



NEW KAYAK RACKS

Highcliffe SC Members,

Hope you are all well out there. Here' s a quick update for you all, plus an important message from our Commodore about the future of HSC and the steps the Committee are taking to ensure that we go from strength to strength as an inclusive Water Sports Club for everyone.

Lots of things have been going on at the Club in preparation for when we can open up properly again. Good news is that the 2 new kayak racks are now built and ready for use, so all those kayaks on the ground in the boat park can now have a new home. Big thanks to Ian, David, Jim, Stuart and the rest of the team for all their hard work. Please contact Ian in the office if you would like more information on this.

NEW DINGHIES

The good news on the RS Zest front is that we have had delivery confirmation for both dinghies. With a bit of luck (thanks Graham) they will be picked up from RS Sailing in Romsey on Friday 3rd July and hopefully we can get them rigged and tested straight away so that they will be ready to rent that weekend – which incidentally is great weekend for tides! We will keep you updated on this.

As for the Shoresports SUP and Kayak offer, well, thank you to everyone who has made use of this great deal. We heard back from the first member to try it out, he was very pleased to tell us that “ it all went well, and Nick was very helpful.” He went on to say that he and his son “ had a great time” with his son giving the verdict “best day out ever"! What more could you ask for? Please do make the most of this offer, it is a super fun family outing or can be simply ideal for escaping on your own for a couple of hours ...

NEW CHASES

Sailing wise, we have been invited by Mundeford SC to join in their informal ‘ chase around the marks’ sessions in the harbour on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings (depending on the tides). These are very informal gatherings of dinghies looking to practice their racing skills round a very simple course, but please note there is no support boat and the session will be cancelled if there is too much wind. Last night 6 HSC sailors joined 7 MSC sailors for 2 quick ‘ chases’ in the harbour. The next ‘ chase’ will be this Sunday 21st June at 10:30, although the wind is looking quite frisky, so it may not go ahead. We have WhatsApp group for sailors which is used to organise impromptu sails together, we also put the MSC ‘ chase’ session on this feed. If you would like to be added to this group, please let me know (sailsec@highcliffesailing.co.uk) and I will add you.

OLD PROBLEMS

On a less fun note, it seems that the council have become super hot on the parking spaces outside. A member recently received a parking ticket whilst parked outside the club and after challenging it, was advised that he was not displaying the HSC member badge in his vehicle. If you do not have a badge (a sticky plastic circle with HSC

and the flag on it), please contact Ian in the office and make sure you display it when parked outside the Club in the future. It is also important to note that there are in fact only 2 official spaces outside the club (and one in the carpark) and we need to stick to that. Please do not park alongside the club in front of the little black doors, it prevents members from accessing the lockers where the dinghy hire equipment is stored. Please also note that these HSC club spaces are for those on duty that day – this includes bar, galley, support boat & race officer team. If you are not on duty, then you really need to leave the spaces for those who are. There is free parking around the corner in Peregrine Road if you are up for a short walk.

Anyway, hope to see some of you out on the water this weekend (if the wind allows). Keep safe and well everyone.

Now, over to the Commodore:-

THE FUTURE

Dear Members,

As you will all appreciate, our plans for a busy year on the water, the sunset balcony and propping up the bar have been thwarted by matters beyond our control. We have been able to restart social sailing/kayaking but until we are advised otherwise, we are not allowed to open the clubhouse to use the changing rooms or for social events which is a great pity. Maybe this will all change in July? We hope that you all stick with us this summer and beyond as the Committee is united in wanting to take the club forward and make improvements in all areas.

As a result of the Covid 19 shutdown, the club has received generous grants and financial assistance to support the club. Because the club is run by volunteers, our overheads are small so this is a one time opportunity to invest in the club for the next decade and this is what we would like to do on your behalf. We started the process last year with a complete refurbishment of the ladies changing room. Currently we are finishing a refurbishment of the back bar area and you will also notice the new carpet and large screen TV (for talks or just sports event) in the open area. We are aware that the large flat roof above the changing rooms/lobby is on its last legs so that is a potentially expensive fix that we may have to tackle very shortly. It also requires the roof to be water tight before we look at a refurbishment of the gents changing room and showers, it's all looking very tired in there. And a brighter lobby is on the wish list too.

On the equipment side, we have two new RS Zests arriving on July 3rd which will be left rigged up for the summer for you to use and ease of launch. Depending on what you all think of these dinghies, we are also open to buying up to two more and disposing of the remaining Picos so that we have a dinghy fleet fit for the next decade and all those fun 'Ladies That Launch' evenings and 'Blokes in Boats' sessions. The dinghies cost money but we can afford it now. Meantime the volunteers have only yesterday built two new Kayak racks for the growing fleet using recently purchased scaffolding poles, we may yet need more given the expansion of this activity from almost nothing just a few years ago. For those of you who don't want buy kayaks or paddle boards, we have also arranged a very attractive hire rate with Shoresports which is prepaid (you simply reimburse the club though!). If you haven't done so, make sure you register your young ones for the summer activity weeks with Shoresports, we are sure they will have great fun and hopefully, parents will be able to make themselves a coffee in the clubhouse if you stick around.

So we think that the club can afford to do all of this over the next year with your support. I hope you agree that prioritising investment is a better than offering a small rebate this autumn, we would like to do both if we can but fixing the roof could be expensive! Thank you for all your support and a big welcome to new members, you have joined a club with a bright future.

Jim Brown, Commodore on behalf of the Committee