

# Newsletter

March 2012

Hickling  
Windsurfing Club



[www.hicklingbroad.co.uk](http://www.hicklingbroad.co.uk)

## 2012 Calendar

### 9<sup>th</sup> June - Come and Try day.

There was a full write up of the 2011 C&T day in the previous newsletter, so as you know, this is the day for friends and family to have a go.

### 8<sup>th</sup> September - Club Fun day.

Sun, sausages, socialising on the beach, and sparing on the water.

*As always, keep up to date by checking the club website.*

### TBA. - Training days.

Big G and the other RYA instructors will be arranging a training day or two to help you improve and make your windsurfing even more enjoyable. Watch this space.

## En-route to Lithuania .. almost!



After a brief excursion we are pleased to report our outboard engine has been repatriated with the club boat. The engine was stolen in February, but picked up by the boys in blue whilst it was leaving the country. It was part of a consignment of other outboards and cars going to Eastern Europe. On reporting the theft to the police they quickly identified it from the serial number. Apart from a few scratches it's all fine. We have taken advice and enhanced the security of the boat and engine in a number of ways, both to lock everything up more securely and also to remove engine bits so that it's not worthwhile nicking it in the first place.

## January EGM

The EGM at the Virgin Money Lounge in Norwich was a great success. We had a record turn out which I guess was down to both the central location and also the attraction of the new VM lounge. The lounge hosts were excellent, catering for our every need and making us feel most welcome.



We checked out where Richard Branson and Susie Fowler-Watts shared a sofa for an interview on BBC Look East just a few days earlier.

The formalities of approving the updated club constitution took at least 5 minutes, giving us about 2 hours in total to socialise and mingle. Lets try to book the venue again later in the year for the EGM.

Thank you Mr Branson!.

## New lock code for 2012



The code is reserved for members and included in the member version of the newsletter.

## Broads licence

Apparently the police are taking quite an interest in activities on Hickling Broad and have told us they will be checking boat licences more often this year. So please remember that a licence is required for your board or 'sailboard' as the Broads Authority calls them. The current fee is £28.88 and runs from 1 April 2012 for 12 months.

Google the Broads Authority for how to apply etc.

## Wells harbour pass

On a similar note we also hear that Wells Harbour Commission will be enforcing the need for windsurfers sailing at Wells to have a harbour pass (£29 per year).



Wells (At last a good reason to include one action picture.)

## Killer shrimps – er... no they don't kill windsurfers

Ok all, the headline may seem like a joke, but this is actually serious.

Killer shrimp (*Dikerogammarus villosus*) has been discovered on the Broads.

It is a highly invasive species that can survive in a range of different conditions and habitats.

- It likes hard substrates, such as rocks, but can also be found in vegetation in rivers and lakes.
- It can survive in both fresh and salt water habitats.
- Native to the Black and Caspian Seas, in recent years it has spread north and west through Europe, in part being spread by boats and human activity.

- It has a strong affinity for artificial surfaces, such as concrete or rubber. They also spend daytime in refuges around boulders.
- It is a voracious predator and eats fish eggs and other invertebrates including our native freshwater shrimps. Killer Shrimp has a huge impact on populations and communities of lakes, rivers and estuaries driving local extinctions of species and reducing diversity. Ultimately it may affect fish and other wildlife through changes in food resources.

The attached notice explains what we can all do to reduce the risk of it spreading into other water areas. Most of us do not sail at other locations that could be affected. However, there is always the odd occasion when somebody may take their kit to sail elsewhere and risk spreading it.

As well as checking, cleaning and drying boards, kit, including wetsuits, particular attention ought to be given to board bags which will provide a suitably damp environment for the little buggers to survive in.



### Notice to Anglers and Boaters 13/03/12

#### The presence of an invasive non-native species of shrimp has been confirmed in the Broads

This shrimp (*Dikerogammarus villosus*), also called 'Killer Shrimp', is a serious threat to the native species and ecology of UK waters. There is no risk to public health or pets.

We are asking water users to be vigilant and help stop the spread of all invasive aquatic species:

**Check** boats and fishing kit coming into and leaving the Broads for shrimp.

**Clean** and wash off all equipment (e.g. nets, spray decks and footwear) and boats (including canoes) to make sure you are not taking any organism to other rivers. Remove and destroy any shrimps found.

**Dry** all equipment, clothing and pump out bilges – shrimp can live in damp conditions for many days. If drying is impossible, at least wash down equipment before coming into and leaving the Broads for other river systems.



Further information: [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

