



## Benfleet Yacht Club

Founded in 1922, **Benfleet Yacht Club** is run by its members, offering a large number of mid-river and bankside moorings for cruising yachts in the sheltered waters of Benfleet Creek. It's a popular base for sailings to Europe and beyond. The club also provides good opportunities for dinghy sailing and racing, and coastal rowing.

The club has facilities to store approximately 170 cruising yachts and 160 sailing dinghies or rowing craft. A large slipway and crane can accommodate boats of all sizes; subject to weight restrictions, a winch can handle cruising yachts up to 40 feet long on trollies.

Winter, when the larger vessels are off the water, is a particular favourite time of year for members with small boats, and there is a thriving club race series.

The club's annual 18-mile Nore Race on the Thames Estuary each June, starting at Southend Pier, dates back to the 1920s and attracts entrants from near and far.

The club is a registered Royal Yachting Association dinghy sailing instruction centre. A clubhouse completed in 1984 is the focus of a busy social programme of dinners and fundraisers. Volunteer maintenance staff, including "launch and haul-out" teams, help keep charges low, with weekend work parties each spring and autumn giving all members an opportunity to get involved.

John Hancock, Vice Commodore, said: "We are a self-help club, not a commercial organisation, and pride ourselves on our friendly approach. Sailing is our passion and our focus, but it's important to make it a fun experience, on and off the water."



[www.benfleetyachtclub.org](http://www.benfleetyachtclub.org)