

Earlswood Lakes SC

New members' info – also see www.earlswoodsc.co.uk v2025



Help! I want.....

- **Locker and Club Keys**
-Steve Boot
- **Training**
– Ian Evans
- **Sailing advice**
– James Patterson
Dinghy Instructors
- **Rules advice –**
James Patterson
- **To help out –**
see any committee member
- **To practice being Race Officer – just turn up and ask!**

Commodore's welcome to Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club

Welcome to Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club (ELSC). If you have been given this Welcome Letter you have probably recently joined, or are interested in joining the club. Either way, welcome! If you're an experienced sailor then you will enjoy our compact and testing circuit, if you're a complete novice then you will appreciate never being far from the shore or a safety boat.

Earlswood Lakes took five years to construct in the early 1800s. They were built at the summit level of the nearby Stratford upon Avon Canal, to provide a water source which would keep the canal topped up. There are three lakes in the system, known as the Engine Pool, the Windmill Pool and Terry's Pool.

By the turn of the century they had become a popular day trip destination from Birmingham. Incredibly, the nearby houses in Wood Lane were originally built as holiday homes!!

These days the Lakes are still a favourite for leisure. The sailing club uses Windmill Pool. Fishing on the Lakes

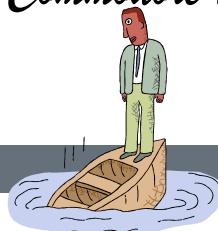
is extremely popular. Set in a natural woodland environment, the beauty of the Lakes and, of course, the wildlife are delightful to behold. Ducks, Canada geese and squirrels are common, but today there are some surprises, like mink, that have found their way from fur farms, can also be spotted and it is believed that otters are also now in residence at the lakes.

Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club was founded in the early 1960's when a small group of hardy, yet bored, men decided that the lakes needed an alternative to fishing, and with a small grant from the council established a clubhouse and jetty on the lake.

From then on the facilities have progressed and the range of boats have diversified. We hope you enjoy your sailing with us!

Steve Boot

- Commodore ELSC



ELSC WhatsApp groups

ELSC General Chat group where you can ask anything anytime or general chat.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HEdGjCkTAPr4Uvavsb4ScI>

Both groups can be joined by following the links above and you can then manage your own membership.



Wet 'n' Wild at the
Laser Open

Boat classes at ELSC

Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club now sails many classes of boat. Each boat is different, but lovely in its' own way. See the committee members for more info on the various boats.

The main classes of boat are in the pictures around this page but there are now several other boats appearing on the water.

Each boat is given a handicap based on a system called the "Portsmouth Yardstick". This scheme is designed to make fairer racing between different classes of boats. A Laser is theoretically faster than an Enterprise so it gets a lower handicap etc.

Each Sailor is also given a handicap based of the Sailing secretaries' discretion and perusal of the results. The more you race - the more accurate this will get over time. Your personal handicap will change depending on which boat you sail. If you are 125 in an Enterprise, then you will be 144 in a Topper.

If you are racing in a race against someone with a 100 h/c and you are 125 h/c, you will get 12.5 mins after the lower h/c has finished to finish and win, so take heart, last on the water may be first on handicap!



Two Lasers



Laser Stratos



An Enterprise



A solo



A Topper



Wanderer

Some Safety Notes for all.....

The committee and members of Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club take safety very seriously and we have a proud safety record at the club. We would ask all new members and their spouses and children to please observe the following rules.

1. No children in the galley.
2. Lifejackets must be worn on the jetty, and it is not a play area as it can get very slippery.
3. Supervised children are welcome at the club, but must not be left whilst their guardian is off the premises (apart from if the guardian is sailing).
4. The launch ramp is for launching boats, not for skateboarding or cycling.
5. Sailing outside standard club hours will mean there is no safety boat available, and is therefore not advised



What happened next?

Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club ~ Officers 2024



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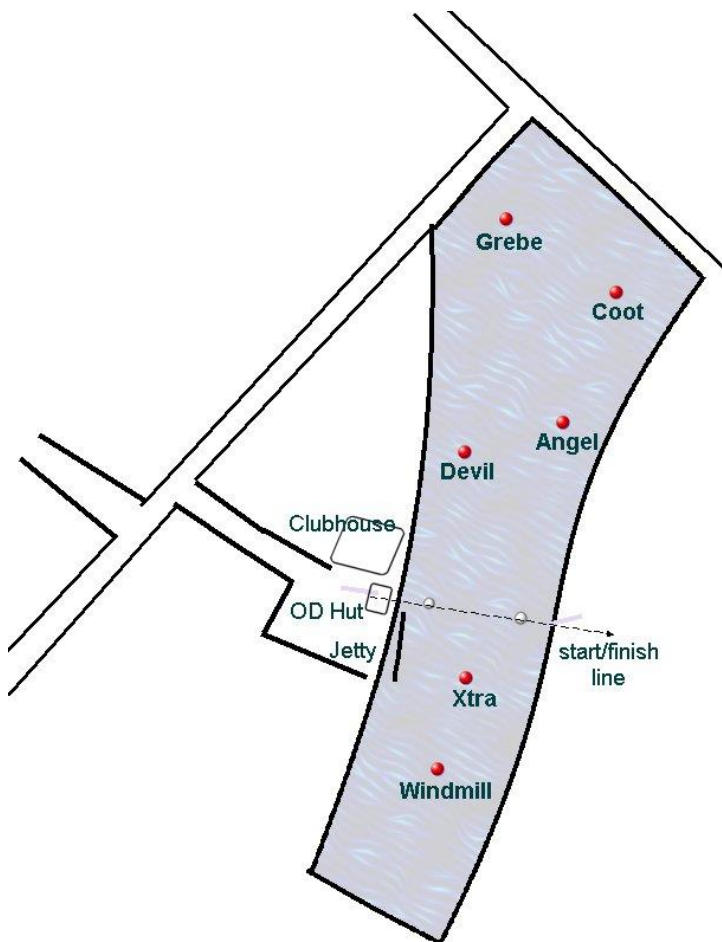
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ELSC Marks of the Course- and what they mean



The start line -seconds after the gun.

Normally Races at ELSC are sailed in big triangles between Grebe, Coot, and Windmill. Races normally start with a “beat” into the wind (this is because it is easier to control your boat into the wind at the start). A typical course for a race with a Southerly breeze might be set as follows by the OD:

M W C G 6

It’s a “Menagerie start” (everyone starts together) and in the minutes before the race, the flags and horns protocol as described to the left is observed.

This means that you would start the race into a Southerly wind, by passing between the white buoys, on a “beat” heading for the Windmill mark and pass the mark on the port side of your boat.

You would then head back up the lake (probably now on a “run”) to the Coot mark and leave it to port too.

A short “reach” across to Grebe which is also rounded to port and you’re back on a “beat” all the way back to Windmill. Repeat this for another six laps as determined by the indicator above, or until the course is shortened with the S Flag over the OD’s hut. None of the other marks matter in this course and can be touched if necessary.

On the last lap you must finish the race in the direction you started it again passing between the white buoys. As you cross the line the horn will sound to signal your finish.

Your time will be recorded and then reduced as per your personal handicap – so even if you don’t finish first, you may still win!

The marks of the course are named, **Grebe, Coot, Angel, Devil, Xtra, and Windmill**. The White buoys are the start/finish line. The other floating objects are boat moorings. The starting board by the ODs hut determines the course on the day.

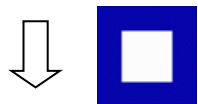
5, 4, 1, 0 Flags and horns for a typical start



At **5 Mins**, raise class flag and sound the horn (This one is Menagerie Start)



At **4 Mins**, raise preparatory (P) flag and at this point you should not be attached to the jetty (although you can hold it in the water)



At **1 Min**, lower preparatory (P) flag and sound the horn



At **0 Min**, lower class flag and sound the horn (race starts)

Some typical Results...and how to read them...

Spring Saturday

Number of races: in series -> 7 to count -> 4

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Points	Place
Terry Bridgewater	1	1	3	4	6	2	5	7	1
Dave Coombs	2	4	4	3	3	1	3	9	2
Susie Guthrie	3	2	2	5	5	7	6	12	3

This is a typical set of results for a series of races over several weeks. Terry has won the series and his best four results have counted towards his total of 5 points. Although they didn't all race in the same races, their best four results count. Often only 3 races are required.

Grand Splash

Number of races: in series -> 3 to count -> 2

Name	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Points	Place
Ian Ingram	1	1	DNS	2	1
Darren Layton	2	3	1	3	2
Adam Atkins	3	2	DNS	5	3

This is a typical set of results for a one day event series of races. Ian has won this event without even having to sail the last race as nobody can now beat his score of just 2 points. Darren was wise to sail the 3rd race and steal second from Adam.

