

# Sailbase

The Newsletter from Hunstanton Sailing Club

Issue 10

## From the Vice Commodore



It's good to see so many people using the club again after what seems to have been a long winter. Although the weather's not been great, we have all enjoyed some excellent wind

conditions. Everyone that came down to wind or kite surf over the May Bank Holiday weekend was treated to a brilliant 3 day wind bonanza. The dinghy sailors also got their fix on the Sunday.

Earlier this year the club was pleased to hold two new events. The Hub put on an excellent Kite surfing display and organized a well supported tricks competition as part of the Hunstanton Lifestyles weekend. The club also played host to its first RS700 circuit event. The class association has already asked to return again next year. - Keep up the good work these events do much to promote the club and our chosen sport

At the AGM this year I got a bit more than I had bargained for in agreeing to be nominated for Vice Commodore. Not only did I get voted in but until such time as we fill the position of Commodore I have inherited the position of Acting Commodore, I know that having such a strong committee and with everyone's help and cooperation we will be able ensure that the club continues to run efficiently and work to improve the amenities that contribute to making our chosen wind powered sport as fun and rewarding as possible. Please remember every member's ideas, comments and help are always valued and very welcome.

**Question:** is Stuart going to carry on Mick's fine tradition of wearing shorts in all weathers and at all occasions? We'll have to wait and see.

## Challenger and OK Open event June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Have you offered to help yet? Any time you can spare would be appreciated, allowing others to have a more relaxing time. Often the duties fall on the shoulders of a small team; yet running this sort of event brings in a substantial income which benefits the whole club. There will be hot food after sailing on Saturday.

The Challenger was introduced to the Club when a member, John King, was allocated one. He wrote very eloquently about what it meant to him, and an extract from his article appears elsewhere, by kind permission of his widow, Shelagh.

## Photographs

Windsurfing member Rob Scanlon is a professional photographer and most of the stunning photos in this issue were taken by him. You'll see examples of his work over the bar in the Clubhouse, but to see if he's caught **you** in action, visit [www.seabornephotography.co.uk](http://www.seabornephotography.co.uk).

## Problems with keys?

There have been a few reports of unreliable keys to the Clubhouse. The locks have recently been serviced, so if you're still having problems, contact Julia ([juliapaulhsc@aol.com](mailto:juliapaulhsc@aol.com) or 01485 541031) for a replacement.

## No Smoking in the Clubhouse

Please note that following the vote at the AGM, the Clubhouse is now a No Smoking zone.

## Your new 2006 Committee

With regret we heard that not only Mick Ford, but also Paul Pearson, Heather Dunseath, Phill Cook and John Robinson decided to stand down. Our thanks to them for their contribution to the Club.

There was no successful candidate for Commodore this year; this means the Vice Commodore will assume those duties with support from the rest of the Committee.

Those elected were:

Vice Commodore: Stuart Moore  
Rear Commodore: Ian Holland  
Treasurer: Warren Mitchell  
Secretary: Julia Paul  
Full/Family Member: John Matthews

Andy HGarry Moore and Pete Godfrey remain in post. Keith Twaites had been co-opted to the Committee; and subsequently Dave Wilby and Ellie Paterson were also co-opted.

This still leaves several vacancies!

**The garage** is now virtually empty, and we are now ready to install racking for storage of members' kit. There is likely to be a small charge for a key to access the garage; this will allow us to monitor who has access and reduce any risk of theft or damage. Please let me or Garry know if you would like to use this storage.

## Harbour Proposal

Just before the AGM started we were very pleased to welcome Mr Richard Searle, who brought two illustrations of proposals for the harbour. After a short presentation, members were invited to address any comments and questions to Mr Searle.

While Mr Searle did his best to answer the questions, there are still many unknowns until a feasibility study is undertaken.

Many thanks to Mr Searle for giving up his time on a busy weekend.

## Thanks to Ian Holland

Also at the AGM, those present voted to award Honorary Life Membership to Rear Commodore Ian Holland in recognition of the work he does for the Club.

The Club has a considerable amount of equipment, and without Ian to oversee the work – let alone the work he actually does himself – it would be in serious difficulty keeping going.

Those of us who turn up to help usually find Ian's there before us, and during last March, when there was lots of work to prepare for the sailing season, we got the impression he never went home!

