

From the Commodore



Hello to all our listeners !!! And avast ye landlubbers this be your commodore pontificating so listen up folks.

Since the AGM your new committee has had several full meetings and sub meetings, and established a sub group who are looking into all those points raised by our windsurfing colleagues and others.

What have we achieved so far you may ask.

Information for members : We have put up new info boards in club house so keep your eyes peeled. Thanks to Paul Pearson for that.

As previously mentioned we have established what we are calling **Windsurf sub committee** with terms of reference and to report back to the full committee on a suitable safety craft for all. They will be taking advice from a variety of experts and trying out some real craft at Jamie's at Brancaster. They will also look at possible alternative usage of the existing boathouse.

A decision was taken to open the Bar throughout the season on Friday evenings for those who can get down at start of weekend and Smithy with Heather Dunseath and others are planning some form of rota

With invaluable help from Jeff Carnell and committee members we now have the long **awaited Bollards** (yes I did say Bollards !!) up to define our boundaries.

A small sub committee has also been looking at the issue of **postal/proxy**

votes etc. We will need an EGM to ratify any changes to the rules.

We had a lot of problems with the Blue Pig Committee boat's moorings . Thanks to Ian Holland and crew for all their hard work in getting new Buoys fixed etc.

John Greenwood spent some considerable time and effort updating the Gents Showers and I understand he did something in the ladies but not sure what!!! Thanks John.

Pete Newell and others have spent a lot of time on the clubhouse and latterly the bar ceiling (Have they hidden a crate of beer in the loft I ask myself.) Thanks again to all concerned. It is appreciated.

We have a new full width ramp for wheelchair access at front doors and are painting step edges to help people with sight problems (and those who imbibe rather too much.)

We have been approached by the Kitesurfing club, the HUB, with certain proposals which again will be considered by the windsurf sub committee.

We plan to have mugshots of all committee members on notice boards with contact details so everyone will know who their committee are and any potential members can see at a glance whether or not they wish to share their spare time with such a bunch of ne'er-do-wells.

Finally I should like to thank all who have given me encouragement and support to establish what I think is a very proactive, active, involved and cohesive committee and membership. We are all in this together so keep the ideas rolling but don't expect the frenetic pace of the past couple of months to continue or we shall be too tired to do what we like best and YES I do mean SAIL.

Mick Ford, Commodore

Social events

August Bank Holiday weekend will be given over to events in aid of RNLI, starting with a **party with band on Saturday 27th August** at the Clubhouse. Tickets at £2.50 need to be purchased in advance. We are planning to get a late licence for this event. Thanks to Phill Cook for organising this event. Sailing events on Sunday and Monday will also be in aid of RNLI.

The **Windy Ball** is back this year on **Saturday 15th October**, further details to follow. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on the same date at 7pm to vote on rule changes, in order for them to be in force by the next AGM. Formal notification and full details of motions for the EGM will follow by post, but it is primarily in response to requests for postal and/or proxy voting at the AGM which would need Rule changes.

The bar is being opened regularly on Friday evenings, thanks mainly to Heather Dunseath and Phill Cook. Dave Smith continues to come down every other Sunday to open up. At other times, other members of the bar committee may open up, depending on demand. Apart from Heather, Phill and Dave, the other members of the bar committee are: Warren Mitchell, Clive Insley, Pete Newell, John Robinson, and Dave Wilby.

While we welcome help behind the bar, members of the bar committee have to be approved by the main Committee and need to have been Club members for at least a year so that they are well-known to the Committee. It is also not just about serving beer and taking money: the bar needs to be left as clean and tidy as when it was opened; tea-towels and mats need to be washed; and a note made when stock is getting low.

Webby stuff

Our **website** (www.hunstantonsailingclub.supanet.com) has been redeveloped and is now easily and regularly updated. We are trying to keep all information and documents up-to-date, and are uploading **photos** speedily! Latest photos are from a recent Sail Training day. **Minutes** will also be published there, although financial and/or confidential information won't be published for the world to see. There are useful links, such as a **weather** forecast for the Wash showing wind speed, direction and sea state.

