



HSC NEWS

February 2025

www.huddersfieldsailing.org.uk

Issue 01/25

Commodore's Column

Happy New Year to all at HSC. I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas Festivities with their respective families, partners and friends. For my part, I am ready to take on the challenges of 2025. However, before this I would like to reflect on 2024 and my first year as Commodore. First, I need to pay tribute to all the members of the General Committee who have helped and guided me through my first year and I am looking forward to their support during the coming year.

I came into sailing quite late in life. When I moved to Scholes in 1975 (I had dark hair then) I would drive along the road to Hade Edge and watch the sailing. I said to myself I would like to have a go at that. I eventually, in my mid 70's, grasped the nettle and presented myself to HSC. I was given a warm welcome and immediately taken out for a sail courtesy of Paul O'Connor. I was hooked, and in a few weeks I had acquired a boat and was away, although to start with capsizing was the order of the day. Since then sailing has become a big part of my life and I have gained many friends, which I cherish. Here I am now serving HSC to the best of my ability as Commodore.

Reflecting on 2024 I find I enjoyed the sailing although I was hampered quite often by strong winds. These conditions tend to discourage the senior members, as I will politely call them although some people might refer to us as somewhat grumpy. Overall a good year sailing. When the senior members were 'blown off' we were usually treated to some spectacular sailing courtesy of



the Zulu fleet. The social calendar in 2024 was quite eventful; Film Nights, Pizza Nights, Ten Pin Bowling, Halloween, and Prizegiving. The night-time Summer Solstice Sailing event was both unusual and enjoyable. Many members bonded together to make these events the success they were. However, the congratulations must go to social secretaries, Jane Naylor and Patricia Taylor for successfully organising these events.

As Commodore I get to present the trophies at the Presentation evening, an enjoyable duty. This year it was a pleasure to present a trophy to one of our junior members, Hughie, I am sure he will be back for more. Particularly for me, I took great pleasure to honour Andrew and Daintry O'Connor and Peter Wilson with the lifetime trophy award, truly well deserved.

Members will have noticed the installation of the 'Defibrillator' and for this we have to thank Michael O'Connor,

not only for organizing the purchase and installation, but also for an instructional evening that was well attended.

I guess I don't need to highlight the work that needs to be done regarding club maintenance. Towards the end of the season we had three Working Parties, which were very well attended. On behalf of the Committee may I thank

everyone who took part. It is the intention to continue with these Working Party Events in 2025.

Finally, my thanks to the General Secretary, Jo Stead, for keeping us in check.

Mac Pimblett - Commodore 2025



Photographic Competition 2025

Get snapping!



Watch out for more details of the 2025 Photographic Competition.

Photographs taken since August 2024 will be eligible.

**Results of the competition will be announced
at the Anniversary Party at the clubhouse on
Saturday 6th September 2025**

Race Officer dates and training

Please make a note of your Race Officer Duties for the 2025 season (see attached Sailing Programme). If you are unable to make it on your day please arrange a swap with someone else. Our WhatsApp group is the best place to seek a change or just ask around at the club.

If you are a little unsure what to do or if it is just a long time since you were last "in the tower" get in touch with me and I can either arrange for some training beforehand or I can see if someone is around to help you on the day.

(If you are not in the WhatsApp group and want to be, speak to Rachael Lockley or drop me an email at the address below).

Andrew Molyneux at hsc_sailingsec@btinternet.com

Dates for your Diary 2025

March	22nd	Saturday	Boats-out 9:30am
March	30th	Sunday	Working Party 9:30am
April	10th	Thursday	A.G.M. at the clubhouse 8:00pm
April	18th, 19th and 20th		Easter Weekend Beginners Training 10:30am
May	4th	Sunday	Working Party 9:30am
May	25th	Sunday	Single Handed Trophy 2:00pm
June	1st	Sunday	Working Party 9:30am
June	21st	Saturday	Solstice Charity Sail 8:30pm
July	6th	Sunday	Working Party 9:30am
July	23rd, 24th and 25th		Swallows and Amazons
August	24th	Sunday	Masters and Grandmasters Trophy 2:00pm
September	6th	Saturday	Anniversary Party 7:30pm
September	7th	Sunday	Working Party 9:30am
September	13th	Saturday	Improvers training 10:30am
September	14th	Sunday	Heron Open and Northerns 11:00am
September	20th	Saturday	Improvers training 10:30am
September	21st	Sunday	Ladies and Junior Trophies 2:00pm
September	27th	Saturday	Improvers training 10:30am
October	5th	Sunday	Working Party 9:30am
November	2nd	Sunday	Working Party 9:30am
November	29th	Saturday	Prizegiving at the clubhouse 7:30pm
December	7th	Sunday	Boats-in 9:30am

**Boats-out
Saturday 22nd March 2025
9:30am prompt**



It is almost that time of year again when we all look forward to getting back out on the water.

If your boat is in storage in the clubhouse please be there on 22nd March at 9:30 prompt to help take the boats-out. All help is welcomed even if your boat is not in storage. There is plenty of tidying up to do after the boats are out to prepare for the start of the season.

Boats Out this year is on Saturday 22nd March, so please make a note of this important date. If you cannot possibly make the date please ask someone to act on your behalf. With lots of boats to move, a prompt start is essential. Not until all boats and stands have been removed from the clubhouse should members start rigging their own boats. Hopefully by the time you read this the winter weather will have allowed us to tidy up the dinghy park.

