

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 5

# COLDHAM CHRONICLE

**Goldham Hall Sailing Club Est. 1951**

***'The Heart of Sailing in the Yare Valley'***

**President: Gary Corbett**



## Club Officers

**Commodore:** David Taitt

[david.taitt@gmail.com](mailto:david.taitt@gmail.com)

**Vice - Commodore:** Vacant

**Rear Commodore:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Emma Crowfoot

[ejcrowfoot@gmail.com](mailto:ejcrowfoot@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** David Woolston

[woolston546@btinternet.com](mailto:woolston546@btinternet.com)

**Race Officer:** Ben Adams

[tobenadams6@gmail.com](mailto:tobenadams6@gmail.com)

**Social Secretary:** Amanda Blezard

**Bosun:** David Taitt

[david.taitt@gmail.com](mailto:david.taitt@gmail.com)



[www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk](http://www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk)



Coldham Hall Sailing Club



Yare Navigation Race



CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race

## The Coldham Chronicle

Welcome to our final Chronicle of 2025, we hope you have enjoyed and been amused with our reports and musings, and we plan to continue to keep all our members up to date with our club events and stories throughout 2026.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas (for those who celebrate that is). Yes, we can officially use the C word now! With the AGM and the Pudding race over the CHSC 2025 season has come to an end. Sam and Tom at the boatyard are busy putting the Yeoman fleet to bed and minds are turning to joining with friends and families and hoping Santa got the note about all the new sailing/boarding or canoeing gear we hope to get.

We received some sad news at the beginning of the month when we were informed that club member David Warner had sadly passed away. A tribute to David from his sailing friend David Nunns is in this issue.

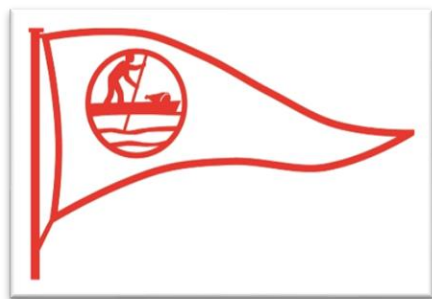
As usual for December we give you details of the AGM held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December (apologies for its detail), coverage of the last of the winter downriver series and the Xmas pudding race and a catch up with the Midweekers, paddlers and canoeists.

Importantly we send everyone our best wishes for a happy and peaceful festive season, looking to the future a Happy 2026, and see you back on the water sailing and/or paddling.

**Reminder.** Closing date for the club's **Annual Dinner** on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026 is 23<sup>rd</sup> December, if you wish to attend please contact Mandy Blezard before then.

**And finally Its best wishes from me and take care from him. xx**





## Notes from The Committee

No meeting for the committee this month as December brings the club's Annual General Meeting.

David Taitt again takes up the Commodore reins, but sadly no volunteers for either Vice or Rear Commodores came forwards. The committee were elected with one member joining the committee

The Coldham Hall Sailing Club 2026 Officers and Committee as elected at the AGM are: -

### The Club Flag Officers:-

President – Gary Corbet  
Commodore – David Taitt  
Vice & Rear Commodore – to be filled  
Race Officer – Ben Adams  
Treasurer – David Woolston  
Honorary Secretary – Emma Crowfoot

### General Committee: -

David Durrant  
Mike Roll  
David Greenacre  
Chris Logue  
Amanda Blezzard  
Nigel Kippin.

Nigel Kippin was proposed and voted onto the clubs committee which he accepted. Welcome Nigel.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm online.

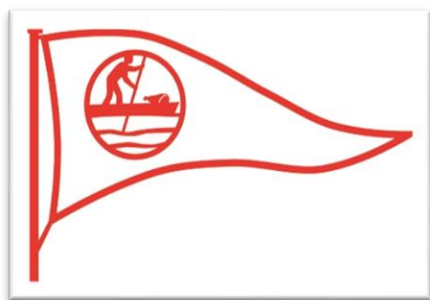
Anybody wishing to put forwards ideas or suggestions for consideration by the committee please contact any of the Officers or members of the committee.

