

Hickling Windsurfing Club Newsletter

February 2019

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



Hello, I hope you're keeping warm!

It's been a fairly chilly month since I last wrote to you, but despite that the HWC Whatsapp group has remained fairly active with a few hardy souls planning to brave the conditions on the Broad, as well as at Hunstanton and Wells. I take my (woolly) hat off to anyone who tackles the conditions in January and February, although I also question their sanity!

As usual, a few updates and key pieces of information are contained below. Enjoy the read.

Richard, editorhwc@gmail.com

Please don't touch the water!

At this time of year, the freezing temperatures obviously create the risk of a burst water pipe in the changing rooms. For this reason, as soon as there is a forecast of freezing temperatures, we turn the water off. We only do this for the minimum amount of time possible, and turn the water back on as soon as the risk has passed.

If you find that the water is off, please don't attempt to turn it back on yourself. There is a knack to it, involving closing some drain down points: it's not as simple as just turning it back on. Unfortunately somebody tried it recently and flooded the changing rooms. Thanks to Darren and his Dad for mopping up.

We are exploring if there is an affordable frost protection solution that will prevent the need for the water being isolated. However, if there is a solution, it won't be in place for this winter, so please respect the advice above.

Working Party: Saturday 2 March, 10.30 am

Please come along and spend a couple of hours spring cleaning the beach and car park, and preparing the club facilities for the forthcoming season. The jobs will include clearing up fallen leaves; checking the kit; cutting back any overgrown bushes; deep cleaning the changing rooms, etc. Please bring any suitable tools (rakes, spades, etc), a sturdy pair of gloves and be prepared to muck in.

For everybody helping out there will be a **free drink** and a chance for a mardle in the pub afterwards.

Hickling Broad on TV this Sunday!

The project to dredge the Broad continues to make good progress despite the weather. At the end of January, the BBC visited and filmed the project for the Countryfile programme, capturing Hickling Broad in both icy splendour and murky fog! The footage is due to be shown this coming Sunday 10th February.

As of this week, only two geotextile bags are left to fill with dredgings to complete the boundary structure, within which the sediment will be pumped and contained. Remaining work for this season includes:

- Final checks of the sediment level within the geotextile bags; this will inform whether any 'top-up' is required to ensure the final fill level is correct, allowing for the settlement that takes place.
- Once the geotextile bags are completed, pumping of dredged sediment into the central area can commence and continue for the remaining work window

Water temperatures and other monitored parameters have remained well below operating thresholds. Monitoring continues on a daily and weekly basis. Work will continue whilst environmental conditions remain favourable, with dredging and pumping works concluding before the end of March.

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Water plants (or “weed” as you may call it!)

The Broads Authority began an experimental project to cut stonewort plants in Hickling in 2017. The Authority has collated the results of two seasons monitoring and produced an interim report, which they have shared with us. We have yet to study it, but I'll share the conclusions next month. The Authority will undertake further monitoring over the 2019 season to conclude this three year project.

Code of Conduct

We try to keep the club rules to a minimum, but it is a condition of membership that members abide by our code of conduct. The rules are simple- please follow them at all times.

Quite a few of the rules are stipulated in the leases that the club has on the car park and beach area, or are there for safety reasons. Contravention of the Code could make it difficult to renew the leases in the future.

The Committee has recently modified the Code slightly to reflect member feedback and changing demands. The revised Code of Conduct is below:

1. [The beach is for launching and retrieval of windsurfing boards \(priority\), kayaks, SUPs, and canoes only.](#)
2. [No vehicular access to the beach.](#)
3. [No overnight camping on the car park or beach.](#)
4. [No barbecues or fires on the beach.](#)
5. [All padlocks to be kept locked at all times other than for access to the beach while it is occupied.](#)
6. [Members' cars to display club year sticker.](#)
7. [No swimming from the beach.](#)
8. [No dogs.](#)
9. [The water's edge must be kept clear of equipment, and a path to the rigging area kept clear.](#)
10. [Buoyancy Aids must be worn when using Club Equipment.](#)

In particular, please remember to lock the car park gate after entering/ leaving. Also please be courteous to other club members and always leave the launching area and “path” to the beach free to allow easy access and launching. There were quite a few occasions last year when both these requirements weren't followed, causing problems for others.

AED Location

The AED has been moved to a clearly marked and dedicated storage box on the beach, and is no longer kept in the storage box by the boat.

Wot no secondhand kit?!?!

Last month I asked for anyone wishing to sell secondhand kit to send me the details for inclusion in the February newsletter. Rather surprisingly, nobody came forward with any kit to sell. However, I'll be happy to accept details of any kit for sale at any time and I'll include it in the next newsletter.

Good priced wetsuits

I'm always happy to share a bargain if I've spotted it. If you're in the market for a new winter wetsuit, www.kingofwatersports.com currently have some heavily discounted suits, and are offering an extra 5% off if you use the code WET5 at checkout. They offer free postage, and I've been served well by them for two recent purchases, so they're worth a look.

Sticker delay

As I reported last month, there has been a delay in the printing of the 2019 car stickers. They should be with us soon, so if you've returned your renewal form to Simon, please be patient and the sticker should come through your letter box very soon.

That's all for this month. Hopefully see you for the spring clean on Saturday 2 March.

With best wishes

Richard

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