

# SailTime <sup>Oct '25</sup>

## THORNTON STEWARD SAILING CLUB 2025 SEASON

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# Season Sumup



## “Phew - What a Scorcher!”

This summer certainly kept us on our toes! From blazing heatwaves to torrential downpours, calm days to gale-force winds, the weather delivered it all. Thornton Steward’s unique micro-climate added its own twist, especially with unpredictable wind directions. As of writing, the reservoir’s water level remains low—one of the lowest we’ve seen in years, although sufficiently recovered to begin safety boat operations again, thanks to Yorkshire Water pumping in from the river.

Despite the challenges, the club has had a vibrant and successful season. We kicked off in April with the 2K event, followed by a well-attended “Try Out Sailing Day” that inspired several newcomers to take part in training courses. August brought the **Commodore’s Fun Day**, which was a great hit despite the ever-changing weather.

Regular racing has again suffered from inclement weather at times this year, however we completed our Sunset Series in Spring and Summer, with a schedule of Sunday racing. The Fusion Championship saw a record-breaking 12 boats on the water—a fantastic turnout! **Our Laser Championship, postponed due to low water levels, will now be held on Sunday 19th Oct.**

Safety boat training continued throughout the season, thanks to Syd, our dedicated Bosun.

A major highlight this year was our **Crowdfunding Campaign**, which enabled us to purchase two brand-new RS Quests. One of these was officially named during our ceremony on 21st September—a proud moment for the club. **More...**

We’ve welcomed many new members this year, with several earning their RYA Level 1 & 2 qualifications. Paddleboarding and Kayaking also saw a rise in popularity, offering great alternatives when the wind took a break.

Our fleet has grown too! A Byte dinghy was generously donated by a member, and our RS Quests will soon be available for member’s bookings. Fundraising efforts were boosted by the sale of a Wanderer a Laser and a Topper, while our small Rigiflex boat is still up for sale.

Finally, congratulations to **David Anderson**, our newly qualified Dinghy Instructor—an excellent addition to our training team!

Here’s to a season full of achievements, camaraderie, and wind-filled sails.

See you on the water!  
Editor - Mike Smith



# RS Quests Join the Fleet!

Thanks to generous support from Sport England and an incredible Crowdfunding effort by our members and supporters, two brand-new RS Quests arrived at the club in August – and they're already making a big impact!

A team of instructors and bosuns wasted no time getting to work, spending several hours rigging the new boats and preparing them for action.

The Quests were ready just in time for our **September training course**, where they quickly proved their worth.

Although designed as training boats, the RS Quests are also available for general club sailing. They're a fantastic opportunity for members to try a **double-hander** – and even get to grips with an **asymmetric spinnaker**.

See first outing videos below



Spinnaker sailing 1



James, our Chief Instructor, had this to say:

*“They’re great training platforms – simple to rig, stable, and very spacious. On the recent course, we comfortably had two adults plus an instructor onboard. For our try-out sailing sessions with kids, we could probably fit even more in, and they’d feel safe while having loads of fun.”*

The Quests are now our **primary training double-handers**, and they're already proving popular with instructors and students alike.

If you'd like to try one out, just speak to a member of the **instructor team** – they'll be happy to show you how to rig them and share a few tips for taking them out on the water. Once inducted, members will be able to hire a Quest on our booking system.

See first outing videos below



Spinnaker sailing 2



# Our Quest gallery

RS **Quest**



Sunday 21st September  
Our naming ceremony by  
Jonathan Davey, unveiling

*MyDebs* 



Our new RS Quests in action...including Spinnaker!



# Club News

## Celebrity visit....

Our Richmond MP the right Hon Rishi Sunak, was invited to visit us to show support for the club's fund raising efforts .

A full report can be found on the MP's webpage - RishiSunak.com [Here](#)

On a scorching and almost windless day, our local MP Rishi Sunak made a visit to the club and ventured onto the water with CGSC's Chief Instructor John Knopp.