## Upcoming Events 2026

<b>January</b>	
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Presentation Dinner (2065)
<b>April</b>	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Racing Season Commences
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Club Open Day
<b>May</b>	
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	CHSC/NFSC/WOD Open Regatta
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	CHSC/NFSC/WOD Open Regatta
<b>June</b>	
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Hardley Mill Cruise & BBQ
<b>July</b>	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Regatta
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Triple B race
<b>August</b>	
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Reedham Race
<b>September</b>	
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Yare Navigation Race
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	CHSC/Waveney OD
<b>October</b>	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Commodores Day
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Downriver Series starts
<b>December</b>	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual General Meeting
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Pudding Race

The above list is correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change throughout the year. A full list of all racing and social events for 2026 will be shortly updated on the club website.





## 2025 Annual General Meeting

Outgoing Commodore David Taitt opened the evening and welcomed members to CHSC 75<sup>th</sup> AGM

All present then joined in a period of reflection for David Warner and other friends who are no longer with us.

All members received a copy of last year's AGM minutes, along with tonight's Agenda, Financial documents and proposals for our 2026 Committee.

### Commodores Report David Taitt.

We started 2025 with the renewal of the quay heading and a programme of work parties to clear trees and scrub along the riverbank - many thanks to Bill Clark for leading this project and club members for supporting.

Despite the frustrations of Train Reach, our club still offers arguably the very best boating and sailing on the Broads, as evidenced by the level of engagement from both sailing and paddle members. The sailing programme runs from the beginning of April to the end of December, with as many as twelve boats competing weekly in local and downriver race series. The paddle section continues to grow with twenty or more taking to the water on Tuesday evenings over the summer months. Our open events continue to attract visiting sailors with Norfolk Dinghies from Norwich Frostbites joining our Open Regatta in April and the Oulton Broad Waveney fleet visiting us for a weekend in September. The Triple-B race attracts a growing entry with some twenty boats taking part in this year's race: we were particularly pleased to welcome three Albacores from Yorkshire, one of which went on to win the race.

The weather this year has been challenging with some races cancelled for too little or too much wind; the YNR being one such casualty of storm Amy, with gusts of over 50 mph.

We're only a small club but we punch well above our weight in terms of club activities, which rely entirely on the support of our membership. Accordingly, I would like to offer thanks to all who have volunteered for work parties, race duties and event support. Without your help we simply couldn't do any of this. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for their counsel, direction and diligence in keeping the club, as it were, "on an even keel". Finally, to all of you who maintain your membership and participate in making CHSC the great little club that it is; thank you.

### Race Officer's report. Ben ADAMS

Reflecting on this year's sailing, it has been most enjoyable most of the time but with one or two notable exceptions. The weather has been dry and sunny through spring and summer, and we have largely avoided the flooding, but the wind has been changeable as always. The first cancellation came in July with the 2nd picnic race. I think this was due to lack of wind. The rescheduled race in August was also cancelled for the same reason, and it was not possible to reschedule again. Then we had storm Amy which hit our shores on the very day of the YNR. After many years of planning and support commitment from our members, it was reluctantly called off. Understandable, as we have seen in the past, how much damage there can be to the river cruisers in strong winds. Still, we look forward to a special event next year which will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Over the year we have had a very good turnout on race days. On average 8 to 10 boats come to the line, largely Yeoman's and 1 regular Wayfarer sailed by Paul Parker and on occasions helmed by his 7-year-old nephew Jasper. Jasper has also been crewing for Paul in this winter series and deserves great admiration. We have had 15 Yeoman's racing at various times during the year which compares favourably with other bigger clubs such as Norfolk Broads Yacht Club and Horning Sailing Club.

The river cruisers have had a difficult year. Only 3 races out of 8 were competed. This is due to clashes with other events and due to the weather.

Our open regatta was well supported with some 5 Norfolk One Design dinghies joining us from Norwich Frostbite who won all of the general Allcomers trophies.

Picnic 1 was a lovely day with a pleasant lunch at Cantley and the crew of Kingfisher romping home on the 2nd leg to win the trophy.

The Hardley Mill Cruise saw 4 boats enjoy a lovely sail down to the mill with a bring your own picnic lunch this year. This arrangement worked well and will be adopted again next year.

The club regatta was a strange day. We had 9 Yeoman's racing in the morning, but the wind died in the afternoon with only 3 Yeoman's contesting for the trophy in the afternoon.

