

From Your Commodore

With sadness I have to begin with the passing of Richard Page. He was a popular member, who recently served the club as Membership Secretary. He will be missed, particularly amongst the Rebel fleet, with whom he sailed.

With the new sailing season quickly approaching, many members are busy ensuring everything is ready for a great sailing season. You will notice that you now have a copy of the duty roster, included with this copy of mainsheet. The duty roster is also available from the club website, www.horningsc.co.uk. Please take this opportunity to note any duty dates you have been allocated, into your diary. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped to put this roster together.

Some members have expressed concern over the decline in the number of boats racing at weekends. Some fleets are particularly low in numbers.

This is a problem that many clubs are experiencing, not just HSC. A number of sailing magazines and organisations recognise the problem and are actively trying to find solutions. A number of factors can be blamed for the decline.

We all have very busy lives, with plenty of activities demanding our time. Years ago, there was little to do on Sundays, and so leisure activities were important. Today, with the retail industry opening on Sundays, we find greater demand for our 'free' time.

Traditionally, if you wanted to learn to sail, you would join a club and start crewing. Over time, you would learn to sail by observing and learning from your skipper. Eventually, you would buy your own boat, and offer crewing opportunities yourself.

Today, with RYA training centres, it is possible to learn to sail without visiting any clubs, and so a natural progression into club racing is lost.

This season, we would like to try a new idea, in cooperation with local training centres, including our own. We would like to encourage more opportunities for crewing, open to potential new members from training centres. There are many parents of junior sailors that would like an opportunity to crew – this may even lead to more dinghies taking part also.

So, if you need a crew, or can take an additional crew, please check in the clubhouse before you set off for the start line. If you haven't got a boat, and would like to crew, please make yourself available in the clubhouse before racing, and hopefully there will be opportunities – just don't forget your buoyancy aid!

Have a great season, and enjoy the sailing.

Stuart

Vice Commodore Says

View from the Rear

In less than a month the new season will be on us with the Rigging out Supper being held on Saturday 26th March. I always look forward to this event, as it is a great opportunity to catch up with people I haven't seen through the winter. There is a booking form with this mainsheet so do fill it in and return it as soon as you can as places are limited.

The social programme for the coming season is now complete, we have reintroduced the darts competition during Horning Week and are trying to track down the Darts Trophy, can anyone throw light on its whereabouts? Those of you who remember the fabulous BBQ we had for the Three Rivers celebration last year will be interested to know that we have booked the same caterers for Keelboat Weekend in June.

In an attempt to keep club events local to Horning, we have, for the past few years, held the Prize Giving Dinner in the village hall, but being conscious that some people were not happy with the venue, we have arranged for the dinner this year to be held on Friday 28th October, at The Old Rectory Hotel, North Walsham Road, Crostwick. The venue is very nice and I am sure we can happily entrust our most prestigious social event to their care.

I am looking forward to the coming season with great anticipation, and hope to see many of you at the Rigging out Supper or in the following weeks. Let us hope that during the coming season the weather will be kind and the sailing good.

Tessa

The season is nearly with us, and the working parties have been beavering away for everyone's benefit. The Clubhouse is definitely showing its age now, and the Thursday parties have been making it weatherproof while we can. They were not helped by the flood that happened with a burst pipe in the big freeze in November, and many people helped to get it right, and all thanks to them. This took priority over the planned widening of the slipway, which unfortunately will have to be delayed.

The Saturday parties have really made a difference this year – we are nearly up to the Mill, thus making for the chance of racing with a clear breeze that far.

There is still chance to help in March on 5th and the 12th (**please note not 19th**).

It has been found that often when teams have gone to the Clubhouse to start work or race duties (and it happens all year round) they discover the place unlocked, sometimes including the alarms not being re-set. With the number of key-holders that there are, it is difficult to pinpoint any particular culprits. So please, the Management Committee asks **that anyone using the clubhouse or needing access to the sheds make sure that before leaving:**

- **The key cupboard inside main door is left locked**
- **All sheds and toilets are locked**
- **The alarm is set.**

Looking forward to seeing you all on the water or before, preferably on a working party.

