



Rigging Up

The nights are slowly pulling out, which means only one thing: Spring is just around the corner, and (for those of you like me who only sail when it's warm and windy) a new windsurfing season beckons. So don't leave anything to chance- now's the time to check your ropes and harness lines for wear and tear, and to repair those nicks in your wetsuit. After a cold winter sat on the sofa, you wouldn't want equipment failure to ruin that first blast of the year. And don't forget to send Simon (our membership secretary) your renewal form for this year: the lock combinations will change very soon, and you wouldn't want to get locked out!

Not that everyone shares my wimpy gene. (Santa) hats off to the hardy souls who braved the Broad on Christmas day (yes, really! Below). I'm guessing Harri had a new wetsuit from Santa and just had to try it out.



Talking of new neoprene, if you need a replacement second skin for the Spring, now's a good time to buy. A quick scan of the websites shows plenty of bargains. Go on, treat yourself.

I look forward to seeing you on the water, and if you have any stories or photos that you'd like to share with our members, please let me know. The more you provide, the easier my job becomes! All the best!

Richard (Newsletter Editor) editorhwc@gmail.com

Coming Up

Your committee has been very busy preparing for the new season. Please get these dates in your diary:

- **Working Party- Saturday 11 March** (please pitch up at 10.00am to help tidy the beach and car park for the season ahead).
- **Come & Try Day- Sunday 21 May**
- **Club Training Day- Sunday 11 June**
- **Club Barbeque- Saturday 8 July**
- **Club Funday- Saturday 19 August**

Other Possible Events

Last year's Windwise coaching day with professional coach Simon Bornhoft got rave reviews. Those members who attended thoroughly enjoyed it and said it was excellent value for money. We're liaising with Simon again to see if he is able to repeat the event this year.

We also introduced a beginner Start Windsurfing course based on the RYA's curriculum last year, putting our RYA trained instructors to good use. Again the feedback we received from those who took part was exceptional. Everybody enjoyed themselves despite the weather being against us for some of the time with strong, cold winds being followed by dead calm conditions. The instructors plan to run further courses this year. Watch this space!

Unfortunately the proposed windsurfing holiday to Tenerife in March had to be called off. Unfortunately the relatively short notice made it difficult for many. We'll try again next year.

Sale of the Broad

As you're probably aware, our bid to purchase the little part of the Hickling Broad estate that we occupy was unsuccessful. However, it wasn't for the lack of trying, and particular thanks is due to our Chairman, Martin Harwood for putting in a huge amount of time and effort to try to make the purchase happen. Martin updates us:

"I am pleased to advise the Gold membership fundraising exercise was very successful and enabled us to be part of a consortium to bid for the Northern shores and land of Hickling Broad, one of five lots put up for sale. The bid was a major undertaking and demonstrates just how passionate the windsurfers and our neighbours are for Hickling Broad. The seller decided to sell all the lots to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust who have been custodians of the Broad for many decades. There is much support for the NWT, who are currently working extremely hard

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



to raise funds towards this significant purchase. Over £500k raised so far by the public is quite astonishing.

I had a very pleasant first meeting with Brendan Joyce, Chief Executive of Norfolk Wildlife Trust who is keen to try windsurfing. Brendan says 'Norfolk Wildlife Trust wants to work positively with everyone who uses Hickling Broad including the sailing, angling and windsurfing interests to ensure we can maintain and protect its internationally important wildlife. This is a real opportunity to work together in a sustainable way where everyone who has an interest in Hickling sees the wildlife as its most important asset and works with us to protect it for the future.'

So what does this mean for the Club? The Club has a secure beach lease through to 2027. This is a new chapter for both the NWT and our Club and clearly a major opportunity for both parties. We have never had a landlord who wants to work with us before and this is going to take a bit of getting used to!

On behalf of all the members I would like to pass on our gratitude to those that were able to help us raise the cash for the Beach bid.

All the very best for some great windsurfing in 2017."

Meet our future landlord!

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is the oldest Wildlife Trust in the country. The purchase of 400 acres of marsh at Cley on the north Norfolk coast in 1926 to be held 'in perpetuity as a bird breeding sanctuary' provided a blueprint for nature conservation which has now been replicated across the UK.

NWT has come a long way in 90 years. From humble beginnings the trust:

- has over 35,000 members, more than 100 corporate members, and eight thriving local members groups,
- gives conservation advice to a wide variety of organisations and individuals,
- provides education services for over 5,000 young people on school and university field trips each year,
- runs hundreds of informative and fun events at their reserves
- cares for over 50 nature reserves and other protected sites encompassing wetland, heathland, woodland and coastal habitats that provide a home for flagship species including otter, water vole, natterjack toad, bittern, common crane, marsh harrier, bearded tit, swallowtail and Norfolk hawk.

The trust's vision for Norfolk:

- where the future of wildlife is protected and enhanced through sympathetic management
- and people are connected with and inspired by Norfolk's wildlife and wild spaces.

Probably few people are as connected with and inspired by the beauty, heritage and wildlife of Hickling Broad than us windsurfers. Watching the marsh harriers drift effortlessly above the Broad, whilst enjoying the benefits of a summer sea breeze is one of my favourite things. We share a deep love for the place, and a common aim with the trust to see the Broad and its wildlife protected.

Many of our members are also members of the trust. The Committee has no hesitation in encouraging the rest to consider joining the trust, or to support the trust's appeal to raise the funds for the purchase.

With adult membership from just £30 per annum, it offers exceptional value.

National Watersports Festival- coming to a venue near us on 3 & 4 June!

The NWF has become a fixture on the windsurfing calendar over the last 10 years. Beginning as a windsurfing only weekend festival, it later branched out to incorporate SUP, kayaking and kite surfing. A quick google will show you exactly what it's all about.

This year sees the next stage in the festival's evolution. It is moving from the south coast to "just up the road" at Rutland Water. Not only will this make the event more geographically accessible, but the organisers also recognised that it will make the event less daunting for those of us who generally don't sail on the sea and have to contend with a shore dump.

The ethos of the event is fun first and foremost, and it is designed to cater all levels of proficiency with a good mixture of clinics, kit demos from all the main brands and fun races. There will also be live bands and parties in the evening, with camping available on the site.

The organisers are keen to encourage families & clubs to attend, and it would be great to get a Hickling contingent involved. It looks like it will be great fun. We'll tell you more when we hear. In the meantime, you can follow the event on Facebook as well as its website.

That's all for this edition, but stay in touch with what's going on at the club with our Facebook page and Twitter feed, as well as the website.

See you on water!