



HURST CASTLE SAILING CLUB

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025

Dear Members,

Welcome to June and to hope of better boating weather than we had in May. In this newsletter you will find reports of HCSC recent events, some items of news and a reminder to look at the programme or our web site so as not to miss future activities.

Recent Events The big event of May was our very successful Open Day. The house and grounds were buzzing! 22 new members signed up on that one day and have already been seen around the club, sussing out our fleet, drinking coffee and generally getting involved. Many thanks to all the members who helped with the day, welcoming, doing refreshments, showing off our boats and so on. The Sailing and Social Committees played their part and “someone” made the gardens look terrific. Special thanks to Membership secretary, Meriel, who worked non-stop and has since been processing all the applications. (Also to the Commodore who coordinated the event.) Here are some pictures.





From Commodore, Andy

After our wonderfully sunny April and early May when many of us got out on the water, normal West Solent service has now been resumed with some strong south westerly winds replacing more gentle easterlies. Sadly this has resulted in some sensible but unfortunate cancellations including the popular Totland Sandcastle Competition. The Sailing Committee is hoping to organise a replacement date in early August so watch this space for news.

While the good weather lasted it was great to see so many of you at our Open Day on May 10th - many thanks to all who contributed to a very successful and enjoyable day. We gained a number of new members on the day who are already getting involved in HCSC activities - welcome to you all!

It has also been good to witness a good turnout with some new faces at Ian's adult training sessions and to see the enthusiasm of our junior sailors getting out on the water as the season gets under way. There are still a few spaces available at Junior Sailing Week which takes place from 25 - 30 July.

Our new Monday evening race series started in sunshine with a gentle breeze a fortnight ago with a second date imminent on 2nd June. Before that there is a new innovative 'fun' event, 'The Three Lakes Race' this Saturday. Details of this and a packed week of events ahead can be found on WhatsApp and the HCSC website.

Finally, some news about our expanding fleet of club boats for hire -

thanks to the generosity of Jane Puckering we have two additional kayaks named Jami 1 and Jami 2, named after popular club member, the late Jami Puckering. The club has also purchased an additional LR Scow 306 'Lily' from club member Bob White, a boat which will be familiar to many of you. These boats will soon be available to members once we have finished labelling equipment and sorting insurance etc.

Good sailing / paddling!

Potter to Oxey Lake on May 15th (shared with KYC)



Sailing News From Rear Commodore Sailing, Anne:

In retrospect it was too good to last: our events got off to a flying start with the weather encouraging everyone to get out onto or into the water. However, recently opportunities have been curtailed due to the **Wrong Weather**.

Some of the Club events have been cancelled or postponed for that reason, the unique inter-club Totland Sandcastle Competition being a case in point. The new date for this will be announced later but may be Saturday 9th August.

The joint HCSC/KYC long distance Potter to Oxey Lake went well with a full fleet and the new initiative Monday Evening race ,aimed at allowing those who work, or can't get to the Wednesday and Saturday Races to participate.

This month has 17 club events scheduled, apart from cruising, which gives plenty of opportunity for participation in one way or another.

The Duty rota springs to mind as an opportunity for those of you who've been trained: it can be found on the front page of our Club website : simply click 'On the Water' and the first item on the drop down menu is Duty Rota which gives all the dates, events and any spaces. You can't do it without You.

The Club uses WhatsApp as a quick way to update the range of interest groups: so if you'd like to join any of these groups , full details are on the inside back cover of this year's limited edition, greatly admired HCSC Programme of Events.

From the Cruiser Section

Not just one, but actually two reports:

From Paul J:

The club's cruisers have enjoyed 2 early season rallies blessed with days of warm sunshine and kind winds. For various reasons, the number of boats was down on previous years for the traditional Spring bank holiday foray to Yarmouth, organised as usual by Mark and Amanda, but those unable to sail there swelled the number attending dinner in the Wheatsheaf by coming over on the ferry. The next expedition was to Portsmouth harbour with pontoon berths at Hornet, Joint Services Sailing Club in Gosport organised by Jim and Sue. We were joined by those with boat problems arriving by car for an onboard afternoon tea of scones and jam followed by a curry supper in the

clubhouse. Breakfast in the clubhouse the following morning proved popular before a day of sightseeing and retail therapy in Gunwharf Quays ending with onboard drinks and nibbles prior to a local pub supper.

The next rally is to Poole harbour, 25-27th June, organised by Kevin Wheeler followed by the traditional August Bank Holiday at Bucklers Hard. We have a number of new cruiser members who are encouraged to join the Cruiser WhatsApp group which is the best way of keeping in touch and joining in the fun.

And from Jim:

Cruiser Rally to Hornet Services Sailing Club, Gosport.

Three HCSC cruisers (Arabella, Briza, and Ruby) voyaged to Gosport on the 21st May for a two-day rally. A fourth boat (Dragonstar) joined the group there, being based at Gosport.

Sunny weather for the trip but very little wind. Our host was Hornet Services Sailing Club. This historic club is within the boundary of HM Dockyard, Portsmouth and lies in the shadow of the submarine HMS Alliance, part of the Submarine Museum.

Hornet SSC made us very welcome and we all enjoyed a Rally Curry at their clubhouse, which was formerly the mess for motor torpedo boat crews during the Second World War. There were thirteen in all at the curry as we were joined by members who had come by car; engine problems meant their boats had been unable to make the voyage up.

Jim P.



Hornet Services SC Clubhouse



HMS Alliance



Future Events: There are lots of events planned for June, including three long distance potters, local potters and a fish and chip supper. Add in races, training and a Push the Boat out event. See your printed programme or the club web site for details. Looking ahead, save the date of the Annual Regatta – Saturday July 12th,

Clubhouse News Sorry, more of a polite request. Peter, Rear Commodore House says that he has found the clubhouse unlocked on some evenings. So can members please make sure that ALL the doors are locked, as they leave. You do need to hold the door in place until it clicks, then check it. Please check all four (that includes the back door from the galley), in case the last person forgot.

Lost property If you leave something behind, it will usually be left in the clubhouse for a few days so you can collect it. After that it will be transferred to the lost property box on the far left of the gear store. It is worth checking there.

Sustainability from Sheila

There are some new signs on the spit with the following wording:

"Watersports

...not approaching feeding and resting birds.

...not launching and landing on mud, marshes and shingle shores.

...using recognised entry and exit points and keeping to the main channels"

Website News and a request from Jim

GET SNAPPING IN 2025!

Now that the season is underway and the weather seems to be behaving itself, it would be good to capture some on-the-water moments to go in the photo gallery on the Club website. So, if you have some general shots of your sailing or kayaking adventures this year, please email them to Alistair H, the Club webmaster to upload. His email address is webmaster@hcsc.org.uk A maximum of 6 pictures please per adventure; Alistair wants to go sailing as well!! Thank you.

Jim P, Website Group

RNLI Funds Wendy S collects the printer cartridges that you donate towards this fund raising. She reports that the recent delivery resulted in a donation of £34.60. Thank you for your contributions. Keep them coming!

That's all the news for now. The next one will be the last for the summer. There will be no newsletter in August.

Andy P, Commodore.

Jean W. Editor.