Jeremy

THE REEDLING FLEET 2011

Horning Sailing Club is the home of the Reedling keelboat, with ten out of eleven built based there. Designed by Ian Proctor in the '60s, she is ideally suited to the inland waters of the Norfolk Broads and is great fun to sail or race.

If you would like to join our friendly fleet, currently there are two boats for sale – “Bulrush” and “Osiris” – for further details please give me a ring on 01692 670539. Bulrush, owned by Derek Gibbs, has been recently restored to a high standard, and Osiris, owned by Ashton Skene, is being sold due to a house move.

We look forward to seeing both Gordon Williams with “Swallow” and Nick Spanton with “Rubicon” back on the water this season and extend a warm welcome to Scott and Nicola sailing “Aku” (which has been away from Horning Sailing Club for many years).

Watch out for Commodore Stuart Bailey’s “Jaws” this year, which will be flying a spinnaker, so should be even quicker!

Wishing all a good sailing season,

Robert Hancock, Fleet Captain (“Siskin”, RK2)

White Boat challenge

I know when this is published there will be howls of protest, gnashing of teeth, irate emails and telephone calls, people banging on my front door, death threats and probably a Norfolk curse cast upon me but I do not care. The fact is, and I have always thought this since I was about 11 years old, the White Boat is by far the prettiest boat on the Norfolk Broads. I do not care if you have the biggest most splendid most beautifully varnished and painted Broads Cruiser or Rebel. I cannot say

Yeoman because I am not sure they have anything to paint or varnish! It does not matter whether it is a wooden or fibreglass White Boat (it is very difficult to tell the difference anyway until you get up close) they look just as pretty on the water. When you see a large fleet of them on Black Horse Broad or Wroxham Broad in a good wind it is just a splendid sight calculated to warm even the coldest heart. In the winter we lavish (or pay for somebody to lavish) hours of hard work upon them in order to produce them in the spring looking pristine and shiny.

Then what do we do? We moor them up on the club and forget about them until Horning Week! Instead we should be out on the water as many Sundays as possible not letting them sit there under their covers. Unlike some I am not particularly competitive which is just as well looking at my results for last year but I do just love sailing a White Boat either on Horning Reach or down to Acle or Thurne. None of us are getting any younger we are mostly in our 50’s and 60’s with not much longer to go before we need our Zimmer frames and then what will we do? Bemoan the fact that we cannot go out sailing in our White Boats I suppose.

So what is the solution? How do we get more White Boats on the water every weekend? Well for myself, because I am as guilty as everybody else, you have to make a resolution to sail more. It is a matter of priorities. When they are lowering you into the ground or toasting your toes at the crematorium you will not be remembered fondly for the little you sailed or the amount of time you spent at work or on Do it Yourself at the house. What you might be remembered for is the good times you had in the White Boat Fleet, the after sailing drink at the Swan or the younger sailors you helped to get interested.

So examine your priorities for the coming sailing season and decide that Sunday is a Horning Sailing Club White Boat sailing day.

Having got that rant off my chest I would like to be practical. For my sins I am Horning White Boat Fleet Captain for 2011. I have no idea what that entails although it seems to include more duties so far than I was ever led to believe when I agreed to undertake the role

SAILING CRUISER NEWS

twelve months ago. So if you have a White Boat and you are not familiar with the White Boat Fleet, or you would like (young or old) to crew or sail a White Boat, or you have a view over things we do or do not do as a fleet or a social event you think we should hold or anything else constructive contact me. My contact details are in the White Book but if you cannot be bothered to look me up they are home telephone 01692 631047 mobile 07808483984-email clive.gardner@vrginmedia.com

Just remember White Boats really are the dog'ss!

