



HAVERCHAT

April 2016



**IT'S FULL
AHEAD -
PREPARING
FOR THE
NEW
SEASON!**



● The 'Weedmeister' and friends are back - and didn't let a 'little ice' stop them setting out to start getting our lake fit for the months to come.

Thanks guys

Picture: Siggys Martin

Ed's ramblings ...

Yo ho ho - here comes summer!

Too late to say Happy New Year...so let's settle for Happy Easter! Did I hear somebody groan? I guess you may still be trying to finish all the left over Christmas cake, biscuits and chocolate, where as I virtuously went for a chocolate free January (really didn't fancy going dry!)

The winter just gone saw some spectacular, record breaking, rainfall causing a lot of damage and heartache, and HSC must count ourselves fortunate to have (at the time of going to press) to have been spared this.

Floods used to be quite common when the club was first at Haversham but, perhaps due to better management by the Environment Agency, there have been fewer floods in recent years.

The water comes up quickly and the car park shrinks (wellies are needed to get to club house with dry feet). Usually it goes down fairly quickly, too, and sailors seem happy to paddle to get their boats out on the water, so it doesn't stop the racing.

It also presents a bit of a challenge for dog walking, although some dogs enjoy a swim... but it can mean that a net is required to scoop the poop in a foot of water!

Real problems can arise, however, when boats are not tied down properly – resulting in damage to the owner's boat and AND to other people's. So in case this years El Nino rumour of more rain is true, please check out the advice on 'How to Tie Down a Boat' on page 7.

FUN TIMES AHEAD...

Various spring events have been planned to help beef up your motivation to sail: such as the quiz night in April should remind you that the evenings are getting longer...and lure you into racing on a Wednesday evening?

The Buccaneers are set to get going in April (Saturday and Friday evening races) and Family days start again in May.

A sunny spring day inspires the fair-weather sailors to get back in their boats including myself – checking my 2015 diary I came to sail only 11 times last year but chickened out on three occasions because of high winds.

I hope to do better this year...though I've a horrible feeling I said the same thing in last year's spring Ramblings.

I also found a forgotten file of photos that Jim took in 2014, and the sharp-eyed may spot some of them in this issue...which prompts me to ask you to share your photos with the rest of the club via Haverchat (in jpeg format please).

See you messing about on the water!

Ed ■

(Lightning 125)

March 27: BST starts and use of wet/dry suits becomes 'advisory only' ...and the Spring series begins!

RESPONSIBLE Dog Owners Welcome

Haversham Sailing Club welcomes dogs (and their owners).

We hope there will be no unpleasant incidents with dog mess THIS summer.

So PLEASE clean up after your pet and remove the mess from the site.

Thank you

Junior week: fun times ahead

Great news! Junior Week 2016 has been confirmed as being Monday 8th to Friday 12th August – and fees will be held at last year's levels: £75 for the first child and £60 each thereafter for siblings.

But you had better get a move on if booking because, as usual, we regrettably have to limit numbers to a maximum of 30 participants.

Fees will become payable by July 1st.

The format will remain largely unchanged from the tried-and-tested formula we've evolved over five years: 10.00-16.00 each day; lunch 12.30-13.30 with two sessions of 2½ hours either side, obviously weather-dependent.

For anybody not familiar with the goings-on, activities include boat orientation and familiarisation sessions (rigging, launching etc) and simple instruction aimed primarily at novices.

That runs alongside structured general muck-about sessions (raft-building, treasure hunts, Oppie-bobbling et al).

Race coaching will be available for the more experienced. Wet weather options will include sailing theory as well as indoor games.

The main objective is, as always, for the youngsters to have fun.

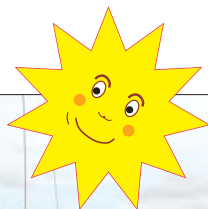
Please note that the application list will be posted in the club house at midday on Saturday 7th May, which is coincidentally the first Family Sailing Day of the new season.

