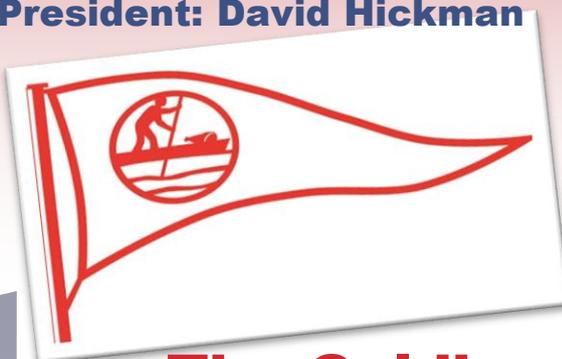


COLDHAM CHRONICLE

Goldham Hall Sailing Club Est. 1951

'The Heart of Sailing in the Yare Valley'

President: David Hickman



Club Officers

Commodore: Gary Corbett
mooringsecretary@coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk

Vice - Commodore: David Taitt
david.taitt@gmail.com

Rear Commodore: Vacant

Secretary: Emma Crowfoot
ejcrowfoot@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Woolston
woolston546@btinternet.com

Race Officer: Ben Adams
tobenadams6@gmail.com

Social Secretary: Judith Robertson
jude_rob2000@yahoo.co.uk

Bosun: David Taitt
david.taitt@gmail.com



www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk



Coldham Hall Sailing Club



Yare Navigation Race



CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race

The Coldham Chronicle

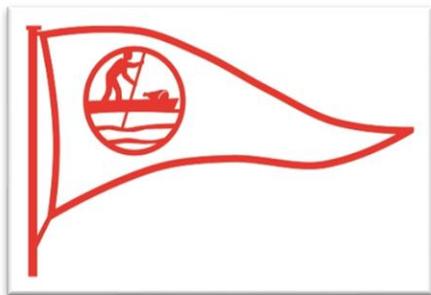
“So here it is Merry Christmas everybody’s having fun”. It doesn’t seem that twelve-months have passed so quickly since putting together last Decembers Chronicle. Its been a busy year for the club. A highly active season with a mixture of all weathers, some good some not so, for sailing, paddling or canoeing. Particularly recently with floods of almost Biblical proportions affecting not just the winter sailing programme but also impacting so much on the daily lives of our neighbour’s homes and businesses. Our thoughts go to them and let’s hope that this is all soon in the past.

This month the club held its AGM, and a report is included in this Chronicle (no apologies for the length of the article but it is important that everybody gets to know what was covered and dealt with). For the first time in twenty-seven years, we have elected a new Club President and congratulations to Dave Hickman on being nominated and accepted. We report on the Christmas Pudding race, Midweekers Xmas lunch and Winter downriver and also start looking forwards to next year with news of a course being arranged to remind, or educate, on the Racing Rules. Additionally in the new year the committee are planning courses in safety boat awareness and practice on the river details in the new year.

In these days of rising prices and the ever increasing costs of Tolls and Insurance etc., our new President Dave Hickman provides an insight into the cost of sailing a Yeoman for 30 years at CHSC, a bit of an eye opener when you look at the bottom line figures. To round the year up we have reprinted just some of the pictures that have appeared in the Coldham Chronicle over the last year.

All that remains then is to wish all our members, our readers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Dave & Gary





Notes from The Committee

There was no committee meeting in December because of the Annual General Meeting

The Coldham Hall Sailing Club 2024 Committee as elected at the AGM are: -

The Club Flag Officers:-

Commodore – Gary Corbett
 Vice Commodore – David Taitt
 Race Officer – Ben Adams
 Treasurer – David Woolston
 Honorary Secretary – Emma Crowfoot

General Committee: -

Judith Robertson
 David Durrant
 Mike Roll
 David Greenacre
 Chris Logue
 Glen Vanden Ecker
 Amanda Blezzard.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm online using Microsoft Teams.

Anybody wishing to put forwards ideas or suggestions for consideration by the committee please contact any of the members of the committee.

