

BROADSHEET

Hickling Broad Sailing Club
Summer 2011



www.hicklingbroad.com



A busy season so far...

What a baptism of fire with my first regatta in charge as commodore. The whole event was dominated by strong winds coming from the wrong direction making it essential to use the committee boat. The only problem was that the wind was so strong that it was difficult to keep the committee boat on station. Thank you to the couple of volunteers who came out with the flag officers and assisted by keeping the boat in position while we tried to run the races. Numbers sailing were much down on previous years and even the most determined competitors declined to sail the last race on Sunday. Hopefully the Summer regatta will be a little kinder.

The sun shone and again the wind blew for the club Open Day on May 21st. Hickling School pupils joined us to help launch the RS Vision bought with the aid of a grant from the RYA. I will not forget the smiles of the children as they came of water following a joy ride in one of the safety boats. This was the first recent link of hopefully many with the school and village of Hickling which we would like to develop further in the future. A big 'Thank you' to Jim Windley and all those who contributed to making the day a success. Also welcome to those who came on the day to try sailing and have subsequently joined the club as new members.

The Open Day closed with the first of the successful club barbeques organised by Jeremy Baverstock. Members brought their own food to cook on the barbeque in the lee of the club house out of the wind. Greatly enjoyed by all present and well worth coming for if you have the opportunity.

On to the Three Rivers Race. Another windy day! Well done to all club members who completed the course in the challenging conditions. Special congratulations go Peter Wilkins and crew who came second overall and to Jordan Rumsby and Micheal Cullum competing in their first Three Rivers who came third, both crews sailing Wayfarers.

We continue to work towards becoming an RYA training centre for power boating. This can now move forward again as we have been granted permission by Natural England to undertake the very small amount of high speed boating required to complete the course at Level 2 on the Broad.

What have we got to look forward to for the rest of the season? Hopefully a little less wind! The Summer Regatta and social is at the end of July. This is preceded by the popular evening regatta. We also look forward to hosting the Broadland Youth Regatta on Saturday September 3rd.

Trish Hudson - Commodore

Three Rivers Race 2011

A personal report

“A wind like this will find out weakness” Robin reflected sagely over breakfast at around midnight. And it had.

John and I were aware of many of our weaknesses well before the start; we'd come to terms with our inexperience, our lack of fitness, and our gently curving mast, and we'd noted, with alarm, that many far more competent sailors were starting to display nervousness over the weather. Watching Terry and Nick (not known for being shy of a bit of a breeze) de-rigging their kite because “it'd be nuts to put it up” was unsettling; whilst seeing JP and James (who mostly keep Wild Goose the right way up) checking hatch covers for the fifth time didn't help.

The start was unnervingly uneventful and, aside from a tussle with a lump of weed, things went smoothly as far as Ant Mouth. We'd decided that our chief priority was to keep out of traffic - neither of us fancied meeting the faster cruisers on their way up the Ant whilst we were gybing down it at speed - so we headed straight for Thurne. As we left the trees the first of the day's big gusts came in sending us planing cheerfully towards St Benets. That was great until the gooseneck failed.

I'd been worrying about it for a few days, but there wasn't an easy fix and surely we were due some luck after the number of breakages Grebe had suffered in the early part of the season? Sure enough, though, the merciless wind found the weakness. The next few minutes involved John trying to wrestle the boom back into place while we careered, still on the plane, along the river. He got it back on, but it popped back off five minutes later, which set the pattern for our run down to Acle. From that moment we knew that we weren't racing any more, just struggling to finish. Bridge manoeuvres got slower and slower as we accumulated more and more bits of extemporised engineering and there were a few frustrating sessions in the reeds while we made complicated things out of string.

“ mast just a tuft of splinters six feet above the tabernacle

The Bure was horrid. We passed America, with her mast just a tuft of splinters six feet above the tabernacle, Limelight's race ended near Acle with another busted gooseneck, and an A-Rater thought better of beating up towards Thurne through the homicidal gusts. We were sorely tempted to join them.

Once we made it to Potter things began to look up. The wind dropped just enough to put us out of survival mode and Candle Dyke to the Hickling mark and back was grand - I'm pretty sure that's the fastest I've ever been in a sailing boat. From there it began to look as if we might actually make it all the way round; which is probably what I was thinking as I executed a really badly planned gybe near Womack and dumped us in the river for the third time that day.

We did make it back though - before last orders too!



CAPTION COMPETITION

Occasionally even the most skilled pairings have the odd problem.

