



Halifax Sailing Club Commodore's Newsletter

January 2018

Welcome

The first winter snows arrived just as the dinghy season came to an end but that didn't deter our hardy sailors. The final race day was well attended despite the freezing cold and sleet. It was enough to warm the hearts, if not the feet, of those people who chose to remain ashore. But even though the dinghy season has ended, many windsurfers are donning their 'steamers' ready to take on the elements. The season never really ends at Warley.

After a busy year building the new boat store, 2017 was much quieter on the 'work' front. The working parties carried out a lot of essential maintenance but apart from that we've had a well-deserved breather from major developments. By contrast the club has been very busy in the most important way - out on the water. All of our race series had stronger numbers this year and Saturday sessions have been very popular. It's been great to see so many boats and boards out there and long may it continue.

Once again, Push the Boat Out was a great event for us with similar numbers to last year coming along. It not only allows us to showcase the club to the local community, it's also an opportunity for members to socialize, as were the Barbeque and Funday in September. The laying up supper at the start of December was also popular this year.

The committee is already putting plans together for next year with several significant projects in the offing. As recently discussed at the AGM, we plan to replace the jetty with a new floating pontoon. This will be a major expenditure for the club and we had hoped to raise the finance by means of a grant from the EON Community Fund. I can now confirm that the club has been successful in obtaining a grant for £10,000 towards the new jetty. I'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard on the grant application on behalf of the club.

Happy New Year !
Graham Norton

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Dinghy Racing Results

The AGM is the time when we hand out prizes to those sailors who through skill and determination, have managed to win one of our race series. The theme this year was set when Richard Redman presented Kevin Holmes with a wine carrier !

It's fair to say that Kevin dominated last year with wins in both Wednesday Series and the 2nd and 3rd Sunday Series. He missed out on the Winter series by less than one point to cap a very impressive season. Well done to Tim Holden (Winter series) and William Redman (1st Sunday) for preventing the whitewash.



Don't Take Money for 'Grant'ed

This year there have been several opportunities for the club to obtain Grant funding to help us to develop our facilities. Whilst our Club has always been run on a sound financial footing, any extra money is always welcome. The Club made four separate funding applications during the year and amazingly we were successful in every case.

Early in the year the committee decided that the club should obtain an Automated External Defibrillator or AED. An AED is a device that checks heart rhythm and uses an electric shock to try to restore normal operation. Recent data shows that people suffering a cardiac arrest have a much greater chance of survival when a defibrillator is used compared to CPR only. Early intervention is vital to increase survival rates. The unit would be installed in the clubhouse to provide immediate treatment to anyone suffering a cardiac arrest. The Club was successful in obtaining funding for the unit from the Community Foundation For Calderdale (CFFC) based in Halifax. CFFC also supplied funding that allowed us to send two young sailors on an RYA Level 2 Powerboat course.



Buoyed on by this success, Sue Lamb applied to the Skipton Building Society who provide small grants to groups working to make a difference in their community. Once again we were successful and the Club received a £500 grant for new equipment.

**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
FOR CALDERDALE**
Creating Strong Communities through Local Giving

We were on a 'roll' and in November we went for the big one. The committee had decided to apply to the EON Community Fund for a grant to replace our jetty with a floating 'pontoon'.

The recently established EON Fund distributes grants annually to local community groups within a 5 mile radius of the Ovenden wind farm.

Up to £50,000 is available each year with a maximum at £10,000 being awarded in a single award. The fund is administered by CFFC on behalf of EON. Much of the work had already been completed as originally the fund was due to be available at the start of the year.

With a new jetty expected to cost between £10k and £15K the club applied for the maximum amount permitted - £10,000. At the start of January CFFC informed us that we had been awarded the full amount to complete a very successful year.

I'm sure everyone would agree that it's been a great start to the year already. Once the excitement of winning the award dies down we'll get down to planning how to complete the project which will take a number of months. Removal of the old jetty is already underway.



Training

Our training team were busy last year with six people passing the beginners dinghy course. One other person completed the course on a 1:1 basis. Eight people also attended our Start Windsurfing course with six of them passing.

