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Hi HSC Members

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024 !

The season has well and truly started for all sections of the club now and we look forward to seeing you out on the water or in the club soon!

A small team spent a lot of time over the winter revamping the website so please do take time to have a look – you'll be surprised at how much information is on there!!

In the meantime heres what everyone has been up to recently!

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From the Vice Commodore

As we welcome the arrival of warmer weather, we are excited to reconnect with all of our members – both familiar faces and newcomers. As you will have seen, the club has undergone numerous upgrades recently in anticipation of the upcoming season, and we can't wait to fully enjoy our prime location on Mudeford Quay. Lets make the most of this season together!

We often talk about the importance of volunteering at Highcliffe Sailing Club - Volunteering is the backbone of our community and our volunteers ensure the smooth operation and continued success of our club. There are so many ways you can contribute to the club and any time that you can spare, does make a big difference.

For example, race management. Our comprehensive sailing programme means we need lots of help and support with race day tasks. It's a great opportunity to get close to the action and learn more about the sport.

For those who want to be on the water, helping with the safety boats is essential. Safety boat volunteers provide crucial support to our sailors, ensuring their safety

and enabling them to enjoy their time on the water.

There are numerous other areas within the club that require extra hands. Volunteering can involve a wide range of tasks from bar and galley duties, helping tidy after an event, general maintenance around the club or helping to look after our fleet. Every role, big or small, plays a vital part in the smooth running of the club.

To help organise volunteering within races and the bar we use Duty Man. This is a piece of software that helps to co-ordinate the roles that are needed on a certain date. You can find the link here and a useful how to use guide.

<https://www.highcliffesailing.co.uk/duties>

We deeply appreciate all the time and effort our volunteers contribute to the success of our club. We encourage all members to consider volunteering in any capacity, as they help to keep our club thriving.

If there is a particular area you are interested in or you would like to find out more, please e-mail manager@highcliffesailing.co.uk .
I look forward to seeing you all at the club soon.

Simon

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Noticeboard

Private lessons

If you would like private sailing tuition please contact Dave Holloway on 07952 102157, Mark Anderson on 07725 609201, and Ken Fowler 07963321642

For Sale

We have a page on the website dedicated to for sale items. There are multiple dinghies for sale right now plus some sailing kit. Pick yourself up a bargain from other club members. <https://www.highcliffesailing.co.uk/forsalehsc>

Sailing

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So the 2024 sailing season is now well & truly underway although the wet and windy spring has certainly provided some challenges and mixed conditions to say the least, whilst problems with floating lines, lack of water around proposed racing marks, and missing flags have created their own little bit of controversy!

So far for racing in the harbour we have had 17 sailors (12 HSC) compete in the Spring Harbour Interclub, 18 sailors in the HSC Easter Cup, 15 in the Spring Series, and 10 in the Evening Early Points series.

At sea, 4 sailors braved a not very encouraging forecast for the Chris Allen Trophy - only to be rewarded with very pleasant sailing conditions once the initial NW had swung around 110 o to the prevailing SW. Whilst this Sunday 9 sailors ventured out to sea for race 1 & 2 in the Summer series under bright sunny skies; a fresh NE F4; and a strong running tide on the windward mark which certainly made things challenging for the sailors.

Results are published here:- <https://www.highcliffesailing.co.uk/sailresults>

All the sailors venturing to sea have been very complimentary of the new orange 'dumpy' bouys which have been brought to replace the old aging (and really hard to spot) pencil marks. There will certainly be no excuses this year then (mentioning no names 'Dave Holloway') for not being able to spot the course marks this year - although which way around you are expected to sail them may still be a challenge for some!!!

