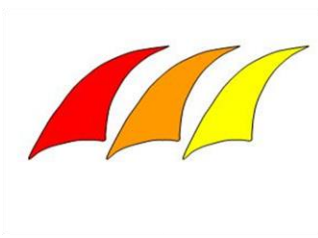


# Hickling Windsurfing Club Newsletter April 2018

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



## Spring has arrived!!

Well, after what has felt like one of the longest and coldest winters that I can recall for many years, thank goodness spring has finally pushed away the last vestiges of winter. Like many club members I was finally able to break my sailing duck for 2018 with a blast on the Broad last week. It felt pretty good, I have to say.

As we enter a new sailing season, there is lots to update you on, so I'll keep my ramblings mercifully brief. I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and I look forward to seeing you on the water very soon.

Richard, [editorhwc@gmail.com](mailto:editorhwc@gmail.com)

## RYA support for the club

I'm really pleased to report that the enormous progress that we have made as a club has been recognised by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). Building on the strong foundations created by our founding members, in recent years the club offer has extended to include the range of training, free use of equipment, social events and other activities that we all enjoy today. At a time when windsurfing has somewhat plateaued or worse in terms of participation in the UK, we have continued to flourish. And all for probably the best value membership fees of any similar club in the country.

The RYA are keen to assist us to continue to help ourselves, and out of the blue we were contacted a few weeks ago with an offer of support to train 6 additional START Windsurfing instructors. The Committee were already contemplating the need to train additional instructors so that we had more trained volunteers to call upon for training events, so this is really great news.

Additionally, the RYA support will allow us to ensure that our START course is fully up to scratch, enabling us to provide the best possible experience for new members as they take their first steps in windsurfing. Although the RYA's support is valued at £1500, its true value could be priceless as it will

help us to sustain the long term viability of the club by helping us to continue to attract and retain new members.

## Interested in becoming an instructor?

The training not only equips you with an RYA instructor qualification, you will also complete an RYA powerboat and first aid course qualification. If you're interested in becoming one of our new instructors, please contact our Chairman, Martin Harwood, who can brief you on what is involved. The Committee would particularly welcome interest from our younger and women members to increase the diversity of our instructor group.

As the training takes place, I will share the progress of the new instructors in future newsletters.

## What's happened in recent months?



In early March members enjoyed a fun social gathering hosted at the East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club, Norwich. Despite the very cold weather, a good turnout enjoyed an excellent buffet and a mardle. Thanks to Gareth for putting on the event.

If you've been up to the club recently you'll have noticed that the beach, car park and path all look spic and span. A working party, well supported by the Committee and other members tidied everything up, cleared the autumn and winter detritus and checked the kit for the season ahead. Thanks to everyone who helped.

## Lock combinations have changed

Don't get caught out: make sure you've kept a note of the new lock combinations which were changed this week. You will have received the new number with your 2018 car sticker when you paid your membership fees for this year. If you haven't yet paid, please return your application and payment without delay.

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## Events in May 2018

We have two events lined up in May.

### Race day 12 May 2018, 10.30 am

After a break of many years (if not decades!) from organised racing within the club, except for the very successful annual fun days, we ran a trial event late last summer to see if there was an appetite for racing amongst the members. The trial went very well, and so the first of three race days this year will take place on **Saturday 12 May**. Please be rigged and ready on the beach for your briefing at **10.30 am**.

Everybody welcome: we will determine the categories and type of racing on the day depending on who turns up, and will try to cater for all. Entry is free, and there will be good prizes. As well as winners on the day, your scores will be totted up with your scores at the summer and autumn race days, and there will also be prizes for the series winners.

As a further incentive, the winner of the trial event Martin Harwood can't make 12 May, so the podium is now wide open!

I would appreciate at least one person to **help me in the boat on the day** to run the event. Please drop me a line if you can help: [editorhwc@gmail.com](mailto:editorhwc@gmail.com)

### Annual Come and Try Day Sunday, 20 May 10.30 to 15.30

As in previous years, our Come and Try Day will be providing taster sessions of simulator training on land, followed by time on the water. This is one of the most fun events of the year, sometimes getting well in excess of 30 new windsurfers onto the water. The cost is £10, with all equipment (including wetsuits) and refreshments provided- just bring an old pair of trainers and a towel

Please advertise the event amongst your friends, colleagues, etc. and encourage them to book a session by emailing [martinhwc@btinternet.com](mailto:martinhwc@btinternet.com). And we always need help on the day, whether serving tea and cake, helping on the water or just chatting to our visitors. Please email if you can help.

## National Watersports Festival 2018



### **NWF ONLINE ENTRY IS NOW OPEN!**

This year's National Watersports Festival looks like it will be even bigger and better than ever. There is far too much happening to do it justice in this newsletter, so do take a look at the festival website for more details.

And as you recall, we hope to be in the running for the prestigious Windsurfing Club of the Year Award, so that may give the evening parties an extra buzz! (Shortlist to be announced in a couple of weeks).

A number of club members are attending, so please do think about joining us! A few of us are only able to make one day, and so will be heading to Rutland on the Saturday or Sunday. If you would like to share a ride, there may be a spare seat or two and space for kit in a van, so do ask around.

Best wishes, Richard, Editor.