

Catapult CLASS ASSOCIATION

National Championships

Bala Sailing Club

Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 July 2026

This year the Catapult fleet will be returning to Bala for our National Championships which will form part of the Bala Multihull Open. Bala is one of our perennial favourite venues, so all the more reason to take part. Don't be intimidated by the fact that it is our Nationals, because we welcome all levels of expertise.

The Association's liaison person for the forthcoming event will be Stuart Ede (01904 738158, 07575 059339, catamaranstu@outlook.com). The local rep will be Rob Sloggett (sloggerr@gmail.com), **Catapult** sailor and Commodore of the Club.

The racing

Registration opens at 10.00 on the Saturday. The first start will be at 13.00 on Saturday (briefing at 12.00). Three races are scheduled. The first start on Sunday will be at 11.00 with another three races planned. A discard will come into effect when three or more races have been sailed. The Sailing Instructions will be available on the club website nearer the time at the web address below and at registration from 10.00 on the day. The SIs will include a Map of the Marks, but for convenience a copy accompanies this invitation together with the Notice of Race.

Entry fees

The fee for the weekend is £35, and online entries are now open at:
<https://www.balasc.co.uk/event/1272687>.

The social scene

The galley will open both days for breakfast and midday snacks. At present the club is thinking of running a BYO BBQ on the Saturday evening, ie bring your own food and cook it on a ready-lit barbecue. Alternatively people can bring food from a take-away in town and eat it at the club. More information later.

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). The Pant-yr-Onnen campsite is very popular with members who like to build a holiday around the event (www.balacamping.co.uk, 01743 718283), because you can sail off the beach there. 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, 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 Talylyn narrow gauge railways plus the 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, so don't miss it!