Clive Gardner 11.02.2011

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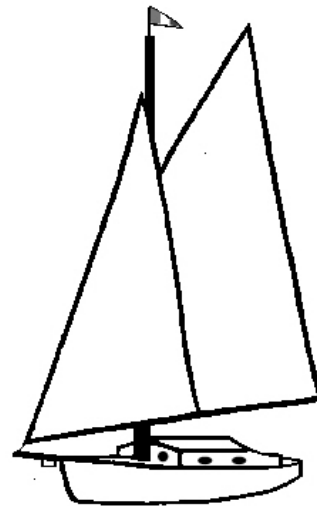
From the Yeoman Fleet Captain

During the past year we had reduced numbers racing, even though the actual fleet at Horning was roughly the same size. This was especially noticeable for the "Nationals" at Horning. Unfortunately, this may have been caused by being an event held straight after 3 Rivers and the same weekend that over paid footballers started losing at the world cup.

The Club "open" will be slightly late this year so more of you can recover from this year's 3 Rivers race. I hope we can encourage more of you out there to come and compete this year.

There will be no "Nationals" for Yeoman this year as the original idea of holding it somewhere different on the broads fell through. The Yeoman committee is hoping to organise a general 'come and meet' everybody/fun sailing day probably on Salhouse Broad.

Q Stewart



It won't be long now before all your boats are afloat again, and the new season will have begun – hoorah!

A few things for you to think about.

Horning Week - we have managed to negotiate a second race every day

except Thursday, which has a very full programme already. This will be later on in the afternoon, and will probably be a shorter race for all the cruisers (river and production) together. Personally, I'm happy with one, but I got a lot of feedback from you all about wanting a second race, and the club has managed to fit one in, which is only right as we are the biggest fleet so often these days! However, it was not easy to find a slot when the box is so busy already, so this is a one-year trial, **USE IT, OR LOSE IT**, you have been warned.

Sailing Cruiser Weekend – Following the success of last year's cruiser dinner, we have decided to have a cruiser weekend this year, 20th/21st August. On the Saturday afternoon there will be a pursuit race, more about how that works later in the year. In the evening we will have a dinner, and on Sunday we will hopefully have a really good turnout for the down river. Put it in your diary NOW.

Production Cruisers – We have had a few new members join recently with production cruisers, but we don't see you joining in the racing at the club. If you would like to, we would love to see you, the guys in that class could do with more competition! If there is something stopping you that we can help with, just have a chat with me, John Holden, or Denis Hands, or any of us you see around the club for that matter.

Good sailing to you all!
Peter Wagstaff

CLUB MOORINGS

If you would like a club mooring, but are never sure when one becomes available, we now have a waiting list on the website where you can put your name down for one. You will find it in the Members' Area under Mooring List.

If you don't yet have a log in username and password for the Members' Area, please email me at

secretary@horningsc.co.uk

and I will arrange it for you.

Anne Wagstaff

Hon. Sec.

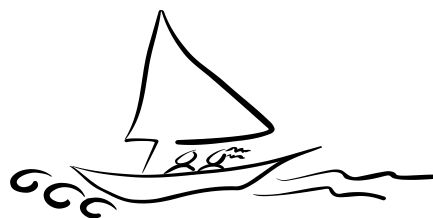


The Club Needs You

Calling on all Keelboat skippers, the club had adults who wish to gain further experience in sailing keelboats, adults progressing from our training centre, along with other adults would like the opportunity to take part in our sailing programme.

Could any Skipper/Helm who would be willing to take a third crew member or who needs crew members, please contact our Commodore or Honorary Secretary so members can be put in touch with each other.

It would be good for the individuals and help the club grow.



H.S.C

NO MOORING

Good Friday,
22nd April, 4pm

HSC is hosting another club's boats on this evening, the co-operation of members in leaving the frontage vacant after 4 p.m. would be much appreciated.

Will Penny (Committee)