We're hoping that most of those who volunteered to help out last year will be able to join us again, but I have regretfully to announce that Sarah Williams will not be one of them. Huge thanks to Sarah for carrying out a highly efficient admin role – you will be missed!

That said, it is also a warm welcome to Tracey Roder, who has kindly agreed to take over that work ■

Robin Stubbs

(Junior Week Co-ordinator)



This means CASH for your club!

Please USE the club's participation board – the white board marked up for recording numbers of people sailing.

Such info is needed for RYA and CASC – and is important because it translates to potential funding for the club!

There is also room to note faults, repairs needed and any problems. Thanks all

Having fun - or was it boot camp?

Seems like a life-time ago now...but we had a lovely Christmas walk, mild weather and no rain. It was a new route, circular around Woburn, and about six miles.

Leaving the village we turned off the High Street along Birchmoor Lane: heading north west, it becomes a track and soon loops round through open farm land (only one muddy field) and brought us to the Crawley Lodge entrance of the Park. We got a bit lost in the woods...but with the help of a text message found our way to the path along side the safari park.

There, an elephant – yes, a REAL one – came up to the fence to say hello and we saw wallabies and emus (or were they ostriches?).

Going back through the Park to the High Street saw us make a well-timed arrival at the Bell.

JANUARY saw us tackling the next section of the Milton Keynes boundary walk, Potsgrove to Newton Longville (we're going clockwise).

We had a bright sunny day with chilly winds (we'll ignore the brief downpour before we started) and set off at a brisk pace on the A5 and soon crossed the road heading west through a very boggy field.

Several muddy gateways later we climbed gently towards Great Brickhill and were on drier ground. Turning off Rotten Row on to the lane past Mary the Virgin church (13th Century) we managed to miss our way – I suspect by following a well worn path instead of taking the 'path less travelled by.'

After some wandering about, and climbing fences because there weren't any stiles, a customer outside the 'Best Butchers' on what turned out to be Rectory farm got us back on track along Mill lane.

At the grand Union canal we took the towpath heading north and made up some lost time. A road bridge took us over the canal and the railway running close by it.

We then followed a bridle path through a narrow band of woodland at the edge of Water Eaton, parallel to the A4146.

As we emerged from the woods ... 'Oh no!' – a new housing estate (Newton Leys) was spread out before us with no sign of the footpath! It wasn't on the OS map...and the satellite picture showed only open farm land. Now what should we do?



● A journey of a 1,000 miles starts with but a single step...

Fearing we might get lost in featureless new housing (or even fall in the big lake – now called Willow but known for a hundred years before as Jubilee – we took the Stoke road, heading into a strong wind, and finally made it to the Crooked Billet!

There we kicked off our muddy boots and went inside for a comfy seat. A beer or two later, and we were well ready for our sausage and mash!

What next? Newton Longville to Stony Stratford, perhaps? ■

March 27 BST starts – wet / dry suits advisory only

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

27th: Junior 'Pot Night', 18.00

27th: BST starts: wet/dry suits advisory only; Spring series starts and RYA Champions Club, Emberton, 10.00 and Fishing syndicate meeting

28th: Easter Monday, In Memorium Trophy

April

1st: Quiz Night, 20.00

14th, 15th, 16th: Exhibition in MK City Centre. Volunteers to help with our display welcome – please speak to a committee member!

16th: 'Perchfishers' AGM

22nd: Buccaneers race training starts

May

16th: 'Perchfishers AGM

7th: Family Day starts

20th: HSC AGM

June

4th: Wellington Cup

11th: Ladies Helm

18th: Solstice

Regular Events

Sunday racing: 10.00, 11.30, 13.30, 15.00

Wednesdays: Half a Crowners afternoon social sailing

Fridays: Buccaneers 18.00

Saturdays: Family days (until end of Nov)

FYI - Chandlery

Pinnell & Bax – Northampton

info@pinbax.com

01604 592808

Northampton Sail Boats

www.sailboats.co.uk

0845 310 0300

Hartley Boats – Derby

(boat building)

www.hartleyboats.com

01332 369751

sales@hartleyboats.com for wayfarers, wanderers, supernovas

Jo's Dip N Clip

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Jo Bartle www.josdipnclip.co.uk

07517 348280

'Mad-man' Calling

WANTED: small, old, wind surf sail for mad-man intent on attaching such a sail to a canoe!!!

