

1. HSC NEWS

August 2011

www.huddersfieldsailing.org.uk

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Friends; I am deeply impressed with the number of members game enough to venture out in the winds we've had this year. From boats out to the end of April, winds were mainly light. From the beginning of May, and with few exceptions, the winds were strong enough to blow dogs from their leads (see below).



Nonetheless, the hardy members of Huddersfield Sailing Club have been seen on the water each weekend without fail. Strong winds may not be for everyone, but the best way of learning to cope with them is to practice. I've been enjoying it. There have been dramatic capsizes and one or two gear failures, but all hands have been rescued safely. We look after each other - as it should be.

The Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Sailing Event went smoothly and we were complemented on our organisation, which I'm very pleased about as this is our most difficult event to host. The Mirror Heron open a week later was blighted with particularly strong winds, but went smoothly otherwise and was won by John Dearnley. Congratulations!

We had a fund-raiser for the Sail Training Trust on the 11th June. We sailed, we barbecued and we answered some very tricky quiz questions about plants. Thanks to everyone who helped put that on, particularly John and Christine Dearnley.

Early July saw our yearly outing, this year to Shell Island near Harlech. Thank you to Llanbedr and Pensarn Yacht Club who hosted a barbecue and "strictly medicinal" drinks. The winds were a little on the light side, but it was still a very enjoyable weekend.

On the 17th July we hosted our first Enterprise Open event for many years. As with the Mirror Heron Open, the wind was gusting well into force 7 at times. The Huddersfield meeting was part of the Cock o' the North series and attracted a four boat fleet, three of which were visitors, all of whom were pretty nifty sailors. It was notable then that two of them capsized. All participants enjoyed themselves and I hope we can build on this modest success next year. Thanks to

everyone who helped put this, and all the other open events on.

Asymmetrics

A request to relax the current ban on boats using asymmetric spinnakers during races was made earlier this year. A proposal was accepted on July 28th. From now on boats equipped with asymmetric spinnakers will be allowed during races as follows:

The committee; *"Therefore agreed that the use of asymmetric spinnakers will be allowed for all club races as long as they are used responsibly and not in winds above Force 3 [see anemometer readout on tower] and without the use of extended bowsprits if extends above 14 ft. [length overall]. Cruising, training and practising will be allowed at weekend if less than 10 boats are on the water. The decision be revisited by the committee by July 2012."*

Extended bowsprits can be used outside racing periods for practice and cruising as before.

Thanks to Duncan for his work on this proposal.

Something that came out of the discussion about asymmetrics is that it is an ill observed requirement of the club that members wishing to bring a new boat to the club should first consult the Sailing Secretary. Members wishing to bring a new class of boat to the club; i.e. a type of boat not currently registered; should seek agreement from the General Committee first. Please bear this in mind if it applies to you in the future.

Look out for details of some forthcoming working parties on your e-mail. We've got a method to complete rebuilding the main section of our walkway, from the ramp round in front of the clubhouse, but we need lots of help to make it work. We also need to do some weeding – pond weeding that is. The amount of weed has begun to make negotiating some marks extremely tiresome and it badly needs thinning out.

Lastly, please see later our forthcoming event list. I'd like to particularly draw your attention to the Racing Clinic on 28th August. As with last year we'll be having help from a coach from the RYA. The day is aimed at members wishing to begin racing and have some of the tactics and procedures demystified. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Bon Voyage (or welcome back) to all you holidaymakers over the next few weeks and I hope to see you on the water soon.

Introducing...
Richard Woodward

Richard joined HSC in July 2002 and learned to sail over the next couple of seasons, first in the Wayfarer, then the trusty club Heron. Soon Richard had a small fleet of his own boats including Mirrors, Heron, Topper and a Laser.

Richard sails in “almost any weather,” and is a very capable sailor in all conditions. He helps new members rig club boats, and has an uncanny knack of knowing exactly where all the bits are, something no other human being has achieved in history!