Taking the helm of the safety boat to return to the shore, the former Prime Minister seemed to have enjoyed himself and took some time to meet members and see our clubhouse and facilities, before watching a short video of our recent "Beavers" event hosted at the club.



*James is wondering if Rishi could do Safety Boat Duty on Saturday!*



Mr Sunak said: "The club's set-up is very impressive and it is a beautiful stretch of water to sail on"



# A busy training season



## A Big Year for Training at TSSC

It's been a busy and successful season for the TSSC Training Team, with a wide range of courses and events taking place throughout the year.... Things kicked off in **March** with a **Safety Boat Course**, followed by a fantastic **Try Sailing Day** in early **May**. We then ran a **Level 1 & 2 Sailing Course** across **May and June**, and rounded off the season with a final **Level 1 course** in **September**.

In total, we trained **4 members on the Safety Boat course** and **14 new sailors** across our RYA courses – and we're thrilled to say that the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive!

## A Friday Night First

For our September course, we trialled a new format: starting on **Friday evening**. Students had their **first sail** that night, followed by a relaxed **social over pizza** – and it really paid off. With one practical session already under their belts, the weekend felt more relaxed and flowed more smoothly for both students and instructors.... We're hoping to repeat this format for future courses – it's a great mix of sailing and socialising, which really captures the spirit of the club.

## Welcoming Schools and Clubs

As part of our mission to make sailing more accessible, we've also welcomed **local schools and community groups** to the club this year, giving them a fun and memorable introduction to sailing. These sessions help

young people (and some adults!) experience the thrill of being on the water – many for the first time – in a safe, supportive environment.

## Safety Boat Familiarisation

Throughout the year, **Syd**, our resident Powerboat Bosun, has also run several **Safety Boat Familiarisation sessions**. These informal but invaluable sessions are a **must for any member** interested in supporting club activities on the water.

The sessions introduce the **basics of being a Safety Boat crew member**, along with a helpful overview of **basic powerboat handling**. For those who'd like to deepen their knowledge, we recommend following up with the **RYA Powerboat Level 2 course**.



# New kid on the block!

## Looking Ahead

Planning is already underway for **next year's training schedule**, and we hope to offer a full range of courses again. With our new **RS Quests** now in the fleet, we're also exploring the possibility of running a **spinnaker course** for members looking to take their sailing to the next level.

## Thank You to Our Training Team

A huge thank you goes to our incredible team of instructors and volunteers. These courses wouldn't happen without your time, effort, and dedication – and we're lucky to have you.

If you'd like to **get involved in training or support the team**, please speak to **James, our Chief Instructor** – he'd be happy to chat about how you can help.

Well done David - Congratulations!



David putting theory skills across to our trainees



And practical skills on the water-teaching a new student in a Laser 2000!

## David Anderson:

Welcome Aboard, David - Our Newest Dinghy Instructor/

We're delighted to welcome **David Anderson** as the newest Dinghy Instructor (DI) to join our training team at Thornton Steward Sailing Club.

David recently completed an intensive five-day DI course at **Yorkshire Dales Sailing Club**, where he honed the key skills required to teach sailing.

The course covered modern instructional techniques, practical session planning, and the delivery of lessons for both **RYA Level 1 and 2** courses, as well as **Youth Stage** training. It's a demanding programme – and passing it is a real achievement. Well done, David!

Having another qualified instructor on the team strengthens our ability to run more training sessions and offer even greater support to our members as they develop their sailing skills.

If you're curious about what being an instructor involves, or if you're interested in becoming an **Assistant Instructor**, speak to one of the training team or get in touch via the [TSSC website](#). It's a fantastic way to build your confidence, improve your sailing, and give something back to the club.



# Commodore's fun day

## Commodore's Day Sunday 20th July

From 12.00pm

Rose Challenge best time of the day

Rosette short course for SUP & kayak



Capsize and Recover Comp - or simply supported practise for any craft

**SUP and kayak games throughout the afternoon**

12.45pm Pairs dinghy race \*an inexperienced crew needed for each boat\* sign up on Sunday

1.30pm Commodore's Cup Team Relay Race sign up on Sunday



2.30pm Splash Dash \*any craft\* with crew of two - no sails or paddles allowed!!!

