

## Sailing Committee AGM Report 2025

### Overview

Sailing clubs across the UK continue to face challenges, as the sport declines and competes for people's time and resources. Despite this, HISC is standing strong and working hard to deliver exceptional experiences for all members.

---

### Club Racing

We continue to provide first-class racing both in the harbour and in the bay. However, participation this year is down by approximately 12 % race starters. Whilst some classes continue to grow in terms of turnouts the most notable declines are the youth classes, Aero (taken across all rig sizes) and the Finn.

Handicap racing continues to be popular. The Race Committee has been regularly reviewing results and when deemed necessary make Handicap adjustments to suit Bay and Harbour racing together with tidal adjustments.

Dutyman has functioned much better than in recent years with a strong take up of member volunteers. Thanks go to **Theo Gaylor** our Sailing Supervisor who manages Dutyman and member duty allocation . He has made a notable difference in ensuring duties are filled.

WhatsApp groups are proving to be very effective in helping drive class activity and feedback to Race Committee in real time to help make decisions that enhance our offering. It's good see that the crew finder group is also gaining momentum together with many more adult-and-child combinations taking part.

The Race and Sailing Committees continue to explore new ways to enhance our offering, which may include supported racing and guest racing opportunities.

A huge thank you to **Dave Hitchcock** and his team on the Racing Committee for ensuring our racing remains competitive and relevant.

---

### Boardsports

The boardsports community continues to grow and thrive, with more members learning to wingfoil—or dusting off windsurfing kit for a blast in the recent winds.

This year we again hosted initiatives such as **She Flies**, which proved extremely popular. It is inspiring to see so many of our female sailors on the water. In fact, Hayling is widely recognised as having the largest female winging community in the UK, and is considered one of the very best locations for winging nationwide.

We've been perusing and advertising demo days to give members access to try equipment and get purchase advice from experts. Visits from Duotone, Swift Foiling and AFS have been greatly appreciated. Seeing a new cohort of beginners take it up this year (and members learning how to help each other learn!) has been fantastic, building wonderful community spirit across ages and abilities.

A new rule was introduced this year requiring a £50 boardsports registration fee per membership (not per individual member) where anyone over 18 participates in windsurfing or foiling. We ask everyone in the boardsports community to ensure this is set up correctly on their account by November, for the 2026 renewal cycle.

The **locker project** slowed following Henry's departure, but the initiative now has new leadership, and we hope to see momentum build again shortly.

Thank you to **Angus McIntyre** for his tireless motivation to the community this year. He has organised the supported sessions, making them available to all members, welcoming and extremely beneficial.

---

## **Cruising**

The cruising community have enjoyed rallies around the Solent and across the English Channel to St Vaast, the lively Social Sailing group have organized trips to several venues within the harbour and long running Sundowners group have put on competitive round the cans 'events' in Hayling Bay on Thursday evenings. The annual 'Sparkes Trophy and Nab Cup' race weekend continues what is now something of an institution, dating back over forty years.

It has been another largely incident free year on the moorings, the main problem has been one or two break-ins. We are investigating security solutions for the boats out there, but as always, we need to stay vigilant. This year we had some vacancies on the moorings, which gave us the opportunity to invite visitors for temporary overnight stays. This generates income and introduces visiting yotties to the joys of HISC.

Special mention must go to the team behind the new **Selene**. They faced challenges with varied opinions, but listened carefully, responded thoughtfully, and ultimately delivered a brilliant vessel. Since her launch, Selene has been widely praised for her seaworthiness and practical design. A few tweaks remain, as expected, but she is an outstanding craft. Heartfelt thanks to **Rod Carr, James Yearsley, and Conrad Cockburn** for their tireless efforts in bringing her to life.

A massive thank you to the Cruising Committee for another year of hard work and especially to **Guy McBride** who stands down as Rear Commodore of Cruising but not going far away.

---

## Youth Sailing

The Youth Section has had many highlights this year:

- **Seals** sessions continue to provide a fun way for young sailors to make new friendships on the lagoon and beach. Many thanks to **Rachel Evans** and her team of parents for making these possible.
- Another successful **Red Ribbon Training Club** was run by **Melvyn Cooper**, helping young sailors gain confidence to progress beyond the lagoon.
- **Youth Race Week** was brilliantly managed by **Annie Lewis** and her team, who delivered a well-organised and exciting event.
- **Sonnie and his team** ran three training camps (Easter, May, and Summer), as well as multiple Level 1 and 2 courses.

However, youth sailing has also faced challenges. This was the first year without a **Rear Commodore (Youth)**, a vital role for coordinating fleets and ensuring effective communication with the Sailing Committee. As a result, turnout for club racing, Youth Training Week, and Family Fun Week was lower, which also reduced training and dinghy hire uptake.

We are delighted to announce that **Gemma Griffiths** has been appointed as the new Rear Commodore for Youth. We warmly welcome her and thank her for taking on this important role.

---

## Championships & Events

It has been another strong year for championships. While we have not had as many week-long, party-style events, we have hosted major competitions that showcased HISC at its very best. These included:

- RS Aero UK Southern Championship
- ILCA Masters Nationals & EurILCA UK Masters
- ILCA Masters European Championships
- International Europe Class Masters & Youth European Championships
- 2000 Class National Championship
- RS21 UK & Ireland Cup & National Championships
- Musto Skiff Nationals

We also hosted Open Meetings for Optimists, Europes, Finns, Solos, Flying Fifteens, Ospreys, 505s, 29ers, and Fireballs. Many of these combined into joint events, making them both more enjoyable and more cost-effective.

Other highlights included:

- **Round Hayling Challenge** (boardsports)
- **New Optimist & Tera Around Hayling Island Race**
- **HISC Youth Race Week**
- **Chichester Harbour Race Week**

Still to come, we are excited for the return of **The Tide Ride** on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November. This event is all about fun, is a fantastic spectator sport from the clubhouse balcony, and brings with it a great party atmosphere.

The **Youth Winter Training Programme** is also launching now, with coaching across all junior and youth fleets.

---

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the **Sailing Committee** for their support over the last three years. Together, we have achieved a great deal—and there is still much more to do.

HISC is, above all, a **club**. It can only thrive when members contribute—whether racing, cruising, winging, or simply lending a hand. We cannot leave the work to others, nor only pay for the part we use. We are part of something greater, and it is wonderful.

**Sarah Mitchell**

Vice Commodore Sailing.

1.10.2025