Call 07981965610 – PLEASE!

RYA First Aid Course

There were more people than places!

The recent course proved so popular we had more interested people than places – so a second course is to be run – look out for details next year!

Note: this is essential for instructors and those involved with the Buccaneers
Check with Gordon Tweedle for upcoming details

April 1 quiz night - it's no joke!

Just in case anybody thinks it's a spoof... Spring Quiz Night really is diaried for 20.00 on Friday April 1st!

A mere £4 per head will buy you a fun-packed evening with plenty of good-natured (!) rivalry, mild rudery, barracking and, of course, mild intellectual challenge...

Eight pub-style general knowledge rounds on topics as diverse as pop, geography, politics, sport, drama etc, and a 'marathon'.

Teams of four – we can match you up on the night – free nibbles, lots of prizes...and the bar is open until late. What more could you ask for?

Teams 'Wardrobe' and the 'Green Gremlins' have dominated over the past few years, so it's about time we had some fresh winners!

**You know
YOU'RE up to it?**



More barn owls than your average nest box

When conservationists set out to give the struggling barn owl population a hand, HSC got right behind the project and allowed them to install two nest boxes on club land.

And those two boxes have turned out to be among the most productive among a fleet installed along the Upper Ouse between Beachampton and Lavendon.

The Wildlife Conservation Partnership (WCP) project saw 14 barn owl nestboxes installed in suitable habitat areas along the river in 1998.

Haversham Sailing Club allowed two of the boxes to be put in on the club's site. The scheme was, and remains, part of the Ouse Valley Link Project which supported a national habitat restoration initiative by English Nature (now Natural England).

The aim was to increase the variety and abundance of wildlife along the Ouse Valley, and reverse the effects of habitat 'fragmentation' by encouraging practical habitat restoration.

Two small rivers flow into the Ouse within the project area, the River Tove at Cosgrove and the River Ouzel/Lovatt at Newport Pagnell.

Monitoring and maintenance of the nestboxes and the ringing of young owlets and kestrels has been carried out each year since 1998 by WCP under a Natural England Schedule 1 Licence and

British Trust for Ornithology ringing permit, and is kindly supported by Milton Keynes Council.

Since 1998, Haversham Sailing Club has allowed easy access to the site and has protected the habitat around the boxes, taking a keen interest in fieldwork monitoring visits.

The two boxes on site have proved to be very successful, being occupied most years – and with nearly 40 young barn owls and more than 30 kestrels having fledged over the 18-year period...making the HSC nestboxes probably the most productive in the Ouse Valley, closely followed by those at the Great Linford Nature Reserve ■

Based on a report from Colin Shawyer, MUniv AUH FSB CBIol FCIEEM, Principal Ecologist Wildlife Conservation Partnership.

Thanks to everyone who has saved stamps for the Willen Hospice Appeal - please keep them coming!

**Please leave them in the club and I will collect. Thanks again
Siggy Martin W8323**

This may seem elementary my dear Watson...but YOU need to know it!

How to tie down your boat – so that it doesn't go off by itself

Apologies to anyone who thinks we are trying to teach granny to suck eggs, but...

As soon as a hull floats it will be blown by the wind (or drift with the faintest of breezes, and that normally means that it hits the post on one side or the other.

Or if it is not tied to its trolley it is unlikely to come down nice and square again on it.

That can result in an expensive and inconvenient hole in the hull...