Next came the Triple B, this year being scheduled in the middle of the summer which suited the better tide times and longer daylight hours. There were 20 entrants, 18 starters and 17 finishers. The non finisher was a rather slow half decker that set off rather late and retired on the first leg at Reedham. The day belonged to the Albacore trio, finishing 1st, 3rd and 5th. A visiting Yeoman from Horning Sailing Club came 2nd and the 3 Punts came 4th, 6th and 7th. Thanks to Nigel and Jenny for both promoting the event and managing the race so successfully on the day while I was supping champagne at my son's wedding.

Two weeks later with an equally favourable tide was the Reedham race. A close-run race with Nigel Kippin winning the 1st leg and Bill Clark, borrowing Magpie, winning the return leg. Nigel just winning overall on the combined time.

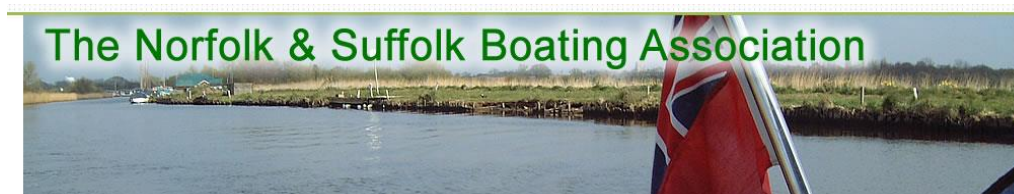
Towards the end of the summer season saw the visit by the Waveney One Design fleet from Oulton Broad and it is nearly their entire fleet. 9 Boats in tow by 6 motor cruisers arrived in good time during the Friday in readiness for the weekends racing. This event is fast becoming the highlight of the year. The Waveney's are a sociable bunch and very capable sailors. This year we introduced the inter club team race including the Norfolk Frostbites. We all race in Waveney dinghies 2 boats per team. It is not surprising that the Waveney team came out on top with the Frostbites close behind. We gave them a close race, but their clever team tactics kept us behind. I would like to promote the Saturday as more of a club event similar to our open regatta programme.

We are all now enjoying our winter series with one more race to go this Sunday and to finish off a great year we have the Christmas pudding race the week after.

I have circulated the race programme for next year. You will see that all regular events have been included. I went along to the NSBA fixture meeting this year which discusses all the open events on the Northern and Southern rivers to avoid any clashes. In particular I have tried to avoid dates with the Yare Sailing Club programme where our river cruisers also take part. There is still time to amend the programme if you can see any changes that will help. The Triple B continues with a mid-summer date on Saturday 11th July and the YNR has a more favourable date of Saturday 5th September. There is still work to do on the duty rota so if you see that the date for your duty is inconvenient, please let me know and I can make the appropriate changes.

**The Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association produces a monthly eNewsletter 'BroadsSide' the December issue is included as an attachment with your Chronicle.**

**NSBA Website <http://www.thegreenbook.org.uk>**



## Honourable Treasurer. David Woolston

As can be seen in the past years accounts the income from members and craft stored both in the dinghy park and on the deep water moorings rose just under expectations after an increase in fees of 5% to a total of £23,428 against the 2024 figure of £22,480 this figure was driven by a slight increase in both Family and paddle board membership but a reduction in numbers of single sailing membership

Try sailing evenings also experienced a further reduction in participants with a contribution of £700 against 2024 contribution of £1222

For member's information membership figures are

	2024	2025
Full Member	38	34
Family Member	44	45
Social Member	4	3
Try Sailing Member	13	7
Paddle Family	22	24
Paddle Single	10	13
Dinghy	31+1	29+1
Mooring - Cruiser	4	4
Mooring - Half decker	15	15
Paddleboard etc.	31	42

Looking at the profit and loss section of the clubs income, the Yare Navigation Race made a very healthy profit of £853 rather surprising as the race was cancelled due to inclement weather against the previous year's contribution of £1046 this is of course explained by entry fees received which of course will have a proportional effect on next year's receipts, this amount also includes the £300 sponsorship contribution from Jeckells of Wroxham after Mr. Chris Jeckell contacted the club wishing to still make the payment to reflect the work still done with organising the event, payments of £210 in returned entry fees together with £225 for engraving have been made in the 2026 accounts which will of course reflect in next year's accounts.

