

Hansa Class UK

Annual Report January 1st – December 31st 2017

2017 commenced on a sombre note with the news that Richard Smallwood had passed away. Richard was a stalwart of the Hansa Class Association for many years both Nationally and Internationally and is sadly missed by all who knew him. Richard generously left a legacy to HCUK and it has been agreed that this will be used for the purchase of a specific item for the proposed Race and Training Support Unit.

This has been a good year for HCUK with steady progress in several areas particularly training.

In January the Trustees met with Joff McGill, the new CEO of RYA Sailability when it was agreed that we would work together to run Blue Fleet (entry level) race training sessions with the intention of involving more disabled sailors in racing events. This resulted in our first Blue Fleet training day taking place at Whitefriars Sailability in September when 8 inexperienced but very enthusiastic novice racers had a very enjoyable and informative day of instruction from an RYA race coach.

We also ran 2 'Advanced' race training sessions. The first in June at Rutland Sailability and the second in September at Chesil Sailability prior to the European Championships. On both occasions RYA coaches ran the sessions and it was agreed by all participants that they had learned some very useful skills and techniques.

In Scotland there was a race training day at Clyde Muirshiel prior to the TT and on a number of other occasions. A race training day was also held at Galloway Activity centre.

In mid April our hardy Scottish sailors started their season in cold, wet and windy conditions at the Clyde Muirshiel TT. In contrast the first English TT a few days later was held in pleasantly warm, balmy weather at Frampton-on-Severn. Overall there were 4 Scottish TTs and 8 English TTs. (One English event having to be cancelled when the host club was forced to pull out). There was one 2 day GP event which was held at Rutland Water during the RYA Sailability Multi Class Regatta. There was also a 3 day National Championship event which this year was held at New Forest and District Sailability. Together with International events and Training days this provided a very full and successful season and a similar format is planned for 2018.

As with other sports there are risks associated with sailing and all HCUK events are held at recognised RYA Sailability sites to ensure that the necessary standards of care and safety are in place.

The Hansa European Championships at Meze in France were well represented by 15 sailors from HCUK. With the help of funding from the RYA the team were well supported by a Race Coach in addition to 20 fantastic volunteers who were self funded. We had sailors in 3 of the 4 classes being competed at the event, finishing with podium places in the 2.3 and Liberty classes. The two training events at Rutland and Chesil prior to the Championships paid dividends with 5 of the top 7 positions in

the Liberty fleet being taken by sailors from HCUK. We hope to build on this success in 2018, strengthening the team for the World Championships which are being held in Hiroshima, Japan in October.

The year ended with our accounts in a healthy position with a closing balance of £11,537 compared with £6,599 in 2016, largely due to the legacy left by Richard Smallwood. We also received funding from the RYA towards the cost of supporting a team at International events. The costs this year were less than expected so these funds remain restricted for supporting future events. £4000 of the above total is held in a separate account as a Reserve fund. Due to the introduction of banking fees for charities we have now transferred our Current account from the Charities Aid Foundation to the Reliance bank who offer free banking.

We are continuing to try to raise funds for a 6 boat Race and Training Support Unit. Several Sailability groups have so far pledged to assist funding the project and we now have a new fund raising strategy in place which hopefully will generate the necessary funds.

In October the Charity Commission published its new Governance Code for charities. This was closely examined by the Trustees and it was agreed that in general we were already complying with its requirements. However there were a couple of matters which may require attention and these are currently under review.

During the year we were able to achieve or make significant progress on the objectives within our strategic plan:-

Participation of young sailors was increased particularly in the Scottish TTs and in training events.

Participation in racing events increased to an average of 16 boats per English TT and 28 boats in the National Championship. 15 boats took part in the Hansa Euros in France.

In partnership with RYA Sailability we were able to successfully deliver our first Blue Fleet (entry level) race training event to encourage more sailors to take up racing and 2 advanced race training events to prepare our sailors for the National Championship and International events.

Reports of all our events have been published in 'Yachts and Yachting' and on the HCUK website. The HCUK logo and tri-fold flier have been updated and we have had displays at the RYA Sailability Conference, the Dinghy Show – Alexandra Palace and the Disability Show – Stoneleigh.

Finally a very big thank you to all the clubs who host our racing and training events and to all the fantastic volunteers who work so hard to make things run smoothly. We couldn't do this without you.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Bob Scull

Chairman