Send your witty quips to the
webmaster@hicklingbroad.com

The winning entry will be displayed
in the club house and on the
website.

Open Day success

On the 21 May HBSC held our second annual open day with the main aim to try and boost our membership and bring in extra revenue to the club.

We welcomed visitors and showed them what the club has to offer. A good selection of boats were on show with many fully rigged on the lawn with helms on hand to talk through their many merits. A number of double handed boats were also made available to offer a taste of what it's like to sail on Hickling Broad. Despite the windy conditions all seemed to enjoy their experience. A number of visitors become new members on the day with many more taking away application details.

A big 'Thank you' goes out to all the members who gave up their Saturday to help make our Open Day such a success.

DINGHY PARK AND THE BROADLAND YOUTH REGATTA

As we mentioned in the last broadsheet we are hosting the Broadland Youth Regatta again this year. This takes place on the 3rd September.

The site will obviously be very busy on the day but some preparation will be required on Friday 2nd to clear the lawn area of the club site. To help ensure we put boats back in their correct berths could we ask that all members have their berthing stickers displayed in a prominent location on either the boat or its cover.

We hope, with your help, we can get the site back to normal for racing on the Sunday with the minimum of inconvenience to our members.

Broadland Youth Regatta

Hickling Broad Sailing Club is hosting the prestigious Broadland Youth Regatta on behalf of the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association for the fourth time on Saturday, September 3rd. We are expecting a possible 100 or so young competitors, of all abilities, from the top Youth Squad sailors to those who may possibly be competing in possibly their first ever race. Our abiding memory of the last time this event was at Hickling was the determination of one of these youngsters to complete the course despite the strong wind blowing her optimist the wrong way down the Broad. Each child is part of the team representing their own club and there is a much coveted trophy for the most successful club. Hickling have come second in the past but have never won it. May be this will be our year.

This major event would not happen without the enthusiasm of the organising committee and the many volunteers involved on the day to whom we are indebted.

Unfortunately as this is a large event it may cause some disruption to normal club activities on the day for which we apologies in advance. Some boats in the dinghy park may be moved to provide room for competitors and the site and car park will be extremely busy.



Another choice win for the Hobsons

A good turnout of 9 Leaders started an excellent weekend at Hickling Broad Sailing Club last weekend. Commadore Trish Hudson (sailing with Sarah Cole) laid on an RAF fly past (later seen during the day at the Trooping of the Colour in London) at the start of the club Picnic Race on Saturday.

Saturday saw the race along the river to Potter Heigham with lunch/picnic in the pub garden. The Hobsons and Sherwens registered one two each.

Sunday saw the wind building and some very good heavy weather sailing with Morris putting in a great performance to finish fourth overall.

Ray Page brought along a beautifully restored composite Leader which looked fantastic.

Andy and Ann Hobson took the weekend credits followed by Chris and Jane Wharmby in second and Mike and Val Sherwen in third place.

Thanks to Hickling Broad Sailing Club for another superb weekend.

Roger Morse - Leader 1130

Weed and Safety Boats

Over recent months the engines on the safety boats have been generally well looked after by their crews with few reported problems. We are however starting to experience and increase in the amount of weed in the water at the front of the club house. Hopefully this isn't a precursor of worse to come but it does mean safety boat crews need to be especially vigilant when operating closer to the club house. Please ensure that any safety boat problem, weed related or otherwise, is reported to the Duty Flag Officer on the day so any remedial actions required can be carried out in good time.

Club Cruise

Following a slight mix up with the programme the cruise was held on Sat 11 and Sun 12 June in changeable conditions. This being 2 weeks in advance of the published date resulted in relatively low numbers on the water but this was made up for with those turning up for the evening meal.

VHFradio update

The problems we have been experiencing with the VHF radios should now be resolved. The 4 smaller radios that suffered from broken antenna have been fixed and in addition 3 new larger more robust radios have been purchased. This brings our full accompaniment to 8 including the base station. All radios should be used on channel 'M2' only, if you find a radio on any other channel please set to M2 or ask the duty flag officer to do it for you. Channel 16 is to be used for emergencies only. The PRO or the duty flag officer will advise when this is appropriate.

Young Hickling Sailor's Success

Georgina Povall takes the girls Bronze at Laser 4.7 European Youth Championships held at Workum in the Netherlands (6-14th July 2011). Three is her lucky number at the moment, as she was also 3rd place Under 19 Laser Radial in the Europa Cup series at Warnemunde, Germany (2nd-5th July 2011).