The annual dinner shows a small loss of £17. The Open Regatta contributed £57 rather less than the previous year of £270 which can be explained by the club policy of a flat rate contribution of £30 per year for cakes and teas.

The Triple B race contributed £75 with no monies being donated to the Nancy Oldfield Trust, after a rather unfortunate incident which saw the this club event pay £475 to the Frostbites Sailing Club for repairs after a collision occurred damaging the Frostbites rescue boat. Bank interest was £252 down from last year's £350 in line with falling interest rates

Turning to the Expenditure section of the accounts

The rent increased as per our lease agreement by the percentage increase in the RPI to £10899 this being an increase of £435 on the previous year's cost of £10464 a percentage increase of 4% slightly less than the previous year's 7%, but still a substantial increased cost to the clubs accounts, we must hope it keeps falling

Insurance costs raised to £1557 from £1303 not an unexpected rise given the recent hikes in general insurance premiums. Repairs and expenses for club Facilities cost £17121 of which by far the largest cost was for the expected quay heading repairs £15304 (Total cost £25268). Other large costs include the annual service charge to Coldham Hall Tavern £726, Grass cutting £795 Club boats made a health contribution of £208 after a welcome increase in use.

Rescue boat expenses Rescue Boat fell to a more normal level

Miscellaneous costs are made up of small costs incurred over the year not placed in any of the other designated areas of the balance sheet. Printing = £104 White book Slight increase on last year

End of year Balance

The balance held in cash at year end amounted to £16,893 a decrease from the previous year's £22,644 the decrease explained by the exceptional cost of the quay heading replacement.

After very prudent management happily this end of year cash balance is just within the club target of one year's expenses held in reserve

Treasurers Estimated 2025 for year ending Oct 2026

I have prepared these estimated set of accounts in the large part comparing like with like from the last year's accounts. In my opinion it is the best option as a comparison as it's impossible to predict the future.



Turning to the main theme of the estimated accounts. The increase in fees of 5% recommended by myself and your committee. This increase we feel is needed for these reasons. The clubs unavoidable cost increases, rent, insurance, toll fees etc, and also to continue rebuilding the clubs financial reserves (it has always been accepted that the club tries to hold one year's operating cost in reserve (approx. £15000) I have included the amount of £1000 in the repairs to the fabric of the club to hopefully cover the cost of the re-roofing of the clubhouse. Also it seems the quay heading of the side dyke is coming to the end of life, with that cost to bear in mind, together with ongoing problems with the overflowing of the toilets at high tide to be resolved. Looking further ahead your committee is very alert to the fact that the clubs lease is coming to its term end in 2029 knowing it would be prudent to be financially ready to take advantage of opportunities such as the purchase of the land if such could be arranged, but in all scenarios are aware that there will be costs associated with any course of action required to ensure the ongoing success of the club.

Looking at the estimated accounts you can see that if all goes well and with an ongoing strict restraint on all spending this should leave the club with a total of £25,174 in the bank. £15,000 of that figure is equal to one year's operating costs held in reserve, with the remainder approx. £10,000 a beginning to making sure that the club is ready to meet any financial challengers ( quay heading replacement of the side dyke etc., plus a start made on building a war chest for any eventuality which may be incurred with the end of the clubs lease)

Looking back over your clubs last year's financiers with its huge challenges and subsequent achievements I am sure you agree that it is proven that a healthy reserved of funds is a must if the club is to continue to flourish and grow. I hope you can all support this proposal for a 5% increase in the fees, which I think will keep the fabric of the club intact, provide the necessary resources to navigate the end of lease cost whatever that cost may be, and also maintain the financial safety net in the bank.

With regard to the increase in membership and mooring/dinghy park fees, I would like to inform you that the increase is 5% rounded up

We must all remember that as the faculties footprint of the club increase so will the cost of maintain those faculties we all enjoy.

The election of Officers and committee was then carried out. As nobody has come forward to take on the role of Officers the proposal was to re-elect the previous officers for a further year. Motion carried. Nigel Kippin has volunteered to join the committee and was duly elected. All other committee members agreeing to and elected serve for a further year. The auditors have agreed to continue for a further year.

Following the end of AGM business, an open discussion then followed.

