



Press Release

May 2014

## Hugely successful first event for the new HISC Get Racing Club



HISC Get Racing Club first event – image taken by Fiona Sayce

The brand new HISC Get Racing Club got off to a hugely successful start on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 with over 30 people turning up on the beach to experience racing for the first time in a fun and informal format.

With the weather forecast suggesting force 4 gusting 5 and a low tide, limited water was available for the Get Racing Club race course but all the participants were given a thorough pre-event briefing by RYA Race Coach Melvyn Cooper and Flag Officer Nick Peters together with explanations on the use of flags and sound signals. As the fleet of Get Racing Club boats

launched a force 7 rain squall swept across Chichester Harbour forcing everyone ashore for several minutes!

Once the squall had passed the decision was taken to launch the club's fleet of RS Ventures and one RS 200 with everyone piling in together and the race was able to start under blue skies and a gentle force 3. Get Racing Club participants were assisted in their racing by HISC mentor Andy Partington, Mitch Webb from the HISC Marine Team, Nick Peters and Greg Lamb from the Racing Committee and Race Coach Melvyn Cooper who has been instrumental in setting up the Get Racing Club.

The first event saw the fleet race from the club beach to the East Head race mark and back with helms changing over at the half way point; prizes were awarded and a race debrief was held on the beach following the finish.

Participants were delighted to have successfully completed their first race in a fun and informal format with mentors and advisors on hand to offer tips and encouragement; new friendships were made with like-minded members all able to take their first steps into racing as a group together.

Get Racing Club member Martin Down commented, "Thank you so much for a great afternoon - the best team event I have attended since joining HISC. Much more fun learning about racing with a group of people and sailing in the RS Ventures really helped - feel less intimidated by the whole process and learnt a lot from mentor Andy Partington. With a bit more practice I might get involved in the Wednesday evening racing. I really appreciate the time, energy and enthusiasm you all put in to make this such an enjoyable event. A big thank you!"

And Tony Sanders who is new to sailing commented, "I have to thank you for today's get racing. I, from a selfish point of view had a great time. However I also know that the club and especially you put in a huge effort. I only hope it keeps going. For someone like me it provides me with the opportunity to really take my sailing to the level that will allow me to race."

The aim of the new Get Racing Club is to encourage a wide cross section of HISC members who currently don't race to have a go at racing in a fun, and informal format. Over 70 members including lapsed racers, less confident sailors, those wishing to start racing, those keen to helm or crew for the first time and members without boats had previously expressed an interest in the initiative and more than 40 attended a launch party held over the Easter weekend. With over 30 attending the first sailing event the new initiative has had a very successful start.

The HISC Racing Committee has put together a group of more than 30 'racing mentors', regular HISC Club racers who are keen and willing to act as mentors, on and off the water, for the new Get Racing Club participants to assist them with their foray into racing.

The HISC Get Racing Club format comprises of 3 short, back-to-back races set within the harbour, either in members' boats or the club RS Ventures, with pre and post event briefings, on the water mentoring and fun prize giving.

Forthcoming dates for the Get Racing Club events are as follows:

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May & Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June & Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July & Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

For more information please visit the HISC website at [www.hisc.co.uk](http://www.hisc.co.uk) or contact the club at [sailingsecretary@hisc.co.uk](mailto:sailingsecretary@hisc.co.uk) to book an RS Venture for the event.

Ends

Notes for Editors:

May 2014

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.

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