



Issue 4

Up the Creek

Harlow Blackwater Sailing Club Newsletter

Commodores report: Mark Batt

So here we go again round two as commodore of Harlow (Blackwater) Sailing Club. Where do I start ? I guess with thanks to Clive who had a tough time leading the club through COVID, but we made it and now need to move forward and grow stronger. To this end, if at all possible can you come along and support our club Open Day . It starts at 10 am on 14th May. We need to show the club in a good light, with lots of on the water activities for our visitors.

We have done a huge amount over the winter to bring the club up to spec. See the report by Barry which details, the impressive number of jobs tackled during the working parties. A big thank you to those attending these, however, it was the same old story the same people turn up every time.

Barry, Bob, Pete and Jenny are a few names that did a lot more than most this winter so if you see them near the bar buy them a drink. Those all attending had free hot drinks and a meal prepared by Jenny's team in the galley. Thanks to them for the splendid meals provided. We do keep a note of the members attending the work parties, as your name is recorded on the food list. I expect those who could not attend, to either turn up for a summer work party or make the voluntary contribution not to do the work parties.

There are a few opportunities to help out at the club during the summer months please check your programme, but I think it is the last Friday of the month.

We now have a new Rib, the grey one has gone thanks to Geoff Kent's Arthur Daly act on eBay, "sold as seen my word is my bond lol".

The brand new rib is very orange! Thanks to Dave Islin and Barry Knights for making the long drive to collect it. We have managed to get a couple of grants thanks to Barry Knights and Rob Laurie, (see the separate report).

The first to help pay for the new starting system. A race can now be started single handed and we are adding a finish line camera.

The second grant for £5000 is for the refurbishment of the gents changing room, making them more hygienic COVID proof environment. There is a new floor, easy clean surfaces, new boiler and showers.

We are looking into extending the veranda and are meeting Maldon District Council to discuss options.



New committee 2022

COMMITTEE

Committee Position	Name	E-mail	Telephone	Mobile
Commodore	Mark Batt	markbatt0@gmail.com	01621 744805	07484 868907
Vice Commodore	Clive Tarling	clive.tarling@gmail.com	01992 524164	07802 257616
Rear Commodore	Geoff Kent	gefkent@gmail.com		07759 217550
Hon. Secretary	Tony Everitt	teveritt1957@gmail.com	01621 331182	07941 671491
Hon. Treasurer	Sandra Hockley	sandiehockley28@gmail.com	01371 874279	07788 541531
Cruiser Secretary	John Hockley	tjohnhockley@gmail.com	01371 874279	07850 700176
Sailing Secretary	Neil Clark	neil@bookkeepingessex.co.uk		07736 476583
House Secretary	Alan Serjeant	alanserjeant@btinternet.com	01621 741484	07767 817698
Membership Secretary	Barry Knights	barry_knights@sky.com	01621 842199	07929 734684
Publicity Officer	Edward Skinner	edwardaskinner@outlook.com		07905 970871
Bar Manager	Teresa Henderson	teresadawn@talktalk.net	01702 559570	07890 023844
Social Secretary	Vacancy			
Committee member	David Islin	david.islin@gmail.com	01245 259266	07836 237745
Committee member	Bob Parsons	bobsparks415@me.com	01621 840656	07540 191706
Committee member	Marcus Wallace	marcuswallace@hotmail.co.uk	01621 843792	07850 123322

FLEET CAPTAINS

Fleet	Captain	E-mail	Mobile
Fireball/Fast	Mike Bryant	mikey_u2@hotmail.com	07810 550506
Slow/Medium	David Islin	david.islin@gmail.com	07836 237745
Laser	Clive Tarling	clive.tarling@gmail.com	07802 257616

Editorial: Edward Skinner

The new season is now underway though its actually snowing today 31st March as I write this article. Dinghy racing has already started under the direction of our new sailing secretary Neil Clark, who stepped up at the AGM to take on the vacant post. Please give him as much support as you can to make 2022 a great sailing year. We have several new members of the committee or people who have changed positions, see above.