From 3.30pm

BBQ and Prize giving  
Auction of Remaining Rewards



**All club craft FOC**

# Commodore's fun day

Watch our relay race for Paddleboarders, Kayakers and Sailors on Commodore's Fun Day



## Commodore's Day

That obvious missing ingredient, a Commodore, was no barrier to the delivery of a successful Commodore's Fun Day. 'Something for everyone' was the plan and a good attendance and participation rate was the reward. Or it could have been the promise of a BBQ for which we thank HECK for the main ingredients, Kay for sides and cooks, Mike and Phil.

The afternoon kicked off with a handicap dinghy race. Those who read the intermittent wind the best or were simply in the right place at the right time triumphed. Well done the ladies; on handicap Kay came first closely followed by Ruth proving that you don't need a performance boat to win. Next up was a Pairs Dinghy Race, the intention being to give less experienced sailors a taste of racing.

The controls had to pass to the 'never raced before' crew for one leg of each lap - a beam reach.

Mike Shorten went a step further in picking 'never sailed before' Oliver. It was a one, two again for Kay and Ruth, this time partnered respectively by Simon and Emily.

The main event this year, the Commodore's Cup Relay Race, was a closely contested SUP, kayak and dinghy team event with the baton, or in this case a rubber duck, being handed between the three conveyances.

Team Knopp's lead was sabotaged at the final changeover when their duck bounced out of the boat which led to some 'fowl' play by Team Proctor - see the video! This allowed Team Hatch with Paul & Pip to steal a win and the silverware.

The finale, Splash Dash, two-up on a SUP without paddles, was won by super swimmers Emily & Oliver ahead of the Whitby's and three other teams.

The BBQ and auction of remaining Crowdfunding rewards saw us reach our target for the Quests.

Thank you to all who bid and bought.

Full gallery of Commodore's Fun Day photos



SAILING CLUB  
GALLERY

# More club news....

It's been a busy season so far for us Bosun's and we have been really well supported by the Wednesday Gang, thanks Guys.

Both new Quests are now fully rigged and functional, please use the correct numbered sails for the boat, they are clearly numbered on the shelf, sail bag and key on the keyboard.

The Quests have a couple of idiosyncrasies on rigging so, if you haven't rigged one before, please see one of the Bosun's or the Wednesday Gang. Usually, we are present on Wednesday afternoons and most Saturdays.

If you intend sailing a Quest on a Saturday, please let us know so one of us can be there to help you rig it.



**Our Bart's Bash day this year, coincided with a level 1 sailing course on Sunday September 14th**

A single race was dedicated to the Andrew Simpson Sailing charity and although only 3 craft were racing, the water was busier than usual, with extra trainees!

I'm pleased to announce a donation will be made to support this worthy cause.

Many thanks to those members that took part or donated.

If you missed the event you can still make a donation, by visiting our [on-line membermojo](#) shop and choosing a donation value of £5, £10 or £15 or more if you wish!



**(The Quests are now available on our booking system - Editor)**

You may notice that the lay out in the Robinson building is a bit different, things have been tidied up and put either, in trays or on the shelves. The trays and shelves are all labelled, the sail bags are numbered, please put things back where you found them. If the sails are wet when you have finished sailing please hang them up in Robinson to dry, let us know and we will put them away when dry.

Please note this is not Carte Blanche to leave the sails for us to put away!!

Oh, and just a quick reminder please don't throw anything away until you've checked with us, it may be left there for a reason!!

We are now entering the stormy season so please check your boats are tied down securely, presently there are some unruly sheep who like to move the boats when scratching themselves.

We will winterise the club boats later in the year; enjoy what's left of the sailing season, stay safe and **Pay your Tuck Shop bills.**

**Syd Nye**

# Annual Prize-giving Social...

## End of season social/prize giving

Our end of season social event & prize giving will take place on Wednesday 12 November at the Countryman's Inn, Hunton.



Food will be served at 7:00pm.

