



## Hurst Castle Sailing Club

### CLUB HISTORY

#### 1938

- 28<sup>th</sup> April – First inaugural meeting held in Milford. Club formation at the initiative of George Andrews and Roy Knight who approached Major Ivor Mckenzie Bellairs, a keen Keyhaven sailor, with their proposal. Major Bellairs was a peppery character who had fallen out with Keyhaven Yacht Club because they were not interested in dinghy sailing. He jumped at the idea and led the meeting which was attended by 17 people.
- Committee of nine elected at the meeting; Major Bellairs as Captain, Roger Knight as Secretary, Colonel Tyndale-Biscoe as Treasurer.
- Annual subscriptions set at 5 shillings (20 pence) for adults and 2 shillings and sixpence (22.5 pence) for juniors.
- Racing to take place three times each week on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- 30<sup>th</sup> April – First committee meeting held. Club rules formulated, racing instructions drawn up and the Club burgee, designed by Captain Solly, agreed.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August – First Regatta held. Programme included:
  - Two sailing races
  - Dinghy tug-of-war
  - Rowing and Swimming Races
  - Hand paddling race
  - Outboard race
  - Dog swimming race
  - Greasy Poll (prize – one ham)
  - Treasure Hunt
- Club application for affiliation to Royal Yachting Association accepted; annual fee - £2 2s 0d (£2.20)
- Montague Sharpie adopted as the one-design for class racing. The Montague Sharpie was a 16foot heavy carvel-built boat originating from Elkins Yard in Christchurch. This class was also raced by the Royal Lymington Yacht Club.
- 21<sup>st</sup> September – First Club Dinner held at The Creamery, Milford on Sea.
- By the end of the year membership stood at 41.

## 1939

- Despite war clouds gathering, membership grows to 60.
- Race starting hut purchased for £8 2s 6d (£8.22 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) and erected on Hurst Beach.
- 9<sup>th</sup> August – Regatta held. Programme included 4 sailing races this time (entry fee of 1/- (5p) plus all the other events from the previous year.
- 3rd September – War Declared.

## 1940

- 9<sup>th</sup> June- General Meeting held. 4 attended. Club closes.

## 1947

- 31<sup>st</sup> March. Club reopens at the initiative of Major Bellairs, George Andrews, Miss Finzel and Cecil Whistance.
- Action taken to canvas former and potentially new members, and within months, membership passes 100.
- Race starting hut in the form of a half-boat donated by Capt. Adams, upended on a concrete base on Hurst Beach. The former hut had been destroyed during the war.
- Wartime pillbox in Keyhaven leased from Lymington Borough Council as a gear store.
- Lymington Borough Council offers Club land at Keyhaven surrounding Pillbox on a 21-year lease at £1 per annum. Offer accepted and the Council level the site (a former Council rubbish tip) and remove the Pillbox.
- Search for clubhouse building begins.
- Annual Dinner held in Milford with 80 members in attendance. Menu – Soup, Roast Turkey, and Plum Pudding. Price 6/6d (32.5pence)

## 1948 - 1949

- Former Cricket Pavilion on Newlands Manor Estate identified as potential clubhouse and purchased for £300.
- Pavilion dismantled, transported, and installed at Keyhaven site. Total cost for labour, transport, drainage, fencing etc was £339.

- Finance for the project advanced by Major Bellairs, Cecil Whistance, Jack Walker and Mr H Champion as an interest free loan until such time as the Club could afford to redeem it.
- Ceremonial opening performed by Lymington Borough Council Mayor (and Club member), Councillor S.G. David, M.C. on Whit Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 1949.
- Club gives support to design and development of new Class dinghy for local water racing, The Hurst One Design. This was 16ft in length, half decked and clinker built by Elkins of Christchurch. In all 12 of these craft were purchased by members.
- Club adopts Yachting World Cadet as class dinghy for junior sailing and racing.
- Major Bellairs presents the Schools Trophy to the Club for competition between under 18s. It was won for the first three years by Sherborne School.

### **1950s**

- First open Cadet meeting held in September 1952. Margaret Browne and Leeman Trophies awarded for the first time.
- Membership peaks at 450 in 1950.
- Membership slowly drops away and by 1957 stands at 200.
- New generation looking to new leisure and sporting opportunities.

### **1960s**

- Class racing sees an upsurge prompted by a new affordable range of fibreglass dinghies.
- Kestrel Class dinghies become popular at the Club prompted by Paul Jeffree's enthusiasm and drive to re-establish class racing at weekends.
- Starting hut on Hurst Beach refurbished and improved to support racing.
- Weekend racing fleets grow with 12 Kestrel dinghies regularly participating.
- Keyhaven and Hurst Cadet dinghy squadron (No. 42) formed under the energetic supervision of Brigadier M.W. Hope. Becomes largest in the country comprising more than 30 dinghies. Regular weekly races held throughout the season with attendances at Lymington Regatta and National Championships.
- Club membership numbers start to recover.
- Clubhouse improved and extended with new veranda (1963) and enlarged galley, installation of hot water and showers (1966). Gear store also enlarged (1966). Planning and construction supervision carried out by local Architect and Club member, Mr G. B. Bagnall, who gave of his professional services generously and free of charge.