The only vacant position is social secretary, it would be great if someone or several people could step forward to organise some social events this year. If you have any new ideas it would be great to try them out.

The club is affiliated to the RYA and as such we participate in their membership survey. Sadly this showed a dramatic drop in our memberships in 2017 and 2018 less so in 2019. the good news is that the decline appears to have plateaued in 2020 and 2021. As a club we now need to strive to rebuild our membership numbers. The committee works hard to boost numbers and improve facilities at the club, but we must all as members take any opportunity to introduce new potential members to the club. We have a lot to offer, good facilities, a safe boating area, regular dinghy racing. Please talk to committee members if you have any ideas we can try out. Don't forget you can also drop ideas in the suggestions box or email hbsccommittee@gmail.com.

Bring or tell your neighbours and friends about our Open Day starting at 10am on Saturday 14th of May. Don't forget we try to cater for all boating activities, dingy sailing, cruising, canoeing, SUP's and windsurfing.

Again, please send me articles (edwardaskinner@outlook.com) at any time for the next newsletter, without articles the newsletter is a bit short and boring. No item is too small for inclusion. Thanks to all of the contributors for this issue.

Sailing Secretary: Neil Clark

The first races of the new season (Race 1 and 2 of the Spring series) kicked off on Sunday the 6th of March. It was a cold start to the season for the brave participants, with a strong N/E wind. 7 Lasers and 2 fireballs were soon rigged and ready to go. No one mentioned the wind strength and although there was a good breeze everybody was more concerned about the cold. As the boats were taken down the jetty it soon became apparent that it was slightly more than a fresh breeze. In fact, it was so windy that you had to hold onto the Lasers to prevent them blowing off the Jetty. Peter and Annabel seemed quite amused by this as they moved off in the rescue boat. Bob Parsons was the first to see sense and after capsizing on the Jetty correctly decided it was too strong for him. Maylandsea phoned to suggest postponing the race, but as the new sailing secretary was taking part it was too late. One by one they launched, helped by Laura to retrieve their trailers. Vicky quickly capsized and Barry unable to bear away just sailed to the other side of the river, only to be joined on the mud by Michael and Keith. As I looked out over the river Martin, Andy, Mark and Tony were all having an early season swim. Only Jack was still upright, but then he hit the mud at full speed. One Maylandsea boat launched before the Race officer cancelled racing for the day.

Saturday, 14 May 2022	12:03	5.2	10:00	** OPEN DAY **
Sunday, 15 May 2022	12:47	5.3	11:00	Summer Points 3&4 (HBSC)
Sunday, 22 May 2022	05:56	4.9	08:00	BJRC – Smith Cup
	18:12	4.7	16:30	Galley Cup (HBSC)
Friday, 27 May 2022			09:30	Club maintenance and gardening work party
Sunday, 29 May 2022	12:51	5.2	11:00	Summer Points 5&6 (HBSC)
Thursday, 2 June 2022 (BH)	15:05	5.0	13:20	Mayland Mug 1&2 (MBSC Open)
Friday, 3 June 2022 (BH)	15:36	4.9	13:50	Mayland Mug 3&4 (MBSC Open)
Saturday, 4 June 2022	16:09	4.8	14:25	Essex Air Ambulance race (HBSC)
Sunday, 5 June 2022	16:47	4.7	15:00	Helm's Trophy (HBSC)
Saturday, 11 June 2022	10:33	4.8	12:30	BJRC – Marconi Cup
Sunday, 12 June 2022	11:29	5.0	09:45	Summer Points 7&8 (HBSC)
Saturday, 18 June 2022	16:16	5.2	14:30	Safety boat available for casual water sports (HBSC)
Sunday, 19 June 2022	17:05	5.1	15:20	Osea Cup (Open Meeting) (HBSC)
Friday, 24 June 2022			09:30	Club maintenance and gardening work party
Saturday, 25 June 2022	10:53	4.9	09:30	Safety boat cover for casual water sports (HBSC)
Sunday, 26 June 2022	11:42	4.9	10:00	Summer Points 9&10 (HBSC)
Saturday, 2 July 2022	15:18	5.0	13:30	Solo Open Meeting (HBSC)
Sunday, 3 July 2022	15:53	5.0	14:10	Hells Bells Two Island Race (HBSC Open)
Sunday, 10 July 2022	09:50	4.6	12:00	BJRC – Blackwater Cup
Saturday, 16 July 2022	15:17	5.4	13:30	Safety boat available for casual water sports (HBSC)
Sunday, 17 July 2022	16:02	5.4	14:15	Challenge Cup (MBSC Open)

