



# Dark Horse Sailing Club

*Providing social sailing, racing and sail training, in a variety of cruising areas.*

Hello fellow club members, to the first of what we hope will be regular newsletters you can print and share with others. We will cover your sailing stories and any other articles you want to read about. There are some serious items for you to consider in this issue and I would urge you to read every item and if you can help or have an opinion on any subject, please let us know.

We all enjoy being part of this club but we have to take action now if the club is to survive long term. Our bank balance has reduced by £15K in the last three years mainly due to the heavy subsidising of the charter fees and the necessary administration costs.

**Your committee** have met recently and discussed the future of the club and have had to make some tough decisions, to secure its future.

The committee members are:-

- Commodore: Angela Hunter
- Vice Commodore: Simon Jackson
- Secretary: Andy Travell
- Treasurer: Tina Walker
- Committee Member: Trevor Hails
- Committee Member: Julie Curtis

We are a small representation of the full membership and we want to know what your thoughts and ideas are. We will therefore be asking you to complete an online survey during February 2014. To keep costs to a minimum there will be a finite window of opportunity to complete the survey, so please don't delay when it is published.



**Membership** fees in 2014 will remain at £30 for Sole and £50 for Joint membership. Family membership has been renamed Joint to make it clear

that partners are also included. Minimum age for membership remains at 18 years old (unless included in a Joint membership).



*(AGM 2013 – pre dinner gathering)*

The committee would like to see the membership fees cover the basic administration costs of the club by the start of the 2015 season. As costs are already carefully managed, we will need to increase fee income. To do this we need new members. This is where you can help - we are asking all members to recruit a new member during the 2014 sailing season.

By the end of January we will be able to send to you, the wording to enable you to send emails to friends and colleagues making them aware of this club and your connection to it. We are also designing and producing a poster for you to use, wherever you feel it will attract the right attention.

**Charter fees** were subsidised to the tune of £3.5K in 2013 and the club cannot continue to support the fees at this level. With immediate effect the cost of all charters will need to be covered in full.

For the 2014 season the programme will be published with a fee range for each charter. The range will be the cost of your berth for the weekend assuming 75% of the available berths will be booked. This is the fee you will be charged. At 75% occupancy the charter will be confirmed. If subsequently, the boat is fully booked then the surplus fees will be credited to the skipper's bank account for the crew to use as it sees fit.

*Example for clarity:*

If a sailing charter will cost £1200 for an 8 berth yacht, for a 3 day weekend. The fee range will be £150 to £200 and you will be charged £200. At 6 berths booked the charter will be confirmed, with £1200 collected to cover the cost of the charter. If all 8 berths are filled £1600 will have been collected and the surplus of £400 (£50 surplus per berth) sent to the skipper, for distribution to the crew.

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**Sailing programme** will be published at the beginning of January and will feature the much loved usual events.

For 2014 the AGM will be held at the beginning of the season in April (location to be confirmed). This will give you an additional opportunity to influence the year's programme and the running of the club.



*(End of Season Rally 2013)*

Every member, including you, can call Andy to discuss chartering a yacht in a different cruising area or date.

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**Social Media** is part of modern life and the club is going to make full use of what is available, with your help.

We are asking that someone on each event posts pictures and some words about your sailing trip to the website or Facebook page. For those of you that are not on Facebook we can copy those articles to subsequent newsletters.



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



[www.facebook.com/groups/414431462017296](https://www.facebook.com/groups/414431462017296)

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**Mediterranean Cruise 2014 - Sardinia**

Saturday 7th June 2014 for 7 nights - exploring the Maddalena Islands and southern Corsica. Daily flights from London Gatwick, Saturday flights from Bristol, London Luton & Leeds Bradford.

Approx price for 4 cabin/8 berth charter yacht £300.00pp - excludes travel, food costs, etc... Register your interest with Andy.

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**2014 Caribbean 600 Race**

Following our Fastnet campaign in 2013, we are planning an entry in the Caribbean 600 race, racing from Antigua, round several islands and back.



*(Fastnet Crew 2013)*

Dates: Wed 19th Feb to Sat 1st March 2014.

Cost: Including Flights and Charter, approx, £2000

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If you would like an article in the next newsletter please email your text to [angela.helenh@gmail.com](mailto:angela.helenh@gmail.com). A photo would be great if one is available. For all other enquiries please email us at [bookings@dhsc.co.uk](mailto:bookings@dhsc.co.uk)