



RHYC

Kayak, Dinghy and Keelboat Hire

Introduction

The Club has a range of boats that are available to hire by Club members. For the smaller dinghies, **priority is given to those attending the Lion Cubs, On-Board and Lion Race Training junior sessions**. Other than this, all boats are available to hire, for a practice sail, a local cruise or potter, or for the Club's race programme.

Boats can be hired throughout the summer sailing period from April until the end of October, and for racing in the Club's winter race series until December.

The Boats and Hire Charges

The table below summarises the boats available for hire and the charges. Further details about each of the boats are contained later in this document.

Boat Type	Number of Boats	Capacity (people)	Minimum Age for Hirer	Session Hire Fee	Day Hire Fee	Weekend Hire Fee
Optimist	8	1	6	£10 ¹	£15	£20
Topper	6	1	8	£10	£15	£20
Tera	2	1	8	£15	£22	£30
Feva	2	2	8	£15	£22	£30
Vision	1	3	16	£15	£22	£30
Wayfarer	2	4	16	£15	£22	£30
Ajax	3	5	16	£30	£45	£60
Kayak	1	1	12	£5	£7	£10

¹ £5 for On-Board beginners

A session is defined as a 3-hour training period, or the duration of Club racing, or a half day hire.

Booking

Members who wish to book boats for a period should **do so through the Club Office** (email office.manager@royalharwich.co.uk or Tel. 01473 780319). Boats may not be taken out unless they have been booked and paid for in advance. [**Note – Whilst the Office is shut please book my email to mikeclayton1779@gmail.com Please allow 72 hours notice.**]

The Office will provide the code for the key safe for the container key when the booking is made so that hirers can access the sails and other equipment.

Advice on the suitability of the boats for their proposed use can usually be provided through the Office.

The booking is accepted on the basis that the Club will place the boat at the disposal of the hirer on the specified date, unless the Club is prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond its control, in which case the whole of the hire fee will be refunded, and the hirer will have no claim on the Club.

By paying the hire fee you are **agreeing to the terms and conditions of the hire** as set out in this document.

The Club reserves the right to refuse or cancel the hire for any reason.

Qualifications

Bookings for Junior Sailing will be made in accordance with the guidance for each training group. The junior boats (Optimist, Topper, Tera) will not be available for casual hire when junior training sessions are taking place.

Club Members hiring sailing boats outside of training sessions **must meet one or more of the following criteria:**

- Adults holding RYA Level 2 qualification;
- Juniors holding RYA Stage 3 (youth);
- Members who own their own sailing boat; or
- Members who are assessed as competent by the Club.

Members **under the age of 18** will require a completed parental consent form.

Hirers may be required to **fill out a brief form** outlining their experience and stating which of these criteria they meet. The forms will be reviewed and approved by a Club Official prior to the booking – please note that this may take a few days. In exceptional circumstances, hirers may be asked to demonstrate their competence on the water.

The Office will maintain a **list of Members** who meet these criteria to help simplify the booking process. Members who think they may wish to hire a boat are encouraged to apply to join the list.

Safety Equipment

All people on board a hired boat must wear a suitable and adequate personal buoyancy aid at all times.

When hiring a Topper, Tera, Feva, Vision or Wayfarer, if provided the masthead flotation device must be used to reduce the risk of inversion in the case of a capsize.

It is strongly recommended that a fully charged mobile phone is carried in a waterproof bag to assist in the case of any emergency (although it should be noted that the Club is not able to provide a rescue or recovery service).

Sailing Area

For the **Kayak, Optimist, Topper, Tera and Feva** the permitted sailing area is between **No 5 buoy** (green channel marker buoy opposite Pin Mill) and **Downham** (green channel buoy opposite Deer Park, upstream of Woolverstone Marina).

The **Vision, Wayfarer and Ajax** may be sailed on most of the River Orwell and part of the River Stour. The limits on the Orwell are **No 12 buoy** (red channel buoy upstream of Fox's Marina) and **Shotley Spit** (south cardinal buoy at the junction of the Stour and the Orwell). The limits on the Stour are **Shotley Spit** and **No 4 buoy** (red channel buoy just upstream of Wrabness Point).

Sailing outside of these areas is only allowed when taking part in a Club race.

When sailing, please be **aware of shipping** that has priority when navigating the buoyed channel. Hirers must at all times be aware of any shipping and must maintain a clear, safe distance. Hirers must also be aware at all times of other yachts, dinghies and powerboats on the river and exercise care and caution.

Rigging the Boat

Generally, **hirers are expected to be able to rig the boats themselves**, with the aid of the **advice sheets** that can be provided by the Office. If hirers need help in rigging boats for the first time, it may be possible for this to be arranged through the Office if sufficient notice is given.

Weather Conditions

The hirer should **have regard to actual and forecast weather conditions**, and should remember that if the wind drops it may be difficult to get back to the Club, particularly if they are down tide. Please take guidance from experienced sailors if in doubt.