Date	High Tide	Tide Ht.	Start Time	Event
Friday, 22 July 2022			09:30	Club maintenance and gardening work party
Saturday, 23 July 2022	09:13	4.5	11:00	BJRC – Paget Cup
Sunday, 24 July 2022	10:16	4.5	12:30	BJRC – Stone Cruiser
Monday, 25 July 2022	11:13	4.7	09:15	H(B)SC Club Week
Tuesday, 26 July 2022	12:03	4.8	10:00	H(B)SC Club Week
Wednesday, 27 July 2022	12:45	4.9	10:45	H(B)SC Club Week
Thursday, 28 July 2022	13:22	5.0	11:20	H(B)SC Club Week
Friday, 29 July 2022	13:55	5.0	12:00	H(B)SC Club Week
Saturday, 30 July 2022	14:27	5.1	13:00	RNLI Pennant (HBSC)
Sunday, 31 July 2022	15:00	5.2	13:15	Bob Knight's Trophy (2 races) (HBSC)
Saturday, 6 August 2022	06:50	4.6	09:00	BJRC – Freeman Cup
Saturday, 6 August 2022	19:02	4.8	17:15	Evening Series 1 (HBSC)
Sunday, 7 August 2022	07:52	4.5	TBD	BJRC – Success Cup
Saturday, 13 August 2022	14:15	5.5	12:30	Safety boat available for casual water sports (HBSC)
Sunday, 14 August 2022	14:59	5.5	13:15	Autumn Points 1&2 (HBSC)
Saturday, 20 August 2022	19:18	4.4	17:30	Evening Series 2 (HBSC)
Sunday, 21 August 2022	08:08	4.2	10:00	BJRC – Brown Cup
Friday, 26 August 2022			09:30	Club maintenance and gardening work party
Saturday, 27 August 2022	13:31	5.1	12:00	Safety boat available for casual water sports (HBSC)
Sunday, 28 August 2022	14:04	5.2	12:30	Autumn Points 3&4 (HBSC)
Monday, 29 August 2022 (BH)	14:37	5.3	13:00	Reserve Date
Saturday, 3 September 2022	17:43	5.0	16:00	Evening Series 3 (HBSC)
Sunday, 4 September 2022	06:18	4.6	08:30	BJRC – Krohn Cup
Friday, 9 September 2022	12:28	5.4	09:30	Cruiser Recovery (HBSC)
Saturday, 10 September 2022	13:12	5.4	11:30	Laser Open Meeting (HBSC)
Sunday, 11 September 2022	13:56	5.5	TBA	Barts Bash (TBA)
Saturday, 17 September 2022	17:39	4.7	16:00	Evening Series 4 (HBSC)
Sunday, 18 September 2022	06:15	4.4	08:30	BJRC – Weathermark
Saturday, 24 September 2022	12:27	5.0	12:27	Cruiser Recovery (HBSC)
Sunday, 25 September 2022	13:02	5.1	11:20	Autumn Points 5&6 (HBSC)
Friday, 30 September 2022			09:30	Club maintenance and gardening work party
Sunday, 2 October 2022	05:06	4.9	07:30	BJRC – Reserve Day
Sunday, 2 October 2022	17:30	5.0	15:45	Autumn Points 7 (HBSC)

Congratulations to Mark Batt / Tony Everitt, Michael Bryant / Keith Taft, Bob Parsons, Vicki Riley, Martin Tarling, Barry Knights, Andy Lager, Neil Clark and Jack Mills, the brave participants who braved the elements.

