



SAILTIME

APRIL '26

Welcome to the 2026 Season, if the 2025 season is anything to go by, we should all be looking forward to a great year.

Thanks to Phil Gamlen after many years of supporting and helping lead the club, Phil has decided to step down as Rear Commodore, I would like to thank him on behalf of all the members for his contribution over many years, sharing his expertise, experience and guidance and always with a smile on his face.



By way of introduction, at the recent AGM, I was elected as the Commodore for 2026. I am Mike Shorten, I've been with the club for a long time, having returned to sailing after 20 years. Having recently retired from a career in education I am looking forward to helping the club where I can. I am currently sailing a Hartley 12, the green one, you may have seen me around the club, on the water or on the odd occasion trying my hand at racing.

I am very grateful and pleased so many of the committee have continued in their roles. Bringing experience and continuity to this season. I am joined on the committee by Kay Marriot stepping up to Vice Commodore. In Kay's own words

I joined the Committee a few years ago and have been the Safeguarding Officer since 2023. Having had nothing but support and encouragement from club members it's important to me to give



something back and to do my bit for our gem of a sailing club. I have benefited from completing RYA Powerboat Level 2 and Safety Boat courses at TSSC and love that I have acquired new skills on

home territory. I am looking forward to working with Mike and the Committee in developing and growing the club.

and we are joined by a new committee member Jonathan Davey.

A few words from Jonathan

I joined the club four years ago, having not sailed for nearly 40 years, and it has since become a very important part of my life. What started as a return to dinghy sailing has grown into a much wider passion for being on the water, including qualifying as a Day Skipper for yacht sailing and completing my RYA Powerboat Level 2.

After retiring from full-time work in 2024, joining the committee seemed a natural way to stay involved and give something back to a club that means a great deal to me. I hope that my 30-plus years of business experience will allow me to make a positive contribution and help the club continue to thrive.

The calendar is filling up, with a whole season of events, whether you have been a member for years or recently joined us, experienced or just beginning your time on the water there is plenty to get involved in.

After all the fund raising last year we have more club boats than ever, there has never been a better time to recruit new members, spread the word, bring your friends, all are welcome.

I look forward to seeing you around the club, on the water or just having a coffee in the club-house.

Mike Shorten



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UPCOMING TRY OUT SAILING DAY...

On 11th April, we are again staging our "Try Out Sailing Day", where the public have been invited to book a timed trial sail as a new experience. Last year's event was a successful day, resulting in 15 new memberships and also formed part of our fund raising campaign to buy 2 new RS Quests.

This year, although we're not fund raising, we do hope to convert some visitors into full members and enjoy our facilities and a new sport.

The day will commence at 10:00am with 1 hourly timed sailing slots throughout the day, accommodating up to 7 visitors during each slot. Following a briefing and an introduction to the club, our guests will be kitted out with buoyancy aids and escorted to the launching area where our beach team will coordinate transferring to boats. Weather permitting, we aim to show off our Club fleet and where possible allow our guests to interact with our Helms and take control as part of their experience.



Safety boats will be on station throughout the day, and we are encouraging as many members to take to the water as possible!

At the time of writing, there are a few sailing slots available on our booking system and if you know of anybody interested in Trying Out Sailing, please direct them [here](#)

If you're able to assist on the day, help will be very welcome.

www.thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk/ E: webmaster@thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk

Membership portal: <https://membermojo.co.uk/tssc>

Bookings: <https://bookwhen.com/tssctraining#focus=ev-s3gz8-2026033100000>



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- CHOP • CHOP
- BUSY • BUSY
- WORK • WORK
- BANG • BANG!

At our opening work day on 22nd March, we had a great turn out of more than 20 members, arriving at the club to prepare the club for reopening again after the winter (or is it still here!).

Jobs and tasks were allocated by Merrin in charge of works for the day and a huge amount was achieved. Kay and helpers in the galley prepared a soup and snack lunch as a reward and news was exchanged over the lunch table.

Part of our boat berth reorganisation included moving non sea worthy craft that are in a poor state of repair to the graveyard behind the club house. We have had no response to claim ownership of a number of craft and these will eventually be disposed of.