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**From Garry Moore:** Having been to the beach 3 times recently and only been wet once (and that was not worth the effort) I have lost faith in all the weather forecasts. Now relying on my own weather station.



## Mrs C and ME

Although I am passionate about her, my wife knows more about Mrs C's contours than I do – especially when I inflict a spot of GBH on her pleasing lines, although *never with intent!* Perhaps I should explain:

In 1980, after becoming a professional wheelchair jockey, the late Diana Campbell, approached the RYA's independent charity, the Seamanship Foundation (now RYA Sailability), with a plan that would enable fellow "jockeys" to participate in a sport that hitherto had been the strict province of the more athletic able-bodied sailor. The Foundation accepted this remarkable woman's ideas and in concert with boat-designer, Roderick MacAlpine-Downie, the Challenger project was born.

MacAlpine-Downie's design combined the trimaran's inherent stability with a rotating mast rig that brought all controls to the hand of a seated helmsman. The result is the 15ft Challenger trimaran, a sleek racer and a craft capable of giving a safe, fast and exhilarating sail.

We all like to win through, and such is the psyche, the more difficult the "win" the greater the feeling. As a wheelchair jockey with a passion for sailing, "winning" is only part of it, self-reliance and risk-assessment another, but perhaps most of all, I find my Freedom. After a "Hawaii-Five-O" surf launch – preferably avoiding the groynes – I am free of my wheelchair, people and worries, and the only ones that matter are Mrs C and me. (Mrs C – how I refer to my boat, Marconi Challenger.)

The thrills of 'wave-hopping', 'hiking out' or 'being out on the wire' I don't know and can only guess at – but when my bum claws for a grip, as Mrs C is thrown onto a lee hull and powers her way through a heaving, snarling, spitting sea – adrenaline floods me with a heady, exhilaratingly happy brew that has, for me, no equal. In contrast, sailing on a summer's breeze is a time for quiet reflection with no-one shouting in my face or getting in my ear. And that 'space' is also a much cherished freedom.

Sailing is the vehicle that replaces my wheelchair, it gives me a good fight and one I can 'win'. My sincere thanks to those who have helped me get afloat, particularly my 'man of the match' Shelagh, who not only keeps both me and the 'show on the road' but also makes the all-too numerous repairs to Mrs C (the GBH referred to in the first paragraph).

*Thanks to Shelagh King for permission to reprint this item.*



Challengers competing in an open event at Hunstanton

## RS700 event

In April we hosted an event for RS700s, with 24 boats competing. Our RS700 sailors had done a lot of work in advance, and arranged sponsorship from Audi, the Rose and Crown at Snettisham, and Premier Fitness and Leisure. Saturday had light and flukey winds for its three races; the Rose and Crown was the venue for dinner and “cabaret” provided by a couple of our sailors – anyone got pictures?

Sunday started with the same conditions, then picked up to 4-5 with a steep swell for the last 2 races. A special prize went to Andy Holland for his perpendicular nosedive.

The full report can be found at [www.yachtsandyachting.com](http://www.yachtsandyachting.com).



RS700s on the start line

**Helpers always welcome:** The RS700 event would have run more easily with a few more helpers. As it was, the event generated around £600 **profit**, thanks to the hard work of a few. The Committee is considering methods of rewarding helpers, **not** as a method of getting favours for a clique, but simply to encourage more people to offer their help. If **all** members offered a few hours when the winds weren't right for their favourite sport, it would take the pressure off those who currently put in a lot of hours.

The next big event will be North West Norfolk Week on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> July.

## Lifestyles 2006 and KiteFight!

The Council together with the King's Lynn Adrenaline Sports Club again organised this event with a climbing wall and BMX ramps. They also offered to sponsor a kitesurfing competition providing cash prizes for winners. KiteFight was born!

John Matthews of HSC and the HUB invited current British Kitesurf Champion Dave Ibbertson to act as both commentator and judge. With around 20 entries, there was first a competition for “best trick”, then a speed trial.

Some of the trick names in the commentary were so specialist even some of the kilters hadn't heard them before!

After the competition, John's wife and helpers prepared food for the hungry competitors and a good social evening developed. For a full report and more spectacular photos, visit [www.kitesurfhub.org/kitefight](http://www.kitesurfhub.org/kitefight).



Ed Napolitano mid-stunt