PHOTO COMPETITION 2011

We hope you are all snapping away in preparation for the photo competition.

Any subject 'broads based' can be entered.

Full details on where to send your entries in the next Broadsheet.



Launch of RS Vision

The new club RS Vision was officially named and launched at the Open Day on 21 May with the help of Hickling Primary School. The boat which was bought with the aid of a £2,000 RYA grant is to be used to encourage adults learning to sail and for club members to take non sailing friends out in for taster sessions.

The school children were asked to think of names suitable for our boat and the author of the chosen name was invited to help with the naming and launching of the boat. The flag officers were given the difficult task of choosing one from a long list of great names. The name chosen after much deliberation was Katje (Dutch for little cat). Izzie and her family unveiled the name on the boat and then helped to launch it. Afterwards she and her mum were taken sailing in Katje by Phil Atherton and returned wet but full of enthusiasm.

Several others of the children were taken for a short joy ride in the safety boat across the Broad and judging from their grinning faces on their return they had enjoyed the trip. As the wind had by then blown up quite strong we were unable to take more of the children sailing. Several of the families had links with the club in the past. One was related to our previous care taker.



The school is very keen to become more involved in activities in the village so we look forward to linking with them again for other events.

The RS Vision can be booked for use by club members using the newly introduced system. Information about this is on the website and in a folder in the club house. Please read this information and sign the appropriate forms before booking the boats.



Sailing Secretary's Soundings

Greg Northmore

We're roughly halfway through the sailing season already and those who regularly compete in the well supported Wednesday evening racing will have noticed the nights are gradually drawing in.

With two series completed we will shortly be carrying out an analysis of results to check whether the handicap changes made at the beginning of the season are proving to be justified or whether further adjustments should be considered.

We've successfully held Open Events for Solos, Lasers, Norfolk Dinghies, and Leaders and coped with some very challenging weather conditions, none more so than those experienced during the Spring Open Regatta. Congratulations to those who qualified for the Spring and Early Summer Series, and to the winners:

Spring Series

1st	Peter Dearnley & Di Slatter	10pts.
2nd	Jim & Robyn Rosser	33pts.
3rd	Peter Cullum	72pts

Early Summer Series

1st	Peter Dearnley	23pts.
2nd	Michael Cullum	36pts.
3rd	Robert Hawkins	49pts.

Class Championships

At the halfway point the Lasers have attracted the most entries with 18 helms competing currently led by Peter Cullum. The Solos have 14 entries led by Kevin Postlethwaite, and the Punts have 11 led by Robin Slatter. If you haven't joined the fray yet there's still time to make an impression in these full season series.

Class Captains

Word on the grapevine is that the Punts are leading the field in the election of a class captain. Come on you Lasers, Wayfarers, RS boats and Leaders. Seriously, I would like to reiterate it is something we as a club are promoting to help improve communications on class issues with all who sail a particular class of boat at Hickling and with their class associations in arranging training and open events.

VHF Radios

Introduced at the start of the season to deliver more reliable communications between race box and rescue boat crews those who've completed duties this season will be aware we've experienced a number of teething problems with the "new" technology. Having now upgraded the power supply for the fixed set in the race box and replaced the handhelds with more robust and powerful sets it is hoped we will now start to see the real benefits of having made this change.

If you have any questions you would like to ask or points you would like to raise I'm happy to discuss while I'm at the club on race days or you can email the Sailing Secretary at sailingsec@hicklingbroad.com. Please also keep an eye on the website as this will normally be the first place notices and news of events will appear.

CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

As many of you are aware this year we have introduced a season long class championship for 3 of the larger classes of boats, Punts, Solos and Lasers. Although these can change dramatically as the season progresses we thought we would let you know who is currently in the top 3 positions in each class.

Punt 1st	R. Slatter	Laser 1st	M. Cullum	Solo 1st	R. Hawkins & K. Postlethwaite
Punt 2nd	T. Vincent & J. Jarvey & J. Pye	Laser 2nd	P. Cullum	Solo 3rd	C. Larter
		Laser 3rd	P. Atherton & D. Maisey & C. Barker		



Laser Training Day

The Activate Your Laser training day was well attended with 12 club Laser sailors spending the day on a off the broad taking coaching and advice for Brett Cokayne, Activate Laser Coach. The morning started off rather wet but as the wind filled in the sun came out turning into a very pleasant day.