There will also shortly be a link to our new **webcam**, installed courtesy of the CoastCam project: See the picture yourself at www.coastcam.co.uk/hunston. It's updated every 30 seconds, reasonable quality on slower (modem) connections, but better on faster (broadband) connections.

Elsewhere, photographers are following some of the bigger sailing events and our members are featuring on a number of websites. www.hotcapers.com has spectacular photos of a wide range of watersports and recently had some good photos of our RS700 sailors (see prints on the noticeboard). There's an excellent photo of our Treasurer at www.fotoboat.com – click on Galleries, the Supernova Nationals, then 19th June.

Incidentally, RS700s are a recent addition to the Club fleet, since their owners discovered they were (one of) the fastest single-handers around. Ian Nolan provides a report elsewhere about what they're like to sail.

May Bank Holiday Sailing

The Open Meeting held over the Late May Bank holiday attracted 28 entrants in the three classes that the event was held for each paying an entry fee of £12.

The weather on Saturday meant that we were unable to race because of large seas and high winds.

An impromptu BBQ lunch was held and enjoyed by all.

Sunday brought better weather and the race programme was started at 10am, one race was completed in wind strength 2 / 3. A second race was planned before lunch but only half the fleet finished before the wind died and the race time limit expired. There was no improvement in wind strength over lunch time and the final races were cancelled by the race officer.

The results for the two races were:- Challenger Judy Figgures; OK TBA; RS700 Andy Holland



Andy Holland (right) receiving the RS700 winner's trophy from Vice Commodore Paul Pearson

Judy thanked all at HSC for holding the event and hoped that they would be invited back next year, this was echoed by the OK class and a National Event by the RS700 association is also in the offering.

North West Norfolk Weekend - July 30 & 31

All club members are requested to offer their help for this event which will be sailed in the afternoons on these two days. We hold these events to raise club funds which help to keep membership fees down, without members' support the committee are unable to hold these Open Meetings. Last year the income direct from North West Norfolk Sailing Association was £150 a day, this was in addition to bar and food takings on the days.

Ian Holland

Please note:
parking will be restricted on 30th and 31st July to competitors and helpers only.

Emergency First Aid course - January 2005

The Club now has 11 freshly-certified first aiders following a one-day course from St John Ambulance. There were some lively discussions about the use of tourniquets (don't!) and the treatment of amputations, as methods have changed over the years.

This certificate is accepted by the RYA for its Instructors, and so has allowed Rod Shirley to continue with Sail Training this year. The Club has been very fortunate to have Rod willing and able to lead training sessions and award RYA certificates over the years.

A Walk on the Wild Side – the RS700 Fleet interview

Q. How long since you all started the phenomenon that is the Hunstanton RS700 fleet?
A. Well it's been a year since 'The Boy's' abandoned their Lasers and acquired some of those nice RS700's.

Q. Why did you do it?
A. Mid life crisis.

Q....and
A. It provides good entertainment for the Windsurfers and anyone else who watches!

Q. So why did you choose the RS700?
A. Achievable Performance was the marketing line. While there is no doubting the performance aspect, there have been times when the achievable part has looked a bit aspirational.



Having said that, finding yourself on such a steep learning curve after having sailed and raced to a good club standard for 20+ years was quite refreshing, as were the frequent swims.

Q. What's the 700 like?
A. Mad - fast - fun

Q. No, what type of boat is it ?
A. Oh sorry, well it is a true skiff, a single hander with racks and a trapeze plus there's that little genniker. It has a lot of high tech bits including nice black carbon spars and weighs roughly the same as a laser but has about 4 times the sail area downwind.

Q. Can you sail them?
A. Well perseverance is slowly paying off and we are bringing the beasts under control. Where we were initially limited to a force 1-3 we are now able to go out in up to a force 5 gusting 6 which pretty much matches what we could race in the Laser . Those freezing cold races at Grafham in the middle of January have really paid off!



