

Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club

Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club (BSC) was founded in 1930 and its clubhouse was built by its members in 1935. The Club was founded as a Sailing, Rowing and Swimming club by local people for local people. The BSC is run entirely by its member volunteers with a strong emphasis on offering affordable sailing for all and is renowned for its Wednesday evening racing and vibrant junior section.

The Club presently has around 220 memberships representing around 380 individuals, mainly from the local community. We have both sailing and social members, including senior citizens, although we do encourage our members to actively participate (even if they have never sailed before). In recent years we have been joined by a canoe/kayak section (Maldon & Dengie Canoe Club) and they are now an integral part of the Burnham Sailing Club. We also have a number of stand-up-paddleboarders, windsurfers and swimmers.

Other local organisations also occasionally use the clubhouse for a very modest fee.

Examples of our 2017 membership Fees are:

Single	£91
Families (parents & children/young adults up to the age of 24)	£129
Young Adult single (18-24)	£42
Social Senior Citizen	£42

We particularly try to encourage families to join the club, whether they are from a sailing background or not.

To provide some financial scale to the club, income from member subscriptions totals approximately £15,000 per year. This is further supplemented by race fees, social events etc. On the expenditure side, insurance represents approximately £6,000 pa and rent/rates (dinghy park lease + rates) approximately £5,000.

Any surplus income is reinvested into the club whilst trying to maintain a modest reserve to cover unforeseen emergencies or larger projects / modifications (e.g pontoon, repairs etc).

In recent years we invested in a new deck area to the side of the clubhouse (in lieu of a more expensive extension) and have replaced what was our 25 year old pontoon (costing in the region of £100k of which £50k came from Sport England, £20k from Essex CIF and the remaining £30k from internal fundraising, reserves and member bequests).

The club owns a number of rescue boats and dinghies which are stored in the secure compound behind the clubhouse. Members store their dinghies in the dinghy park.

Originally the BSC had a pontoon and dinghy park close to where the present location of the Burnham Marina. However, when the marina was built the BSC had to give up its launching slip (around 30 years ago) and a pontoon was built outside of the clubhouse. It was at this time the BSC secured the existing car park and dinghy park from Maldon District Council on a “peppercorn” ground rent basis.

The dinghy park and car park is an essential part of the Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club. Quite simply, without it we could not operate. The car park is used all year round by the BSC and also by

residents of the houseboats at West Quay. During the sailing season it is often full to overflowing (particularly on Wednesday and Friday evening and when we hold weekend events).

