

Wingfoiling and Windsurfing on Chew Valley Lake

Background

Windsurfing is permitted within the terms of our lease only during the winter months. With agreement from Bristol Water we are currently trialling an extension to the normal consent to permit both wingfoiling and windsurfing throughout the year, subject to a formal monthly review. We are delighted that Bristol Water have consented to this trial and keen to ensure its success so that it becomes a permanent feature.

Important Rules and Considerations to be please aware of

It is important that all wingfoilers/windsurfers take great care around other lake users, namely other sailors and fishers, both on the shore and in powered boats. Your speeds can be considerably higher than other boats so, to avoid the risk of any incidents, please exercise your own good judgement and abide by the following:

- We have agreed with Bristol Water that on the small number of days when they have major fishing events there will be no windsurfing/foiling on the lake. There are only a dozen or so such days, which will be clearly signalled in advance within the club sailing calendar. You must not launch on these days, nor any other days indicated in the calendar when there is no general sailing allowed.
- Please keep well clear of other sailing boats which may be cruising on the lake, and boats that may be racing which can be particularly closely congested. At all times you must abide by the rules of sailing, our club rules and bye-laws.
- In particular, please note that our club rules require that you do not encroach closer than 50m to a fisher onshore, or 25m to a boat fisher. Remember that fishing lines can extend well beyond those distances and so these should be considered minimum distances and, where possible, you should plan your course to keep you very well clear of them. Keep safe distance also from the fishing nets that are moored in the lake just south of the clubhouse.
- If for any reason you find yourself close to other boats please reduce your speed, come off the foil and slowly make your way away from them. Be courteous and polite as all times.
- There is an upper wind limit of 30knots for all sailing on the lake. The OOD will decide each day if dinghy sailing, wingfoiling and windsurfing can take place safely considering not only the wind speed, but also factors such as temperature, wind chill, wind direction, sea state and RIB crew experience and capability. The OODs judgement based on these factors and any additional relevant information is final.
- We are lucky to sail in an area of outstanding beauty. Most of the land around the lake is a protected SSSI so, under no circumstances must you land on the lakeshore other than on a sailing club slipway. You must also keep to the sailing area (see following sections and maps)
- You must have 3rd party liability insurance as outlined in Club Bye Law 7.
- Buoyancy aids are compulsory when on the water as per club bye law 4.4
- Please also familiarise yourself with and abide by our other club rules and bye-laws

Additional Points:

- Wingfoilers must use leashes for both Wing and Board.
- If you are unsure of your capabilities, notify the OOD before launching so that the RIB crews are aware to keep an eye out for you. If you are struggling and need continual assistance you should return to shore and plan so go out again in easier conditions; please bear in mind that the RIBs are there to provide cover for all lake users and not just you.

Sailing area and wind direction – advice for those learning to wingfoil and windsurf

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For beginners the recommended wind speed for wing foiling is between 13 and 15 knots. Windsurfing can be ideally undertaken in a slightly larger range

Wind Direction

It is advised you to choose a day when the wind is blowing side/cross shore or side on, as shown below in Figure 1 (key colour Green and Amber). It is strongly advised that you don't launch when the wind is blowing offshore. At Chew Valley this is when the wind comes from the West and Northwest or from the club house out across the lake.

