

2023 Sailing Programme (v2) Explained



Welcome to the 2023 sailing programme (v1), there are 49 Racing Events, 8 Sail Training Events/ 2 General Sailing/ 3 Cruising Activities, Training Weekends and shore based training (Pre Race Training), and additional Safety Boat Training, Holiday Week and more - so we thought we'd try and explain what is going on and how you join in.

Firstly, a reminder on start times...

All advertised start times are the race start time, the on-water time for General Sailing, or departure time for cruises.

Therefore you need to arrive ideally an hour before the start time and don't forget you must sign in at least 45 minutes before the start. The horn is sounded as a reminder.

If you see TBA as the start time in the Sailing Programme you should see this is the 2nd event of the day – in this situation the Race Officer will make the decision of the actual start time.

May 20th and 3rd June – Training & Open Weekends

This weekend will be a combination of activities – we want to encourage members to get refreshers in a number of activities – Winch, Safety Boat Handling, and some Sail Training for those that need it.

The winch is an important piece of equipment at HPYC – we will provide training on safe use of the winch at HPYC so you can assist on sailing days.

Safety Boat Handling is not a certified course, but will cover the skills and background knowledge needed in the Patrol boats at HPYC. We will focus on the roles of "Safety Boat Crew" and "Safety Boat Helm", and the skills required - launching and recovery, equipment, boat handling, laying/recovering a mark, man overboard and towing.

As the Club is open for training, we will advertise the Club to be open to visitors –We want to attract new members as early as possible in the season so wish to open our doors as soon as possible -

May 6th – King Charles Coronation (No Sailing)

- Safety Boat Training Will be an integral part of the training programme and will be available to all members wishing to take part.

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Sail Training

Sail Training is an opportunity for any member to take to the water with a Patrol Boat present, it is also an opportunity to practise and improve skills. There is no formal structure, but Patrol Boat cover is duties in. Our objective is to have a Sailing Instructor attend these sessions to give any advice or support needed, to sailors young and old. The General Sailing dates for this year are:

Month	Date	Day	H.W.	Start	Event
Apr	17	Sat	16:05	15:00	General Sailing 1
May	01	Sat	16:11	15:00	General Sailing 2
Aug	07	Sat	12:33	11:00	General Sailing 3
Sep	04	Sat	11:22	11:00	General Sailing 4
Sep	25	Sat	12:00	12:00	General Sailing 5
Oct	09	Sat	14:48	15:00	General Sailing 6

Even if you plan not to sail, your assistance is appreciated on the beach for launching and recovery of patrol boats and dinghies (hopefully with a Club member sailing them!)

Cruises

Are purely social sailing events, i.e. a relaxing sail! Cruises will take place on dates below, with departure times as indicated (so be down early to rig up!). The route will be decided on by the Officer of the Day to allow for prevailing conditions, but the general principle will be to sail along the coast, beach and have a break, then sail home.

Month	Date	Day	H.W.	Start	Event
Jun	17	Sat	12:40	11:00	Cruise 1
Jun	1	Sat	11:11	09:00	Early Morning Cruise 2
Sep	10	Sat	13:57	11:00	Cruise 3

Series Racing

HPYC traditionally runs 5 series of racing: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Evening and Twilight, additionally there will be Novice Series to be raced at the same time as the Summer series. There are typically 5 races in each Series. Not all the races in each series are counted for the final standings, a proportion of the races are discarded to allow for duties, bad weather days etc. and makes for a fairer system.

See the HPYC website <http://www.hpyc.org.uk/sailing> for:

- The Sailing and Social Programme in various formats
- Club rules/instructions on racing at HPYC

Confectionery Cup

Run as a 2 Race format at the start of the season. March 26th

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Cup Racing

There are a number of celebrated trophies in the Club, and each year we race for them! These are single events, but may actually be multiple races on the day. This is a great opportunity to race if you do not commit to racing for a full series. The trophies up for grabs this year are:

Month	Date	Day	H.W	Start	Event
Apr	26	Sun	16:21	13:00	Confectionery Cup (2)
	9	Sun	15:11	12:00	Easter Cup
May	23	Sun	15:16	15:00	*Spring Cup
	21	Sun	14:13	15:00	*May Shield
June	18	Sun	13:19	13:00	*Hampton Cup
	9	Sun	17:41	15:00	*Odds and Ends
July	16	Sun	12:25	12:00	*Commodores Cup
Aug	6	Sun	16:29	15:00	Ganges (1-2)
	13	Sun	11:17	11:00	Ganges (3-4)
	20	Sun	15:28	15:00	Kent Trophy
Sept	2	Sat	14:36	15:00	Novice Cup (2)
	3	Sun	15:19	TBC	Gower Sprint
	17	Sun	14:27	15:00	*Founders Trophy
Oct	1	Sun	14:10	TBC	Presidents Cup
	15	Sun	13:24	TBC	RNLI Race

Just to highlight a few of the sailing events....

Presidents Cup (1)

The Presidents Cup will be a 2-race event. The Race Officer will make a decision on the day on the course and duration of each race.

Commodores Cup (2)

The Commodores Cup will be a 2-race event. The Race Officer will make a decision on the day on the course and duration of each race.

Ganges

The Ganges Bowl is seen as a very prominent aspect of Club racing, due to its history. H.M.S. Ganges was a boys training ship (Seaman Training 1939-46). It was originally a Napoleonic War Ship. One day, talking in the Club bar, it was found that three long-standing and influential Club members (Fred Kent, Dave Finnis and Terry Taunton) had links to the Ganges, and it was decided to present the Club with The Bowl.