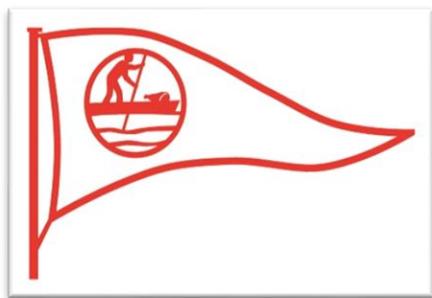
Upcoming Events 2024

January		
	Saturday 20 th	Presentation Dinner (2024)
February		
	To Be arranged	Quiz v NFSC & fish & chip supper
March		
	Wednesday 20th	Racing Rules Talk (Provisional)
April		
	Sunday 7th	Racing Commences
May		
	Saturday 4th	CHSC/NFSC Open Regatta
	Sunday 5th	CHSC/NFSC Open Regatta
	Sunday 12th	Loch Earne Yacht Club visit
June		
	Saturday 15th	CHSC Reedham Race
	Saturday 29th	Hardley Mill Cruise & BBQ
July		
	Sunday 7th	Club Regatta
September		
	Saturday 14th	Yare Navigation Race
	Saturday 21st	CHSC/Waveney OD
October		
	Saturday 12th	Triple B race
	Sunday 20th	Commodores Day
	Sunday 27th	Winter Downriver Series starts
December		
	Wednesday 4th	Annual General Meeting
	Sunday 15th	Christmas Pudding Race

The above list is correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change throughout the year. A full list of all racing and social events for 2024 will be shortly updated on the club



2023 Annual General Meeting



The 2023 AGM took place on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at Bramerton village hall. After pre-meeting nibbles of mulled wine and mince pies Commodore David Taitt welcomed those attending before, in a change from the usual proceedings, handing over the meeting to Treasurer David Woolston to report on the club's finances.

David Woolston then explained and summarised the 2023 accounts and was pleased to report that the club was in a healthy financial position going into 2024 partly due to a higher income from the Try Sailing programme than expected.

Membership has remained fairly static. Dinghy Park usage is down but there has been an increase in half decker moorings. Cruiser mooring have fallen, and Paddle boards and Canoes has stayed roughly the same. Our lease rose by the RPI. The use of club boats has been down, and the cost associated with them has been high due to the purchase of new covers, although these are expected to last at least a further ten years or more. The reintroduction of the White Book this year saw an additional cost to the finances. The proposal to accept the 2023 accounts was agreed by show of hands.

Turning to the accounts for 2024, David felt that the membership levels and dinghy park/mooring usage etc. would again remain fairly static but the club has an urgent need for upcoming major repairs to the quay heading. A quote has been received and accepted for repair work in the region of £15k to commence in January 2025. The company quoting has guaranteed no increase in labour costs only a potential increase in the cost of materials. A sum of money totalling the amount of the repairs would be placed in a separate fund to cover the cost. This would retain sufficient funds available in the club accounts to cover one year's annual expenses. In addition, there is expected to be further £2K outlay on repairs to the clubhouse roof as many of the twenty year old corrugated roof panels are at the end of their working life and beginning to fail. To ensure that the club can meet these commitments David and the Committee proposed that membership fees and mooring fees be increased by 10%. This was agreed and accepted by show of hands.

The club's auditor, Robert Whitefoot has expressed a desire to stand down but as the club has been unsuccessful finding a replacement then he is prepared to stand for another year. Agreed by show of hands.

2023 Commodore David Taitt then went on to sum up the year's activities giving a report on the last 12 months. The year started with a full programme of winter work parties, with no fewer than 15 volunteers turning out on four days in February and March. The main jobs completed were the clubhouse extension, access ramp and finishing the pontoon extension. Thanks to all who gave up their time to help. Thanks also to Bill Clark for his hard work and relentless lobbying of the RSPB and Broads authority to clear trees on train reach (and now Langley) and to all the volunteers who worked so hard to clear and burn the scrub in the damp depths of winter and searing heat of summer.

We were delighted to welcome new neighbour's at the bungalow at Heron's Marsh. Gary and Judith have joined the Club and have now become proud owners of Yeoman Y153, Nomad. This brings our Yeoman fleet to 17, with as many as 12 boats turning out to race on a Sunday - significantly more than either Wroxham or Horning, which both have much larger Yeoman fleets. This year we have enjoyed a very full and successful summer race programme with Race Officer Ben Adams even managing to squeeze in a Yeoman summer afternoon downriver series and some new events involving other sailing clubs.