### **Tree and Scrub clearance over the winter.**

Bill Clark detailed the work he is doing discussing tree cutting primarily with the RSPB, it is Bill's pledge to return the Broad to navigational as in years past allowing sailing craft free passage on stretches now overgrown by tree's. Bill has agreement from the RSPB to clear trees and scrub on the south bank opposite Strumpshaw Fen, Bill will be sending out messages early in the new year requesting support from members and friends to help clear and burn areas which have been cut. Importantly Bill will take along his cooker for tasty Bacon & sausage butties and hot drinks . **Watch out for requests.**

**Ian Barker** asked if the paddle members felt that they were getting fair representation within the club? Paddle members present felt that they were treated as inclusive members and received a positive and welcoming experience. This is leading to more people visiting and joining the club.

**Dave Woolston** asked if the race programme was to be amended to allow competitive races on the Sunday after events such as YNR and Triple B? It was decided to leave programme as is.

**Bill Clark** asked the club to write an official letter to the NSBA asking the BA to reconsider their policy for Bargate Broad and the potential loss of the broad and its impact on our clubs heritage of sailing on and us of the Broad.

**Stuart Lee** questioned if preparations are under way to deal with any issues relating to the renewal of the lease due in 2029? Discussions are underway with the Wellington Pub Company and various options are being considered.

All attending called for a 'toast' to Mandy and Michael for arranging/preparing the 'Mulled wine' and mince pies for the evening and all Mandy's social planning for the club throughout the year.

The membership also thanked all the Flag Officers and Committee for their hard work throughout the season.

The date of the 2026 AGM will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026.

**DAVID GEORGE WARNER Born 26th May 1953**

It was with sadness we were informed of the sudden death of club member David Warner, David joined CHSC in November 2012. Although David lived in Sutton Coldfield he took every opportunity and headed to Brundall to take part in sailing and racing his Yeoman *Speedwell* at Coldham Hall.



David was born on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1953 and lived in Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands. In his free time he would travel to Norfolk to stay on his Hampton Safari motor cruiser moored at Freshwater Marina in Brundell.

David was a bachelor, during his younger years he travelled extensively in Asia and South America, becoming a College Lecturer in Electronics until his retirement some years ago. David was a Justice of The Peace for Birmingham & Solihull for 22 years before retiring at 70 years of age.



The High Sheriff of the West Midlands making a presentation to David Warner JP on his retirement as Bench Chair of Birmingham & Solihull after 2 years, following a total of 22 years of service as a Magistrate. 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

**David Nunn's tribute to his sailing partner and friend David Warner.**

David joined Coldham Hall Sailing Club 2012, together in September 2014 we purchased Y117 Speedwell from fellow member John Well's which we continued to sail together on the River Yare. When David retired from the Bench he was able to spend more time in Norfolk mainly on his motor cruiser, although he still conducted tours of the Birmingham Magistrates Courts.

We have a lot of happy memories sailing Speedwell and we would often sail downriver to Cantley or Reedham and have lunch in a pub. David preferred the Reedcutter at Cantley as he considered the food to be better value, i.e. lots of it for a reasonable price. We also would generally motor upriver, perhaps calling in at the Surlingham Ferry or the Water's Edge.

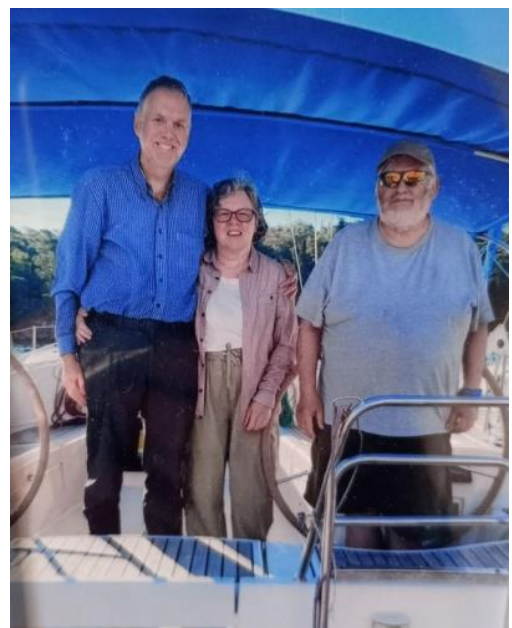
Our racing record was not good, which we would frequently joke about. Our greatest achievement was coming second in the first Coldham Hall Triple B Race; we were only second because only two boats finished within the allotted time.