If you recognise any of the boats below, act now to inform the club of your intentions!



Potential disposal of these craft, but let us know if you own any boat!



CHOP • CHOP • BUSY
• BUSY • WORK • WORK!

- Jet washing patio area
- Guttering cleared
- Weeding
- Windows washed
- woodwork cleaned
- Trailers fixed
- Drains cleared
- Pathway swept
- Lunchtime!





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CALENDAR EVENTS

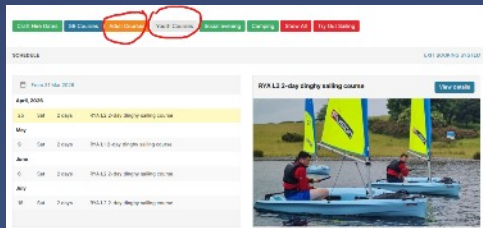
So, what's occurin'?

Apart from our Try Out Sailing Day on 11th April, we have a full programme of events, training courses and racing series scheduled for 2026

Visit the Events page of our website for a full listing of What's on [HERE](#)

If you want to take a refresher course after your RYA L1 training course in 2025, or simply renew skills, the next stage will be RYA L2, provisionally due to take place on weekend of 25-26th April (subject to sufficient numbers).

We're also hoping for a swath of new members to join the club and to consider taking our introduction to sailing course - RYA L1, after experiencing a try out sailing session. This course open to adults and under 18's will be held on 8th-10th May, starting with a pre-course Pizza evening on Fri 8th May, a briefing session, followed by 2 full days of on/off water sail training. Course fee £70.00 per student. Places will be limited, so if you want to take the plunge (hopefully not too many!) You can book your place [HERE](#)



Further courses, racing series and regatta sailing days can be found on the event calendar timeline>>>>.

Starting on 5th and 12th April, our Sailing Secretary, Trevor Bradley will be running "KICKSTART" sessions designed with honing sailing skills and covering a variety of topics, from sail trimming, race starts and rules. These session are designed with any skill level in mind and there will be something for everybody!

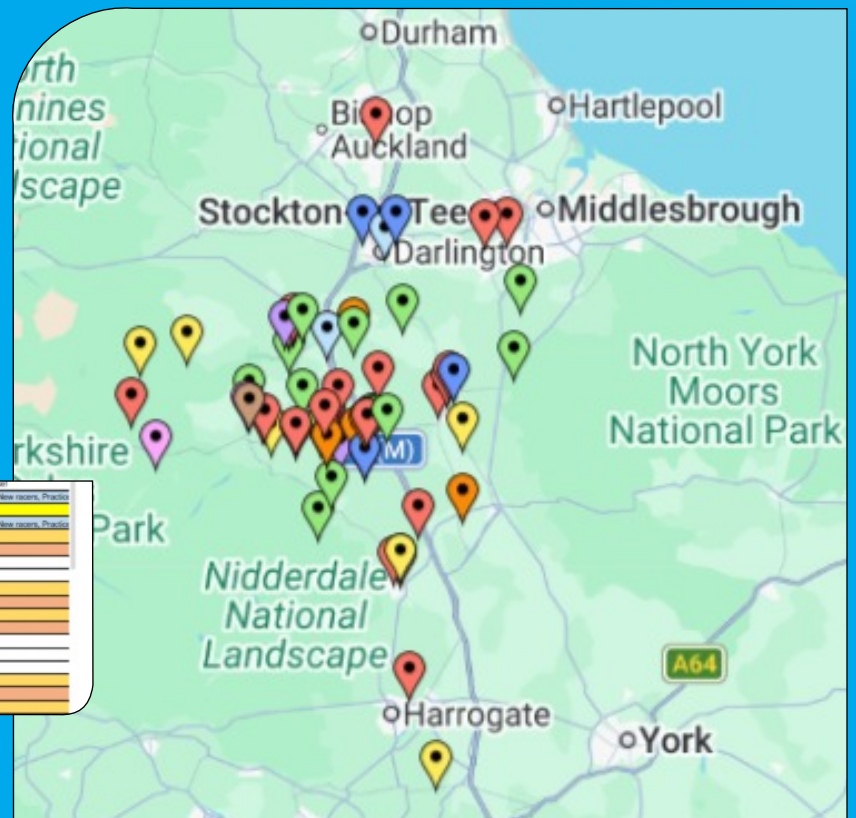
Date	Day	Time	Event
5 Apr	Sun	11:00	Kick Start Session: Race Officer, New races, Practice
11 Apr	Sun	10:00	Try Sailing Day
12 Apr	Sun	11:00	Kick Start Session: Race Officer, New races, Practice
19 Apr	Sun	11:00	Sunday AM Series 1
22 Apr	Wed	18:30	Early Sunset Handicap Series 1
25 Apr	Sat	11:00	RYA L2 Followup Course
26 Apr	Sun	09:00	RYA L2 Followup Course
26 Apr	Sun	11:00	Sunday AM Series 2
29 Apr	Wed	18:30	Early Sunset Handicap Series 2
3 May	Sun	11:00	Sunday AM Series 3
6 May	Wed	19:00	Early Sunset Handicap Series 3
8 May	Fri	19:00	RYA L1 Beginner's Course
9 May	Sat	09:30	RYA L1 Beginner's Course
10 May	Sun	09:30	RYA L1 Beginner's Course
10 May	Sun	11:00	Sunday AM Series 4
13 May	Wed	19:00	Early Sunset Handicap Series 4
17 May	Sun	11:00	Sunday AM Series 5

