

# The Stone Watersports Club, Essex



maybe one of the best kept secrets... not any more....

Water skiing, wake boarding, windsurfing.... take a look at Stone, based on the river Blackwater in St Lawrence Bay Essex, the Stone Water sports club has been established for over 40 years with a history in water ski racing, Water sports and jet skiing.

A bit of history... The club was set up in a car park belonging to a next door caravan site in the late 60's by a group of a people that needed somewhere to launch their speed boats. It continued to run like this for about 10 years, increasing its number of members, and getting heavily involved in water ski racing before the caravan site was put up for sale. The club was given the option to buy the 'car park', a small cafe and the rights to the launch ramp, which they raised the finances for from the members, with some even putting up their own properties as security, the club now had its own 'place' and could grow more. Within a couple of years, now into the early 80's, the members again had to dig deep as the sea wall needed rebuilding, a new slipway was required and the club needed a clubhouse. The members secured a grant from the sports council for about 25% of the costs with the rest again being found from the members via loans being secured on their own properties. Into the 90's the club continued to improve its facilities and its membership grew and grew, large wash bay area's created, roads put in, entrance barriers and a conservatory were all added, again with a considerable amount of the work done by the members.

From the beginning of the club and all the way through a lot of these periods, water ski racing was initially the core, with club racing expanding into nation wide, European wide and world wide racing with members holding world titles, European titles, national titles and world records, the club still annually hosts one of the biggest events in the British Water Ski & Wake board National Ski Race calendar. Within the club during the late 70's & early 80's a big windsurfing community formed along with a wider skiing community including barefoot, trick and slalom skiing. The early 80's also began to see the first arrivals of the Kawasaki 440's & 550's which soon began to form a very strong jet ski community with a permanent race course created and regular races, with sometimes up to 20 ski's on the start line and some of the members competing in national races.

Here we are today in 2012 , a thriving members water sports club with probably the best facilities around, run by and maintained by its membership, recently modernised clubhouse and bar, new kids play area and a large new decking area around the clubhouse. We currently have over 70 jet skis and over 40 boats within the club and the membership full of people with extensive knowledge and experience in water skiing, ski racing and jet skiing .

- Known to its membership as Costa del Stone
- Club grounds and slipway open all year where craft can be launched at almost any tide level
- Clubhouse open from 24th March to October serving excellent food and drink all day Saturday, Sundays and bank holidays.
- Weekend and bank holidays all craft launched by the 3 club tractors
- Large clubhouse and bar with Conservatory, large children's play area, outside decking and BBQ area
- Family club with regular entertainment in clubhouse, social events and the infamous 'Stone' volleyball matches
- Large grounds with ample parking for cars & craft
- Craft wash down areas, large shower rooms & toilets with access all year round
- 2 large caravan sites within a couple of minutes walk
- Regularly updated website
- Memberships run March to March
- Join on your own or with friends

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For more information and membership details check out [www.stonewatersports.net](http://www.stonewatersports.net) or email [info@stonewatersports.net](mailto:info@stonewatersports.net)