This Sunday was the first time that we have taken an observer out to sea on the safety boat (Henk Nieuwenhuis) and Henk certainly enjoyed the experience and took some great photos which appear later. Just to recap on earlier comms, we have added a third slot onto the safety rib this year to give members keen to get out to sea, the chance to experience what supporting a sea race is like, and hopefully in due course you will then feel able to volunteer for assistant roles. If you are interested in observing in this way then please check out Duty Man and sign yourself up into any available slot. On the issue of Duty Man there are still quite a few slots in the rest of the race programme where volunteers are required for all roles. Can I please encourage members (especially the sailing members) to sign up for at least your three expected race duties. The racing programme which continues to go from strength to strength at the moment, can only work with the help of volunteer race officers and safety boat crews. (Duty Man Tip – if you switch from the 'calendar view' to the 'List view' it is easier and quicker click through on the arrows the programme to identify the duties that are still requiring volunteers).

And finally the club hire fleet has increased with the addition on another two RS Zests which have been named by the clubs Seal's section, 'Zippy' and 'Zappy'.

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So what are you waiting for – the summer is on its way, get yourself out on the water. Nothing beats speeding (or pottering around) around under sail!!

Graham



Paddlers

Well the season started in spectacular style for The Paddlers with 42 kayaks & SUP's heading out onto the water on a sunny Saturday morning! A gentle paddle around the harbour was followed by a BYO BBQ on the balcony with the impressive upstairs bar open for well needed refreshment! It was great to see so many new faces and well as our familiar friends and we are looking forward to the next one already!

Please take look at the club website / calendar for future dates - most of the upcoming dates have been set for Saturdays so as to give everyone a chance to join in. The list of new paddling members has grown and grown and kayak space at the club is very limited for storage on the racks.

We have 3 training sessions organised from June to August on separate evenings. Our resident Instructor - Ross Macildowie - will be focusing once again on safety and rescue. Last years training was really successful with everyone getting chance to capsize and be rescued! We are hoping to organise more sessions as the current dates are full (with a maximum of 6) but you only need to attend one - not all 3 !

As the new season progresses there will be additional events - the popular 'Moonlight Paddles 'and weather permitting some visits to other paddling locations. Last years paddle to Old Harry Rocks went down well - so look out for notices on the Paddlers WhatsApp group. You can scan the QR code from the club noticeboard or contact - paddlers@highcliffesailing.co.uk

One last thing please read the Paddlers Safety brief - on the club notice board, and on the website at the end of the Paddlers Guide - it gives some basic tips, especially around safety.

<https://www.highcliffesailing.co.uk/the-paddlershsc>

So enjoy the new season - the Paddling Support Team will do its best to make sure you make the most of our great club!

Dennis, Mark & The Team



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Seals (Youth Sailing)

2023 Awards

This our first newsletter since our 2023 Awards Ceremony & Party so let's start by celebrating the great achievements last year :

- Seals Logo Designer : Tilly
- HSC Fun Day Seals Race Winner : Jensen & Riby
- HSC Fun Day Seal & Adult Race Winner : Elliott
- Commodore's Award for Contributing to the Club : Fran, Josephine, Mirabelle & Leo
- Seal's Seal of the Year (for kindness, helping others, being a great friend and joining in) : Tilly & Reuben
- John Toy Memorial Trophy for Seal of the Year : Poppy

We celebrated a great year for the Seals - and uncovered some spectacular dance skills!



Congratulations again to all of you and we can't wait to see how everyone progresses this year -

2024 Season

We held our 2024 Seals launch event at the beginning of March where we met many new families and caught up with lots who we hadn't seen over the winter. Thank you to everyone for coming along, asking questions and for your great feedback.

The season has begun and our Beginners course started early in April. 11 of our new young sailors were out with Shoresports in the harbour and we're excited to see them progress.



Parents

Finally, if you're not already on our Seals Parents WhatsApp group, please email manager@highcliffesailing.co.uk for an invitation - that way you'll get all the Seals news early.