In May we supported a visit to Northern Ireland, organised by the Yeoman Kinsman Association at the invitation of Loch Erne Yacht Club in Enniskillen, to sail with their Yeoman fleet. It was thoroughly enjoyable and a great success and, together with Wroxham and Horning, we shall be hosting a return visit by LEYC to Norfolk in May of next year. In June, a team of eight from CHSC were invited to sail in an evening team race event with the Waveney One-design fleet at Oulton Broad. The local knowledge of the WOBYC sailors was telling but we will have an opportunity to redress the situation when we host the second leg of the competition, sailing Yeomans at CHSC. We had hoped to hold this event earlier in November this year, but weather and tides have meant that we will now reschedule to next year.

Throughout June and early July Gary Corbett ran a very successful Try Sailing programme which attracted some 22 new Introductory Members; four going on to pass the Wayfarer competency assessment and another couple purchasing a Yeoman. Thanks to all who made their boats available, with particular thanks to Mike Roll for delivering the land-based theory events.

We enjoyed some spells of fine weather this summer but with this came some issues with people ignoring warning signs, swimming in the river and dyke and diving from the pontoons and jetties. We are working with the Tavern, Parish Council, and schools to manage this in a responsible and sensitive manner.

In September we were honoured to host the NSBA Ramuz Inter-Club challenge. 11 clubs competed in fine weather and light winds with Chris Bunn and Chris Tuckett lifting the trophy for Lady Yacht Club. Thanks to all the CHSC Yeoman owners who made their boats available for this event. At the end of September, a CHSC team entered the Yeoman National Championships, this year hosted by Horning Sailing Club on Black Horse Broad, securing third place and a trophy – we're hoping to do even better next year, when the event will, for the first time, be hosted by the Punt Club on Barton Broad.

We have suffered unprecedented flooding this year with June being the only month when the Carnser did not flood. More recently we have suffered 19 consecutive days in October and November when the Carnser was permanently flooded. For CHSC this has resulted in the cancellation of a number of races but for the Tavern, Boatyard and residents it has made life very difficult, and business impossible. Accordingly, we are working with our neighbour's and our landowner, Wellington Pub Company plc, to ask the RSPB, who own the marshes either side of the Carnser, to maintain their ditches, dykes, and sluices to mitigate as far as is possible, the impacts of rising water levels.

We ended the year with sad news that our Club President, Maurice Ward, died peacefully at home on 29 October, just a few months short of his 100th birthday. Maurice was a founder member of Coldham Hall Sailing Club, President for the last 27 years and was instrumental in making our club what it is today. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

We now look forward to a new sailing year with a full programme of events, a growing membership, and secure finances, that will allow us to make the essential capital investments in maintaining the clubhouse, facilities and quay heading under the guidance of a newly elected Committee.

And on that note, as my tenure as Commodore ends, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their time and hard work throughout the year, but in particular I would like to thank Ian Barker, who is now standing down after serving on the CHSC Committee for more than 25 years.

Race Officer Ben Adams gave a report detailing the clubs racing in the last year. We started the season in great expectation with a busy programme in front of us and some additional new races scheduled in. The start was rather slow with only 6 boats coming to the line. The same for week 2. Then it all took off with a magnificent 13 boats. This continued for 3 weeks with 12 or 11 boats. Then by mid-summer it dropped to 6 or 7. Rallying again, it picked up briefly to 12 and finally down to 6 or 7 towards the end of the summer. The fleet is largely made up of Yeoman boats with a few Wayfarers. For 3 weeks we had 4 Wayfarers racing but often it is just 1 or 2.

The try sailing coaching team were conscious of this ratio and were keen to promote the interest in Wayfarer sailing and dinghy sailing in general. This approach was successful and a number on the course continued their training to gain approval with a competency test to enable them to use our club boats if they wish. It remains to be seen if they continue in the club and take up the offer of using our club boats or go on to buy their own boat.