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As we move towards our new sailing season again in 2026, we're actively recruiting new members. Although our membership numbers are stable, it is unfortunate that our affiliated club - CGSC (Catterick Garrison Sailing Club) has sadly now closed, but we're hoping their membership will take the opportunity of rejoining TSSC as a full member, by offering a generous 25% Service personnel discount.

Our membership covers a wide area across the North East with regular members as far north at Consett, Co Durham and to Leeds in the south. All members benefit from our facilities, whether a dinghy sailor, model boat enthusiast or a SUP/Kayaker and with our clubhouse looking great after extensive redecoration, there's never been a better time to enjoy being on the water at Thornton Steward.

WHERE OUR MEMBERS COME FROM





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SECURITY BRIEFING SHEET

The sheet looks like the image below and is a 2 page document

As suggested, we recommend you download, print a copy of the sheet, which contains all codes and procedures for padlocks, gates, door latches and alarms required to enter the clubhouse and Robinson building.

Perhaps keep a laminated copy with your kit for reference!

CLUBHOUSE SECURITY CHANGE

Please be aware as previously announced in weekly e-news, the clubhouse's electronic door entry code has been changed.

To access the code you will need to refer to the security briefing sheet sent your registered e mail address on 26/032/26.

New code is now 6 digits XXXXXX (cannot be reproduced here).

The new code is effective immediately.

If you have not received a copy of the briefing sheet, please request a copy to be sent by email by contacting:

Mike Smith -

E: membership@thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk

The briefing sheet can also be found on the members only restricted page of the club website

You will need to enter a username and Password to access the members only page...

Username and Password were also sent in weekly e-news on 26/03/26

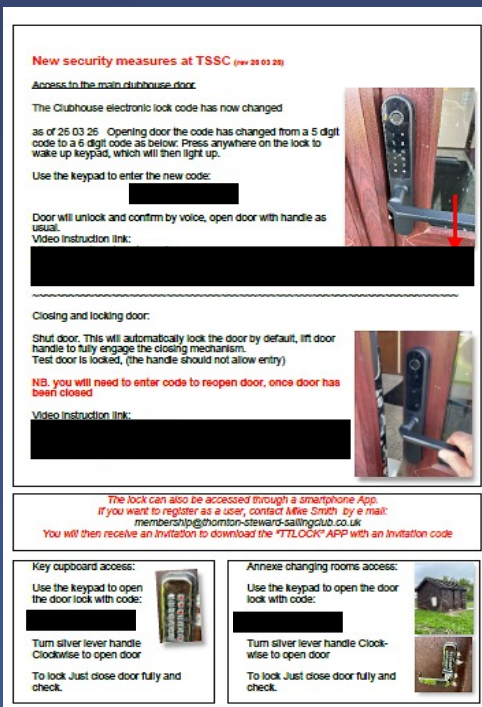
SAFETY BOAT TRAINING AND ROTA

Have you booked your SB duties? The system is now accepting volunteer duties.