Tides permitting we now have a full program of racing scheduled. See attached.

List of trophy winners 2021: Presented in the club house during the Autumn following racing, as the Christmas meal and award ceremony was sadly cancelled due to lack of support.

2021	Easter Pursuit	Neil Clark	Laser	HBSC
2021	Lawling Tankard	Paul Grey / Jack Mills tied	Kestrel/Laser	MBSC/HBSC
2021	Hells Bells	Jack Mills	Laser	HBSC
2021	Galley Cup	Jack Mills	Laser	HBSC
2021	Osea Cup	Jack Mills	Laser	HBSC
2021	BBQ	Martin Tarling	Radial	HBSC
2021	RNLI Pennant	Barry Knights	Laser	HBSC
2021	Helms Trophy	Martin Tarling	Radial	HBSC
2021	Cock of the River	Mark Batt/Tony Everitt	Fireball	HBSC
2021	Spring points	Rob Laurie	Solo	HBSC
2021	Summer points	Martin Tarling	Radial	HBSC
2021	Autumn Points	Jack Mills 2nd	Laser	HBSC
2021	Combined Handicap series winner	Martin Tarling	Radial	HBSC

CLUB BOATS FOR MEMBERS USE

We have a fleet of fully insured boats for members to use. The boats can be used by any member at any time.

However, if you wish to use the boats when there is **no** safety cover then there are a few rules to ensure your safety.

1. You must be competent to sail unsupported and the wind must be force 4 or less. If you are in doubt about your ability then please contact a committee member to seek advice.
2. If possible, take a phone with you as a safety measure.
3. Personal buoyancy aids and suitable clothing **MUST** be worn.
4. Notify a friend that you are going out and when you will be back. Phone them when you are back in.
5. **DO NOT SAIL OUT OF THE CREEK.** The sailing area is limited to the creek up to Mundon point.
6. Enjoy your sail!

The Club boat sails and buoyancy aids are all stored in the Cadet Hut which can be accessed using the gate key

PICO x 2 yellow:

The Pico is an easy to handle boat for all ages and abilities. There are 2 yellow Picos that can be rigged with a jib for sailing two up or just a main for single handed. The Picos are stored in the final row in the dinghy park next to the camping area.

The Pico spars (mast, boom), centre boards and rudders are stored in a rack under the veranda with sails in the old cadet hut.



LASER x 3 (1 red, 1 white and 1 yellow hull) :

The Laser is usually the next step after the Pico and is sailed single handed. It can be rigged with a 4.7m sail which is great for youth or lighter sailors, a Radial rig or a Full rig with 7.1m sail. We have 3 almost new 4.7 rigs and a full rig available.

The Lasers are stored in the final row in the dinghy park next to the camping area. The spars, centre boards and rudders are kept in each boat.



OPTIMIST x 2 (1 blue and 1 white hull):

The Optimist is a single handed dinghy for children (up to age 15). It is a great boat in which to learn to sail and many top class sailors have started in these!

The Optimists are stored in the final row in the dinghy park next to the camping area, with spars, centre boards and rudders are stored in a rack under the veranda.



TOPPER x 2

The Topper is a popular boat in which to learn to sail and for just messing about on the river. It is easy to rig and a good choice for beginners.

The Toppers are stored in the final row in the dinghy park next to the camping area with spars, centre boards and rudders are stored in a rack under the veranda.



WAYFARER (white hull):

The Wayfarer is a large boat with a jib and mainsail which can easily take 3 adults or a the whole family. We use this boat for training as it is stable and is ideal for cruising (when safety cover is available).

The Wayfarer is stored in the dinghy park in the row by the main gate. The centre board and rudder are kept in the boat.



