

Newsletter

March 2013

Hickling Windsurfing Club



www.hicklingbroad.co.uk

2012 AGM Ribs of Beef Pub, Norwich

There was a great turnout for the AGM in the Wherry Bar, a nice nautical touch. More like Santa's grotto with Santa Dave and his helpers on the main table.



We heard it's been another successful year at the club, lots of windsurfing, some great events, steady membership numbers, sound finances, and a popular website. We also had a good laugh and sampled the fine selection of beers.

The Ribs of Beef has loads of character built on a few centuries of serving up booze. Quite a contrast to the ultra modern Virgin Lounge where we met last year. It's a reminder of just how much diversity Norwich has to offer.

Next years quest is to find out why the occupants of Beijing, and Seattle are so interested in our website.

Panoramic view, on a peaceful day in November 2012



2013 Lock code



The lock code changed again in April. This is the web version of the newsletter. The lock code is only available for full time members.

Club Boat problems

A recent test of the boat highlighted a couple of problems. The fuel tank was found to be empty and some minor damage to the engine required repair. Both problems have now been rectified.

We wonder if a non-authorized member has used it.

The club boat could well be a lifeline in an emergency, and so it needs to be ready to go. It's therefore very important that it is only used by those who know how to look after it, launch / retrieve it, top up the fuel, and drive it safely.

If you want to be able to use it then you will need to provide evidence that you hold a Powerboat level 2 RYA qualification and will need to attend a familiarisation session with a member of the committee. To arrange this, please contact the membership secretary.

Staying alive

One of our more experienced windsurfers got into deep water recently, literally, and so it's a good time to remind ourselves how to keep safe.

The scene – very windy (stronger than expected), cold but warm for January, deep water due to the high tides, 2 ft swells, board, sail and sailor all detached from each other, stranded in open water a long way from the beach.

Staying alive – continued...

The complications – the board and sail soon blew out of reach, too deep to stand on the bottom, too rough to swim, too rough to be seen by others, cold was setting in. When the club boat was launched, it was difficult to control with water coming over the top.

There is a happy ending. The windsurfer made it to the water edge, partly blown along, partly swam. Extremely lucky that help was on hand at the shore, with a nice warm vehicle ride back to the clubhouse.

The learning points:

- Think twice about the conditions and whether you are within your ability zone. If not then go to the pub instead!
- Wear a buoyancy aid to help stay above the water.
- Carry an emergency day-glow flag to help be seen, and reduce the risk of being run over.
- Double check your kit and replace any suspect items – if in doubt replace it.
- Consider asking a qualified boat driver to get the boat in the water and be ready to go.
- Sail with others, keeping a close eye on each other.
- Consider getting a more modern and effective wetsuit to help keep you warm. Wear/carry a hood/gloves to reduce heat loss through your head and hands.
- If the conditions are challenging for you then keep on the beach side of the point – this will make it easier to be seen, and it's a shorter swim back.

All of these measures would have reduced the risk in this instance. For a more comprehensive list of risks and advice then study the club risk assessment on the club website. Click [here](#).

Remember – you sail at your own risk; there is no safety cover. So look after yourself!

Data protection

You will notice we have enhanced our data protection and updated the membership forms. We are now fully compliant with the Data Protection Act. We recognize that your personal data needs to be respected, carefully managed and kept safe.

Some key points:

- We don't share your personal information with anyone else.
- Data is restricted to the membership secretary and controlled by him. Our DP policy is on the website.
- We only collect data that we need.
- Information is kept in password protected files.
- We don't collect any 'sensitive data'.
- Member's pictures may be published on the website and in newsletters. However, we will not publish names without first gaining permission.
- Pictures of children under 18 will not be published without their parent's or guardian's permission.
- Click [here](#) for the club data protection policy.

Change of committee members



Out - Ben Harwood has reluctantly stood down from the committee. Since starting at university in 2010 he has found it difficult to make the meetings and feels it's best to make room for someone more local. Ben started sailing at Hickling at age 11. Many members will know Ben as an enthusiastic windsurfing instructor and freestyler. Ben developed his skills on Hickling and went on to win the UK freestyle youth championship a couple of years running. He is starting a career in the super yacht industry based in London.

Ben helped with club training days, encouraging new members to join up from Whitlingham, and entertained us with his freestyle. Thanks Ben, and for being such a great ambassador for the club.



In – Paul Bradnock was voted in at the AGM. A new member in 2012, Paul is making the most of his membership and can often be seen blasting around on the broad.

A big welcome to the committee Paul.

News Editor: Martin Harwood