The boats are let on an unattended basis, and the Club will not provide a support boat for the hire period. **It is the hirer's responsibility** to ensure that the helm and crew are experienced enough to handle the boat and bring it safely back in the conditions found on the day.

Care of Boats

The hirer is responsible for taking reasonable care of the boat during the hire period and returning it and its equipment in a clean condition at the end of the hire period.

Any **damage or loss** should be reported to the Office either in person or by email, not later than the day after the hire period.

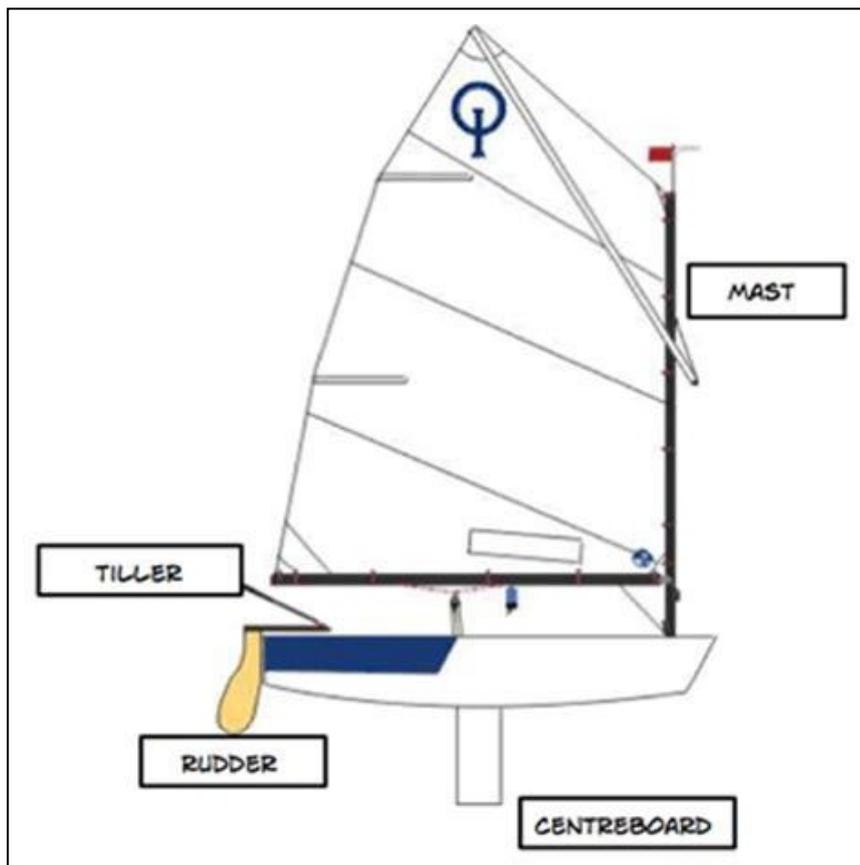
The hirer is responsible for getting boats back to the Club and out of the water (or back to their mooring in the case of an Ajax). Note that access to the slipway is difficult at low tide. The Club is not able to assist hirers if they experience difficulties in getting back to the Club.

Optimist

An Optimist is a junior class, suitable for a young person **between 6 and 14 years old**. It is a small stable dinghy.

The boats are stored on racks near the top of the slipway, with launching trolleys on top. The mainsheet is attached to the boat. The spars (mast, boom sprit) with attached sails, the rudder and tiller assembly and the centreboard are stored in the equipment storage container.

All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the boat left upside down on the rack.



Topper

The Topper is a junior class, used for racing and training suitable for young people **between the ages of 10 and 16**, or **lighter weight adults**. It can carry two young people, but is designed for singlehanded use. The high level of internal buoyancy means that the boat floats high when capsized and may invert.

The boats are stored on racks at the far end of the lower dinghy park. Launching trolleys and all equipment is in the equipment storage container.

You will need the mast and sail (the sail is stored rolled around the mast, the small 4.2 sails have a grey top) and the downhaul should be attached to the mast. The boom will have a mainsheet, outhaul and kicking strap attached.

In addition, you need a centreboard (grey) and the rudder and tiller assemble. The centreboard should be attached to the boat whilst afloat and the mast chock locked in place with a pin to prevent the mast from falling down.

All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the boat left upside down on the rack.



Tera

The Tera is a junior single hander suitable for young people **between the ages of 8 and 14**. It can be used for racing or training.

The boats are stored on racks near the top of the slipway. Launching trolleys and all equipment is in the equipment storage container.

You will need the mast and sail (the sail is stored rolled around the mast) and the downhaul should be attached to the mast. The boom will have a mainsheet, outhaul and kicking strap attached.

In addition, you need a centreboard (metallic) and the rudder and tiller assemble. The centreboard should be attached to the boat whilst afloat and the mast chock locked in place with a pin to prevent the mast from falling down. The rudder has a split ring to hold it in place in case of a capsize.