Q. What's the racing like?
A. Different – first, there is often the temptation to forget the race and just go for a blast as they are so much fun. In reality the tactics upwind are more difficult as there is so much to lose if you make a tack which in a laser you would take without thought. Downwind, because of the angles they sail, you have all the fun of the upwind tactics all over again but a lot faster.

Q. Do you regret moving out of Lasers?
A. Not at all. In fact it has completely rejuvenated my sailing and I can be found leaving work as soon as is decently possible in order to sneak out for a sail. I DON'T MISS HIKING OUT AT ALL.

Q. Are you doing any open events this year?

A. The original 'gang of four' have been doing as many of the RS open events as is possible. There are usually at least 3 of the various RS classes at each event, which tends to lead to significant beer drinking on the Saturday night. Most of us are off to the Nationals at Abersoch and I'm taking my family to the Eurocup event at La Rochelle (and yes Julia, I'll do a report for sailbase)

Q. How would you describe the average RS700 sailor.

A. They are the ones grinning manically as they blast past!



The Boy's school report

- Andy Holland – Mr Kings Lynn Audi – sails on the wild side but has some devastating speed in the light stuff. He's just won the Lionel Wilkinson Trophy at Snettisham with 3 straight wins!
- Duncan Ellis – years of experience in trapeze boats and a conservative approach have resulted in steady progress – led the gang at the recent very windy Eastbourne open meeting.
- Stuart Riches – Yeehaa.
- Tim Playford – Tim has only recently joined and is at the beginning of a very intense learning experience. Starting to get round the race track and showing improvements all the time.
- Ian Nolan – Should know better by now –lives in hope of stringing all of the good moments together into a single race!
- A N Other – who will be next? There are some people interested in joining in the fun – watch this space!

RS700 Glossary

"The Boy's" = clear reference to mental rather than physical age.

Maintaining the Illusion of Control – what we all aspire to.

"Oh S**t" – usually means the pointy black thing is once again no longer pointing at the grey/blue area and is descending gracefully into the grey/brown stuff.

"Learning Curve" – the graceful arc created by the pointy black as it again descends gracefully into the grey/brown stuff.

Q. Have you been interviewing yourself?

A. Yes I have and we're really sorry!

I an Nolan

The garage, and old kit

Do you have anything stored in the big garage? We are planning to have a clearout, so if you've put anything in there for safe keeping, please remove it by the end of July. We will be disposing of some donated kit which is unused because it is outdated. If anyone has some more recent, reasonable kit that is no longer required, such as beginner's kit you've now replaced, we'd be grateful to receive it.

Alternative Safety Craft

If you've been reading the minutes on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse, you'll know our sub-committee has been getting advice about a different safety craft and has tried one that came with strong recommendations. However our sea conditions are not the same as elsewhere and so far we've been unable to find something suitable.

Meanwhile there are increasing pressures to get qualifications for safety boat drivers. The RYA offers two certificates: Level 2 Powerboat is about handling the boat safely; and Safety Boat is about the techniques to use when going to someone's assistance. If there is sufficient interest from members we may be able to organise courses – tell a committee member if you would be interested in gaining a qualification.

Committee Members 2005

Following the elections at the AGM, the new committee is made up of:

Commodore

Mick Ford
Tel: 01366 385622

Ex officio

Martin Dutton

Vice Commodore

Paul Pearson

Rear Commodore and Sailing Secretary

Ian Holland
Tel: 01485 572625
Email: ian@cheneyhollow.co.uk

Treasurer

Warren Mitchell

Secretary

Julia Paul
Tel: 01485 541031
Email: juliapaulhsc@aol.com

Female Member

Heather Dunseath

Full/Family Members

Phill Cook (kitesurfer)
Andy Holland (dinghy sailor)
Garry Moore (windsurfer)
Stuart Moore (dinghy sailor)
John Robinson (windsurfer)

Social Member

Pete Godfrey

Club contacts

Clubhouse: 01485 534705
Website: www.hunstantonsailingclub.supanet.com
Email: hunstanton.sailing.club@tesco.net