

WEEKEND UPDATE FOR YOU

Hi HSC Members,

just little reminder for you all about upcoming racing over the next couple of weeks followed by a message for you all from our Commodore, Jim.

Firstly a big thanks to the volunteers who have stepped in to cover the duties and for getting the racing going again, this Sunday's racing looks like it might be great fun, the wind is looking lovely. August harbour racing:-

Sun 23rd Aug Harbour Challenge Cup races #5&6 11:30

Sun 30th Aug Harbour Challenge Cup races #7&8 10:00

Fri 28th Aug Harbour Evening race #3 19:00

And over to the Commodore

MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMODORE

Dear Members

We hope that you and your families are well, enjoying the summer and the watersports down at the quay. A special welcome to all the new members this year, last year we held a new members evening in September to introduce you to the Committee and fellow newbies but alas, I think we may not be able to do it this year due to the social distancing rules. We will do something as soon as conditions allow.

We have done our best to make the club available to you within the current Covid restrictions; first the toilets, now the changing rooms and main hall are open (with complimentary teas and coffees). However, we are not allowed to open the showers and holding any social activities is highly problematic so as volunteers, we have drawn a line here for the time being. Meanwhile, the social sailing/paddling continues and harbour racing has been underway since mid July. The racing is well attended so why not come down and join in even if you are inexperienced - you can chase the Commodore around the rear of the field as he gets to grips with it for the first time....it's all good fun! You can also use the arrangement with Shoresports to take out kayaks and paddle boards at very favourable rates. If you haven't tried paddle boarding in the harbour on a calm sunny day/evening, you are missing a trick.

The current Covid restrictions are not going away soon as you will all know from following the news and the foreign holidays saga. Nevertheless, your Committee is hard at work planning for a brighter future to make the club somewhere for all the family to enjoy. In no particular order:

The Shoresports arrangement for hiring kayaks and paddle boards is proving to be very popular so we will look to extend and build on this relationship

HSC have purchased two new RS Zest dinghies which are available for hire while downsizing our older Pico fleet. We will continue the fleet refurbishment for the start of next season. We are looking at modifying the boat covers so that we can leave the dinghies with masts up during the sailing season so that you only have to come down, rig the sail, click in the rudder and sail away.

In addition, one of the Committee has generously donated their immaculate Topper dinghy which is now added to the club fleet for hire

All of the dinghy club spaces are now spoken for which is a great sign of a thriving club. Similarly, the kayak racks are all full so Ian Pike is out there optimising the dinghy layout and looking to put in yet another kayak rack for next season.

Thanks to another kindly member, we have just purchased a super duper 65" touch flat screen monitor for the main hall which will be installed on the wall over the next few weeks where the old TV is located. This will enable the club to offer a high quality picture for talks, club videos or watching big TV occasions when the bar is back to normal service, our range of social activities will expand.

The Committee is looking at how we can improve the external environment for socialising at the club and there are some good ideas bouncing about. A general refurbishment of the gents changing room is overdue. Previously we have considered whether we could do something with the outside balcony on the ground floor but keeping non members off the balcony is proving to be difficult and so we are reluctant to put out the benches or table so as to not attract any more folk. The focus is now upstairs where the flat roof is reaching its end of life and will need replacing which opens up possibilities. More on that in due course but rest assured, we want to develop the club as a place to enjoy for many years to come but your continued support is crucial to make it affordable.

WebCollect is up and running this past year and we hope that many of you have registered and have accessed it. Club Kayak and dinghies can now be paid through it as well as any Shoresports hires. This is a secure system so we would encourage as many of you to use it as possible because it makes life so much easier on the administration side for us volunteers. We would also like to use the contact database within WebCollect as the sole repository for contact with all the members and to make sure you receive the newsletters or information on the upcoming AGM for instance. If you don't yet have accessed, get in touch with the Committee and we can meet you at the club to help you get set up. Help us to help you!

With social distancing front and foremost in our considerations, we are thinking how to run the AGM in November as we will have to be strict on numbers attending. We will need your full cooperation to run this event successfully and will explain in due course in the newsletter. Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the running of the club, either on the Committee or simply as a volunteer on one of the sub-committees, please speak to one of us. The more people who get involved, the more activities we can take on (thinking of the post Covid world) and we are already looking for a Sailing Secretary.

BCP DISCUSSIONS

The BCP looms large in any considerations and you may know that we are challenging the proposed rent and rates increases from 2018/19. However, we have met with them very recently to improve understanding/cooperation and to clear the disputes. We are also hoping to complete the incorporation of the club this autumn and for that, BCP have to sign over the lease. We have raised a number of other issues such as the number of car spaces, the poor state of the beach (storm erosion) and slipways, better control of the jet skis and the numbers of illegally anchored boats off our beach making it difficult to launch our dinghies. They will look at all of these issues and we now have direct contacts to chase.

On the problem of the illegal offshore boats, they are considering barriering off an area with orange buoys but that is one for next season. You may also have noticed that while our dinghy park is now full, the BCP park is only 60% occupied and so there may be room for club expansion if the membership continues to grow.

BOOK CLUB

We are a small, friendly, informal bookclub meeting up approximately once a month at HSC for discussion, chat and lots of other book recommendations. It's thirsty work so we usually bring along our own drinks and snacks to aid the flow of conversation!

If this appeals and you would like to come along, please contact Maeve Brown: 07486 392904

Our next meeting is mid September with, of course, social distancing

YOGA

This was a very popular Wednesday evening and Saturday morning activity pre Covid but we are waiting for better times for it to resume in the main hall.

Hope to see you all at the Club very soon.

Jim Brown, Commodore