At the end of 2017 we said thank you but not goodbye to Keven Brennan who has decided to retire from the role of Training Principal. It has been a pleasure to work with Kevin and I know all of us will miss his expertise and calmness when teaching new sailors. Steve Davison has volunteered to take on the Principals job so many thanks to him.

I would like to thank all our Instructors and Assistants for their efforts during the last year. Your efforts are very much appreciated by the club so thank you all. Some good news is we now have three new additions to the training team. Henry Goodman has qualified as a Sailing Instructor. I think it was the coldest, darkest week of the year when he did his course just before Christmas. Andrew Prigmore has joined us as a windsurfing instructor and Matt Hartley as an assistant instructor. Andrew expanded his horizons by passing the Intermediate instructor course in September which will enable us to offer a higher level of coaching subject to obtaining an appropriate simulator.



Matt is planning to take the instructor course later this year. If anyone thinks they would like to learn to teach Dinghy Sailing or Windsurfing please give us a shout -we have already had 3 people asking about courses for 2018. Do you know someone who might be interested in learning to sail or windsurf ? Why not tell them that we run courses throughout the summer.

Young People's Sailing

This year we had an exciting summer with strong winds nearly every week. I think we only had four Saturdays when the wind was light. It amazes me how our Young People don't do more swimming.

We had success again at the annual junior friendly at Craven Sailing club. Marcus won the event and Laurie came third. The wind was very shifty ranging from Force 0 to 6. Fergus our other entry had problems deciding which sail to choose. When it was windy he had rather a large sail on so we changed to a smaller one. Guess what ? - the wind dropped. We finished this wonderful event with the largest thunder storm I have seen in years. Well done to all 3 it was not easy sailing.



There are now 13 Young People in the group along with parents and some club members. The older ones like to help the younger ones. We also have a few budding Instructors in the making. Some of the parents have gone on to attend the Beginners Sailing course. We try to have a race or sometimes two every Saturday.

Our grant of £500 awarded from Skipton Building Society Grassroots Giving is going to buy some more helmets and some new waterproofs for the Young People. Thanks to all who voted for us.

There is a strong band of volunteers who help out on a Saturday and without them we would not function. If you feel you would like to help please give me a shout. Everyone is welcome.

Young people's 'On Board' sailing for 2018 will start on the 5th May and run every Saturday until the Fun Day on 22nd September. We start at 12.00 until 16.00 'ish' depending on the weather.

Fun Day 2017

We held our annual Fun Day on Saturday 23rd September. It was a great success with 12 Young People along with their families and lots of club members attending. For once the wind behaved itself and we were able to run games on the water. This included 'blow up' animals - crocodiles, dolphins and a killer whale and lots of small balls and balloons. A lot of excellent sailing took place when collecting these along with a lot of swimming. We have a lot of very competitive individuals in our club. If you see Nathan around ask him about what happened when he capsized. The Young People were homing-in like Exocets determined to collect his loot.



With the dinghies packed away we moved on to the Model Boat Building. Charles arrived just in time to do the judging.

The best design went to Nick who brought one he had made earlier. The weirdest design went to Eve who built a Borg cube? Well it is a vessel! One of the models turned sideways and simply rolled its way from one end of the pond to the other. It was a new take on sailing but very funny.

The wind didn't behave and most of the boats were swept to the bottom of the pond. We collected them off the north shore the following day. Some of them unfortunately may have sunk.

Simon fired up the BBQ and then everyone tucked in. Shore based competitions were held in the club. These included 'Name My Cats', won by Emma and Gaynor and 'Name The Duck' which was won by Bill. Katie's younger sister Bethan also brought a wonderful picture of a boat. Blindfold we had to pin the rudder on. Eve was the nearest so she won the prize.

We then held the prize giving with Jane Redman presenting the prizes. Since May we have been teaching the Young People to Race. I compiled the results to give a prize for the overall winner which was Marcus. Steve Hill was the overall adult winner. Jointly Marcus and Fergus won the Young People's prize. Saturday racing has been very competitive.

Thanks to Stuart who sets the Race Courses every week. The Safety boat crews for the day were Nick, Steve, John and George. Thanks to Simon who ran the BBQ and to Karen who worked tirelessly behind the counter serving the multitude.

A very large thank you goes to everyone who has assisted with Young Peoples sailing throughout the summer. Without you all we would not function.