The open regatta was well supported with a good number of Norfolk One design boats from Norwich Frostbites joining us. It was discussed at our committee meeting that we should try and encourage other entrants from various club. This we will try and do but the general trend is for most sailors to stay put at their local club and a reluctance to tow their boat to other events. One way we can overcome this problem is to invite other club members to join us on our boats. This Lough Erne Yacht Club did when they invited us to Northern Ireland earlier in the year and they have been invited a return visit to us next year. Norfolk Broads Yacht Club would also like to arrange exchange visits and the Waveney One Design fleet from Oulton Broad also make a great effort to come and join us in the autumn. Oulton Broad Yacht Club also invited us for a team event sailing in their boats. We made up a team of 8 members and thoroughly enjoyed an evening of racing and a splendid spread of refreshments at their clubhouse afterwards. The Waveney's had the edge on us through the races with their local knowledge of the broad and how their boats handle but we hope to do better when a return match is arranged at Coldham.

Our traditional broads' cruisers have had a quiet year with only 1 race contested with 4 boats. The other races were with 2 or 3 boats and 2 races were not contested at all. On the other hand, the Yare Navigation race was a great success

despite some very difficult weather conditions. There were 31 entrants and 26 finishers. 2 Boats were timed out as they had left their start too late and with very light winds did not make it back in time but all enjoyed the entertainment at the Tavern along with the trophy presentations. The Triple B had its own problems. A very strong flowing tide that seemed to go on forever caught many of the boats out, only 2 boats finishing before the cut off. My thanks go to all our club members that took part in the race to make it a success and will allow us to promote it further in future years. We hosted the inter club Ramuz challenge this year in September with our Yeoman fleet offering their boats to a potential 16 local sailing clubs in Norfolk and Suffolk. 14 clubs entered but only 12 were able to attend on the day. The racing was fiercely contested but there was 1 outstanding pair of sailors in Chris Bunn and Chris Tuckett who won all their races up to the final and only needed to finish the last race to win the title, which they did in style. You may know Chris Tuckett, he is our Yeoman class builder and there is nothing he does not know about setting up a Yeoman and he was very impressed with the state of our boats.

We then come on to the later part of our season marred by flooding and a lack of wind. 4 races were cancelled due to the Carnser being totally flooded and impassable whilst at another race we did compete but had to wade our way back through the Carnser to get to our cars. Despite all of these difficulties we will soldier on and hopefully finish our season on a high note with the commodores Christmas pudding race this Sunday and our final race of the year Sunday week.

We have a similar busy programme next year. I am still adding certain detail, but this is how it looks at present. As requested I have included 2 additional downriver races and reduced our local races by 2. The Yeoman Sunday afternoon series is spaced out as it follows after a local series. I am happy to consider other dates and times for this series.

Outgoing Commodore David Taitt then held elections for Club Officers and Committee. The position of Club President was offered to and accepted by David Hickman.

Club Officers elected are:- Gary Corbett– Commodore, David Taitt – Vice Commodore, David Woolston - Treasurer, Emma Crowfoot – Secretary and Ben Adams – Race Officer. There being nobody proposed for the post of Rear Commodore the position is still vacant. The following were elected as the committee: - Judith Robertson, David Durrant, Mike Roll, David Greenacre, Chris Logue, Glen Vander Ecker, and Amanda Blezzard.

The meeting then went on to discuss in open forum whether the terms of Paddle Membership could be looked at to enable them to be elected onto the committee and have a voice within the club, 2024 Commodore Gary Corbett, advised this was something that would be discussed in the new year and and he would welcome anybody who wished to serve on the committee as there are still vacancies.

Gary advised that although Ben Adams had asked to stand down as Race Officer there had been no replacement come forwards so Ben would continue but the committee would be looking at finding a team of helpers or assistants to help him with the role.

The club are looking to carry out safety boat training in the new year to provide more confidence and ability to those manning the safety boat at events and club racing.

Before bringing the meeting to a close Gary thanked David Taitt for his year as Commodore and said that the committee would be pleased to hear from all members, , any suggestions/ideas or events to be considered. Meeting then closed.

CHSC Elects their new President for 2024 – David Hickman

At their recent AGM, Coldham Hall Sailing Club members elected David Hickman to be the new President of the Club.

