



HURST CASTLE SAILING CLUB

NEWSLETTER March 2025

Hello. So, we have passed into one sort of spring and with that the weather seems to have improved greatly. HCSC is starting to get in to Spring/ Start of Season mode, what with the turning of Jaffa 1, ready for anti-fouling last Saturday and the AGM (more about this below) later in the month.

Recent events

Mid February saw the second of our winter talks. This one was given by one of the local staff working on our marshes and on conservation, Tony Knox. It was an informative talk about visiting birds in our area, well attended and stimulated lots of conversation. As always, followed by coffee/tea and biscuits. Tony has offered to lead a bird watching walk for the club later this year.

Some brave souls managed to get out on the water in February, sailing or kayaking
Thanks to those who sent pictures.



Also during the last month there has been a lot of public discussion about the proposed strategy for the Hurst Spit to Lymington stretch of coastline. Our Commodore wrote a well-argued submission to the strategy group and attended a meeting with other local sailing clubs, leading to his being quoted in the local paper.

A local interest group “Save Lymington and Keyhaven” (SLAK) has been formed. National newspapers have also picked up the thread. There is a lot of concern that the proposal to allow Hurst Spit to be breached would affect the local sailing waters.

According to the website, the Environment Agency recently bought 160 hectares around Keyhaven and the aim of this is that the land will eventually transition from predominantly an arable farming landscape to one that benefits from an extensive area of managed habitat creation – though not in the immediate future. If you are not already in touch with the Strategy Group you can request to be put on their quarterly newsletter email list by emailing them on hurstspit2lymington@environmentagency.gov.ukOr look at their website...www.hurstspit2lymington.co.uk

Future events

So, the AGM on 15th is the big event in March. All members will have received a bundle of documents with the Notice of the Meeting, Minutes of the Last AGM, 2024 accounts and so on. The final pack of information will also have reached you over the last weekend. For people who cannot attend in person there will be an internet link including voting access and details for this are in the pack. You will also have the advantage of being able to sip the drink of your choice throughout. The rest of us will have to wait until the meeting is over when we will follow the tradition of wine and nibbles. Please bring a plate of finger food to contribute to the spread.

The last of our winter talks will be on Wednesday March 19th, starting at 19.00 hours and followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. The topic is:

IMPROVE YOUR SAILING! Hosted by the Club's Sailing Committee, Roger Wilson will lead an evening focused upon helping you sail better and more quickly whilst also keeping out of trouble! This talk should be of interest to all of us who get out on the water,...whether regular, occasional or aspiring racers, or potterers who want to get to the beach or back to the club in front of the rest!

Long distance Potters in the coming season.

You can see that Nick G has been busy over the winter. He has sent the following information about planned LD adventures.

Longer Distance Potters for 2025



Day	Date	Event	Start Time
Wednesday	30-Apr	KYC LD Potter to Rivar Yar	11:00
Thursday	15-May	Joint LD Potter to Oxey Lake	11:30
Thursday	05-Jun	Joint LD Potter to Thread the Needles	10:30
Monday	30-Jun	Joint LD Potter to Tanners Lane	12:30
Tuesday	15-Jul	Joint LD Potter to Newtown Creek	11:30
Monday	18-Aug	HCSC LD Potter to Alum/Colwell Bay	10:30
Tuesday	02-Sep	RESERVE Joint LD Potter Thread the Needles	10:00
Thursday	4th Sept	KYC LD Potter to RLYC	10:30
Friday	12-Sep	RESERVE Joint LD Potter to Newtown	11:00
KEY	LEAD CLUB	Notes	
	KYC	6 places for HCSC dinghies	
	HCSC	12 places for HCSC dinghies	
	JOINT	9 places for HCSC dinghies	
	RESERVES	Additional Long Potters if original event takes place	

The number of dinghies that can take part is limited and the table above show how many spaces on each event are available for HCSC. It is therefore not possible to simply turn up on the day and your entry should be registered beforehand to secure a place. This can be by emailing Nick nc.griffin@btinternet.com with your boat and crew details or emailing a copy of a completed Entry Form.

Blank Entry Forms are available on the Pottering noticeboard or alternatively can be requested by email from nc.griffin@btinternet.com

Whilst Longer Distance Potters are not suitable for the novice skipper, it is hoped that there is still opportunity for less experienced sailors to take part as a crew for a more experienced skipper.

Our New Web Site is up and running, as scheduled. Do have a look.

Steve L, Rear Commodore, Finance has sent the following information:

For "Nextdoor" App Users

As part of the plans to publicise the Club more, we are looking at our social media presence and I have set up a club page on the Nextdoor app. I know some of the members use this to keep up to date with what's going on in our local area.

Please, if you are a Nextdoor user (or if your'e not but you want to join), can you look for the club, leave a recommendation and "Fave" us. Sorry about that awful word but it is their equivalent of "Like" and, the more faves we get, the more our page is likely to be visible to other users.

Since I put the first post on, a week or two back, we have already had one membership application so this might be a good source of other new members if we can raise our profile.

Any questions, please contact me -finance@hcsc.org.uk

RNLI Donation Wendy S looks after the cartridge recycling box in aid of the RNLI which is on the table in the clubhouse. She reports that our recent contribution raised £10.50. It is good to have the feedback. Keep the cartridges coming and thanks to Wendy for looking after this.



Photo taken by Wendy on her February kayaking trip.

Hoping to see you at the AGM in person or virtually.

Paul M (Commodore)

Jean W (Editor.)