Huddersfield Sailing Club Handbook

General Information

Background

The Club was founded in 1958 and its premises have expanded over time to the current large Clubhouse, car park and boat storage facilities. The Clubhouse includes changing rooms, a spacious observation lounge and a canteen where light refreshments, sweets, etc are available at moderate prices and where members are welcome to prepare their own food. The Club also has a distinctive race control tower, built from the remains of the old Emley Moor television mast.
Membership is open to both experienced sailors and those who wish to take up the sport for the first time. Children are most welcome. Sailing activities normally take place between March and November. In addition, a variety of social events are held throughout the year.

Types of Dinghy sailed

Members sail a variety of dinghy types but the most popular classes are Herons, Toppers, and Lasers. If in any doubt as to the class of boat that would suit your requirements, please make enquiries at the Club where the Officers and members will be happy to advise or assist in any way. Remember you don't have to own a boat to be a member.

Coaching

Experienced members of the club provide informal coaching to newer members at all levels of proficiency. This takes place mainly on Saturday afternoons. Families often join as complete novices and we aim to give enough initial coaching to allow them to start hiring one of the club boats on their own when conditions are suitable. The Club owns Toppers, Optimists and a Heron dinghy, which are available for hire at very reasonable rates (see below). Activity days are arranged for younger members during the summer holidays.

Racing

Organized racing takes place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons between mid-March and the end of November. There are also races on Wednesday evenings between April and early September. Full details are published annually in the Sailing Programme which is issued to all members.

Cruising

As an alternative to racing, 'free sailing' may take place at any time during permitted sailing hours.
See **Sailing Hours** below.

Car Parking

Car parking at the Club is entirely at the owner's risk. The Club cannot accept any responsibility for vehicles parked on Club property.

Security

The security of the Club is every member's responsibility. The last person to leave the premises should ensure that all external doors are locked and all lights and appliances are switched off. Members who have been using Club Boats must ensure that the boats and all their equipment are put away and secured as appropriate.
The Club cannot accept any responsibility for any article left in the Clubhouse or on the premises. NOTE THAT member's property is NOT covered by any of the Club's insurance policies.

Child Protection

The safety of junior members is extremely important and it is the policy of the club that a parent or guardian MUST be on site at all times that a junior member is at the club. There are NO exceptions to this rule**.**

Location

The club's Postal address is: The Clubhouse, Boshaw Whams, Hade Edge, Holmfirth HD9 1RA

Grid Reference SE152055

Website www.huddersfieldsailing.org.uk
e-mail info@huddersfieldsailing.org.uk

Visitors
Visitors are welcome at the Club but must be signed in by a member using the Visitors Book mounted on a pillar in the observation lounge of the Clubhouse. No visitor may be introduced more than six times in any one season. A visitor may crew in any boat but is not normally permitted to helm in a race.

Kitchen
Light refreshments including sweets are available, together with facilities for members to prepare their own food and drink. The kitchen, drinks, sweets, etc are provided on a self-help basis and members are expected to clear away as necessary after themselves. Payment is by an honesty box or a member's account book operated on an honesty basis - any Club Officer or Committee Member will be happy to explain the arrangements in more detail.

Working Parties/Maintenance
Maintenance of the Clubhouse and premises generally is normally undertaken on a voluntary basis by members themselves, coordinated by the Club Boatswain. This work obviously reduces the costs of running the Club to the benefit of everyone in lower subscription fees.
Although work is ongoing throughout the year, the Boatswain usually organizes working parties, especially early in the season, to facilitate maintenance and development. Support of all members is much appreciated on these occasions and is regarded as a responsibility of membership. Some members choose instead to undertake tasks at alternative times to suit themselves.

Socials
A programme of social events is coordinated by the Social Secretary throughout the year. Details are publicized on posters in the Clubhouse and in the Club Newsletter, which is sent to all members approximately three times a year. The Newsletter is a useful source of information for activities outside the Sailing Programme. Contributions from members are always welcome.

Club Rules
The full club rules are displayed on the notice board in the clubhouse.

Sailing and Safety Arrangements

Sailing Hours
Sailing is permitted during the season as follows:

Saturday:	Dawn until 7:00pm
Sunday:	Noon until 7:00pm (from 11:00am if no anglers are present)
Monday:	No sailing (except Bank Holidays)
Tuesday:	Dawn until Dusk
Wednesday:	Noon until Dusk
Thursday:	Dawn until Dusk
Friday:	Dawn until Dusk

Outside of these periods use of the water is reserved for members of Huddersfield Angling Club during the fishing season. Members must at all times give consideration to anglers and try to avoid undue interference with their sport.

Cruising ('free-sailing') may take place within any of the permitted hours, except during open meetings and special events (see Sailing Programme). When racing is in progress, helms wishing to cruise should inform the Race Officer of their intentions and must keep clear of other boats participating in a race.
Sailing outside the hours of the Sailing Programme is still subject to Club Rules and is undertaken entirely at the participant's risk. The Club cannot accept any responsibility for safety. It is recommended that a competent person be on the shore at all times **or** that two boats arrange to sail together.

Winter Sailing
Sailing during the closed season is subject to special arrangements only. For further information see the Club Rules, or contact the Sailing Secretary.