Many of you will know David as he has been an active member of the club for over 26 years but for those of you who haven't been members for that length of time or may not have met David around the club, the Chronicle asked him to introduce himself to you.

Tell us about where you're from and how you started sailing?

I am a Black Country Boy. I did not start sailing until I came, on two occasions, to a Crusaders (Bible Class) holiday based at Thurne Mouth in the early 70's. The Crusader's hired the whole of the half-decker fleet from Martham Boat Building and Development Company and after a week sailing every day, I felt confident of my ability to helm a boat. I moved to Norfolk in 1974 to train as a teacher, choosing the location partly as a result of these holidays spent on the broads.

Ironically though I didn't sail again, with the exception of a couple of day hires from Whispering Reeds, until 1993.



It was in 1993, as I sat with my mother on the bank at Coldham Hall looking at the transoms of a couple of Yeomans moored there, I recall thinking I would really like one of those boats. My wife Kim & I didn't much fancy swimming, so a keelboat ticked all of our boxes rather than a Wayfarer or Norfolk Dinghy, both popular boats at CHSC. Long story short, we purchased 'MagpieY80' in August 93 and joined CHSC in 1997. I quickly decided that racing was my passion and on innumerable Sundays it meant that although the day was not a day suitable for cruising it was always a day for racing (points mean prizes). I subsequently served as Commodore in 1999.

What other boats have I sailed? A list seems a good idea (High spots in brackets)?

Most if not all of these sailing opportunities have arisen directly or indirectly as a result of my membership of Coldham Hall Sailing Club.

River Cruiser "Fantasia" (Invited to helm and won the boats under 25ft YNR trophy... Now sunk)

River Cruiser "Kingfisher" (Invited to helm on a regular basis in the Yare Sailing Club Series and won the boats under 25ft YNR trophy. I also managed to capsize Kingfisher at the mouth of Breydon Water in one YNR race.)

Beneteau 57 "Audacious" (Delivery crew from Palma Majorca to Capri for the Rolex championship. Including an unscheduled rescue en route due to steering failure off Cagliari south coast of Sardinia)

"Bear of Britain" Farr 50 racing yacht. Cowes Isle of Wight (yes, the bow does do a circle when it's on song at around 18 knots)

Cruising in steel hulled gaff rigged botters "Warbol" & "Sulis" in Friesland, Netherlands on 2 occasions (Friesland is like the Norfolk Broads on steroids, wonderful environment, crossed the IJsselmeer, loads of fun.)

Yeoman Kinsman "Jade" (Rutland Water thanks to an invite from Tony Hargrove)

Yeoman "--" Loch Tummel Scotland (Invite from Club)

Dragon "--" (Ramuz Trophy CHSC representative sailed off Lowestoft at RN&SYC, we lost).

"Eos" "Sea Mist" "Idle Days" (Levington. production cruiser boats owned by my late friend Peter Cox which we sailed on the Orwell).

How has sailing at Coldham Hall changed?

When I joined CHSC the preferred boat was the Norfolk Dinghy with a sprinkling of Wayfarers and Yeoman. The River Cruiser fleet was also a significant part of the club's activities, although less so these days. The Yeoman is now the most prominent boat owned at Coldham with a significant fleet moored there. I was told the Yeoman was an old man's boat when I purchased 'Magpie' and, given the passage of the years it was a good choice then, and is still a good boat to own and race today, as the years and health issues catch up with me. There is a growing paddleboard "fleet" membership

who take advantage of the Coldham facilities. The recent addition of the floating pontoon moorings have been a boon to those like me with ongoing mobility issues.

What are your top tips for winning?

That's easy. Always sail as fast as you can, don't be greedy, stop wagging the rudder, don't make any mistakes. Find a good crew, look after them. Practice, practice and more practice.

MAGPIE - The Scary Bit

Over the last thirty years of owning a boat David has kept records of what it has cost him to own and sail in Magpie. Working out the cumulative totals gives a fascinating insight into just where the money goes to indulge yourself in your favourite hobby.