There will be a table quiz so you can show off your nautical knowledge as well as catching up with your fellow sailors.

Choose from the following menu for only £18 per person:  
(Non food tickets free of charge)

- **Chicken & Chorizo Jambalaya** with leaf salad & crusty bread or....
- **Beef Bourguignon** with mashed potato & crusty bread
- **Raspberry & White Chocolate Torte** with cream or...
- **Cherry Pie with Custard**
- **Vegetarian** /other dietary options on request

*Please contact [kaymarriott1@gmail.com](mailto:kaymarriott1@gmail.com) with requests*

To book your place and make your menu selection go [here](#)  
Bookings close at 6:00pm on Thursday 6th November



The Countryman's Inn



## RYA Inspection

As members will know, the Club is an RYA Training Centre. In order to maintain accreditation we are inspected annually by the RYA.

Our latest inspection took place on 13 September 2025 and I'm pleased to report that, pending completion of an Action Plan to rectify some aspects of course provision which the inspector identified as needing attention, we have passed the inspection and may deliver all our courses for another year.

Thanks to all involved on the day and to our team of instructors who give their time and expertise to keep the Club buoyant. (no pun intended).

Dinghy sailors are the lifeblood of our Club so continuing to provide Level 1 and 2 courses, along with Powerboat and Safety Boat tuition is a vital part of our activities.

Phil Davies - TSSC Principle

# BOATS FOR HIRE....

## Thinking of trying out a different boat?

In addition to our new RS Quests, joining the club fleet this year, we also have been gifted a Byte C1.

**Byte Size-** The Byte C1 is by the designer of the Laser and has many similarities.

With a hull weight of only 45kg this boat is ideal for lightweight sailors (48-70kg) and is easier to right than a Laser.

The Byte C1 enables younger sailors the chance to develop skills in a boat that is fun, safe and manageable and is a bridge to the Laser.

Thanks to Peter Kearsley for gifting his boat to the club.

Our Byte can now be booked by members through the website booking system.

If you're looking to take out one of our new RS Quests, here is the tech spec, to help you become familiar with the setup.

### *What makes Quests a good training and club boat?*

- A durable rotomold hull.
  - Room for 3 adults or more junior sailors.
  - Easily reefable.
  - In winds, reef the mainsail before reducing the jib.
  - The centre of effort of the jib is low down which keeps the boat powered but stable.
  - Can use either symmetrical or asymmetrical spinnakers.
  - Floats low in the water when capsized so the centreboard is easily reached. There's a handle set into the keel near the centreboard.
  - Fixed masthead buoyancy.
  - The rudder pops up if it grounds.
- Having a Gnav instead of a kicker there is lots of room in the cockpit.

What's the difference between a kicker and a Gnav? A kicker stops the boom rising by pulling it down. A Gnav

does it by pushing the boom down from above.

A vang is an alternative term for a kicker and Gnav is vang spelt backwards.

**A timely reminder if you are intending to venture onto the water alone at any time, always consider the conditions and your own capabilities ENJOY THE WATER SAFELY**

## LONE SAILING ?

### PREPARE

CHECK WIND AND GUST SPEEDS FORECAST (E.G. TSSC WEBSITE, XCWEATHER)

DO YOU HAVE THE SAILING COMPETENCE AND PHYSICAL ABILITY TO COPE WITH CHANGES IN CONDITIONS ?

BUDDY UP ? TWO CRAFT ON THE WATER

LET SOMEONE KNOW WHERE YOU WILL BE

SIGN IN AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON ARRIVAL

### ON THE WATER

WEARING A BUOYANCY AID IS MANDATORY AT ALL TIMES

WET/DRY SUITS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED. THE WATER IS VERY COLD ALL YEAR ROUND.

FIT A MAST HEAD FLOAT IF YOUR DINGHY NEEDS IT TO AVOID INVERSION

WEAR THE LEASH ON YOUR SUP

**ENJOY THE WATER SAFELY**



TSSC booking system

Great insurance deals from our Sponsor - VISICOVER



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