

Weston Sailing Club

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(Charity registration number: 1170017)



Dinghy Cruise Instruction Weston Sailing Club to Ashlett Creek 24th July 2021

1. **Introduction.** Weston Sailing Club members have recently expressed an interest in dinghy cruising. Ashlett Creek¹ has been chosen as a destination because it offers an interesting sail and refreshments at the Jolly Sailor Pub.
2. **Aim.** The aim of the cruise is to build members' confidence in sailing out of sight of WSC, with the comfort of knowing a safety boat is on hand if required.
3. **Registration for the event.** Formal registration will be on the day, but potential participants are requested to register their interest with the event organisers (whose details are on the website). They will carry a list of participants throughout the cruise; as will the patrol boat skipper.
4. **Timings.** With the exception of shore-based activities, timings are clearly open to the vagaries of the weather, tide, vessel performance etc.
5. **Tides.²**
 - a. 1st High water Southampton: 12:01 BST (4.45 m above Chart Datum) (Springs)
 - b. 2nd High water Southampton: 14:05 BST 4.45 m above Chart Datum)
 - b. Low water Southampton: 17:39 BST (0.9 m above Chart Datum)
 - c. "Ashlett Creek shares the double high water feature associated with Southampton Water. The second High Water time is approximately 2 hours after the first."
 - i. "Those unfamiliar with the creek should note that whilst the water builds steadily up to the first HW, there is a stand or even a slight dip before the water reaches the second HW. The result of the stand and the second HW is the water in the creek then has to go out fairly rapidly."³

Timings	Event	Remarks
0900	Support boat shed to be opened	Crew to prepare the rib
0930	Cruise briefing (route, safety, contact details) And Registration	Participants must register for this event before launching. It is critical that the organisers and WSC Base know exactly who is taking part for safety reasons.
1030	Depart WSC	
1200 -1300	ETA Ashlett Creek	
1400	Depart Ashlett Creek	

¹ <https://www.cadland.co.uk/ashlett-creek>

² <https://www.tidetimes.org.uk/southampton-tide-times-20210724>

³ <https://www.ashlettsc.org/tide-times>

1500-1530	Arrive WSC	
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6. **Safety precautions.** Members are requested to note the following safety precautions:
- a. **VHF communications.** The organisers will be carrying handheld VHF radios. Other participants are encouraged to take radios if they own them.
 - i. **Channel M2.** This should be used for communication between dinghy crews, the safety boat and Weston Base.
 - ii. **Channel 12.** For contacting Southampton Water [Vessel Traffic Services](#)⁴ (VTS); e.g. for if skippers are concerned about an approaching large vessel. The VTS Harbour Patrol Launch also maintains a listening watch on this channel. The organisers will inform the VTS⁵ of the event as a precaution.
 - iii. **Channel 16.** Monitored by the Coastguard and to be used for emergencies. The organisers will inform the Coastguard⁶ of the event as a precaution.
 - b. **Phone communications**
 - i. For emergencies, phone 999.
 - ii. For general communications, organisers' mobile numbers will be made available on the day.
 - iii. [what3words](#)⁷ is a phone app, which can pinpoint your location for the emergency services.
 - c. **Support boat.** A Club Support Boat will accompany the cruise. The skipper is to circulate amongst the fleet, standing-by to assist. The Skipper is to pay particular attention to ensuring vessels safely cross Southampton Water via the designated crossing points listed in the passage plan.
 - d. Participants must remain within sight of the Support Boat, which means the onus is on faster craft to slow down and remain with the fleet.
 - e. Each dinghy must be equipped with a rope on the bow for towing by the Support Boat and for mooring at Ashlett quay or Ashlett Sailing Club.
 - f. **In the event of.** In addition to skippers' responsibilities under SOLAS⁸ and COLREGS⁹, skippers are requested to carry out the following if:
 - i. **They abort the cruise and return to WSC Base.** If carrying VHF radio, inform the patrol boat on Channel M2 and mobile text the event organisers.
 - a). **Access to Club.** Participants are to note that Club gates may be closed and locked if they return to WSC before the fleet. Each boat should therefore carry a club key provided to members on joining.
 - ii. **They require the support of emergency services.** Communicate a distress message to the Coastguard via VHF Channel 16 or dial 999. Once the emergency has passed, and if carrying a VHF radio, inform the patrol boat on Channel M2. When able to do so, inform the event organisers by mobile text.

⁴ The yachtsman's guide to Southampton Water and it's approaches at https://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/admin/content/files/PDF_Downloads/A4-Layout-by%20page.pdf

⁵ Telephone 02380 608208 (24hrs)

⁶ Telephone 02392 552100

⁷ <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app/>

⁸ International Convention for the Safety of Live at Sea; <https://www.rya.org.uk/knowledge/regulations/pleasure-craft/solas-v-regulations>

⁹ International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

7. **Cancellation criteria.** Owing to the mix of participants' experience and range of boats, the event organisers will cancel the event if the weather is forecast to be poor and/or the wind is forecast to be Force 5¹⁰ or above. If time allows, the Club's website will notify members of the cancellation and potential participants who have previously registered an interest will be contacted when possible.

8. **Boat equipment.** In addition to the requirements of Club membership, particularly regarding insurance, it is the skipper's responsibility to ensure that their boats and crews are capable of the journey and are suitably equipped. The Dinghy Cruising Association provides useful advice for what equipment might be carried¹¹, but additionally for this event the following is recommended:

- i. A chart of Southampton Water, with the route marked.
- ii. A route plan.
- iii. Dinghies will be moored alongside Ashlett Quay or Ashlett Sailing Club's¹² pontoons (subject to ongoing planning and permission), or they may also be rafted together so a means of protecting the craft, such as fenders or some other form of protection is advised.
- iv. Warps for securing the boat.
- v. A means of alternative propulsion (outboard, oars, or paddles).

9. **Personal equipment.** It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure that boats and crews are prepared for the journey. The fleet may be spread out, so the patrol boat driver may not immediately spot crews in trouble; therefore, crews must be capable of self-help in the event of a capsize. They are to be suitably protected from the elements both out of and in the water. So wetsuits/dry suits are advised. Other items are:

- a. Sun cream.
- b. Sun hats.
- c. Sunglasses.
- d. Refreshments to prevent dehydration.
- e. **Going ashore clothes.** Participants are requested to not enter the pub in soggy wetsuits/boots, but to bring a change of clothes; e.g. shorts, t-shirt and footwear.

10. **Risk assessment.** By agreeing to take part in the event, participants are also accepting the risks and mitigations specified within the risk assessment at Enclosure 2.

11. **Route plan.** A provisional plan is provided at Enclosure 3 but it may be amended according to conditions on the day.

Enclosures

- 1: Participant registration template
- 2: Risk assessment
- 3: Route plan

¹⁰ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/guides/coast-and-sea/beaufort-scale>

¹¹ <https://www.dinghycruising.org.uk/safety.html>

¹² <https://www.ashlettsc.org/>