It is also possible for the boat to be blown on to other boats and damage them (which doesn't normally win you any friends).

Another possibility is that chaffing against its posts or another boat will break the ropes, leaving the boat free to float off down the river.

To minimise such risks, aim to tie the boat down so that it can float up and down...but not move sideways.

● Tie your rope around one post, pass it under the boat, round the trolley, back up the first side of the boat, over the top, down the other side, and round the trolley again. Then finish off by tying it to the post on the opposite side of the boat to the first one.

Basically you are aiming to tie the rope to a post on one side and then create an upside down 'U' over the boat and tie off the post on the other side – having looped in the trolley on both sides to keep it and boat together.

Much easier to do than to explain!

● Leaving the bung out of the cockpit, allows a bit of water in, which won't do much harm but makes the boat a bit heavier so that it doesn't float so readily, and is more likely to stay on its trolley.

● If the above is done properly, both boat and trolley may float up and down with the slack in the rope, but with little sideways movement ■

HAVE YOU NOTICED

...the **red box** on the wall in the club house?

It is meant for:

- 👉 Recording use of club boats
- 👉 Recording camping – money for these to be put in the box
- 👉 YOUR suggestions and comments

It is checked at least monthly by a committee member, please include your name and number, or email address, if you want a response.

Thanks



FROM THE BACK OF THE FLEET

Traditionally, at this time of year we take a retrospective look at what people **MIGHT** have had in their Christmas stockings...so why be different?

All in fun and no malice intended, of course.

Christmas puds and tinsel apart, how about a set of super-strength tie-downs for Richard 'The Speckled One' Pakes (or a tracking device to monitor downstream progress of his craft in the next floods, ho, ho, ho); and a numpty-proof instruction manual to accompany Steve 'Jellyfish' Swain's new smart phone.

Perhaps an endless supply of pies and buns for Sean 'Tokoloshe' Muldoon, so's he can up his weight to Supernova levels, and a reinforced all-terrain wheelbarrow for Neil 'Clearwater' Roscoe to carry off the silverware at the next Pot Night?

Maybe a new mantelpiece for Shushi 'Silence!' Chauhan to display his Trafalgar Trophy; and a fresh pink cross-dresser's costume for Vaughn 'Tutu' Watson plus silver dip for Alan 'Heard 'em all before' Gosling so that he can keep his Chaton Trophy in sparkling form?

Then what about a sailmaker's kit – with heavy-duty run-stop fibreglass patches – for Tristan 'Ripper' Corboy for stowing in the Xenon, and an abacus for Rod 'Pole or perch' Pakes to assist him in his new management role?

No doubt an annual subscription to Weight Watchers and a set of bathroom scales for Robin 'The Human Torch' Stubbs ('nuff said) and a tenpin bowling course for Martin 'Gremlin' Green (don't ask me...ask Sandra) and a back-up stock of Alka Seltzers for Richard 'Mango' Bland.

Definitely a set of duelling pistols for Jasmine 'Adrenaline' and Lilly 'Two-ells' Gosling, and an invitation to the Buckinghamshire heats of Strictly Come Dancing for Sylvia 'Twinkle-toes' and Barry 'The Barrel' Yearsley, with an

InnStock remote accounting software package to help Julie 'La Diva' Wilson keep tabs on Speckled Hen and rum abuse (either that or spare batteries for that dreadful loud-hailer she's acquired from Junior Week).

A nice, practical long-reach excavator boom for Derek 'John Deere' Stapleton's very own tractor – but only if he shares it with Fiona 'Fiasco' Scott would go down well.

And, under the Christmas tree there could have been free entry and a return chauffeur-driven limo to the Cambridge Gin Festival for Dan 'Wing-wang' Tate and a Spotify download of 'Oops Upside Your Head' for Russ 'Champagne' Perry, Doug 'Tarry-breeks' Scott, Paul 'Teddy Bear' Bates (if you can prise him away from the turbo trainer) and Steve 'Fly Boy' Cook so's they can get a Boat Dance cabaret act together for the Solstice weekend.