Since August 1993

<u>Items</u>	<u>Totals</u>
No of days boat used	1074 days (average 35.85 per year)
Capital Costs - Purchase 1993	£2400.00
Expenditure	
Insurance	£6034.42
Broads Registration (tolls)	£2,245.77
Launching/Haul out/De-rigging	£1,525.00
Boatyard costs	£2,331.49
Dry Storage	£4,828.10
Mooring	£5,780.00
CHSC Membership	£1,999.00
Chandlery	£16,092.77 (including replacement sails)
Repairs	<u>£5,336.17</u>
All outgoings excluding purchase cost	£46,172.92
Income	
Insurance Payout 10/6/99, Broken Mast	£1586.82
Insurance Payout 28/6/99	£170.00
Crew Donation 23/10/00	<u>£200.00</u>
Total income	1956.82
Total expenditure since purchase	£44216.10
Cost per days use to date (including Purchase)	£41.54
Cost per days use to date (Excluding Purchase)	£40.86
Cost per year average	£1473.89



David's 60th Birthday Caricature by Peter Cox

On average then it costs Dave around £1500 a year to have owned and maintained his Yeoman at Coldham Hall. Probably now slightly more due to the ever-increasing costs of moorings, membership fees, insurance and Broads Authority tolls. A quick comparison with my own costs this last year work out around the £1300 mark and that's without any repairs or replacement sails etc. But for the enjoyment of 9 months sailing and racing I think it's well worth it.

Christmas Pudding Race 10th December 2023

A very mixed weather forecast and the flooding of the Carnser leading up to the Pudding Race made it interesting for new Commodore Gary to plan ahead with a course, overnight gales with up to 50 mph gusts with a 90% chance of rain by 1pm and wind continuing to drop throughout the morning, along with an ebbing tide, Sunday night the gales returned.



Fortunately, a window of opportunity made for an interesting local round the buoys course set over two races, the moderate south westerly producing a nice ripple on the water upriver from the clubhouse, setting number 3 mark as a port turning buoy about 400yds from base, followed by number 2 mark set well into the mouth of Bargate dyke entrance, (little boat traffic and ideal location to get the breeze coming along the dyke) number 1 buoy, (starboard) downriver between the two boatyard channels, this area indicated little breeze the ebbing tide taking the boats to the buoy.

Twelve boats came to the line with a mixture of festive attire, hats and tinsel ready for the two back-to-back races with no split start, boats made up with 9 Yeomans, a Wayfarer, a Lazer and new addition to Coldham racing a Devoti D-Zero dinghy sailed by Tom Quayle, the light and variable winds and somewhat benign conditions proved to be just right for the dinghy's and it didn't take long for the club Wayfarer sailed by Paul Parker and Gill Westwood and the Devoti sailed by Tom Quayle to open out a commanding lead over the rest of the fleet, by lap 2 Tom was out in front which he held to the finish line, handicaps calculated placed the Wayfarer first, Devoti second, third place Trio.



Race 2 saw the Devoti take an early lead which he kept for the 3 laps to finish first by a resounding 8 minutes, although Paul in club two started towards the back of the fleet the conditions were ideal to creep through the Yeomans to finish 2nd with Trio again taking third place.

With such high value prizes being on offer (e.g. an Aldi Christmas Pudding each for the first three boats). After the race competitors were warmed up and entertained in the Clubhouse with warmed Mulled Wine, Sausage Rolls and Mince Pies. With Bill Clarke managing to win the race to stand in front of the heater, a position he managed to command for some time. Commodore (shorts in December !!!) Gary Corbett presented the prizes to - 1st Tom Quayle, 2nd Paul Parker & Gill Westwood, 3rd David and Will Taitt.

Full results on club web site Race Results page. All packed up and away before the rain.



