

Catapult CLASS ASSOCIATION

Kielder Water TT, 19-20 September 2026

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.

Our TT will be part of Kielder Water Sailing Club's Annual Open Meeting. On the Saturday we shall be joined by the ILCA (formerly Laser) fleet for their Lakeland & Border Grand Prix, but on the Sunday it will be just us and the General Handicap fleet.

The Notice of Race is available on the KWSC website at:

<https://kielderwatersailing.club/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/NOR-Sept-26-Rev-1.pdf>, but for convenience a copy accompanies this invitation. The Sailing Instructions will appear shortly; keep an eye on the Club website (<https://kielderwatersailing.club/> Open Meetings/ September Open). Further information can be obtained from Richard Purdy (richpurdy78@gmail.com), the Club's Rear Commodore. Stuart Ede will be our liaison person for the event (catamaranstu@outlook.com, 01904 738158 or 07575 059339).

Precautions against invasive non-native species

Northumbrian Water have introduced measures to prevent the transfer of non-native species to the reservoir. Visitors are expected to have washed down their boats before arrival.

Registration

Entry fees will be collected at Registration, which opens at 9.30 on the Saturday. The cost for the weekend will be £20 per boat.

The racing

There will be 6 races with one discard being allowed once 5 or more races have been sailed. The briefing will be at 12.00 on the Saturday, with three races back-to-back at 12.30. On Sunday there will be three races back-to-back at 10.30. There will be a separate start for the Catapults.

Accommodation

There is free camping for motorhomes and caravans on the club grounds.

If the club grounds are oversubscribed, you can park on the Tower Knowe Information Centre car park by the entrance to the Club, which costs £10 per night. There are no electric hook-ups available and no waste disposal. The club grounds are expected to be open on Friday as Club members prepare for the event, but the time is uncertain at present.

There is also free camping for tents around the clubhouse.

For B&Bs, guest houses, hotels and campsites go to www.visitkielder.com.

Social events and catering

Both the galley and bar will be open throughout the weekend for snacks, sandwiches and drinks.

The Club expects to provide a meal on the Saturday evening, but details are not yet available.

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 the newly renovated Belsay Hall with its famous Quarry Garden beckon to devotees of 17th, 18th and 19th century history.

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!