David liked to attend club social events, including the annual club dinner, even though Speedwell never won a trophy, together we also enjoyed attending the Hardley Mill BBQ or picnic and other club functions.

David supported being a Marshall at the Yare Navigation Race, prior to the race he would update and continually develop the Excel spreadsheets used for inputting results on the day as they came in, a difficult process receiving times from the Start, four timing points and the Finish, the committee and entrants waiting results which he and his team produced timely and importantly accurate. A lot of careful hard work.

When Officer of the Day at Coldham David always enjoyed driving the safety boat.

I had three sailing holidays with David, each time sailing yachts in a flotilla around the Greek Islands. The last time was May this year where we sailed from Corfu to the Saronic Islands through the Corinth Canal. That trip had been on David's bucket list since he retired from the magistrates at 70.





## OOD Duties – April 2026

Early we know but so you can update your new 2026 diaries ready for April

DATE	ALLCOMERS EVENT	River Cruiser Class	OOD	SECOND OFFICER	THIRD OFFICER
5 <sup>th</sup>	Local (1)		D Woolston	M Woolston	D Durrant
12 <sup>th</sup>	Local (2)		D Jaffey	J Robertson	S Lee
19 <sup>th</sup>	Downriver (1)		D Greenacre	M Roll	S Roll
26 <sup>th</sup>	Local (3)		B Clark	C Brown	C Logue

## Winter Sailing Series

### **Race 5 Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

After heavy showers and flooding on the Saturday, it was lovely to arrive at the club with welcoming sunshine, just got to be careful with the ice on the Yeoman foredecks.

High tide being 0715hrs but the water was still pretty high, the breeze picking up to a predicted 14/28 westerly. OOD'S Ian and Stephen selected the middle course. Seven Yeoman's and a Wayfarer with Paul and his crew Jasper, all came to the line, most boats picking the middle to Brundall bank as best choice and allowing the boats to point up when nearing Tingdene, and on to Train Reach. Early on a gust hit the Wayfarer causing it to broach, well controlled Paul keeping it upright.

The Wayfarer kept leading the fleet, Kingfisher holding up the rear, a close hall along Train Reach between the two Rockland dykes a run with some Goose winging, all boats making good ground, at the turn Diamond Lil went into irons stalling for a while, heavy tacking then required not making much progress on the Starboard tack to the south bank, longer Port tacks along Train Reach, Kingfisher was able to draw through the fleet, at the line 1<sup>st</sup> Trio, 2<sup>nd</sup> Diamond Lil 3rd Kingfisher.

Heavy work heading downriver, Hard work heading home A quick race about 2hrs in all

### **Race 6 Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 –**

Photos Rob Whiting

Club members gathered at the club flagpole with our club flag lying at half-mast then lowered, at 10am members paused to reflect for member David Warner and others.

On Friday and into Saturday Storm Bram hit the country causing widespread flooding and damage, the east although windy got off lightly, Sunday morning the wind had all but disappeared, arriving at the club at 9am the river surface was like glass, the only ripple from the passing swans, surely no sailing today. The forecast from the Met. Office was 6mph with at best 9mph from the South West and maybe a gust of 15mph, high tide was set for 1428hrs, hopefully any breeze taking us downriver, the tide would take us home. OOD's Ian and Rob with Kim at the finish proposed the front boat turns after about an hour if things didn't improve. Didn't want to hang about as heavy rain expected which would take away any wind.



Six Yeoman's with Paul in the Wayfarer single handed headed for the line. The tide strong on the line but only little breeze, Paul in the Wayfarer got away well keeping to the north side of the river, closely followed by Speedwell and Shibboleth who jostled for 2<sup>nd</sup> place heading downriver, Paul continued to extend his lead which he kept through-out. Kingfisher again set off at the rear making little ground. It was a slow pace with plenty of tacking along Train Reach trying to pick up what wind available with the incoming tide. Contest edged too close to the north bank going aground, managing to get off again by themselves to continue.



