

GUILDFORD COASTAL CRUISING CLUB

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

c/o Papercourt Sailing Club, Polesden Lane, Ripley, Surrey, GU23 6JX

www.guildfordsailing.org



STOWAWAYS at GCCC

What are they?

'Stowaways', the Club's colloquial name for crew, are members who join a skipper's yacht on one of our sailing events. For skippers, it's a way of finding crew, contributing something to the club and improving the overall sailing experience. There are annual trophies for the person who stows away most often, and for the boat with stowaways on the most rallies. A number of people who now own boats started in the Club as stowaways.

What makes it a success?

A wide variety of yachts are owned by Club members, typically from 26 foot to 40 foot. Some owners have sailed for over 50 years whilst others have bought their first yacht more recently, so there's the potential to gain a variety of crewing experience. Sharing any areas of special interest or misgivings helps the owners to make the experience more positive and talking about this openly beforehand enables owners to plan accordingly. Crew having done RYA theory and practical courses, or working towards them, is always of value.

If the boat owner(s) and stowaways get on well enough then it will be an enjoyable experience for all concerned.

What is not expected?

Most skippers don't expect any particular level of sailing experience or knowledge from a stowaway. There will be opportunity to gain experience, you won't be asked to do anything you're not comfortable with!

How does it work?

Getting to know skippers personally at the clubhouse on Tuesday evenings is a good way to find the opportunity for a berth; coming along regularly and doing the occasional bar duty is a good way to get yourself known. It's best to make sure your profile on the Member Directory gives details of your qualifications and experience. There is a WhatsApp group for crewing where crew and skippers can show their interest for any sailing opportunities. Note: not all boat owners take crew as stowaways and those that do may not do it regularly. Those who potentially do can be seen in the Member Directory with a Y in the second column under the boat name.

Arrangements

Agree when and where to meet. Provisioning (food & drink) for the boat is normally a shared expense together with the cost of diesel and any marina fees. Bring wet weather gear and a life jacket, if not supplied, together with a sleeping bag, towel, toiletries bag, pillow case & accessories etc. Space on boats is tight so pack light and use a collapsible hold-all. Spare lifejackets are usually available although many prefer to bring their own.

Other considerations

Try not to be late for the tide. Last minute issues can crop up but barring this, try not to pull out at the last minute which may leave the skipper scrambling for a replacement. The main thing is to have a good time.

Disclaimer

Stowing away is a Club activity and not a commercial one. Members taking part in Club sailing activities acknowledge that they must take reasonable care for the safety of themselves and others. By participating in an event, you agree that neither the Club nor any other member shall be liable to you for any loss, demise or personal injury beyond the minimum required by law.