## 1970s and 80s

- Sailing and social events at the Club continue apace.
- Annual Regattas' have entries of 60 to 70 dinghies and 20 to 30 larger craft for keel boat races.
- Kestrel Class National Meeting held at the Club in 1979. Very successful event with Club organising and managing races for 34 dinghies over two days.
- Annual membership peaks at 580 in 1976, settling back to a steady 450 in subsequent years.

## 1990s and 2000s

- May 1998 – Diamond Jubilee Celebrations (1938 – 1998).
- July 2000 – Lady Florence Mary Fagan, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, visits Club as part of Millenium Celebrations.
- May 2002. Club's first cross-channel Cruising Rally. 7 boats take part sailing to Cherbourg. HCSC hosted by Cherbourg Sailing Club.
- 2005 – Club's first website goes live.
- 2009 – Club registers as Community Amateur Sports Club.
- 2012 – Olympic Legacy Funding Scheme enables planned replacement of old Clubhouse to go ahead. The Club's own New Building Project Fund which has been growing over many years is matched by the Scheme along, with donations from New Forest District Council and other local organisations. Members' Debenture Share Scheme closes the final gap in funding.
- September 2012 old Clubhouse demolished.
- May 2013 - New Clubhouse opened by Pippa Wilson, Olympic Sailing Gold Medallist (2008) assisted by three Club stalwarts, Joy Schisan, Sheila Pople and Rosemary Watkins.
- March 2015 – Following a successful grant application to Sport England, four new Hartley 12.2 dinghies purchased to modernise the Club Boat fleet.
- April 2015 – New Club website launched.
- February 2017 – Another successful grant application to Sport England allows a further 2 Hartley 12.2 dinghies, 1 Scow and 1 Optimist to be purchased.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 – Club's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.
- March 2020 – Clubhouse closes during COVID pandemic.
- April 2021 – Clubhouse re-opens.
- Summer 2021 – Club sailing activities begin again.
- October 2024 – Solar Panels installed on Clubhouse roof, part funded by grant from New Forest District Council.
- November 2024 – Membership stands at 377.
- February 2025 – New Club website launched.

## **CLUB OFFICERS**

### Presidents

1954 – 1957 Major I. M. Bellairs

1960 – 1972 Mr C. Whistance

1975 – 1976 Mr S.G.David

### Captains

1938 – 1954 Major I. M. Bellairs

1954 – 1962 Mr S. G. David

1962 – 1963 Mr P.G. Pentz

### Commodores

1963 – 1966 Col. D. Heald

1966 – 1969 Mr G. Bishop

1969 – 1972 Mr D. Stevenson

1972 – 1975 Mr P. Jeffree

1975 – 1978 Mr M. Martin

1978 – 1981 Mr K.L. Ruth

1981 – 1984 Mr A. Barr

1984 – 1990 Mr I. Day

1990 – 1993 Mr K. Raithby

1993 – 1998 Mr M. Bird

1998 – 2001 Mr M. Thomas

2001 – 2005 Mr S. Champion

2005 – 2008 Mr M. Sheppard

2008 – 2011 Mrs S. Champion

2011 – 2015 Mr I. Day

2015 – 2019 Mr J. Page

2019 – 2022 Jean Woods

2022 - to date Paul Moxey

## MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1962 – John Chaundy wins National Moth Championship sailing a boat built in the cellar of his parents' house.
- 1963 – John Chaundy wins National Moth Championship in the same boat!
- 1968 – John Chaundy wins OK Dinghy National Championship.
- 1969 – John Chaundy wins OK Dinghy National Championship.
- 1975 – Richard and Harvey Bagnall win Fastnet Race in 'Golden Delicious' a Nicholson 33. They are first overall as well as first in Class and first British boat.
- 1977 – Richard and Harvey Bagnall win Fastnet Race in 'Silver Jubilee' a half-tonner one off design, by Ron Holland.
- 1977 – Richard and Harvey Bagnall half-tonner National Champions.
- 1982 – Ian Day, Paul Jeffree and Martin Rayment secure the World Sail-Speed Record (Class C) in a converted Tornado Catamaran, powered by kites.
- 2007 – John Chaundy and his wife Chris, leave to sail Round the World on their cruiser. They return to Keyhaven in 2017!
- 2008 – Ian Day wins Bridgehead Multihull Class in Round the Island Race sailing 'Mailys'.
- 2017 – Rob Bunce skippers Great Britain's 'Land Rover BAR Academy' to victory in the Red Bull Youth America's Cup Championship in Bermuda, beating off New Zealand and American challengers.
- 2021 – Nick Griffin, Paul Jepson, and Angus Raby sail Round the Isle of Wight in dinghies.
- February 2025 – Ian Day awarded RYA Long Service Award at RYA Dinghy Show.