GP14 (white hull):

The GP14 is a medium sized double handed boat with a jib and mainsail. It is lighter than the Kestrel and relatively stable and can still take upto 3 Adults

The GP14 is stored in the dinghy park in the row by the main gate. The centre board and rudder are kept in the boat



New Committee member Marcus Wallace profile:

Hi I am Marcus Wallace and have recently joined the H(B)SC committee.

I have been a member of H(B)SC on and off for nearly 50 years.

I started sailing with my father on a Swift Catamaran before having my own Cat in my early teens.

I sailed at the club and competed all over the country till I move to Devon with work. On my return to this part of the world I sailed a Hurricane 5.9 Cat at Marconi (much to big and fast for the Creek). This is were I met Debbie who sailed the same type of boat. After buying a small cruiser with my In-laws we moved back to Harlow and had a Yard mooring in the creek. We now have two children Abbie and Izzy both started sailing at the club and Abbie is now sailing for her Uni sailing team and Izzy still sails at the club. Debbie and I have been sailing an RS 200 for the past year.

I have trained as a race coach and been involved with youth training while Abbie was younger.

I have a passion to get people on the water and am happy to offer advice to anybody.

Away from sailing I try to run and Cycle when I can. Izzy is a keen triathlete so I try to keep up. I also like Classic cars especially Ginetta's.

House report: Barry Knights

Work Parties:

The work parties were held on 9th, 23rd January, 6th, 27th February 2022. The expectation is that each member attends at least one work party during the year, although there's no limit to how many you can attend!

Club maintenance:

During this year's work parties we have managed to carry out a great deal of work on the clubhouse and grounds. Much of which was overdue due to the restrictions over the past couple of seasons. This has been possible due to a fantastic turn out by our members, several dates had over 30 members attend.

The following have been refurbished or painted and freshened up:

Gent's changing room / toilets.

Ladies changing room / toilets & Gent's clubhouse toilets.

Lobby area which has also been and de-cluttered.

Lower half of the clubhouse painted black to match the clubhouse.

Mower and freezer storage areas.

Main gates

Cycle rack

Jetty barrier painted red and white stripes.

Cruiser outhaul points

New barge-boards have been painted and fitted to one end of the clubhouse.

New flooring boards have been laid on the main veranda area.

New flooring boards have been placed on the race box veranda and lead work to prevent leaks below.

A great deal of jet washing on the jetty to remove the winter build-up of seaweed and silt.

The grey rib has also been prepared for sale and sold on e-bay.

General inspection maintenance and up grading of the racing marks their sinkers and the securing tackle.

The lawn mowers were cleaned and where needed serviced. The old broken mowers have now been disposed of.

The brambles and under growth along the sea wall and around the container has been cut back or removed. There has also a huge effort to tidy up around the boarder hedges and the garage to enable a better view of the river.

There was also a great deal of cutting back and mowing done in the dinghy and cruiser park areas around the boats.

Holes on the lane have been filled.

The bridge to the saltings, which is used by our windsurfers has been repaired and strengthened.

The club signs on the jetty and the approach road have both been repaired.

Improvements:

The committee are constantly looking at ways to improve the club, it's grounds and the facilities in general. There has been a great deal of de-cluttering all around the grounds and within the buildings which was a request by many members in the recent club survey. So far this year we have improved the following:

Extra safety rails to the outside stairs.

Gents changing rooms:

All the old floor paint has been removed, back to bare concrete.

The floor has now been sealed and tiled with industrial non-slip tiles.

New automatic de-humidifying extractor fans will be fitted and heaters have also been added.

Various upgrades to the club's electrical systems have been made.

A new raised flower bed with seating has been built to replace the old dinghy flower bed. Believe it or not, we are still recycling and using the old jetty planks!

A plastic top edge has been added to the fencing either side of the windsurfer's gate to protect sails when in use. This gate will also now have a digital padlock the number of which will be 1955 the year the club was formed.