Ditto 'Macarena' for Joanna 'Jo-Jo' Pakes, Louise 'de Lactable' Pakes, Jennie 'Sar'nt Major' Miles, Kayleigh 'Tweezers' Garrett and Jacqui 'Wild Child' Amphlett...although TWO cabaret acts over one weekend may be far too much excitement for the average dinghy sailor!

Chuckle, chuckle.

Have we left anybody out? Well...it is unlikely that anyone would have bought **ME** a present ■



Backmarker

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07517 348280

I kid you not. This snake...it was twice as long as our boat!!

And I was SOBER as a judge...

It was mid August, the sun was shining and there was a gentle breeze passing over the lake. Not ideal for sailing...but just what Beth & I wanted.

We had spent many long hours building a copy of 'First Mate' a 20 foot sailing boat that I had down-loaded plans of from the internet.

Now came the moment of truth. Would she float? Would she leak? But most important, would she SAIL? The launch had been 100 per cent successful. We had enough water under her keel to enable us to check her out for leaks etc, and everything seemed to be ok.

So on went the sails – but something was lacking. There was no wind at all, she just sat there.

So we dropped the hook just in case and went ashore for a cup of tea, as we had not yet fitted a galley.

While Beth was doing her magic with the stove I decided this would be the ideal time to do a photo shoot. So out came all the gear, and I started clicking away.

Then **IT** happened!

Looking through the lens I noticed the still waters forming a wave, which was moving towards the boat at a great rate of knots.

Then **IT** came to the surface...a huge snake-like creature – twice the length of the boat. **IT** circled twice, reared it's head and crashed into 'Manana' amidships (I had called her this as I was always going to work on her later).

Oh boy, was I pleased we were safely ashore.

The boat shuddered with the impact, heeling over and straining at the anchor.

From the safety of dry land I zoomed in, clicking away as fast as I could.

The monster shook it's head with dismay, and I noted a broad Yellow band just below its head.

I've heard of church mice...but never a vicar snake before.

IT then turned away and, just as quickly as it had appeared, disappeared.



During the next few weeks, I spoke to a large number of people about my day at the lake. No one else had seen **IT** and no one had even heard of a yellow colored snake...and I was becoming very worried.

Had it been released by a collector when **IT** had grown to big for him to look after? Was it safe for children to play at the lakeside? Was it safe for club members to even sail with an unknown creature loose in our play ground?

I kept remembering articles I had read about crocodiles and large turtles living in New York sewers.

Then I showed the photo to my son-in-law, who knows how 'to surf the net'. HE claims it's a natrix natrix or as we know it, a GRASS SNAKE!

Really – a TWENTY FOOT grass snake? I'm still far from convinced...

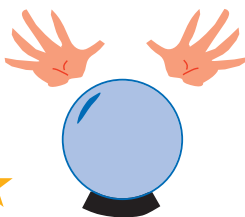
Mugwump.



MYSTIC MOFF

sees stars

Your cosmic profile Read it and weep!



HEALTH WARNING

Reading this may cause ego deflation in those taking themselves too seriously...

Pisces 20 February – 21 March

Avoid Mexican waves at all costs... unless, of course, you are saying 'hello' to your neighbour's chihuahua, or happen to be sailing off Cancun.

Aries 22 March – 20 April

Your financial situation will improve this month as Mercury takes over the reins of your financial destiny. Actually, that's tosh... but you'll save substantially on your gym membership fees when you realise that the impulse to join up on 1st January really was ill-advised.

Taurus 21 April – 21 May

Befriend the friendless, give money to those who need it more than you do, make the world a sunnier, friendlier, place. If that fails...go back to luffing all those Wayfarers in your Laser.

Gemini 22 May – 22 June

Fast movement in water is starred this month, but it is difficult to see what the stars have in mind when you sail a Gull. Perhaps it means you are scheduled for Safety Boat duty?