The Common Signals



Coot (to Port)

Grebe (to Port)

6 laps

Menagerie Start

Pursuit

Angel (to starboard)

Windmill (starboard)

Xtra (to starboard)

Devil (to Port)

The Racing Programme



Earlswood Lakes SC from the air

It is fairly important to be able to read the racing programme and understand what it means. James Patterson draws up the racing programme at the start of each season. A typical section is described below:

SUNDAY	10:00	11:30			First gun 9.55
SATURDAY			14:00	15:30	First gun 13.55
WEDNESDAY				19:10	First gun 7.05

DATE	DAY	OD			AOD
12 Mar	SUN	GRAND SPLASH 1 2 3		A Wright	J Hawkins
18 Mar	SAT		S1	SSP1	Steve Boot Sandra Boot
19 Mar	WED			W 1	J Patterson Susie Guthrie

Generally the start times are always the same on the different days and the letters indicate which race it is (wrt the guidance notes at the end of the programme). Check your OD and AOD duty dates.

ELSC INDUCTION

Welcome to Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club. We have put together these checklists to help you get to know what you need to know. Your trainers will go through this checklist with you in your first few weeks and ensure you are aware of club procedures.

Knowledge Checklist: Name

On the Course – Basic Safety	✓ when understood
Buoyancy Aids – beyond the gate	
Clothing and wind direction	
Covering cuts and scratches	
First aiders and First Aid kits	
Safety Boat is on the water?	
Local evacuation procedures	
Club Basics	✓ when clear on procedure
Power On and Off	
Use of Club keys	
Open up and Lock up procedures	
Galley Operation	
Use of the payment terminal	
Bosuns' Hut	
Bins and Waste	
Hose and Water	
Waterside Gates	
Safety Boat Basics	✓ when undertaken
Who can drive the Safety Boat?	
Lock and Unlock Procedure	
Fuel locker and priming	
Raising and Lowering the engine	
Use of kill cord and Keys	
Basic Controls Tuition	
15 minute practice session	
Leaving and Approaching the jetty	
Moving a mark of the course	
Basic Rescue Skills Single Handed	
Basic Rescue Skills Double Handed	
Towing Basics, alongside, behind, mast over boat	

Race Preparation	✓ when clear on policy
Prepare safety boat(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get keys from Galley cupboard 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • petrol can, anchor and safety equipment, ignition & kill cord, start engine to check in working order 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take club key for padlocks 	
Prepare OD hut	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • switch on electricity, check horn works, check watch works 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the race course 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decide on course, move buoys as necessary, check position of start line marks 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • display course using boards in OD Hut. 1st mark should be upwind. 	
Prepare race documents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enter OD/AOD and course details on race sheet 	
Prepare the helms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as a courtesy, check helmsmen are ready to race, and mark up the start times for the pursuits 	
Running the Races	✓ when complete / clear on policy
The Start	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • familiarize with starting procedure for race, make sure flags are all ready, check correct start - be prepared for recalls, start the race according to the start type 	
Recording during the race	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mark up every helmsman on race sheet, record position of each boat every lap, record retirees 	
Finishing the race	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shorten course if necessary, signal each finisher, record finishing times on race sheet 	
Working out handicaps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is it boat or personal handicap?, use appropriate boat or personal handicap book, calculate corrected times and use lap conversions if needed 	
Posting final results	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine finishing positions and record on race sheet, put results on race boards inside clubhouse 	
At the end of the race day	✓ when complete / clear on policy
Return safety boat(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... to boat garage and/or middle of lake, secure boats and garage 	
Tidy the OD hut	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • switch off power, take down flags, put course boards back into OD hut, remove OD equipment & restore to locker in clubhouse 	
Secure site	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shut and lock lake access gate, collect boat hire monies, shut and lock clubhouse windows and doors, shut and lock club access gate 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put bins out according to the rota in the OD Hut. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you leave before the club is empty, <i>please ensure someone who remains will take responsibility for locking up.</i> 	

Training Checklist

This section gives you some ideas about how to progress your skills at ELSC.

Start Sailing Course	✓ when complete
Our Basic Introduction to Sailing at Earlswood Lakes	
1st Follow Up Session	✓ when complete
Rig and Sail a boat you have sailed during training. Sail a triangular course. How to put the boats away properly.	
2nd Follow Up Session	✓ when complete
Sail a different boat and sail a triangular course	
3rd Follow Up Session	✓ when complete
Rig and Sail a single Handed Boat and sail a triangular course	
Sail 10 times	✓ when complete
Sail on 10 different occasions at the club.	
Race Officer/Club Induction	✓ when complete
Understand how to run and record Races and tick them off the lists above	
Safety Boat Basics	✓ when complete
Become competent in operating the Safety Boat during normal racing using the tick lists above	
Sail in a race and get a result	✓ when complete
Enter or follow a race and get a result.	
Improve your skills	✓ when complete
Practice and qualify in a race series (sail 3 races in a series or one day event)	
Take a Level 2 Sailing Course	✓ when complete
Improve your skills further by taking the RYA Level 2 sailing course	

This is a suggested progression but it's usual for this to not be entirely linear and you may achieve these objectives at different times.