The area outside the container has been dug out and shingle laid to improve access all year round.

New tripod stands have been made to rope off the camping area whilst the grass is too soft to drive on.

The racing auto starting system has been upgraded and improved which enables just one person if necessary to run a race. This was possible as the club made an application for a micro grant, to the Essex Association for Local Councils. This was successful and we were awarded £500 towards the project.

A further gated /secure area under the clubhouse below the toilet end, is being built for storage and to tidy up under the clubhouse.

The club owned dinghies have been checked and reviewed, they will eventually be moved from the dinghy park to the first row of the tender racking for easier access. The spars, centre plates and rudders remain stored under the veranda and the sails are in the cadet hut with the club buoyancy aids.

Planned work / projects and ideas under consideration

Replacement of the boiler and showers in the gents changing rooms, which was highlighted as a priority by many members in the recent club survey. The club has made a grant application to the Essex Association of Local Councils. This was successful and the club has been awarded £5000 towards the refurbishment. The next stage will be purchasing all the items then installation! Due to the specialist paint required for the shower area, this area will be painted after the shower upgrade.

Racking for the cadet hut for windsurfers and kayaks.

An extension to the current veranda area to allow for more seating, which will give a better view of the river and be a more sociable area. We expect that this area will be big enough to have three of the picnic tables on it.

The purchase of another container for further storage next to the current one.

Finally

If you have any suggestions as to what we need at the club or anything which would improve the club and the facilities, then please speak to myself or a committee member. All ideas are discussed considered and most are supported and actioned! If you have any skills or equipment which would help with any of the club's on-going projects, then please let us know. Please also encourage anyone with interest in any water sports to come down and visit, as we always need to increase the membership. Taster sessions in boats, kayaks, windsurfers etc. can be arranged and planned.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all the members who have supported the work parties, many of whom have attended numerous days or all of them!

I would also like to make a special thank you to Jenny, for all the hot drinks and meals during the work parties. We always ask members to let us know if they will be attending, allowing Jenny plenty of time to prepare and buy food. Several of the days we were expecting 20 for food and 30 turned up! This was great but it also put Jenny under pressure feed everyone, so please just drop us an email or text message to confirm attendance. Once again, thank you to Jenny for all her hard work.

Many thanks for all the effort put in during the work parties, the club looks fantastic and is ready for another busy season. If you're missing the work parties, then please check the programme as there are now regular work parties on the last Friday each month though out the year!

See you on the water, the summer is coming!

Recent Grants obtained by HBSC

Through the guidance and assistance of Robert Laurie, our Membership Secretary, Barry Knights, successfully applied on behalf of the Club through two separate Covid Grant Schemes established By Essex County Council.



Micro Grant Communication & Technology Fund – awarded £500

This assisted with the costs of the IT equipment used to establish the new one person race control system built by Dave Islin, which now just requires a Race Officer to operate racing from the Race Box which could not accommodate adequate social distancing for Covid purposes.

Covid-19 Response Small Grants Adult Grassroots Clubs & Activities Fund – awarded £5000

This has assisted with the costs of the major refurbishment of the Men's Changing Rooms which includes tiling of the floor area, new showers, new hot water boiler, and washable painted walls, all of which will improve hygiene and help with cleaning of the changing rooms to prevent potential Covid spread

Dates for the diary: Maldon Hythe/Thames Barges

For those of you who love the Hythe Quay in Maldon and the barges moored there, here are some dates which might interest you.

Maldons famous Mud Race takes place this year on Sunday 24th April

The Thames Barge Association who run and maintain two barges Pudge and Centaur are holding their May Day Open weekend on 1st and 2nd May.

Pudge is one of the little ships which took part in the evacuation of soldiers from Dunkirk. It is also celebrating its 100th birthday this year and is nearing the completion of a major refit.

If you want to see the Blackwater Barge match this year it is being held on the 6th August. A good chance to go out in your cruiser for the day and see the action first hand.



Our own H(B)SC Mud Race