



Press Release

October 2015

Second hugely successful season of HISC Get Racing Club ends with a flourish



HISC Get Racing Club 2015 season

The second year of the HISC Get Racing Club finished with a flourish earlier this month with the HISC Flag Officers hosting the final on-water event in October, in exceptionally warm and sunny conditions. The hugely successful initiative, which uses experienced club volunteers to mentor non-racing members and encourage them to learn new skills and have a go at informal racing, succeeded in transiting some of its members into main club racing and regatta events this year.

Taking full advantage of the mild autumnal weather, the first September Get Racing Club event bristled with experienced volunteer mentors in the form of Rear Commodore Racing Andy Partington together with Karen Partington, Debbie Darling and Gareth Edwards. With a perfect 10 knots of breeze and warm sunshine, the aim of the session was to hone race starting techniques including line transits, holding positions and line bias. Seven short races were organized to enable a good number of race starts for the mix of RS Ventures, Qubas, Lasers, Aero and RS 200 participants.

A good level of improvement was noticed as a result of the session, with GRC Participant Selina Strowlger commenting, "We are so lucky to have such superb support from top mentors and volunteers in a great sailing environment. Thanks Debbie, Andy, Karen and Gareth for giving us a great afternoon's sailing."

The penultimate event of the 2015 season once again enjoyed idyllic late-season sailing conditions. Hosted by a mix of hugely experienced Laser 4000 and Fireball sailors, Doug Baker, Dave Watson and Toby Hamer, the Get Racing Club event welcomed back the RYA Sailing Development Manager Hannah Cockle. Starts, laylines and leeward mark roundings were the focus of the day with the sailors benefiting from the light winds and blue sunny skies. Mentor Toby Hamer added to the learning experience by videoing participants which was used to great effect in the post-race debrief.

RYA Sailing Development Manager Hannah Cockle commented, "I had such a great time at the HISC Get Sailing Club; I haven't been out sailing for a while so thank you for having me. Jo, Rachel and Ian were fantastic sailing partners in the RS Venture; it was great fun."

The final Get Racing Club event of the 2015 season was hosted by the HISC Flag Officers in the form of Commodore Greg Lamb, Vice Commodore Sailing Mike Dawe, Vice Commodore House John Rees together with very experienced sailor Victoria Payne. Once again the Get Racing Club participants enjoyed incredibly warm and sunny conditions with a perfect 10-12 knot breeze. The All Star mentor team put on an excellent series of 3 back to back, triangle/sausage races for the 19 sailors. Learning techniques for the day included roll tacking and light airs boat handling.

Regular participant to GRC Claire Lewis commented "Thank you for a great final GRC for this year and for the positive feedback; I really enjoyed it. Huge thanks to all who have volunteered to run GRC and put time in to running this great stepping stone to helping us all improve our sailing."

The Get Racing Club will celebrate its achievements of the season at the End of Season party at 6.00pm on Saturday 24th October 2015 at the club.

In 2015 the HISC Get Racing club saw 252 sailors participate across the 12 events held from April to October. 12 Get Racing Club members felt confident enough with their new racing skills to take part in mainstream club and open regatta events.

Mike Dawe Vice Commodore Sailing commented; "It's been another phenomenal year for the HISC Get Racing Club. It's a successful concept for people going racing and the way sailors are thinking about racing today. It's fun, short and sharp. Well done once again to all who've been involved."

Visit the HISC Get Racing Club Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/HISC.GRC/ to see videos and images from the events and to read comments from the participants.





Ends

Notes for Editors:

October 2015

Hayling Island Sailing Club (HISC) is the United Kingdom's leading dinghy sailing club, occupying a magnificent site at the entrance to Chichester Harbour on the South Coast of England. In its 90 year history, HISC has had a leading role in British sailing encouraging innovation and development, hosting Olympic, National and World class events and nurturing many generations of sailing champions.

The Club is sited on a sandy peninsular with direct access to two superb sailing areas; either the sheltered water of the harbour or the open water of Hayling Bay - an ideal venue for national and international championships. At high tide it is possible to lay an Olympic course adjacent to the sailing club, allowing superb spectating from the impressive clubhouse.

HISC organises regular weekend racing throughout the year for a wide range of dinghy classes as well as regular Youth events and training and Cruiser races; there is a very active social sailing section.

In January 2015 HISC won the prestigious Yachts and Yachts 'Club of the Year' award for 2014. For media enquires please contact Sarah Johnson at sarah@mailjohnson.co.uk or call +44 (0) 1243 370847 or 07855 557034. For Hayling Island Sailing Club enquiries please contact Carol Letten, General Manager carol.letten@hisc.co.uk or call 02392 463768