If your boat has been left outside over the winter, but moved to a more sheltered berth, will you please move it back to its rightful berth so as not to block other member's berths. All boats should be put back on the berth they were using last year. However if your boat is 'for sale', or you know that it is unlikely to be used much this season, please get in touch with me, so that your berth can be reallocated to someone else who sails regularly.

Buoyancy Testing begins on Sunday 23rd March, but can be done at any time throughout the season. Please note that ALL boats must complete a buoyancy test/inspection before they are sailed each season. Please ask a member of the committee if you are unfamiliar with the procedure for your class of boat.

Andrew O'Connor
andrew@mistero.net
07821 701564

HSC – some information for new Members

Welcome to the new season in what will be the club's sixty-seventh year of sailing. Here is what I hope will be a mildly interesting bit of commentary about HSC, its background and what it means to be a member of this great family club.

Club Management

The club was formed by a band of keen sailors in 1958, bringing boats across a field and getting changed behind a wall. That initial spirit has continued over the years and expanded to create the buildings and dinghy park that we have today.

The objective of Huddersfield Sailing Club has always been to encourage the sport of sailing. We are very much a members' community, operating on a not for profit basis and all our officials are volunteer club members. The club is managed in accordance with its Constitution. This requires us to have a General Committee to oversee the running of the club and a Sailing Committee to organise and facilitate the sailing programme. The Committees are responsible for the Club Rules and the Sailing Instructions, which set out how we manage racing (and not as they may sound to be; instructions on how or when to sail!)

If you would like to help out as a member of either Committee then you are most welcome, just speak to Mike O'Connor or Mac Pimblett. You do not need to be expert at sailing to contribute and we especially welcome the views of our newer members.

The Reservoir and Land

The reservoir belongs to Yorkshire Water and we are their tenants for which we pay an annual rent of around £1,400. We also rent the grassed area at the front of the clubhouse. The founder members had the foresight to buy the land on which the clubhouse, dinghy park and car park sit. This is unusual for a sailing club and helps significantly to keeping our annual costs down.

We share the water with Huddersfield Angling Club. We get on well with the fishermen and whilst sailing, try to avoid getting too close to them (whenever we are actually in control). The Angling Club share the use of the car park for which they make a small contribution towards maintenance.

Safety

Generally speaking sailing is a very safe sport and with a few precautions and a good understanding of the wind direction and sail setting, the worst that should happen is that you get to practise your swimming technique.

Each member must take responsibility for their own safety and take individual responsibility for decisions of whether to sail or not. This includes assessing your own and your chosen boat capabilities for the weather conditions. The safety and guidance of children is always the responsibility of a parent or guardian and if in any doubt please err on the side of safety. Adequate personal buoyancy must be worn at all times whilst on the water. It is good practice for children to wear a buoyancy aid at all times when near the water. Alongside the walkways the water can be up to two metres deep. The concrete ramp and jetties can be slippery when damp.

All boats that are brought to the club must have adequate insurance including a minimum of five million pounds third party cover. This sounds a lot but is not overly expensive. The average annual insurance cost for a sailing dinghy is just under one hundred pounds. All boats must be tested or inspected to ensure they have

sufficient reserve buoyancy. This should be carried out at the beginning of every year or when a boat is first brought to the club. The procedure for the test is determined by the Sailing Committee and can be found in a blue folder in the kitchen. A copy of the Buoyancy test form for 2025 is attached to this newsletter.

It is not the practice of the club to provide a powered patrol boat to assist if you get into trouble on the water. Our water is quite small with banks that are suitable for landing most of the way round. If you do get into difficulty it is usual for other sailors to come to your aid. If you wish to go sailing when there are no other boats on the water you must ensure that someone is on-shore to raise the alarm should it be needed. However the club does now own a patrol boat which will be used at the discretion of the Sailing Committee at training and competitive events.

Being a Member

As a Member there is no obligation on you to do anything other than to encourage participation in sailing. As members we have all signed up to that. However we will always appreciate your attendance and help at social events and working parties to help maintain the club and keep costs down. If you have a particular trade or skill that you think is helpful to the club please let anyone on the Committee now.

Keep reading these newsletters to stay informed of the latest news and upcoming events and download the sailing programme so that you know what is happening at the club on any one day throughout the season. If you would like to encourage friends or family to join in you may bring visitors to the club to sail. Please enter their names and addresses in the visitors' book on the wall in the club lounge. A little known fact is that some years ago the cast of Last of the Summer Wine visited us and you will see their names in there too. Friends and family are always welcome to join in social events.

Partner organisations.

The governing body of sailing is the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). We pay an affiliation fee to them every year and if you would like to support their work the club encourages you to join as an individual member.

Some years ago a long-standing member of the club founded the Sail Training Trust, a charity to support young people from Yorkshire wanting to participate in sailing activities. Each year we hold an event to support the charity and if you know of a young person in need of financial assistance to undertake a sailing activity then please speak to a member of the Committee who will put you in touch with the charity.

I wish you all an enjoyable and successful sailing season and if you have any questions about the running of the club or its history don't hesitate to come and speak to me or any of the other long-standing members at the club.

A number of the documents mentioned above and other interesting information can be found on the club website at:

<http://www.huddersfieldsailing.org.uk/download.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/HuddersfieldSailingClub>

Andrew Molyneux – Trustee

Safety on the Water

With the exception of Open events and novice/junior training, 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 is only permitted in an emergency or as part of a training exercise.

Membership

For convenience a membership form is attached for anyone who has not yet rejoined. (But you've only got a few days left before the early payment discount deadline)