

# Newsletter

October 2014

## Hickling Windsurfing Club

(1984-2014)



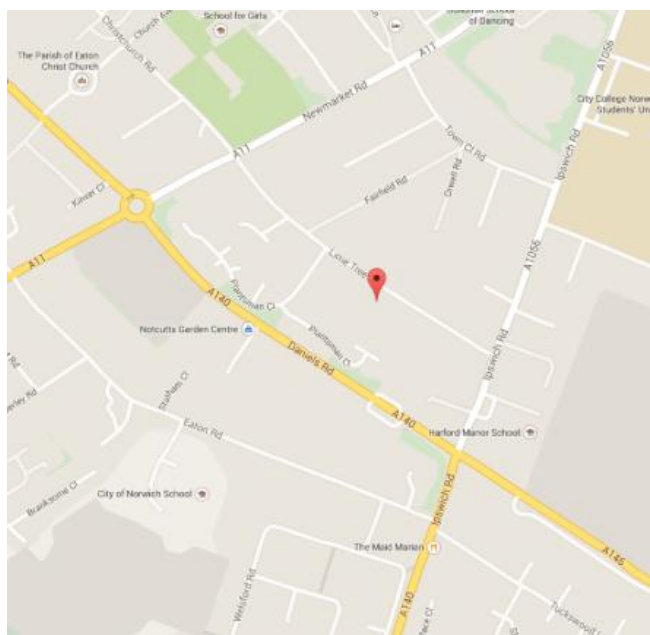
<http://www.hicklingbroad.co.uk>

### 6 November AGM

All members are very welcome to come along to the 2014 Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6 November commencing at 8.00pm prompt. Please do feel free to come along anytime from 7:30pm.

We have a new venue this year with plenty of free parking, and of course we have a bar too.

The AGM includes a review of what's happened through the year, voting in committee members for next year, and gives members the opportunity to raise any questions. Equally important is the opportunity for a muddle over a beer. The official bit is quite quick so please do come along.



The East Anglian Tennis and Squash Club  
Lime Tree Road  
Norwich  
NR2 2NQ

It's just inside the outer ring Road between the A11 and A140.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Day

Sunday 21 September saw the second club training day. The weather gods have been with us this year as both days were warm and windy. This training day was better attended than the first, with about 20 keen club members eager to pick up a few tips. We divided into three groups;



beginners join Robbie (the club's newest qualified instructor) and Richard. The second group joined Philip for a harness and foot strap master class. The final group was a

mix of new and old faces looking for tips in finding that illusive planning carve gybe with Big G.

The wind was coming from the North F4-5. Not normally a good wind direction for Hickling, due to off shore winds, but armed with our weed fins, the trip down to the far end



of the broad was very rewarding. Really good 6.5m conditions meant everyone could try out newly learnt tips and tricks. The club will be looking to run more of these FREE training days next year. Thanks to all the instructors for giving up a day to put this on. (Write up by Gareth)

*Pat telling tales from the past 30 years at the Pleasure Boat Inn*



# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

(Copy of the press release)

70 members and partners celebrated the Club's 30th anniversary at the Pleasure Boat Inn, Hickling which also marked 30 years of committee service by two founder members: Pat Fenn, and Tony Myhill.



There was a fair amount of reminiscing at the event, which hosted the largest gathering of windsurf Club members for a couple of decades. The Pleasure Boat Inn served a Hog Roast in the lovely garden and patio area, an idyllic setting close to the Broad. £216 was also raised for the charity W4CR (Windsurfing for Cancer Research) in memory of windsurfer Paul Perry.

Founder members Pat and Tony were presented with bottled samples of Hickling water and sediment, which was said may well contain traces of the estimated 1,000 or so windsurfing members who have sailed over the previous 3 decades. They also received a framed windsurfing photograph which symbolises both the unique beauty of the Club's surrounding and also the addictive thrill of windsurfing in strong winds.



Hickling Broad is one of the best inland waters for sailing in the UK due to its close proximity to the sea and being surrounded by wide open space. There was an explosion in the growth of windsurfing back in the early 80s, when at one point 1 in 6 households owned a windsurfer. As a result, access to Hickling Broad opposite the Pleasure Boat Inn was regularly grid-locked with car-park congestion and dozens of windsurfers struggling to get access to the beach at the end of the public right of way by

the dyke. A meeting was held in the very same pub in 1984 to help control the windsurfing for the benefit of all water users, and the Hickling Windsurfing Club was born. The Club soon moved to its own car park opposite Hickling Staithe and its own beach just along from the Whispering Reeds boat yard which provides private and safe access to the broad.

Tony Myhill who grew up in Hickling, was instrumental in building the car park, beach, and in 2007 the Club's changing rooms and showering facilities. Tony is also an RYA coach and instructor, and was involved with the early



training of Nick Dempsey who won a Windsurfing silver medal for GB at the 2012 Olympics at Weymouth. Tony also ran a windsurfing business from his current home in Wymondham.

Pat Fenn is Commercial Director of a Norwich based company, and provided the solid business foundation and leadership on which the club could thrive. His appetite for sports has latterly extended to motor racing and flying. The club's members value the club for its friendly and supportive culture, which can be traced back to Tony and Pat's influence.

More recently the Club has also produced two national windsurfing champions: Tom Bennett-Lloyd youth UK wave sailing champion, and Ben Harwood UK youth freestyle champion.

Despite a general decline in windsurfing since 1984, the club has maintained a steady membership of around 150 single and family memberships. The club's offering includes: excellent facilities, loan equipment, public come and try days, free training, buddy system, and club events through the year. Anyone looking to join or seeking further information should go to the Hickling Windsurfing Club Website or facebook page.

The 30th event was such a success they are aiming to have a summer BBQ at the Pleasure Boat Inn every year.

## Club Rules

We try to keep the rules to a minimum, and those rules we have are there to protect the Club, for safety reasons, or to comply with the terms of our leases. Members are reminded conforming to the 'Code of Conduct' is not optional and is a condition of membership.

1. The beach is for launching and retrieval of windsurfing boards only.
2. No vehicular access to the beach.
3. No overnight camping on the car park or beach.
4. No barbecues or fires on the beach.
5. All padlocks to be kept locked at all times other than for access.
6. Members cars to display club year sticker.
7. No swimming from the beach.
8. No dogs.
9. No mooring on the beach.
10. No freestyle in the vicinity of the launch area.

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