

On The Water



with
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Cooper gets award boost as hard work is rewarded

MELVYN COOPER has been awarded Yachts & Yachting's prestigious sailor of the month accolade for May.

The award recognises his extensive involvement in Hayling Island Sailing Club's Get Racing Club (GRC), as well as his work as a dinghy instructor at the club.

Cooper founded the scheme in 2014, having identified a gap in HISC's sailing schedule, and he has taken hugely-successful steps to address this with an initiative that has been replicated at clubs across the country.

Last year alone the GRC saw more than 200 sailors take to the water to try racing, thanks mainly to the incredible amount of time, effort and thought Cooper contributed to the scheme.

The staff at HISC have supported the initiative throughout and racing members have been very generous with their time.

First introduced at the start of the 2014, Cooper's scheme has addressed a significant hole in the sailing calendar, allowing inexperienced sailors to gain the confidence and skills needed to eventually compete in regular racing at club level.

The GRC resumes on May 30, with numerous dates scheduled throughout the rest of the season.

The sessions are open to both existing GRC enthusiasts and new participants, with a large turnout expected.

In keeping with a new development for this year's GRC, a different HISC racing class will run each session, with the International Moth fleet having hosted the previous GRC.

Later this month, HISC will also host its hugely popular Youth Training Week from May 26-29.

Dozens of young sailors from along the south coast are expected to turn out in a bid to improve their sailing skills.

The week will see a range of boats take to the water, with a team of experienced instructors hosting groups for Tera and Optimist beginners, intermediates and racing-stand sailors.

There will also be a mixed group for Fevas, allowing sailors of all abilities a chance to advance their all-round on-the-water knowledge.

Up to 70 children are expected to hit the water, coached by some of the club's young adult members who have progressed through the HISC youth training system.

Phoenix ready for their big voyage of recovery

Portsmouth charity to make waves with new sailing partnership in conjunction with RSP

PORTSMOUTH charity Phoenix Futures have announced an exciting link-up with south coast sailing organisation the Rona Sailing Project (RSP).

Drug and alcohol abusers are to be offered an innovative, new method of rehabilitation through this pioneering collaboration.

In conjunction with the Sarisbury's RSP, Phoenix Futures, who operate a residential centre in Droxford, have organized voyages of recovery for service users.

The RSP, founded in 1960, offers sail training voyages to children and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Phoenix Futures, which operates rehabilitation centres across the UK, worked with over 26,800 people last year, and it is hoped that this scheme will provide an effective outlet for those on the recovery programme.

The collaboration has already seen several members of the organisation assist with the repair of the RSP's three boats through the winter months, while those embarking on trips will be tasked with fundraising to pay for the voyages.

Stuart Plant, learning and development advisor at Phoenix Futures, firmly believes that sail training can have a positive impact in rehabilitating drug and alcohol abusers.

He hopes the fledgling allegiance with the RSP will prove mutually beneficial.

Plant said: 'It just adds an extra dynamic to the treatment process.'

'A lot of people think that treatment is challenging but actually it's as much about the fun times as it is about getting through the hard times.'



'INNOVATIVE' Phoenix Futures have linked up with the Rona Sailing Project ensuring exciting times ahead for the charity

'We like to think of ourselves as an innovative organisation and this just allows us to offer something different – the RSP has all the skills and qualities we need to do everything we want to do.'

'People who choose to do the week-long sailing trips have a much higher chance of success at completing treatment drug and alcohol free and that's a fantastic outcome.'

'The fundraising aspect for us helps both raise funds for our projects but also helps show that people do come through addiction and go on to live fantastic lives.'

'It allows us to break the barriers

down and that is really important. The guys who've been helping the project out absolutely love it, they were proud as punch to be involved.'

The partnership will see around 30 young adults from Phoenix Futures embark on week long sail training voyages.

Following a successful one-day trial earlier this week, both parties are confident of the long-term benefits of the association.

With three trips planned for this year and the possibility of more in the future, RSP director Brid Barrett has expressed her delight at the partnership.

And she is convinced the alliance can prove to be mutually beneficial.

She said: 'We are really glad that Phoenix Futures want to make voyages with us a part of the rehabilitation process.'

'I hope this will open people's eyes to the power of sailing in the recovery process.'

'These voyages are really valuable and an amazing experience for those who participate.'

For more information on the full range of services provided by Phoenix Futures visit phoenix-futures.org

To book a voyage with the RSP, email office@ronasailingproject.com

Clubs pleased to provide perfect platform for new sailors



BOOST Tudor Sailing Club

LOCAL clubs were celebrating after a successful week saw a great number of newcomers take to the water.

With over 500 events taking place across the country, this year's Push The Boat Out has been hailed a huge success.

It has enabled first-timers to try a range of on-the-water activities.

The available activities included sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and powerboating, with clubs offering free lessons and guidance from experienced coaches.

Portchester Sailing Club (PSC) welcomed 75 people

over their two-day event last weekend, allowing numerous family groups with children from four to 14 to get a taste of sailing in the sunshine.

With cruiser and dinghy sections, an angling section and a full racing schedule, PSC were able to provide something for everyone who attended.

Tudor Sailing Club and outdoor education charity Releasing Potential joined forces to get 91 people on the water in Langstone Harbour, with a wide range of dinghies available to take out.

Tudor Sailing Club sailing secretary Hannah Barnes

was delighted with the turnout and believes club members pulled together to provide a great experience for those who attended.

She said: 'The whole day was really busy and all the club members pulled together to make it a success.'

'It was fantastic and we'll definitely do it again.'

'The weather was kind to us, the wind was good, everyone that wanted to go on the water got on the water and having lots of members around gave the club a really good atmosphere.'

'We really pushed this event everywhere we could

and it was definitely worth it. Hopefully, those who visited will go away and talk to other people and we'll get some more growth from there.'

Tudor Sailing Club is now looking ahead to its popular Family Fun Day to be held on July 18.

Barnes added: 'It's more of a family-oriented event and hopefully current members will bring along their families to try some activities.'

'If anyone is interested and wants to come down and see us we'll always talk and try to get them out on a boat.'