

The Enterprise Association UK



What is an Enterprise?

The Enterprise is a 4 metre long sailing dinghy with distinctive, and easily recognisable, light blue sails. It is one of the largest classes in the world, and the popularity of this Jack Holt design is due to its excellent qualities both as a cruising and racing boat. There are now more than 23200 registered boats.

Vital statistics

Length:	4.04 m
Beam:	1.62 m
Hull Weight:	94 kg
Trapeze:	0
Spinnaker:	0
Sail Area:	10.7 sq m
Crew:	2 when racing



Attributes

- Excellent qualities both as a cruising and two-person racing boat.
- You are bound to find a club near you where Enterprises are sailed.
- Good and fair performance for one design racing. Well maintained older boats are not disadvantaged, and are successful in both National Championships and on the Open Meeting circuit.
- The simple layout, and easily managed controls, makes the boat attractive to young sailors and for older sailors who want to race competitively with young club members.
- Choice of hull materials, ranging from fibreglass, composite (fibreglass with a wooden deck) or all wood construction.



- Affordable - The price of second hand boats that will do well on the open meeting circuit start at about £500. A 35 year old boat had 6 top ten finishes in the Nationals last year (2009), winning 3 races. Costs are further reduced because you are not tied to a single supplier for fittings, sails, spars and foils. These items are therefore very much lower in cost than for other classes that are tied to a sole manufacturer, whose charges are not limited by market forces.
- A lively and active Owners Association which promotes the boat and provides lots of benefits including, advice, free training and coaching sessions, 2 Diaries every year, a discount on boat insurance and with many chandlers.
- Active and friendly club scene, with over 100 open meetings and Area Championships.
- 4 major championships organised very year - Youths, Inlands, Masters and the Nationals. The Enterprise is selected by many clubs taking part in the two premier team events of the year - The 24 Hour Race and the Junior 12 Hour Race organised respectively by West Lancashire YC and Southport SC.



Looking at some of these points in more detail

Good and fair performance for one design racing - The Enterprise is an active and exciting boat to sail and it is raced competitively almost everywhere. It attracts many high class helms and crews from all parts of the country and standards are high. Crew weight is not a crucial factor to success as is often the case with very light displacement



boats, and yet the Enterprise is light enough to be handled easily ashore. Enterprises are also very seaworthy

Choice of construction - A large proportion of new boats are glass fibre, and the newer style of interior layout makes the boats look most attractive. Alternatives are the composite boat for those who like wooden decks without the fuss of fitting out a wooden hull. You can also obtain a conventional all-wooden boat from one of the specialist builders, or one of the newer wood/epoxy boats built in a mould and to a simplified internal design/layout.

Simple layout - The Enterprise has neither spinnaker nor trapeze and so is ideal for those who race but have no regular crew, and yet want to remain competitive. This simplicity of design makes the boat ideal both for learning and cruising. Needless to say, it is ideal for those who cannot be bothered with a spinnaker and all the costs that go with it. The range and type of fittings allowed on the boat are limited, but can be reviewed each year so as to keep



Bassenthwaite Week – Where Enterprise are the largest fleet

the boat in line with modern thinking. Here lies one of the strengths of a sound national association of owners, acting on behalf of boat owners. This ensures that your investment in an Enterprise is protected.

Friendly club racing - The Enterprise Class has always had a reputation for being a friendly class, and this of course directly reflects its membership. Those who have just bought an Enterprise or are thinking of doing so will be assured of a warm welcome at any club where they are sailed, and will be able to call upon any assistance or advice they need from other Enterprise owners. It's all a consequence of the people in the class and there being so many of the blessed things!



Stable and roomy for estuary cruising - The Enterprise is recommended by the RYA for safe family cruising and beginners. If you go to any holiday beach, from Cornwall to the Menai Straits, to Scotland, Windermere, Norfolk and the South Coast, there will almost certainly be an Enterprise or two tucked away, belonging to local owners.

Many fleets, home and abroad - Enterprises are sailed through the whole of Britain on the sea, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and the smallest of gravel pits. They are also sailed in Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Korea, Malta, Pakistan, South Africa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA and Zimbabwe. The Enterprise was selected for the 4th CISM Military World Games held in Mumbai in 2007.

Active owners association - The Enterprise Association exists to protect the interests of the owners, and organises an extensive Open Meeting programme, at both inland and coastal venues together with the various National Championships. The governing body of the Association is elected by the members and consists of both family members and racing enthusiasts giving a balanced approach to organising and ensuring the future of the class.



Training day

The Next Move

Once you have bought your Enterprise there are a few other things to be done and others to think about:

You will need to insure your boat to protect your investment, and to comply with most club rules regarding protection of third parties or simply safeguard your boat whilst trailing. The Enterprise Association has arranged an insurance scheme for members of the Association through Noble Marine, which offers third party cover of £3 million. Because most Enterprise sailors use this scheme it can be obtained at an excellent rate, and furthermore, members receive a discount on the normal price.

If you intend to race, you must have a valid Measurement Certificate. These can be obtained from Bob Southworth at the Hamble office at a cost of £5.

Membership of the Association and possession of a valid Measurement Certificate will allow you to race in any of the many events, be they Club Races, Enterprise Open Meetings, Area Championships, Masters, or the National Championships.

To join the Association, simply click [here](#) and follow the instructions.

The benefits of being a member are:-

- 2 Diaries every year
- Discount on boat insurance via [Noble Marine](#)
- Discounts with major chandleries
- Free training and race training days
- Free to advertise on Area and National websites
- Active Club scene, with over 100 open meetings and Area Championships in addition to the 24 Hour and Junior 12 Hour races.
- 4 Major National Championships - Youth, Masters, Inlands and Nationals.
- Joining helps to keep the Association strong maintain the value of your boat.

NOW JOIN THE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION!

The first point of contact if you want to join us, need help, advice or just want to talk Enterprises is Bob Southworth. If Bob doesn't have the answer, he will know someone who will. Bob's contact address is:-

Bob Southworth (Hon Sec Enterprise Association)

'Crows Nest'

Tel: (023) 8045 6977

10 Fry Close

Fax: (023) 8045 7430

Hamble

Southampton

Email: Bob@SailEnterprise.org.uk

SO31 4PF



English Channel crossing in 2006 - Leaving Dover, mid Channel, arriving in France – Photographs Janice Bottomley. Other photographs in this article taken by Janice Bottomley (<http://www.sailaway.me.uk/>), Stan and Sue Barton, Pat Catherall, Reg Binnersley, and Neil Marshall.