Richard sails at the weekends and on Wednesday nights and although he doesn't usually race, he has crewed for lots of people in race conditions. More often he likes to help by offering a valet service for

your launching trolley (what do other clubs do?), cutting the grass, washing the windows, helping at working parties and club events. If you suffer the ignominy of having to recover your boat from the leeward bank, you can be sure he'll be there to help walk the boat round, or sometimes sail it back himself.

I asked Richard what he likes most about being in the club. “Everything,” is his answer.

Richard likes to sail lots of different boats and has asked me to thank everyone who has let him have a go. He also wants me to thank everyone (mainly Allan) who's helped him fix his fleet of boats when they need a little attention. “We always help each other;” he writes sagely. “See you all on the water soon.” Just so.

Paul O'Connor, Commodore



Buoyancy Testing and Insurance

A quick reminder about buoyancy testing.

It is the responsibility of all boat owners to carry out a buoyancy test to the standard laid down by the relevant Class Association. On completion of the test the owner must sign a declaration confirming that a satisfactory test has been carried out. This declaration must be witnessed by a member of the General or Sailing Committees.

The RYA stresses that buoyancy tests are a vital safeguard within the sport and that it is important that they continue.

Huddersfield Sailing Club - Rule 17 Positive Boat Buoyancy states : -

All boats based at the club must undergo a buoyancy test or visual inspection to check that the positive buoyancy provision is in accordance with the requirements laid down from time to time by the Sailing Committee, (usually those set out by the Class Association). This test shall be carried out before it is first launched at the club and each season thereafter. The boat shall not be used on the club water until it has passed this test or inspection.

The Sailing Committee reserves the right to require a boat to undergo a further test at any time should it consider that the positive boat buoyancy appears to be inadequate or not maintained properly.

There are no exceptions to the above procedure.

Club Rules 11 Insurance, and 17 Positive Boat Buoyancy which cover the subject in detail are on display in the entrance hall of the club.

For the benefit of members who are unfamiliar with the above procedures, standard tests for boats such as the Mirror and Heron are also on display in the club entrance hall. If anyone has any doubts or needs assistance with the above please don't hesitate to ask a member of the committee.

For the more modern boats at the club such as Lasers and Toppers, it is a simple visual inspection. Older wooden boats such as the Mirror and Heron usually require the boat to undertake an immersion or pressure test which proves (or otherwise) the efficacy of the boat's tanks or buoyancy bags.

For members who haven't completed a buoyancy test this season please carry one out **before** your boat goes on the water again. The Committee have agreed that results from all races after the issue of this Newsletter will not count towards any club Trophies at the end of the season.

It is a few years since the club, on the advice of the RYA Legal Department, stopped taking an active part in the supervision of buoyancy tests, however a recent check of the boats registered at the club has revealed that only about 50% of members are bothering to do a buoyancy test and complete the buoyancy testing form.

The most important part of the procedure is then to complete the Insurance Declaration on the Bouyancy Testing Form which certifies that the boat is insured and that the insurance will be maintained throughout the time the boat is on the club premises.

Sailing Secretary Report

With half the sailing season under way with club is seeing some interesting and competitive racing.

The season started with a very successful Youth series day, with good winds and close racing, Unfortunately, only one boat from Huddersfield competed.

The Mirror/Heron Open was held in strong winds which resulted in only a 2 race series. It was good to see boats from other clubs competing. The wind was so strong that Jim Robison decided not to take part in the first race, but forgot to tell his boat, which sailed out to the start without him.

4 Enterprises turned up for the first Ent Open for a number of years, once again they were greeted with strong gusty conditions.

The 2's Tuesday was run with a small fleet, but some close finishes demonstrated the pursuit format handicapping is very accurate. Well Done to Paddy and Hannah.

Swallows and Amazons started with 15 Juniors on the water, but due to strong wind conditions on a number of Saturdays restricted the amount of sailing that was possible. Well done to all that took part.