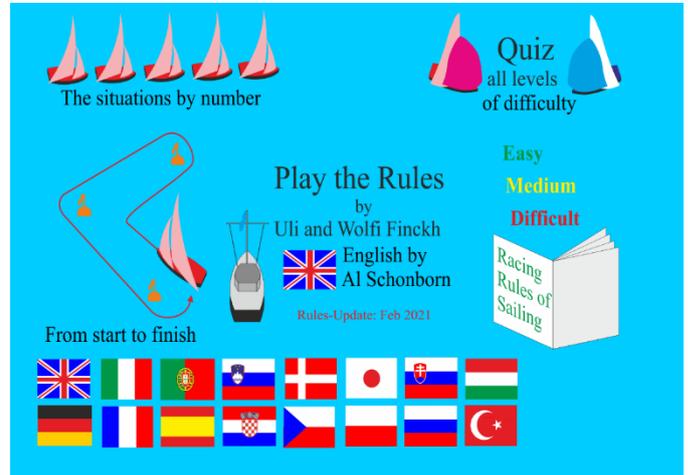
The Racing Rules

In April 2024, our racing season will start and attention will be directed in some part to getting ready to get onto the water. If you intend to race, you may ask yourself how well you are acquainted with the clubs Sailing Rules and the RYA Racing Rules of Sailing -2021-2024.

If the answer is not very, or even if you think you know it all please consider looking on our website under “Sailing Information”. There you will find the section “CHSC Sailing Instructions” and “Rules Quiz”.

Both are relevant and the Rules Quiz is particularly useful as it offers three levels of difficulty and with moving boats. You have a few seconds to choose who has the right of way. If you don't get even the easy ones right, then please consider how to improve. In real life, you need to anticipate, know what point of sailing you are on and what rule(s) apply, and often you have to make a quick decision. At least, always avoid a collision.

Safety and fair play are the reasons for knowing the rules. To help in this area, the committee has asked Ian Barker to investigate holding a Rules Evening.



Trevor Lewis is an accomplished RYA official who is a club member and a World Sailing International Judge and the author of the RYA's e-book, The Racing Rules Explained. Ian has asked Trevor if he would run a Rules Evening suitable for our club and, kindly he has agreed.

It is likely to be on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30 pm, possibly at Bramerton Village Hall. To make it viable though it needs more than a couple of members to attend the evening, which may last some two hours and would include a midway interval. There would be no cost to participants. So no matter how much you think you know the rules or how experienced you might be please support this activity.

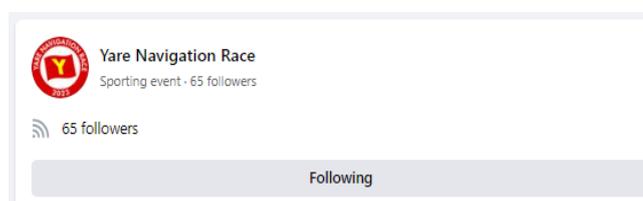
Trevor Lewis is likely to have a busy schedule and Ian will need to book the village hall. Therefore, could you let Ian know, please, by 1st February 2024, if you would like to attend. Ian would be happy to answer any questions or receive any comments about the content of the evening.

Please contact Ian by email barkerian659@gmail.com

Facebook New CHSC Groups



CHSC has created two new Facebook groups to keep members and the wider audience informed of two major races the club runs, namely the YNR and the Triple B. So for all the latest information on these races and much more Follow and Join on Facebook.



Winter Series Downriver, Sunday 17th December.

Gary Corbett

With so many cancellations this year it was nice to finish the winter sailing downriver series with a lovely sunny (9 deg.) Sunday morning, the forecast was for 20 mph SW winds with gusts up to 30mph, increasing through the morning, but arriving conditions at the club were ideal, wind strength moderate. Seven Yeomans along with Paul Parker, planning to sail single handed in a Wayfarer, prepared for a long course set by OOD's Judith and Stephen. Mike Roll fortunately hopped in with Paul in the Wayfarer at the last minute which proved a good idea as the conditions changed.

All boats started promptly together heading downriver with a close haul, the wind coming off the nose/south bank. 'Trio' with Will and Dave Taitt made good progress and pulled ahead, a lead which they kept for the full course, 'Kingfisher' followed by 'Diamond Lil' and 'Shibboleth' close behind. As the fleet left Train Reach the conditions as expected started to get lively with all making good progress pointing up on close hauls. Passing Rockland Dykes tacks were required, with a couple of runs the wind behind the boats. The experience of the Wayfarer crew enabling them to keep the boat upright and on the plane, with a little 'rock and roll' (sorry no pun).

At the turning mark, 'Trio' turned first closely followed by 'Diamond Lil' and 'Shibboleth'. All the boats, except Wayfarer 'Club 1' and 'Kingfisher', making fast progress home with 1st place honours going to 'Trio' crewed by Will and David Taitt crossing the line in a time of 1hour 22mins. 2nd 'Diamond Lil', Sandy and John Wells and with 'Shibboleth', David and Margaret Woolston, coming in third. Full results are on the club's web page.