Boat ownership

Full, Junior and Student members may keep a maximum of two boats at the club. Family members may keep additional boats. (subject to payment of the appropriate registration fee and space being available in the dinghy park)

Buoyancy and Insurance

All persons whilst on the water shall wear adequate personal buoyancy, whether or not the dinghy is under sail. Wet or Dry-suits alone will not be accepted as being adequate. If the buoyancy aid is of the inflatable type it must be kept fully inflated.

A boat shall not be sailed on Boshaw Whams until it has passed an annual buoyancy test or inspection in accordance with Club Rules.

A boat shall not be brought onto Club premises unless it carries a minimum third party insurance cover of £5,000,000 in accordance with Club Rules.

Safety on the Water

With the exception of occasional Open amd training events all sailing and racing at Huddersfield Sailing Club occurs without the use of patrol boats. The club rules emphasise that a boat (i.e. its crew) is entirely responsible for its own safety, that the decision to race or sail is the responsibility of the boat and that children remain the responsibility of their parents (or appropriate adult) at all times.

Safety on the water then remains primarily a matter for the individual. However the club also has a culture of mutual assistance while sailing. In practice this assistance routinely includes:

- From other boats on the water – helping to right a capsized boat, taking crew off a capsized boat and assisting crew back on board their own boat.
- From other members on the shore – relaunching a boat from a lee shore or recovering such a boat onto its launching trolley.

Our formal procedures for rendering assistance are as follows:

- The crew of a boat in difficulty should hail for assistance or when possible signal by raising both arms above the head. Experienced sailors should abandon racing to assist.
- If in any doubt as to an individual's safety the Race Officer should formally signal the abandonment of racing by making one long sound signal. All boats on the water should render such assistance as they can.
- Note if there is any risk of entrapment under a capsized boat, the first priority is to prevent inversion of the boat by climbing onto the centreboard.

Novice sailors should consider gaining experience as follows:

- By initially sailing on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the racing programme. This ensures that there are a number of other boats on the water. Do not worry about getting in the way. Attempt to follow the course yourself.
- Become familiar with the handling characteristics of your boat.
- All sailing dinghies capsize at some point. Practice capsize recovery in calm conditions. Establish if your boat would benefit from righting lines or rope loops to aid climbing back in.
- Always stay with the boat. Do not attempt to swim to shore.
- Seek advice from experienced members if you are unsure about the wind conditions.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather condition.
- Check your boats fittings and equipment are in good order

Note that where a trapeze harness is used it should either be of the hookless type or be fitted with a quick release mechanism.
Swimming in the reservoir is only permitted in an emergency or as part of a training exercise.

Note that:

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk.
All sailors, whether racing or not, should be aware of this, and accept responsibility:

- for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst on the water.
- for the safety of themselves, their crew, boat and other property whether afloat or ashore
- for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;

They should ensure that their boat is in good order, equipped to sail and they are fit to participate.
The provision of patrol boat(s) does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
The provision of patrol boat cover, when applicable, is limited to such assistance as can be practically provided in the circumstances, particularly in extreme weather conditions.

The Club Boats

The Club owns Toppers, a Pico, Optimists and Hartley12 dinghies. These are all available for members to hire at very reasonable rates. The Hartleys are ideal boats for adult beginners or adults with children. The Toppers and Pico are well suited to teenagers and small adults, while the Optimists are suitable for children aged 8 to 15 (experienced adult supervision is required at all times).

Rules of Hire

1. Use is restricted to Club members only.
2. In the interests of safety, use of club boats by new members is limited to scheduled racing hours only - normally Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the season and Wednesday evenings during June, July, and August. Advice and assistance will normally be available at these times, although cannot be guaranteed unless prior arrangements are made with the Training Co-coordinator. However use may be restricted or declined at the discretion of Club Officers
3. The hirer is responsible for securing the boat on its berth after use and for ensuring that sails and other loose equipment are properly stowed away.
   In the event of reckless or grossly negligent use of a boat, the General Committee reserve the right to charge the hirer with any excess arising from any resulting insurance claim.
4. It is the hirer's responsibility to ensure that the boat is in a fit state to be sailed. If in doubt – ask.

Boat Hire Procedure

A list of hire charges is available near the galley counter.
Payment for the use of any of the boats should be placed in one of the envelopes provided on the kitchen counter. Details of the hirer and date of hire must be recorded on the envelope and then posted through the slot in the counter.
The boats are all kept locked to their berths and their equipment is stored in various places. When you wish to use a Club boat for the first time please do not hesitate to make arrangements with any of the Club Officers to show you where everything is kept. Everything must be returned and secured to its rightful place after use.

Racing

(a) All races organized by the Club shall be subject to the racing rules of the ISAF.

(b) Races are normally planned prior to the start of a season and details are published in a Sailing Programme issued to all members and also displayed in the Clubhouse.

(c) Races shall be conducted by a nominated Race Officer (RO), as shown in the current Sailing Programme. This appointed Race Officer shall be responsible for providing a suitable substitute in his or her absence.

(d) Duties and responsibilities of the Race Officer are laid down in a guide which is provided by the Sailing Secretary and kept in the Race Control Tower.

(e) Only the Race Officers or Officers of the Club are allowed in the Race Control Tower between the five minute signal and the finish of a race.

(f) The Club considers that the Race Control Tower is unsuitable for young children.

Risk Statement

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk.
By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

a) They are aware of this, and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
e) The provision of race officer(s), patrol boat(s) and other officials and volunteers does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
f) The provision of patrol boat cover, when applicable, is limited to such assistance as can be practically provided in the circumstances, particularly in extreme weather conditions.