You can select crew or helm duties (if signed off accordingly).

Why Safety Boat duties?

See James Proctor's article on Page 7 [HERE](#)





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RACING SCENE

Rose Challenge - Following the success of the Rose Challenge last year it is intended to repeat the exercise in 2026.

The format and a new table is already on the web site. The Challenge can be completed at any time, as individuals or as a group, and results can be submitted via the form, which is also on the website [HERE](#).

The Challenge aims to provide a purpose to your sailing and perhaps encourage you to sail a set course rather than beam reach to beach reach.

Race Series - The best way to improve your sailing, is to come along and join in the racing on a Sunday or a Wednesday evening.

There is always help on hand to explain the rules, so please ask, or join the Kick Start Sunday's. In reality we are a friendly bunch and

beginners are always welcome. Sunday Racing starts on the 19th April and the Wednesday evening racing starts on the 22nd April.

You can plan your whole season by downloading and using the pocket guide to the different series by following the link on our website [HERE](#)

Kick Start - On Sunday the 5th and 12th April there is planned two Kick Start sessions to cover the basics, everything from Rig Settings, Racing rules, Race Officer conduct or what ever is requested.

Details can be found on the Sailing WhatsApp group. If there is a topic not yet listed which you would like covered, please ask Trevor Bradley. It is aimed to have some theory but with the emphasis on practice.

Sailing Sec
Trevor Bradley

Race No	Early Sunset Handicap Series	
1	22-Apr	6.30pm
2	29-Apr	6.30pm
3	6-May	7.00pm
4	13-May	7.00pm
5	20-May	7.00pm
6	27-May	7.00pm
7	3-Jun	7.00pm
8	10-Jun	7.00pm
9	17-Jun	7.00pm
10	24-Jun	7.00pm

No	Late Sunset Handicap Series	
1	1-Jul	7.00pm
2	8-Jul	7.00pm
3	15-Jul	7.00pm
4	22-Jul	7.00pm
5	29-Jul	7.00pm
6	5-Aug	7.00pm
7	12-Aug	7.00pm
8	19-Aug	7.00pm
9	26-Aug	6.30pm
10	2-Sep	6.30pm

Pursuit race *	Sunday am Series	
	19-Apr	11.30am
	26-Apr	11.30am
	3-May	11.30am
	10-May	11.30am
	17-May	11.30am
	24-May	11.30am
P*	31-May	11.30am
P*	7-Jun	11.30am
	14-Jun	11.30am
	21-Jun	11.30am

Sunday pm Series	
19-Apr	1.30pm
26-Apr	1.30pm
3-May	1.30pm
10-May	1.30pm
17-May	1.30pm
24-May	1.30pm
31-May	1.30pm
7-Jun	1.30pm
14-Jun	1.30pm
21-Jun	1.30pm



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SAFETY BOAT HELM & CREW

Supporting safe and enjoyable sailing.

Safety Boat Helm and Crew play a vital role in ensuring that everyone on the water can sail with confidence and peace of mind. Whether supporting casual sailing, racing, or general water activities, their presence is essential to the smooth and safe running of the club.

To act as a Safety Boat Helm, members should hold a minimum of an RYA Powerboat Level 2 (PB2) qualification or be assessed as competent and confident by one of our team of Bosuns. This ensures that all helms have the necessary skills and judgement to respond effectively on the water.

Our Powerboat Bosun, Syd, is running regular familiarisation sessions on Saturdays throughout the season. These sessions are a great opportunity to understand what's involved in the role, build confidence, and practise key skills in a supportive environment—before being called upon to do it for real.

That said, simply being present on the water is just as important. A visible safety boat provides reassurance to other members, encouraging them to head out and

enjoy sailing, paddle-boarding, or canoeing with confidence.