Yes, Coldham to Langley Woods and back in under 90 minutes, a great sail and fantastic way to end the season, even if we all took on a bit of water. Thankyou to Jane and David in the finish box.

As for the Wayfarer, having turned at the stile they wisely went head to wind on the south bank to put a couple of reefs in the sail. The highly experienced and competent crew keeping the boat upright throughout, no mean feat.

'Kingfisher', well unfortunately yet another malfunction. Whilst sailing close to the wind and making good progress towards the mark, suddenly no steerage, under extreme pressure the stainless nut & bolt connecting the tiller to the rudder shaft had again sheered. What happens next? Well, furl the Jib, drop the main whilst heading into the windward reeds, scurry around in the bit & bob's box for another replacement. All fixed but yet to reach the turning mark, head home, **certainly not**, make for the mark, turn and have a great sail home, twenty two minutes behind the first boat over the line. Another winter job, we'll get it fixed.

Commodores Ramble (aka Gazer's Gazette).



As reported, at the AGM, I was elected by you to hold the reins of Commodore for the 2024 season. Who am I? Well hopefully by now most of us have met or you've read my rabbiting' in these Chronicles or seen me at the club, otherwise, please come over and say' Hi, yes, I'm the 'old white haired bloke' who wears short's most of the year and no I was not a postman.

My aim for the year ahead is simply for you and I to be members of the club and to enjoy the fundamentals, sailing and paddling, along with networking together for social events. Hopefully in 12 months' time you will think it's job done.

What do I expect of myself? I plan to get closer too and act for you the members of CHSC and to speak up and promote our club. We have a strong and growing membership and ours is now the only summer sailing club on the River Yare. We do paddling too.

Importantly, I sit with the flag officers and committee at club meetings, where together we put together all the things we enjoy and what we want to be involved with at the same time maintaining the fabric and fundamentals of the club. A lot goes on all year round in the background, for example maintenance, repairs and tree cutting, to name but a few. I recognise, the post of Commodore does not function without the committee and importantly you the members, so if you've got a suggestion, offer of help to do a task or manager a task/event yourself with our help please get in touch. Most of all if you've got a gripe don't keep it to yourself; share it with me or the committee.

Apart from that I plan to sail, paddle on my SUP and Kayak, it's good for all our wellbeing and health to be out on the river having fun. Come and join me.

Midweekers Christmas lunch.

On Monday 18th December, 20 guests attended the Midweekers Christmas lunch at Surlingham Ferry, organised and hosted by Judith. This year our sailing came to an abrupt end a couple of months ago when either the flooding, lack of wind, lousy weather conditions and more flooding took charge, usually Midweekers sail up to Christmas.



Festively this did not dampen our spirits while we enjoyed and tucked into a delicious festive feast provided by Sonia and her crew, certainly beats the river bank at Cantley, especially cosy by the wood burner.

Following a brief hibernation, Midweekers will return in the spring. Watch this space if you would like to join our friendly sailing group.

Christmas Emoji Game

At a loose end over Christmas or fed up with the TV and Turkey dinners? Take time out and give the grey cells a bit of a workout by having a go at our Christmas quiz. All the answers are Christmas Songs. There's no prize, just smug self satisfaction, Answers in January Chronicle.



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2023 in Pictures







A Repeated Message - 'Help for CHSC'

From the membership we need people with skills, ranging from professional advice throughout the year to DIY skills, offering a hand at an event, any sailing, paddling help you can give to others. If you have something you can bring to the club then please speak with us.

We will not pressurise anyone to do more than they wish, but in return we will say 'thank-you' and together enjoy the year.

If you have a suggestion, anytime, or can offer help please don't keep it to yourself.

All members are invited to submit articles, photographs, comments, items for sale or anything they feel suitable to be considered for publication. Email to Gary Corbett corbett01@btconnect.com or Dave Durrant davidkdurrant@yahoo.co.uk The editors reserve the right to delay publication or amend/reformat/correct submissions as deemed appropriate.