As the breeze picked up Kingfisher was able to point a bit higher and make some ground, the OOD's correctly set the turn mark just prior to Rockland long dyke, the Wayfarer turning first followed by Diamond Lil with Kingfisher making ground followed by Shibboleth.

It was a run all the way back to the club, main outstretched, goose winging to pick up the best tail breeze. At the finish, 1<sup>st</sup> Club 1 followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Diamond Lil and 3<sup>rd</sup> Kingfisher.

With the Winter series complete and the calculations done; (6 races 4 to count).  
Overall:

1<sup>st</sup> Kingfisher.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Diamond Lil  
3<sup>rd</sup> Trio.

## Christmas Pudding Race Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Photos Dave Durrant Gary Corbett



Competitors and Officers after the race – and Sean with four legged friend





Well, we certainly saved the best till last, the 2025 Christmas Pudding Race, the final organised sailing day of the 2025 season when those who haven't done their shopping desperately race to win one of the coveted Christmas Puddings.

With a chilly start warming slowly as the sun raised temperatures to a lovely 11 degrees and it was dry, the Met Office also got the wind strength right, 16mph with 29 gusts from South West, High water was at 0732 with the high at 1444hrs.



Over 30 members raced with 14 mixed boats on the water, including the Yeoman's, two Wayfarer, a Solo, Morning Calm and Fair Lady 2 River Cruisers.

The Officers of the Day, David & Margaret along with Tim set a four lap long course which suited the conditions perfectly. With such a large field a split start was chosen, buoy 1 set to Starboard well downriver and Port buoy 3 set upriver from the club.

The first start saw all boats get away well with Diamond Lil closely followed by Bluey setting the initial pace. The second start saw Felspar sailing close to the north bank going aground, (not the first time this year – its shallow over there Ben).

Bill Clarke in Morning Calm was soon cutting through the fleets and making good progress with the Yeomans taking advantage of the gusts jostling for position. Unfortunately, by lap three Morning Calm heading downriver towards the club was hit by a particularly big gust and with a jib sheet caught on a cleat saw Bill directing the boat to the north bank and resting her in one of the bungalow dykes and forced to retire.

Bill was not the only one affected by the sudden gusts that marked the end of the race, as single crew Phil in his Wayfarer was approaching the line and the bell, a gust caught the boat tipping it right over, acting quick Phil made a text book recovery, just getting wet feet in the bottom of the boat. Tom in his Solo also took a few gusts one resulting in the boat filling with water, not getting any speed to work the self-bailers he retired. 11 boats of the 14 finishing the race.

#### Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Sandy and John Wells

2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Greenacre and Gary Corbett

3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Parker and Gill Westwood



The happy winners



Even Santa put in an appearance - nice one Colin!



OI YOU - no fishing from club premises

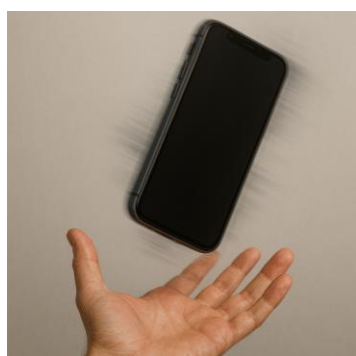
## Midweekers by Judith.

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December the Midweekers elected to travel by road to The Ferry for their Christmas Lunch, mostly in joyful festive attire, Sonia offered her Festive Menu along with her weekly menu,

Weekly social sails will continue when we get the boats back in the water in April/May, if you would like to join the email contact list please contact Judith, spare seats on craft available, it may also be an opportunity for newly accredited members to join our fleet on a social 'no pressure' sail.



## A Christmas Miracle – Well sort of!



Prior to the start of the Christmas Pudding race I asked Tina to take some pictures for the Chronicle. Holding her mobile phone whilst walking along the pontoon a small slip caused the phone to fly out of her hand, and you guessed it straight into the water. After a few efforts to try to retrieve it using a rake with no success, Tina decided to leave it and carried on the day resigned to the fact that it was gone forever.

Two and a half hours later after the racing ended, boats put away and presentations done Tina decided to have one last try at retrieving the lost phone and much to everyone's surprise and her immense relief she got it. The miracle being not that it was retrieved from the water and mud after 2 plus hours but it STILL WORKED.

