



## HURST CASTLE SAILING CLUB

### NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

#### **Dear Members,**

Longer days and good weather, and sailing is getting going. Welcome to the May newsletter where you can find some reminders and news of what has been happening at the club.

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

**May** will be busy for HCSC. The usual racing series, potters – long distance and local- and sailing training are getting going. The Cruiser section will be going to Portsmouth from May 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. See your programme for details.

**Most Important is the HCSC Open Day on Saturday May10th.** This is an opportunity to advertise ourselves to the public and for existing members to learn more about our equipment and activities. It will also be a fun day. Volunteer help is needed with a variety of roles – meet and greet, show people around, refreshments and so on. If possible please sign up where you can help in the clubhouse. If you can't do that in person, email [commodore@hcsc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@hcsc.org.uk) to indicate your willingness to help. All hands on deck!

#### **FROM THE COMMODORE**

Our Open Day on the 10th May will be combined with the first of our 'Push the Boat Out' events when members are encouraged to get out on the water in company, in their own boats, a club boat or kayak with a support boat in attendance. These events will take place periodically through the season and have been arranged on Saturdays to enable those who cannot join in midweek daytime events to participate. The

usual pottering suspects are welcome too, of course! The 'Push the Boat Out' days will resemble our local potters in many respects but will incorporate some new ideas and activities. On May 10th we hope to have a 'parade of sail and paddle' to highlight what we do in front of visitors to our Open Day. More details at the 10.00 am briefing with a view to launching at 10.30.

So let's have a really good turnout on land and water on the 10th!

Please arrive in good time as the car parking will be at a premium as KYC have decided to hold their open day on the same date as ours!!! Please wear your HCSC clothing to demonstrate your club loyalty!

### **FROM ANNE, REAR COMMODORE SAILING:**

Our pre-season Support Boat Training sessions last month were encouragingly well attended, so we are optimistic that the club can be sure of running the sailing activities detailed in the Programme of Events booklet. Saracen has been refurbished by the boatyard and Jaffa II has a new engine.

Now all we need are some of you to help officiate at the Monday, Wednesday and Saturday Racing. This involves two people holding a timer watch and putting flags up and down on a start line from the sea wall. Please have a look on our Club's new website under 'Duty Rotas' to see details and where there are gaps you might be able to fill. There is no requirement to be a dinghy sailor to do this. Training will be given. Those who do participate in our racing will be generously paid in race points !

### **MORE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES from Vice Commodore, Steve:**

#### **Your Club Needs You!**

You may have seen the "Your Club Needs You" poster in the clubhouse. Two of the opportunities I'm trying to fill at the moment are:

#### **Social Media Co-ordinators**

As part of our drive to improve membership recruitment, we want to raise our social media profile. We already have a Facebook page, although there is rarely anything posted on it, and we have recently set up a profile on "Nextdoor", which has already brought us one new member.

It would be great if two or three interested members could take these on and look at other social media opportunities, as well. We need to post regular items to show potential members what a fun and exciting club we are and the attraction of being out on the water.

I am leading on this one so please have a word with me if you think you might be interested. (07963 627257)

## **IT WORKING GROUP**

We already have a Website Steering Group, who have successfully launched our new website. Together, we are now planning to look at future IT opportunities for the club and we will also be reviewing what we are already using.

If this is something you are interested in, then please have a word with me or Jim P, who chairs the Website Group.

## **HOUSE NEWS From Peter H, Rear Commodore:**

The working party went well on Sunday 13th April and for a change it was not raining !

Approx.38 people came during the morning and did a variety of jobs:- Thanks to Pete. D for repairing the back steps which were very rotten underneath and therefore dangerous .The gear store had a good tidy up but more to do I'm afraid! Mike H and Angus each did a trip to the dump! Note if you have equipment in the gear store please mark it with your name and boat name! A lot of painting was done including the posts, fences, bottom of the flag pole, benches, walkway posts, etc. Thanks to Nick L for repairing the table on the veranda. These are a few of the things I can remember ( It's my age you know ) Sorry if I have not mentioned everyone who did jobs. Thanks also to all the people who did jobs before and after the working party! Last of all many, many thanks to the ladies for coffee and biscuits in the morning to keep us going and the

delicious soup and french bread and cheese for lunch.

As we now have Solar panels and the battery is at full capacity we have turned the gas boiler off and we will be heating our water with electricity . We will monitor the situation and see if we can manage without the gas boiler !- Hope so !

## RECENT EVENTS



**The Galley team all ready for the arrival of food at the Launch Supper on April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

In contrast to recent Bring and Share meals, this time catering was brought in from a local provider, giving a choice of meat or veggie lasagne and of pudding. Nevertheless, thanks were due to the people who prepared the room and staffed the dishwasher.

## SAIL TRAINING

Ian's planned refresher dinghy sailing sessions on Friday and Saturday of the Easter weekend were somewhat reduced by the strong winds and pouring rain. Some participants did turn out and were introduced to the rigging of club boats and to practice on the simulator.

Since then Ian's Thursday sessions for Beginners and Improvers started as from April 24<sup>th</sup>. This time they made it onto the water and came back late in the afternoon looking cheerful though weary.



**SUPPORT BOAT TRAINING** has also been taking place in April and will continue during our regular events,



**UNEXPECTED VISITORS AT HCSC COFFEE MORNING ON April 22<sup>nd</sup>** when a film crew turned up making a coastal tv programme. In true HCSC tradition, they were provided with coffee. Good publicity. Can you identify them?



**More unexpected visitors squatting on our lawn**



## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS from Sheila

New signage has been erected along the Spit pointing out that Kayhaven harbour is a Nature Reserve.

Of significance to the sailing community is the wording at the bottom right of the sign.

"Watersports users are requested not to launch and land on mud, marshes and shingle shores ... using recognised entry and exit points and keeping to the main channels."



## HOUSEKEEPING

**HCSC programmes** Your printed copy is available for collection in the clubhouse. If you can't collect it yourself and would like it posted to you, please email [membership@hcsc.org.uk](mailto:membership@hcsc.org.uk) with your request. We realise that many members now use the electronic version and postage is expensive.

**Lost and Surplus Equipment** The gear store has been tidied and we now have a pile of unused or un-named equipment, some of it looking ancient. (How many worn out launch trolley tyres do we need?) It will be sold at the open day or disposed of so this is your last chance to retrieve anything that you forgot to name. Make sure you check it out next time you are at the club – but soon.

**From our Treasurer, Alan:**

Just a note to let you know that we have completed the switch to Octopus energy for our energy supplier. They are charging us less for our gas and electricity and are paying us for the electricity that we export to the grid.

That's it for May. Let's hope for more good weather and opportunities on the water. See you on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Andy P, Commodore.

JW, Editor