



## **Short Guide to Ashdown Sailing Club Cruises and They Work**

### **Introduction**

This guide is intended to give new members, particularly those new to yacht sailing, information about what to expect from an Ashdown Sailing Club cruise in terms of organisation of the cruise, what to bring, what may be expected of you and what you can expect from the cruise.

If you are an old hand at sailing but have not sailed much with ASC, please read this guide, as you may find that other clubs and organisations do things differently.

### **Choosing and Applying for a Cruise**

Cruises are listed on the ASC website, [www.ashdownsailing.org.uk/events](http://www.ashdownsailing.org.uk/events), also in the club magazine (The Log) and in regular emails to all members. The dates of the cruise, destination and theme if any, and the contact details for the Cruise Organiser (CO) for that cruise will be listed.

Applications are open to all members, preferably by using the online cruise application form on the website. Look for the "Apply" button beside the cruise title. Alternatively, you can email the CO. Please make a note in your diary and if you later find you cannot make the cruise, please let the CO know as soon as possible.

The online cruise application page allows you to add a comment if you wish. This will be visible on the page. You can also add a private comment which will be visible only to the CO.

Usually, all applicants can be accommodated on a cruise but it pays to get your application in early. Sometimes, the cruise is over booked and we may take the first to apply although our first priority is always safe, balanced crews.

About 10 days before the start of the cruise, the CO will remind applicants that the cruise is approaching and will start organising crews, which will be agreed with Skippers. About a week before the cruise start, you should hear from your Skipper with an invitation to sail on his or her boat. If you have not heard anything a week before the cruise start, please contact the CO. Occasionally, cruise organisation is started several weeks before the start of the cruise when advanced bookings are involved, and for long cruises so that members can book holidays at work etc.

Information you should get from your should include

- your Skipper's contact details
- where you will join the boat and any specific instructions
- car parking or public transport route
- opportunities for car sharing
- what time to arrive
- date and approximate time the boat is expected to back
- if the Skipper has any particular plans in mind for the cruise
- if you should bring any victuals (food or drink)

Please be sure to tell your Skipper of any medical condition that he/she should be aware of and also any dietary requirements (you may be asked to bring at least some of your own food).

Until you have your invitation to join a boat, your contact point will be the CO whom you should contact with any questions.

## **What to bring.**

In general, sensible, serviceable clothes and shoes are better than fashion items. If you have any questions on any aspects of the cruise, ask your Skipper (if you need to talk to your but are unable to contact him/her, contact the CO).

**Lifejacket/buoyancy aid.** If you do not have a lifejacket, tell your Skipper and if you have dinghy buoyancy aid, ask if you should bring it. Boats often have spare lifejackets or one can be borrowed from another boat, but this may need to be arranged so talk to your Skipper as soon as you can.

**Non-slip shoes with non-marking soles.** Proper deck shoes are best. They cost about £40 - £80 or more. Plimsolls or trainers, with non-marking soles and a good grip, will do, as long as you do not mind them getting wet and maybe muddy. A second pair of shoes is useful, particularly for trips longer than a weekend, but please no high heels or hard soles.

**Waterproof top and leggings.** Walking or dinghy sailing gear is fine, best if they are fully waterproof, not just shower proof.

**Sleeping bag (and pillow if you want).** Most people have a sleeping bag or can borrow one, but they start from £10. Try Sports Direct, Argos, Millets, Decathlon etc.

**Clothing.** Layers are best rather than heavy jumpers etc. Avoid clothes that stay wet. You should take one complete change of clothes, even for a weekend. Also, take loose fitting clothes that allow you to move around easily. Try not to take too much as storage on the boat may be limited.

**Towel.** Quick drying travel towels are good.

**Personal.** Sun hat, warm hat, gloves, sunscreen. Expensive cameras, phones, computers etc are at owners' risk and should be stowed carefully during passage. You should not expect the boat insurance to cover your personal possessions.

**Medication.** Do not forget any prescription medication, also medicine for known ailments eg allergies, travel sickness etc. If you are worried about travel sickness, get advice from a pharmacist and follow the instructions.

**Luggage.** Hard cases are difficult to store so pack your gear in a soft holdall.

**Victuals.** You may be asked to bring some provisions for the crew eg a breakfast, or for yourself in the case of particular dietary needs. Any cost incurred will be accounted for in the final cruise costs.

If you have any particular fancy or treat, eg fruit tea, 12 year old malt whisky, please feel to bring them in moderation. As always, if you are in doubt, talk to your Skipper.

**Foreign Travel.** If a trip across the channel is on the cards, even if it is not the primary destination, please bring your passport and if an EU national your European Health Insurance Card (was E111). EHIC is available free from [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) - do not get conned into paying unofficial sites. Reciprocal health arrangements provided by EHIC may change after the UK has left the EU. Note that the Channel Islands are not part of the EU and only Jersey has a reciprocal health agreements with the UK.

If you are not a British *Citizen*, please tell your Skipper as he may need to know when filling in foreign paperwork. Also, please make sure that you have the necessary documentation to get back into the UK. Border Controls are rarely an issue to yacht but it a best to be properly prepared.

## **During the Cruise**

Your Skipper should give you a boat brief when you join the boat. This may vary depending on your experience but will probably cover use of equipment, where safety equipment is kept and where basic supplies such as tea and coffee, drinking water and snacks are kept.

You will be encouraged to join in the sailing but if you do not want, or are unable to do so, please tell your Skipper before the cruise, or better, send a private message when you apply for the cruise. If you want to learn or brush up on any particular skill, eg navigation, pilotage, sail trim etc, Skippers will usually be able help, depending on itinerary and circumstances. You will also be expected to take your turn with the house work such as washing up and making tea and coffee.

Accommodation on board is somewhat like a caravan and is best described as compact, but all boats have

- a berth (bed) for each crew member
- galley (kitchen) with sink and small cooker, and usually a fridge
- heads (toilet)

To help him run the boat, particularly on longer trips, a Skipper may nominate someone to act as a No 1 (second in command) or a Watch Leader.

On most cruises, some meals are taken on board and some ashore in pubs and moderately priced restaurants. Usually, the total cost of the meal, food and drink, is divided between the crew, but if you think this is unfair, have a quiet word with your Skipper.

Cost of meals, food and refreshments, marina berths etc will be added up at the end of the cruise and split between those on board, so make a note of anything you spend. The Skipper may add on an allowance for cost of fuel, gas etc but will not charge for annual running costs of the boat such as home marina fees, insurance and routine maintenance. If you wish to show your appreciation for the use of the boat, a bottle of wine, homemade cakes or small present is acceptable but not expected.

If you have any problems at any time during the cruise eg you have forgotten something or you feel unwell, talk to your Skipper as soon as you can. Try to keep warm and dry: do not allow yourself to get hungry or thirsty.

If you do not understand what is happening, or are not sure what to do, ask. Do not leave it hoping that all will become clear.

Few Skippers and crew smoke so if you do, please ask your Skipper what his rules are. You will not be allowed to smoke below decks and probably will not be allowed to smoke anywhere on board.

At the end of the cruise, you will be expected to help clean the boat, inside and out, so please offer. This is not usually an onerous task if everyone mucks in and is all part of yacht sailing (even expensive charter boats require it).

Finally, have a great cruise and enjoy yourself.

Ian Sandell - for Ashdown Sailing Club, 18 Nov 2018 (Version 1d)  
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