6th August (2 Races) and 13th August (2 Races)

Gower Sprint

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Richard and Christine Gower were prominent and popular members of the Club. Before emigrating to Australia in 2019, Dickie and Chrissy donated the 'Blue Horizon' trophy – the Gower Sprint is in honour of them and celebrates their dedication to HPYC.

3rd September (1)

Summer Series A and B Will be combined to form the results of the * Cup Races

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St. Georges Cup, Sunday 30th August

St. Georges Cup is a cup race that is sailed between HPYC and Herne Bay Sailing Club (HBSC). Each Club takes it in turns to host the event. This year the race is at HBSC, details are below.

Month	Date	Day	H.W.	Start	Event
July	2	Sun	12:03	11:00	St Georges Cup (HBSC)

We may opt to hold the race on middle ground or a little further off-shore; watch out for details and allow plenty of time for rigging and sailing to the start line.

After racing, the Prize Giving will be at HPYC. This is a fun, friendly event and the more HPYC sailors turn out, the more opportunity of winning we have! It was close, but HBSC were winners the last few years, it would be great to get the Cup back!

31st July – 4th August , Holiday Week

Holiday Week is another traditional feature of the HPYC programme. We encourage Club members young and old to join us for some holiday fun and sailing – tides are great this week for afternoons on the water.

We meet on the Monday AM to set the programme for the week, the general idea is an activity in the AM, sailing in the PM, a social event in the evening. Previous years activities have included crabbing, kite flying, crazy golf, ten-pin bowling, beach cricket, beach team challenges, treasure hunts, cycling (usually in the evening with Fish & Chips), indoor climbing, movie nights, games nights, ukulele band, magician, quiz nights, “guest ales”.....oh, and sailing!

It is school holidays - our mission is to tire out the cadets and any accompanying friends, more usually it's the grown-ups, but we have a great time doing it!!

The week will end with a social event, frequently a BBQ, handing out of any prizes, with photos and video clips on a loop in the Club.

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Joining In with Racing

Race days are sometimes a bit intimidating to new sailors - lots of equipment being moved around, and people concentrating in a hurried but efficient way to get ready to race.

Firstly, let's say it is not too difficult if you understand the basic sequence, and secondly "hurried and efficient" is often an illusion!!

The format of the race will be drawn on the Race Board in the lower lobby (between the changing rooms). It is generally written up 45mins before the race start, and often there is a crowd there heckling the Race Officer. The details shown will be the race course, the direction to sail, information on tide and wind, and the start times, which may vary depending on the class of boat and which fleet it is in.

Make sure you have time to study this! There may be 1, 2, or 3 starts depending on the race format and number of boats. If you are unsure which fleet you are, or which start sequence you should follow, try and catch a quick word with the Race Officer.

This year we would like the option to "buddy up" new sailors with more experienced club members - let's help people get on the water and join in Club racing! You may be approached to help with this; please support the Club by allowing the time, perhaps with advice on rigging, racing or actually taking a less experienced sailor with you for the Novice Series!!

How do we get ready for a race - boat first or me?

Well, this one comes down to personal preference and the weather!

Many sailors arrive, sum up the conditions and sign-in if they intend to sail.

Next they will wheel their boat down to the beach, collecting their spars and foils (mast, boom, rudder, and centreboard), sails and other equipment from the sail locker, perhaps then start with some rigging.

After that exertion, they will go and get changed - that can be a battle in itself! To recover, they will grab a last snack and drink and head on to the beach via the race-board to check the course.

Finally, finish rigging the boat, eye-up the competition and launch in plenty of time to check that everything is set for racing.....sounds easy doesn't it!

So, lets race!!

Try to give yourself plenty of time to be the right side of the start line, and have a think about where on the line you want to start - sometimes races are won and lost on the start line!

On the water the start sequence will be indicated by the combination of the horn and lights on the race tower - actually, the horn is to attract your attention - the signal is actually the lights, but the Race Officer will typically operate both signals together. The signals will be at 5mins, 4mins, 1min, Go!

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Complete the race, avoid the hazards - other sailors and marks! and cross the finish-line to a complimentary toot of the horn (if the Race Officer is feeling generous!).

OK, the race is over, how do I pack away?

Congratulations! You've had a sail!! Once you get back to the beach you need to get up the ramp. At HPYC we are a helpful bunch and sailors assist each other to get back up the ramp, as they say "*many hands make light work*", plus there is a winch for the larger boats.

The winch is a powerful and potentially dangerous machine and can be operated by trained Club members - if you don't know how to use it, we can train you,

Our objective is to get boats up and clear of the ramp as quickly as possible - this is so we can recover the Patrol boats as quickly as possible, and also in an emergency get additional patrol boats launched, so please try not to obstruct the ramp.

At the side of the garage is a hose-pipe, rinse your gear and then you are free to pack away, sample cake and drink tea at your leisure and compare your race to others.

Feeling Hungry?

You may notice that there are some dates have more than one race. This normally means there is a race before and after lunch. The Club, when it can, offers lunch at a very reasonable price. The canteen is also anticipated to be open for light refreshments whenever sailing is scheduled. Volunteers man the canteen and help is always welcome – the Canteen Crew always looking for volunteers, please help out.

Food safety is very important at HPYC; in the past we have organised food safety training to comply with the law. If you are interested please let us know. Lunch, tea and cake are a very important part of sailing/racing at HPYC, so let it continue!

We always gratefully receive and consume any cake donations, however recent legislation requires we list ingredients used, so please supply this with any food donations you make.