Lley 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!