Cancer 23 June – 23 July

Short flights, including jumping, are to be avoided at all costs – especially from the club house balcony!

Leo 24 July – 23 August

A cheeky Sun, and an over-excitable Mercury, are conspiring to bring forth your creative verbosity in both quantity and volume. Rejoice... and join the Management Committee forthwith!

Virgo 24 August – 23 September

Whenever you feel truly alone, know this truth: if you've gone into CMK this week, you're probably in at least five selfies of other people.

Thanks to Instagram, you're more popular than you realise.

Libra 24 September – 23 October

In a sea of laughter you're stuck on an isthmus of pain. Time to break out the life raft and float to happier waters – before you turn into a real-life frowny face emoji..

Scorpio 24 October – 22 November

The moon is set to eclipse Pluto this month, which will play havoc with any of your competitive sailing plans. Not that this will make a lot of difference to your silverware aspirations, of course...

Sagittarius 23 November – 22 December

Your pre-Olympics training is going well. You are not an athlete, but you ARE training your bottom to sit for 12 hours at a time to watch the television coverage.

Capricorn 23 December – 19 January

You have every reason to laugh, sing and enjoy yourself. Do so in the knowledge that you are in harmony with Captain Morgan fans everywhere...

Aquarius 20 January – 19 February

Water is set to make a welcome return to your life now that Venus has re-entered the Acquarian sphere. Capsize liberally, and at length, especially off buoy #1, but DO try and keep your clothes on!

Bye for now



Club contacts

● To email addresses – or go to websites – listed in this pdf, **just click on them 'on the page'** and the technology **SHOULD** do the rest for you!

COMMODORE (& ON BOARD)	Barrie Lyman	commodore@havershamsc.org
VICE COMMODORE) (club house & social)	Steve Swain	vicecommodore@havershamsc.org
REAR COMMODORE	David Hall	racing@havershamsc.org
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Fiona Scott	membership@havershamsc.org
HEALTH & SAFETY	Rod Pakes	healthandsafety@havershamsc.org
TREASURER & COMPANY SECRETARY	Catherine Cook	treasurer@havershamsc.org
CHILD PROTECTION	Caryn Winter	safeguarding@havershamsc.org
SAFETY BOAT	Robin Stubbs	safetyboat@havershamsc.org
RYA TRAINING PRINCIPAL & Quartermaster (two-handed fleet)	Gordon Tweedle	training@havershamsc.org
SITE BOSUN (berths)	Steve Garrett	
CLUB CLOTHING	John/Brenda Jones	haberdasher@havershamsc.org
RESULTS SECRETARY	Neil Roscoe	results@havershamsc.org
BUCCANEERS	Sarah Williams	buccaneers@havershamsc.org
CHAMPIONS CLUB ADMIN	Julie Wilson	champions@havershamsc.org
ONBOARD	Barrie Lyman	commodore@havershamsc.org
FISHERY MANAGER	Dick Brigden	fishing@havershamsc.org
KEY MASTER (padlocks)	John Pratt	
HAVERCHAT EDITOR	Jean Barr	haverchat@havershamsc.org
BAR MANAGER	Julie Wllson	bar@havershamsc.org
WEBMASTER	John Hunt	webmaster@havershamsc.org

● Telephone contact can be made via the clubhouse

CLUBHOUSE: 01908 225657

ADDRESS: 24 The High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, **MK19 7DX**

MAP REFERENCE Ordnance Survey, SP 833 429

Police NON-emergency number: 101

(15p – irrespective of call length – from mobiles or landlines)

AND FINALLY...

Next Haverchat COPY DATE: Friday MAY 20, 2016!

Club website: www.havershamsc.org

HAVERSHAM SAILING CLUB

*where we live life on the edge...and
sometimes a little beyond!*



Shooting the breeze

Photo: Jim Barr