

Catapult CLASS ASSOCIATION

Kielder Water TT, 10-11 September 2022

Our visit to Kielder Sailing Club last year proved such a hit that by popular demand we are going back there next month. Kielder Water is the largest man-made lake in Europe, and it is set amongst the forest clad North Pennines in the beautiful Northumberland National Park. It is a stunning place to sail.

As last year we shall be taking part in the Club's Annual Open Meeting. We won't be joined by the Osprey fleet this year, so there will be just two fleets: Catapults and General Handicap.

The Notice of Race accompanies this invitation. Further information can be obtained from Dave Watt (davejwatt@yahoo.com), the Club contact. George Evans will be our liaison person for the event (george.evans76062@gmail.com, 01457 512216 or 07946 109216).

Registration

The cost for the weekend will be £20 per boat. Whilst you can register on arrival (and they have a card machine this year), the Club encourages you to enter online in advance at <https://webcollect.org.uk/kwsc/event/kwsc-september-open-1>, when payment will be taken by a one-off direct debit. Booking is open from now until 8 September.

There is also a link for entries from the Open Meetings page on the Club website (www.kielderwatersc.org), where it is expected the Sailing Instructions will be posted in the coming days.

The racing

There will be 5 races with one discard being allowed provided 3 or more races have been sailed. The briefing will be at 11.30 on the Saturday, with two races back-to-back at 13.00. On Sunday there will be three races back-to-back at 10.30. Catapults will have their own start. A discard applies when three or more races have been sailed.

Accommodation

There is limited free camping on the club grounds on a first come first served basis (please note KWSC members have priority). Otherwise you can park on the Tower Knowe Information Centre car park by the entrance to the club, which costs £15 per night. If you want to be sure of a spot, you can book online with Kielder Water and Forest Park. Follow the link from the Open Meetings page on the club website (www.kielderwatersc.org). The club grounds will be open on Friday.

If you would like to spend longer sailing on Kielder Water, you can do so by applying for part year Country Membership of KWSC at www.webcollect.org.uk/kwsc/subscription. You have to be a member of an RYA affiliated club, but fortunately the Association is affiliated. Membership costs £52.50 plus key access to the main gate and clubhouse for an extra £50 (£40 of which is a returnable deposit). You can then move your campervan or caravan into the main club compound when the Open Regatta is over, but only until the following Friday when weekend camping reverts to being for full members only.

For B&Bs, guest houses, hotels and campsites the Club has a number of suggestions on its website (www.kielderwatersc.org - Visiting KWSC>Where to stay) or go to www.visitkielder.com.

Social events and catering

The galley will be serving a pie & peas supper on Friday evening. And it will be open for breakfasts, sandwiches and snacks over the weekend, but it is not expected to offer a meal on the Saturday evening. The licensed bar will be open all weekend.

George has kindly offered to arrange a fleet meal for us on the Saturday evening. **To book your place, please contact him** (details on the first page) **by Friday 26 August.**

Directions

Kielder Water SC is next to the Tower Knowe Information Centre at the south eastern end of the lake (put NE48 1BX into your satnav), situated half a mile from the dam. Kielder Water itself is well signposted from most major roads in Northumberland.

From the east (Newcastle and the A1) take the A69 (Hexham signs). At Hexham turn northwards onto the A6079 to Chollerford, then follow the B6320 to Bellingham and the C200 to Kielder. Follow the tourist signs for Kielder Water and Forest.

From the north (Edinburgh, Jedburgh) or south (Darlington), travelling on the A68, take the B6320 and follow the tourist signs for Kielder Water and Forest.

From the west (Carlisle and the M6) turn off the M6 at J43 and head east on the A69. Turn off the A69 at Greenhead and follow the B6318 (the "Military Road") and take a left turn after approximately 13 miles (the turn off to Fourstones is opposite on the right). Join the B6320 road to Bellingham turning left at the junction and then follow the signs to Kielder.

NB The Club warns that you should make sure you have plenty of fuel in your tank, as the nearest garage is at Kielder village 7 miles west of KWSC. The pumps are operated by credit or debit cards only and open from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week. There is a garage 10 miles to the east in Bellingham and at weekends is only open on Saturday morning.

Other attractions

You're in Northumberland - you'll be spoilt for choice! The Northumberland National Park contains some of the very best scenery and walking country in England. The Kielder Tourist Information website (www.visitkielder.com) tells you all you need to know about the immediate vicinity, such as the myriad walking and cycling trails around the lake. The Pennine Way winds its way nearby, or why not walk sections of Hadrian's Wall?

Roman history buffs can spend hours in places like Chesters Fort, Vindolanda, Housesteads and Corbridge. Meanwhile stately homes and gardens like Wallington House and Belsay Hall with its famous Quarry Garden beckon to devotees of 17th, 18th and 19th century history. This year you can see the Belsay House renovations close up and take a tube slide down from the scaffolding!

Or you can succumb to the lure of the magnificent Northumbrian coastline: gorgeous silver sand beaches watched over by brooding castles like Dunstanburgh, Bamburgh and Warkworth. A little farther up the coast you come to Holy Island and Lindisfarne Castle reached by causeway at low tide. And beyond that you reach Berwick with its massive ramparts – the most besieged town in England and Scotland, it's changed hands so many times!

Nature lovers can take a boat trip to the Farne Islands to see the puffins, terns, kittiwakes, cormorants and seals up close and personal.

Or if you prefer your wildlife digesting gently in your stomach, gourmets can taste real Craster kippers straight from the smokehouses clustered around this tiny fishing port.

That's only a flavour of all there is to see and do – see what other delights you can discover!