



GRAVESEND SAILING CLUB

Founded 1894

PROMENADE EAST
GRAVESEND
KENT
DA12 2RN
Tel: 07506 367699
www.gravesendsc.org.uk

Pilotage and Information

General

Gravesend Sailing Club (GSC) is a small family club situated on the south bank of the River Thames, to the east of Town.

OS Map Reference: TQ 657 744

Admiralty Chart: 1186

Position: 51 26.61'N 0 22.89'E (WGS84)

You can view the club using Google maps (including the option for satellite pictures) from our web site:
http://gravesendsc.org.uk/gscweb/google_map.php?

GSC Moorings

GSC has moorings in the River. The two outer trots of moorings are deep water and it is sometimes possible to pick up a vacant mooring but please check with the Club first. Max LOA 33'.

The Port of London Authority has a number of moorings suitable for larger boats – large yellow cans just upriver from the Club. There is an overnight charge for these, payable direct to the PLA. The Harbourmaster's launch is often in the area. Contact the PLA Duty Officer.

Moorings are available in The Embankment Marina in the canal basin just behind the club - entrance for one hour up to high water. The gates are automatically manned on most daytime high tides during the sailing season and at other times by arrangement with the Lockkeeper.

Facilities

The Clubhouse is open whenever members are around - most days during the sailing season. Showers are available, and the bar is often open. The crane in front of the Club may be used to raise and lower dinghies and masts (operated by members only); the Club also has a mast crane in the Canal Basin. Various repair services can be arranged by asking Club members or the lockkeeper. There is a comprehensive range of shops in the town - about a half-mile walk. Diesel and bottled gas is available from the basin operators; other fuel is available from local garages - nearest about one third of a mile.

Communication

Club Duty Officer: 07506 367699

Secretary@gravesendsc.org.uk

VHF: Channel 'M' (37) during dinghy races – call sign 'GSC Base'

Lockkeeper: 01474 535700 or www.theembankmentmarina.net

PLA - phone: 01474 560311 (Duty Officer)

PLA - VHF: Channel 68 – call sign 'London VTS'

PLA Woolwich Barrier: 020 8855 0315

Approaching the Club

For navigation in the general area, the PLA's web site and their leisure guide give useful general information.

When arriving from seaward, keep just outside (either to north or south) of the buoyed deep water channel along Lower Hope Reach and round Coalhouse Point. Once in Gravesend Reach, on the north shore, there are a number of groynes marked by green posts with topmarks. If keeping to the north side of the river leave these to starboard (there is a row of buoys just before the groynes to discourage passing between the posts and the shore - not a good idea except at high water). If keeping to the south shore the landscape will change from marsh to a long gravel jetty, then moored commercial craft.

The picture on the right shows the skyline, looking south. The building on the hill, and the two domes of the Sikh temple, are very distinctive. The long low building, with the blue lift shaft at the left hand end, provides a backdrop for the GSC Clubhouse.



When almost past the prominent jetty on the north shore, turn towards the south shore, keeping a good lookout for commercial traffic. Identify the last of the commercial craft moorings ahead of you, and leave these to port.

The tide can run up to 4 knots - keep well clear of moored craft. Once into the moorings, head towards the shore. Ahead of you will be the Gordon Promenade with some grass, and the café in the background. At the left-hand (eastern) end of the promenade GSC is visible, a low building with a varnished frontage onto the river, white ends, and black roof, distinguished by a flagpole in front of the Clubhouse and a large sign along the front of the Clubhouse. There is a pontoon in front of the Clubhouse, accessible HW Tilbury ± 2 hrs and immediately to the left is the entrance to the Canal Basin. As a guide, there is about 2m depth on the outer small craft moorings at low tide.

There is a (relatively) deep water channel into the Canal Basin, whose position changes from time to time. If possible it's best to inspect at low water; if going in at half-tide (when the mud each side of the channel is visible) keep slightly to the west of the channel centreline. If no mud is visible, head towards the white mark on the railings and keep in line with the white mark ashore.



Turn to port when the lock gates are half obscured by the upriver knuckle and head straight for the edge of the pontoon.

If the gates to the basin are closed it is possible to moor in the entrance against the right-hand wall or on the pontoon. If against the wall, moor as close to the swing bridge as possible to leave the crane clear. Be on guard for wash from passing vessels, use plenty of fenders, and allow for the rise and fall of the tide.

September 2018