A number of series have been completed and results will appear on the website shortly.

The Dinghy park is nearly full of boats, It would be great to see many of them actually out on the water. With summer at its peak come along and get your boat out on the water.

Communications

The club has two web sites.

A public one at www.huddersfieldsailing.org.uk and a Boshaw Yahoo group site at <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Boshaw/>. The public site has all the public information about the club including the race schedule and membership form. The Boshaw yahoo group is for club members only. It is where we can post messages to club members, upload sailing pictures, and download minutes of meetings and race results. It also sends reminders about race and club events to your email address.

If you would like to be registered to the Boshaw group, please contact oliver.plunkett@btopenworld.com. If you receive an email Invitation to join the Boshaw group, click "Join this group!"

You need a Yahoo account to join the group. If you don't have a Yahoo! account, you can create one by clicking "Sign Up" at the top of the page. Once you have a Yahoo account, just follow the on screen instructions.

Thanks
Communications secretary

Forthcoming Events

Event	Description
Masters – Sunday 21 st August. Three races – two to count. First race starts at 11.00am.	One Day Event for members over the age of 50. Fairly competitive racing for the prestigious walking stick trophy.
Ladies / Juniors Trophy and Anniversary Day – Sunday 4 th September. Three races, two to count. First race starts at 2.00pm.	One Day Event for members under the age of 18, or Ladies. Three races – two to count. Barbecue after sailing.
Secret Sailing – Wednesdays from September 7 th . Start time set week by week to suit available light.	Are you suffering withdrawal from Wednesday nights? No need! At least not for another few weeks. Ask in the Bay Horse on Wednesdays for details.
Racing Clinic – Sunday 28 th August starting at 10.30am.	Aimed at members wishing to begin racing and have some of the tactics and procedures demystified.
Single Handed Open (Boshaw Sprint) 5 Sprint Races – 3 to count. First Race 11.00am.	A competitive open meeting for single handers costing £6 (TBC) to enter per boat. Lunches available. All welcome.
Midweek at the Bay Horse.	A cheeky taste and telling of tall tales on the first Wednesday of the month meeting at the Bay Horse at around 9pm.
Halloween Social and RNLI Fund-raiser. Saturday 29 th October. Evening event starts at 7.00pm.	Afternoon sailing followed by supper at the club. Details later.
Boats In - Sunday 4 th December starting at 9.30am PROMPT	All boat owners must attend or nominate a proxy.

Obituary
Charles Hull

It is with deep regret that I have learned of the death of Charlie Hull who was one of the founders of the Sailing Club. He was a very active member and held the office of Commodore in 1962, Vice Commodore in 1963/64 and was also a Trustee and Honorary Member.

Many of the facilities we enjoy today derive from the forethought and efforts of Charles and his contemporaries during the Clubs formative years. He was one of the prime movers in the effort to negotiate the purchase of the land on which the Clubhouse, dinghy and car park now stand.

He was the Design Engineer for David Brown Tractors at Scar Bottom Mills, Meltham and through his good offices the Club was able to obtain the services of tractors, diggers and trailers to develop the land.

He was an experienced sailor and sailed his Enterprise with his son Roger with expertise and courtesy, always willing to assist those with less skill. He later went on to sail a 420 and then built a Graduate. He was of great assistance helping me with the creation of the format when as Sailing Secretary I started the Introductory Weekends in 1964 which have continued in various forms to this day. His wife was an active member of the Ladies Committee and helped run the Galley - in the early days we did not have running water or electricity!

On stepping down as Commodore he presented the two Manannan trophies which are still competed for today. (Manannan is the mythical Sea God of the Isle of Man) Charles and his Wife retired to Peel on the Isle but although they were far away they continued to take an interest in the Club and visited when on the mainland.

Charles will be sadly missed by his wife and family and many sailing friends. We at the Club owe him a great depth of gratitude for all his efforts on our behalf and extend our sincere condolences on his passing.

Roger Molyneux