## RYA Futures Lab: Built with young people. For young people.

RYA are launching their first youth ambassadors programme designed for 16–25-year-olds. A team of young leaders, creators, and changemakers who will shape the future of sailing and outdoor adventure.

You don't need to be an experienced sailor. Just bring your passion for sailing, sport, the outdoors, and making a difference.

Together, ambassadors work directly with the RYA to break down barriers, from access and cost to representation and opportunity, helping to build something better.

Applications are open until 09 January 2026. Find out more and apply:





## Canoe and Paddle Board Section



### Paddle News – December 2025

Vickie and Clare continue as our Paddle Ambassadors for the new season and the WhatsApp group will also continue into the new season with a programme of weekly and other social paddles weather permitting. A breakfast meet up is already being considered for January, maybe by river or road.

We have an offer of some tower scaffold in the new year which we plan to set up in the dinghy park so we can cater for the canoes on the ground and for new members, if you would like to have a practice paddle or join the group please get in touch. All are welcome.

### Happy Paddling New Year

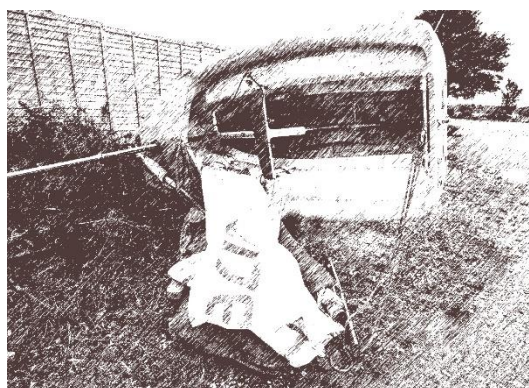
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#### Club Notices

##### **A further request to all members with sailing & paddling craft stored at the club.**

The last two months have seen the first couple of storms of the season and luckily the club has not had any damage to property or boats etc. However, we should not become complacent, there are sure to be bigger and stronger storms with much stronger gusts in the coming couple of months.

In the past we have had instances of boats being blown over by wind and sometimes damaging boats to the side of them. So please, if you cannot take your boat/canoe/kayak away for safe winter storage then take a few moments over Christmas break go down the club and tie them down.



For dinghies consider taking down the mast, make sure your boat cover is properly fitted and secured. Remove any equipment that is not needed over winter such as sails and store safe and dry at home, not in the clubhouse. If you can, tie the boat down to the trailer and additionally tip it to allow rainwater to flow off the stern. Please ensure you have adequate insurance for your craft and 3<sup>rd</sup> party property.

It's your investment, look after it.

## Finally and Just for Fun - Something for the rare quiet moment at Christmas

### CHRISTMAS SONGS ANAGRAMS

1	THIS WARM ETHICS (2)	
2	SONIC GAS KNOWLEDGE (3)	
3	THY LION HOG (3)	
4	WILD RENOWNED RANT (2)	
5	RACY ADDITIVE ONLY SONIC (5)	
6	HID HEALTHY NOVELTY (5)	
7	TINSEL TWO (3)	
8	THE CHALK SLED (3)	
9	MANAGE RAIN WAY (4)	
10	TROUBLEDLY TRIM ME (3)	
11	GREEN MOTEL DYSENTERY GERM (5)	
12	KNEEL DOTTILY (2)	
13	EARTH SHAKING DANGER SHELL (5)	
14	SWEET GHERKIN (3)	
15	HANDWRITTEN BIKE MILE (4)	
16	HARDY SYMBOLIC (3)	
17	LIFT SHELTER NOW (3)	
18	JILL BEGS LEN (2)	
19	DUG MAINTAIN PETROCHEMICAL (6)	
20	WORTHY JOLT ODE (4)	
21	BOOM, TWENTIETH HOTEL FELL (5)	
22	DEPLORED, HE IS THE ODDER RUNNER (5)	
23	TO WISHY WASHY, RARE CRUMMIES (6)	

Answers in January Chronicle



All members are invited to submit articles, photographs, comments, items for sale or anything they feel suitable to be considered for publication. Email to Gary Corbett [corbett01@btconnect.com](mailto:corbett01@btconnect.com) or Dave Durrant [davidkdurrant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidkdurrant@yahoo.co.uk) The editors reserve the right to delay publication or amend/reformat/correct submissions as deemed appropriate.