We also remind all members of their responsibility to contribute to club activities. Each membership is required to complete two duties per season. With around 60 duty slots available across Saturdays (casual sailing) and Sundays (casual sailing and racing), there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

You can sign up for duties online here:

<https://tssc-training.co.uk/events>

To help you get started, we've also created a short video walk-through explaining the process:

<https://youtu.be/BAHsbDFCZVI>

By taking part as a Safety Boat Helm or Crew member, you're not just fulfilling a duty—you're helping create a safe, welcoming, and active environment for everyone on the water.

Enjoy your time afloat, and thank you for supporting the club.



SB Courses
Available [HERE](#)

www.thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk/ E: webmaster@thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk

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Bookings: <https://bookwhen.com/tssctraining#focus=ev-s3gz8-20260331000000>



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YOUTH COURSE 2026

Youth Course 2026.

The course will run for 4 days 11th – 14th Aug (Tue to Fri) and is based around the Royal Yachting Association Youth Scheme Levels 1 and 2.

Our aim is to get the students up to Level 2 which means they are confident enough to sail on their own at the reservoir with their parents in attendance.

Considerable experience over many years suggests that the ideal age range for the students is from 10-14 Years old. We start at 10am each day and will keep going until about 4pm with a short break for lunch. It is a full-on activity for the 4 days and is predominantly a practical activity with a very big learning curve for complete beginners.

The course will cost £140 and can be booked on line through our booking system. [HERE](#)



For more information please contact John Knopp:
M: 07415 688420
T: 01677 470 204
E: snapeknopp@outlook.com

LEARN TO SAIL WITH TSSC

Have you friends or family that are interested in learning to sail at TSSC?
Bring them along to T.O.S. Day on 11th Apr

Learning to sail and obtaining RYA qualifications.

This club (TSSC) is an RYA recognised Training Centre with the objective of making sailing a hobby for life for anyone with an urge to take to the water.



Our Try Out Sailing is an opportunity to without joining a club anybody you may be interested in taking up Sailing, then advise them to consider learning how to sail by joining TSSC and enrolling on an RYA course.

Day on 11th April sample sailing but if it appeals to know who is inter-

The RYA Level 1 course is the starting point for all beginners and the club will be running two Level 1 courses this year, one in early May and one in June. All instruction on the courses is provided by RYA qualified instructors who are club members and, apart from some basic theory, the courses are essentially water based.

....After the Level 1 course we will be running a Level 2 course in early June, level 2 takes progresses towards intermediate qualification, gaining confidence and allowing use of the club's fleet of boats without supervision. From then on you will gain in experience and proficiency.

Phil Davies - Principal



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THE BOSUN'S CHAIR

Over the winter months the Wednesday gang carried all the repairs on the club boats that we are aware of, all club boats are ready to sail. All the Outboards have been serviced.



If you are unfortunate enough to have a bit of a prang in a club boat, please record the damage in the Day Book (located on the shelf by the front door in Robinson), and let us know via the WhatsApp group, we can't fix what we don't know is broke.

We have also moved all the club boats to a water side berth (apart from two Oppi's). At the end of last season, we moved the berths of the Safety Boats so that they are directly in line with the slipway thus making it easier to launch and recover; this means that the new route to the slipway for all other boats is now via the old Safety Boat berth (as soon as you see it all will become clear).

In addition, the Club has purchased a battery powered winch to help recover the Safety Boat when the water is lower; on normal conditions and water level there is no need to use the winch but if you are left all alone the SB can be easily recovered with the winch by two persons. If you have not been shown how to

use the winch and are due for SB duty, please get in touch with one of the Bosuns/Wednesday gang for a quick tutorial, please do not use the winch without having instruction.

The keys for the single-handed boats are hung on the masts, the double handers keys are on the keyboard, we had to change many of the locks due to corrosion so, please lock the boats up as you found them in particular, keep the locks under the covers where possible.

If you are unsure about any of the procedures with the boats please ask, there is no such thing as a daft question! Better to ask and get it right rather than the alternative. Here's to a great sailing season, enjoy your boating.

TUCK SHOP NOTE....

A final note from the Tuck Shop Bosun!

The tuck credit book has been revamped, so please use it to record your buys and if you were one of the rascals that thought the tuck and cans are free, they are not, please pay for your forays into the Tuck Shop, or buy a TUCKCRED from the TSSC online shop [HERE](#)



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