



Halifax Sailing Club Commodore's Newsletter

July 2017

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Welcome

The sailing year is well underway so it's time for a quick update on what's been happening at the Club so far this year. It's fair to say that we've had some excellent winds to start the season and attendances have reflected this. Dinghy racing participation has averaged over 10 boats per race and there has been a healthy turnout of boards due to the higher than average wind speeds for this time of year. The weather is warming up as we head into summer so I hope to see even more boats and boards out there in the next few weeks.

Push The Boat Out in May was a great success once again. The event is a great opportunity for us to showcase the Club to the local community. The Halifax Courier gave us a mention before and after the event and we even got some airtime on Radio Leeds. Keeping us in the public eye is very important as we try to attract new members. Thanks to all those people who gave up their time to help out.

Our training section has been particularly busy this year with July's 'Start Windsurfing' being the first full course for a number of years. We look forward to seeing our latest recruits Bethany, Jessica, Lilly, Kris, Nigel and Paul out on the water practising their new found skills in the near future.

Graham Norton



Dinghy Race Results

The first Sunday and first Wednesday Dinghy Racing Series are now complete. In total 32 helms took part in the first Sunday Series and Sunday April 23rd saw 19 boats on the water which was a great effort. The winner of the first Sunday Series was William Redman (Laser Radial) with Dave Walker (Sprint 15) second and Mike Palmer (Supernova) in third. Congratulations go to Steve Hill (Streaker) who managed an excellent sixth in his first proper season of racing. The winner of the first Wednesday Series was Kevin Holmes (Streaker) with Mike Palmer (Supernova) second and Colin Vickerman (Supernova) in third. Full results can be found on the website.

Club Clothing

You've been there, done that, so why not buy the t-shirt? The Club has contracted with Simprint of Sowerby Bridge to produce two shirt options embroidered with the Club emblem. Polo Shirts and fleeces are available in a variety of sizes and colours. See the Club's website for full details and ordering information.



Push the Boat Out 2017

RYA
PUSH THE
BOAT OUT
 21ST MAY 2017

During May HxSC joined almost 400 other sailing clubs across the country and ran our open day under the RYA's 'Push the Boat Out' banner. Starting at midday on May 21st, around 70 people took to the water to experience either dinghy sailing or windsurfing, or in some cases, both.

Once again there was an excellent turnout from our members to help make the day a great success. Sue had no problem finding volunteers to perform all the duties necessary on the day. Thanks again to everyone who came along to help out.

This year the weather was almost ideal, although the sun refused to put in much of an effort. There was a good strong breeze throughout the afternoon but not enough to deter people from having a go.

One early casualty was Sue and Johns Pacer which was being ably helmed by Mike Palmer. The boat was rigged quite hastily with members of the public waiting to get out on the water. All went well until the missing bungs finally allowed enough water into the buoyancy tanks to destabilise the poor little Pacer. Mike and his crew took the inevitable swim but his passengers seemed to be smiling when they finally came ashore. Or was it a grimace?



Windsurfing was particularly popular this year with over a third of those attending electing to try it 'standing up'. Keeping track of the 'fleet' was challenging at times. Many boards were retrieved from the north shore by the safety boats only to immediately set off again for another go. The number of people trying out the boards reflects a general upturn in the number of windsurfers returning to the Club.

During the registration process we always take the opportunity to find out how people heard about the open day. This helps us to decide the best way to publicise future events. Once again word-of-mouth (43%) was the most important form of publicity, closely followed by the internet including our own website and Facebook page.

If you know someone who may want to try sailing or windsurfing, why not suggest they come and give it a try?



Staying Safe on the Water

Keeping everyone safe on the water is one of the Club's main priorities. Like many other aspects of sailing the system we use is self-policing - it is the responsibility of our members to adhere to the Club's safety policies.

One of the methods we use to safeguard people is by ensuring that a fully manned safety boat is always in use when organised sailing is taking place. Helping to man the safety boat is very important to the safe running of the Club. If something unavoidable comes

up that means you can't attend we ask that members try their best to find someone to stand in for them.



During the summer months (beginning of June to 2nd Saturday in September) the rules are relaxed to allow dinghy sailing to take place under the 'buddy sailing' system. Dinghies may sail as long as at least two fully crewed boats are on the water and can assist each other as required. All helms taking part must be over 18 and do so at their own risk. To be clear, no-one may go on the water unless either a "buddy boat" is rigged and manned, or safety boat cover is available.

Windsurfing can take place at any time without a safety boat but the 'buddy' system must be observed.

No one should ever go on the water alone.

The committee asks that everyone should also take note of the following guidelines:

- The individual must always be responsible for their own safety on the water.
- Never take to the water unless you are confident that you can self-rescue in the prevailing conditions.
- Anyone who has a medical condition that may affect their ability to self-rescue should declare this to the safety boat Cox before taking to the water.
- In a rescue situation, sailors must obey the instructions of the safety boat Cox. His priority is your safety - recovering the boat is secondary.

We have an excellent safety record at Halifax so let's keep it that way.



A Fond Farewell

As you may know, our local hostelry 'The Delvers' has now closed its doors for the last time. The Club has been frequenting 'The Delvers' after Wednesday night sailing for many years. It has also been a venue for 'fitting out' and 'laying up' suppers and a convenient meeting place for the committee. We offer our best wishes and thanks to Terry and Debbie for their support over the years. In future our Wednesday evening 'apres sail' will move down to the 'Cat Ith Well'.



Training

We've had some really challenging weather over the last few months which has made training people to sail quite a challenge! The courses that we ran in May and June had to have extra days added just so that we could finish the syllabus. The last two people to successfully complete their Level 1 were Nathan and Wayne Lucas so look out for them. Nathan is now actively looking for a Laser. As already mentioned, Windsurfing courses have been very well attended this year.

Young People's Sailing

We've had some exciting sailing on Saturdays so far and seen some very skillful sailing. We took 3 of our Young People to Craven Sailing Club near Skipton on 27th May to take part in the second Junior Friendly Invitational Race day. Marcus T got the first prize and Laurie T came third. Well done to each of them.

Four new Young People have joined us on Saturdays. Harry and Emily have joined along with Mum and Dad, Dad is coming on the July course. We haven't managed to get Mum interested as yet but I'm working on it!

Harry had his first solo sail in a Topper last Saturday. He did very well and didn't capsize. Harry and Emily have been sailing with Emma and Hannah. Lucy and Marcus have joined with their Dad Simon. They have a Topper and a Topaz.



On the 8th July we had 16 boats out on the water which is a new record for Saturday afternoons. It was quite an amazing sight to see all the boats lined up on the ramp. It's probably not surprising that parents often decide to have a go when they've seen the youngsters having fun on the water.

We also invite those people that have been on the courses to join us on Saturdays for a bit of practice before they join the Sunday Sailors. Ian did his course the year before last and now brings his daughter Libby. Libby is not too sure about the strong winds but when she can she enjoys a little sail in the Topaz.

Each week our race officer Stuart sets a course for a race. I am keeping records of the results so we that can separate adults from youngsters. There will be prize for the first young person, one for the first adult and one for the first overall. It's all getting quite competitive and we're seeing the standard of sailing rising every week.

All this would not happen without the help of our brilliant band of volunteers who man the safety boats - George, Henry, Steve, Phil and John. Many thanks to everyone who helps with Saturdays because without you it would not happen.

Saturdays sailing ends on 23rd September when we have the Fun Day and BBQ and invite the Club members to join us. I think this year we'll invite the Sunday Sailors to join in - wind allowing of course