



# Weybridge Sailing & Recreational Boating Club

Walton Lane Club House, Dorney Gardens, Walton Lane, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8LU. [www.weybridgesailingclub.co.uk](http://www.weybridgesailingclub.co.uk)

## Accessibility Policy

January 2024, Written by Louise Harper, Honorary Secretary, Safeguarding & Equality Officer

### 1.0 Commitment to Accessibility

**1.1 Introduction:** Weybridge Sailing and Recreational Boating Club is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible environment for all members, guests, and visitors, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. This Accessibility Policy outlines our dedication to removing barriers and ensuring that everyone can fully participate in and enjoy the activities and facilities offered by the club.

**1.2 Definition of Disability:** the Club recognises that not all disabilities are visible and this Policy includes all types of disability as defined under the Equality Act 2010. "A person is considered disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. The term "substantial" means more than minor or trivial, while "long-term" means 12 months or more.

### 2.0 Compliance with Legal Requirements

**2.1 Equality Act 2010:** The Club recognises and complies with the Equality Act 2010, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and requires organisations to make reasonable adjustments to ensure accessibility.

**2.2 Other Applicable Legislation:** In addition to the Equality Act 2010, the Club will adhere to other relevant legislation and standards related to accessibility and inclusion as they evolve.

### 3.0 Physical Accessibility

**3.1 Club Premises:** The club is committed to providing and maintaining accessible premises, ensuring that all areas, including berths; boats, kayaks, canoes and paddle-boards; meeting spaces; work areas; storage spaces; river and road gates; and toilet and washroom facilities, are easily accessible to individuals with varying mobility needs. Every effort will be made by the club and its Flag Officers to ensure a high level of accessibility, enabling all members of the community to access the club and its facilities.

**3.2 access to the different areas of the club.** The club can be reached by road. If pedestrians wish to access the club by that entrance, it is recommended that the approach on the opposite pavement as there is no pavement on the river side. Care should be taken in crossing the road, particularly as the club is located just past a bend in the road so visibility is limited for vehicles. There is a gravel drive leading to the club gate, this is the Weybridge Tennis Club car park.

Once in the club, the ground is level; the car park area is graveled and most of the club is set to grass. Entrance to the clubhouse is via one concrete step.

Entrance to the toilets is across the club on the right adjacent to the Tennis Club. The toilets are unlikely



to be accessible by wheelchair users as there is a high step. Until such time as there can be alteration to the access, or an alternative toilet facility, Members with a physical disability will need to seek assistance to access the toilet block.

The river and tow path is accessible via a padlocked gate at the top of the main field. The gate was replaced in 2023 to improve ease of use.

The small field which contains some berths, boat storage, the Nissen hut entrance and the Bridel suite is accessible to pedestrians or via a locked 5 bar gate for wider access.

**3.2 Signage:** Clear and well-placed signage will be provided where needed to guide individuals around the club premises effectively, presented to be suitable for any individuals with disabilities. If further or adapted signage is required for any member with a disability, the Club will provide this as soon as possible.

#### **4.0 Communication Accessibility**

**4.1 Information Dissemination:** The Club will provide clear information that can be further adapted to more accessible formats upon request. This includes but is not limited to club publications; event details; meeting agendas and minutes; and other relevant materials. All communication from the club will be produced in as straightforward language as possible, avoiding unnecessarily complicated language; using sans serif fonts in the text body; and any other adaptations that can reasonably be made to support ease of reading and understanding.

**4.2 Website Accessibility:** The Club's website will be designed and maintained to comply with accessibility standards, ensuring that online information and resources are accessible to all members, including those with disabilities.

#### **5.0 Inclusive Events and Activities**

**5.1 Event Planning:** All club events and activities will be planned and organised with accessibility in mind, ensuring that individuals with disabilities can fully participate as far as the sports involved allow. This includes considering the accessibility of venues, transportation, and any additional support needed, offering alternatives where the main activities are less accessible due to the physical nature of the sport.

**5.2 Inclusive Communications:** Event communications will include information on accessibility features, and organisers will be available to address specific needs or concerns.

**5.3 Risk Assessment:** The Club undertakes to risk assess activities where necessary for any member for who those activities would pose a safety risk, including an assessment of needs and measures to keep safe during such activities. Where sporting events on the water are planned, risk assessments will be created by the Commodore or Vice Commodore in consultation with the Event Organiser and the Health and Safety Officer, and will be distributed to Club Members by the Honorary Secretary at least one week before the event.

**5.4 Safety on the Water:** Club water-based events and sporting activities will only take place with a manned motor-powered safety boat on the water.



## **6.0 Training and Awareness**

**6.1 Member Education:** At least annually, the Club will offer Club members training and/or awareness programmes on disability awareness and accessibility to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment and encourage a culture of inclusivity.

## **7.0 Feedback and Improvement**

**7.1 Feedback Mechanism:** The club welcomes feedback from members and visitors regarding accessibility. Feedback should be communicated to the Club Safeguarding & Equality Officer, the Honorary Secretary or any Club Officer and it will be used to identify areas for improvement.

**7.2 Continuous Improvement:** The club is committed to continuous improvement in accessibility and will regularly review and update this policy to reflect evolving best practices and standards.

## **8.0 Responsibilities**

**8.1 Responsible Officer:** The responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this policy and coordinating accessibility initiatives falls with the Safeguarding & Equality Officer.

**8.2 Duty of All Members:** All club members have a duty to contribute to the success of this Accessibility Policy by respecting and supporting the inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

This Accessibility Policy reflects Weybridge Sailing and Recreational Boating Club's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. The club encourages all members to embrace and champion these principles in their interactions and activities within the club.