Dave, Katharine & Emma
The Seals Team

Blokes in Boats

Sunday 14th April saw the first Blokes in Boats session of the season. Seven sailors of all levels, ranging from complete novice to a little rusty, came along for their first taste of Blokes in Boats

Thanks to the efforts of Mark Anderson we trialled our first online sign-up sheet which proved really useful in gauging attendance and boats required.

Prior to launching, William demonstrated rigging before allowing the sailors the opportunity to practice on their own, He then gave some basic sailing instruction, checked all boats were rigged correctly and off we went.

In spite of cooling temperatures and rising winds all the sailors successfully launched and everyone had plenty of sailing time. A big shout out to Ian Pike, Andy Watts and Jon Horton who provided support on and off the water.

If you are interested in an introduction, or re-introduction, to sailing, please join the Blokes in Boats WhatsApp group and sign up for the next session!

Ladies that Launch

Thank you to all the ladies that came to the LTL introduction session, it was really well attended and hopefully everyone got a good insight into our plans for this year and had any questions answered as to how they can get out on the water.

Although summer has not arrived and it is still very chilly this did not deter the eager Ladies That Launch Beginners class of 2024. They kicked off with the first session on dry land learning about rigging boats and then managed to get toes wet last week with the first water session. Marg, Louise and Mark got the ladies out across the harbour and back and finished off with some theory in the club. Fingers crossed for good weather for the next session and full steam ahead for the summer.

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Events

The events team have had a great start to 2024

- Caribbean Night was a huge success with members enjoying Jerk chicken, rice and peas from James & the galley team, sounds of the Caribbean from Brian Crawford and a huge amount of rum cocktails courtesy of Adey and the bar team !!
- February brought Motown tunes from DJ Arty... the dance floor was full...and to quote a certain Commodore 'An absolutely cracking night, my kinda thing' !!! Arty will be back with us later in the year...and many more times hopefully!!
- March saw the return of the quiz night – Iain very kindly provided another evenings entertainment and once again yummy fish and chips from Browns...there are new quiz champions at the top of the tree after the defending champions were sadly beaten....a rematch in the autumn ???

- St Patricks night saw the return of Agglestone and the club was once again alive with the sounds of Ireland and plenty of dancing....and drinking !!
- We rounded up the first part of the years events with a 'cracking' (sorry) Easter Egg Hunt and activities at the club....young and old had a great time following the clues around the quay, came back to tea and hot cross buns and then got crafty ! A fantastic family day

Events take a bit of a back seat for the next few months whilst on the water action increases....but there will be adhoc BBQ's etc depending on the weather so keep your eyes peeled for announcements on Whats App....we'll be back with a bang later in the year with a new programme of off season events!

A HUGE thanks to all of our team who put some much time and effort into making these events the success they are...and thank YOU for coming and supporting them!!! Keep your eyes on Whats App and the website for more to come !



DJ Arty



Lots of thinking !!

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DIY team

The DIY team have been extremely busy over the winter improving our club facilities....take a look at the website for more info !!

<https://www.highcliffesailing.co.uk/copy-of-club-projects>

Fleet Management

The club boats would normally have their masts up and be on the beach by the club house by now, Due to the bad weather and costal erosion they are scattered around the beach park. One or two are on the higher ground near the club for easy renting.

The Picos and the Gull are no longer available and are in the process of being sold, These have been replaced by 2 new RS Zest boats and 2 more Lasers making our rental fleet up to 11 boats in total.

Support Boats:

All the Support boats have now been fully serviced by South Coast Outboards.

Harbour Buoys:

The team have refurbished and laid the harbour buoys ready for the racing season which is now under way.

Rental boats may also be used for the racing so we can always use more race members and are a very friendly bunch.

David
Bosun

BAR TEAM NEWS

We have had a great start to 2024 with a refurbishment of the stockroom and upstairs bar opening - a significant investment and all set fair for summer. The bar has served some great events, talks, first Fridays and meetings already. Watch this space for future cocktails and featured wines.

Cheers, Adey & Team