All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the boat left upside down on the rack.

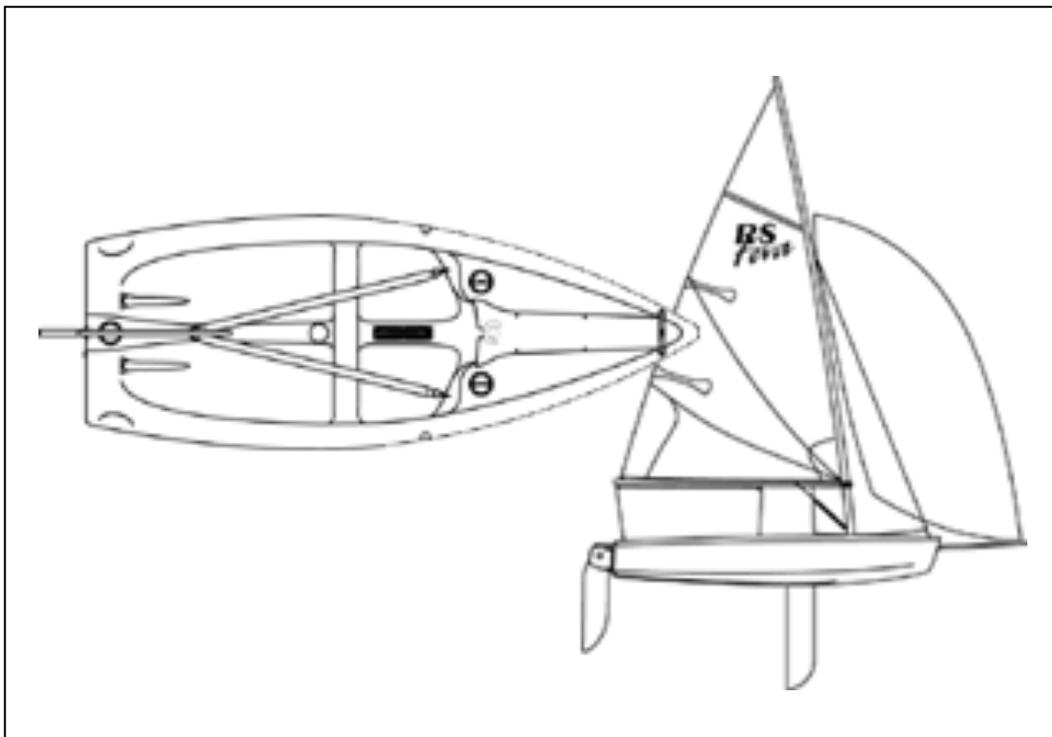


Feva

The Feva is a double-handed junior class suitable for young people **between the ages of 10 and 18**, or **lighter weight adults**.

The boats are stored in berths **M13** and **M19** It is on a launching trolley. The sails, with the exception of the spinnaker, are stored in the boat. The dagger board, and rudder/tiller assembly are stored in the equipment storage container.

All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the boat left in its berth with the cover on securely.



Vision

The Vision is stable sailing dinghy that will carry **three adults, or two adults and two small children** in calm conditions. It can be used for training, cruising and racing and has an asymmetric spinnaker.

The boat is in the gravel area at the top of the slipway on a launching trolley. The sails, with the exception of the spinnaker, are stored in the boat. The spinnaker and rudder/tiller assembly may be stored in the equipment storage container.

All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the boat left in its berth with the cover on securely.



Wayfarer

The Wayfarer is a spacious and stable training and cruising boat that can accommodate **up to four people**. They can also be raced by two adults, or youth age sailors.

The boats are in berths M1 and on the Hard by the slipway on launching trolleys. The sails are stored in the boat. The rudder/tiller assembly may be stored in the equipment storage container.

All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the boat left in its berth with the cover on securely.



Ajax

The Ajax is a keelboat that can be used for cruising or one design fleet racing at the club. It is normally raced with a **crew of three, but can accommodate more** when cruising. It has a symmetrical spinnaker.

One Ajax is in the club's marina, the other boats are moored upstream from the club. To reach the boat a dinghy is available with the outboard stored in the shipping container. The outboard should have fuel (minimum 1/4 tank), but please check.

The sails and all equipment, including the spinnaker, are stored on the boat. The boats are scrubbed and the decks cleaned on a regular basis, but there may be a need for further cleaning on the day.

The Office will provide the code for the key safe for the Outboard Store key when the booking is made. All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the boat left on its mooring with the cover on securely.



Kayak

The Kayak is a sit on type with a seat that will need to be fitted. The boat is secured using a padlock. The code will be supplied to the hirer. The seat and paddle are stored in the equipment storage container.

The Office will provide the code for the key safe for the container key when the booking is made. All equipment should be returned after the end of the hire period or session and the kayak left secured in the dinghy park.

The picture shows the kayak with the seat fitted.