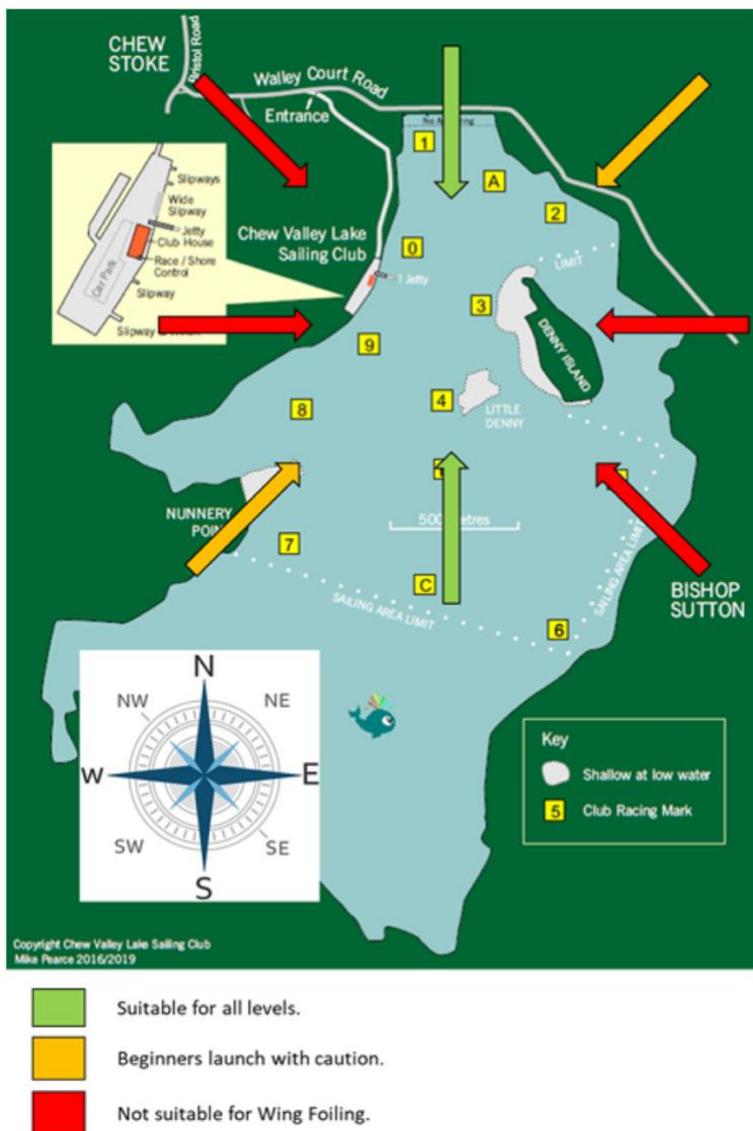


Figure 1 – Wind Directions

The different wind directions:

Side shore / cross shore and side on: These are the best wind directions for Wing Foiling and windsurfing at Chew. Here the wind blows diagonally or side to side of the club house. These are the best orientations to start with.

Offshore and Side off: An offshore wind at Chew comes from the West and out across towards Denny Island. This should be avoided at all costs and can be dangerous as you will get taken out and away from the sailing club. A side off wind will come from the NW or the SW, this again is not recommended and should be avoided.

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Onshore: Onshore is not an ideal wind direction. It's a safe wind but it's hard to get away from the shore and for wingfoilers to get up foiling.

Wing Foiling/Windsurfing Launching Area

The club has five main slip ways (shown in Figure 2). When launching the expectation would be that you would be self-sufficient to stay within the boundaries of the slip ways. For example in a wind from the North you would launch from slip way 1 and be self-sufficient to at worst case land at slip way 5. In a wind from the south this would be launch from 5 and worst case land at 1.

You should know some form of self-rescue. The safety boats are there for back-up in cases of emergency.

Figure 2 – Launching Area

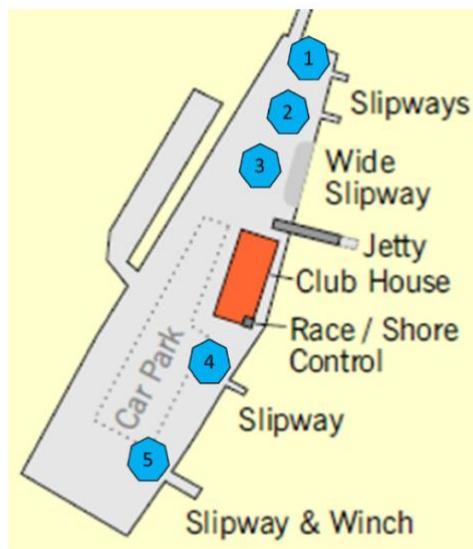


Figure 2 – Wing Foiling Area

The lake is large and there is plenty of room for us all; by adhering to the above we can all enjoy keep safe and enjoy our sports. Have fun 😊