

AGM Report – 2026 V2

What a year 2026 has been!

The weather delivered!

Member footfall was up on 2025!

HISC feelgood factor improved!

We delivered some superb Championships, starting with the;

- RYA Youth Nation Championships in April
- Topper Nationals and RS Aero UK Women's Champs in May
- 505 Pres & Worlds in July
- 29er Nationals in August

...to name but a few!

With this in mind, we in House are always very aware of the importance of you, our members, and of creating an environment that everyone can enjoy. This year, we were particularly keen to give some attention to the Snack Bar, which in the past has perhaps been slightly left behind. Our aim has been to introduce a more varied menu selection, while also creating a more comfortable, welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for HISC members of all ages.

To help achieve this, we have introduced sea-themed murals, an awning for our ice cream sales, and the beginnings of a dedicated kids' and youth area, with a sandpit, windmills, buckets and spades, and swing ball.

This is just the start, with plenty more ideas in the pipeline. We hope to continue developing the area over the coming months, bringing these ideas to life and creating a space that can be enjoyed by all our members.

I would like to say a 'big shout out' to both Jess Caldwell and Lola Dymock whose artistic flare produced the wonderful murals.

We have had another fabulous year, with our strong corporate commitment to the Club providing the foundation for a consistently high level of delivery across all areas.

At this point, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my team, whose enthusiasm, commitment and individual personalities have contributed enormously to the high level of service we provide.

They have helped create an environment that is friendly, warm and welcoming for our members, visitors and guests, and I am incredibly grateful for everything they do.

With this in mind, the Club has felt increasingly busy month on month throughout 2026, which is a fantastic reflection of the hard work and commitment of the whole team. We are therefore delighted to report that our contribution from House is considerably higher than at the same point last year.

Starting from the top. Nick Griffiths is totally dependable; he is reliable across all areas. His magic has worked on our members of the crew too. With a growing corporate provision this would not be possible without Sophie Vinell and her steadfast team of Evie & Holly. Thank you so much for your smiles and your continued enthusiasm, it is unwavering.

I would also like to share some feedback from our corporate guests, highlighting their experience at the Club.

'This comes with a huge THANK YOU! for making my party such a success!

You all worked so amazingly hard to make the event run smoothly and your efforts certainly were noticed and praised. My thanks include the chefs who prepared a most delicious meal with much attention to detail. All my guests had a great time and those who are members thought the dining room looked wonderful and people from afar were amazed at the club and setting. So, thanks for guiding me through all the planning and details.'

'I just wanted to send you a quick note to say thank you for all your effort during our stay.

We all felt incredibly well looked after whilst we were there and the whole team had a great time. It really was first class service.'

I have recently received some very positive feedback from our members regarding Bev and the bar team. One member commented that the "prompt and friendly service, with very little waiting time, goes a long way for our members."

Thank you to Bev and the entire bar team for your continued hard work and dedication.

It is clearly being recognised and appreciated by our members. However good the figures look; we mustn't lose sight of the fact that we had some very successful Championships this year. Next year, we will be looking to create much more 'members' vibe to the club, particularly as we continue to struggle to cover our labour costs on food to all members.

Within House, we are also very fortunate to have a fantastic team supporting us behind the scenes. I would particularly like to thank George Charlton, our Marketing Executive, for his creativity, commitment and continued hard work which play a huge part in helping us communicate and engage with our members and reaching a much wider audience through social media.

Thank You's

A huge thank you to every single individual who stepped up to volunteer this year for House. Thank you for your time, energy and passion to drive our success and strengthen the HISC community.

In particular, I would like to recognise and thank Nick Peters. Following the challenges of COVID, Nick took on the considerable task in 2021 of forming and leading a new House Committee. This was no mean feat. After such a prolonged period of restrictions, when we had been unable to enjoy time together, socialise with friends and make the most of the Club, there was a huge amount of work to be done to bring that sense of community and hospitality back to HISC.

It was, in many ways, a case of teaching an old dog new tricks! Nick embraced the challenge with tremendous enthusiasm, energy and commitment, leading the team in getting the show back on the road and re-establishing the hospitality offering at HISC.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Nick for everything he has done for the Club, its members and the House Committee.

Key Highlights in 2026

Survey Summer 2026

The review of the member survey comments relating to House has now been completed, with comments featuring in 132 responses. As with Sailing and Membership, many of the comments were individual and specific to members' experiences. However, there are some interesting thoughts and ideas within the feedback, which the House Committee will be reviewing in more detail over the coming months.

We will be concentrating on the comments where there has been more than one response on the same subject, as these provide a useful indication of the areas that are of particular importance to members. The feedback relating to food has been slightly more difficult to categorise, as some comments specifically relate to the Snack Bar or Restaurant, while others are more general. These comments will therefore be considered on an individual basis to ensure the context of each response is properly understood.

This feedback will provide a useful reference point as we consider House priorities and areas of focus over the coming winter months.

South Entrance

I hope you have all enjoyed the addition of the fairy lights at the South Entrance, which has certainly become one of my favourite highlights. They add a lovely touch and really help to create a warm and welcoming feel as you arrive at the Club.

A big thank you to Damian Andrews for his support with the design and construction, and to Andrew Partington, Karen Partington and Allison Rogers for all their help with the tree design and, of course, for simply getting the job done!

We have installed new, wooden directional signs. While this may seem like a small change, it has made a real difference, helping to streamline navigation for both members and visitors around the Club.

It is often the smaller touches that make the biggest difference, and I'm delighted to see these improvements helping to make HISC feel even more welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

Accommodation

There has been no further progress in this area to date. However, with David Hitchcock's support, we will be revisiting the options currently available to us and exploring the best way forward.

I hope that, by the time of my Spring report, I will be in a position to share further ideas and provide an update on the progress being made.

HISC Dunes Gardening Group - Highlights – Oct 2025–Sept 2026

- Monthly Social Gardening Sessions:
27 members who have volunteered on monthly sessions.
251 hours of work put in by those volunteers since last October.
- Work completed:
Irrigation system put in to save water for the Club and time for the volunteers
Maintenance gardening of all the 'planted' dunes
Maintenance of the pots by the front entrance

A very big thank you to Judith and her team of 27 members for the pride and care they take in keeping the outside of our Club looking so lovely.

Archives

This Archive year has and is proving to be successful in many ways. Training Room 3 in Stoker is a practical space for meetings along with the Marine Team and Archive use

Work planned for this winter include continuing with listing the trophies, and general filing. More research is also planned into the history of the Bosun's Hut and Members' Memories will be highlighted this winter. More member's memories are very welcome

There have been a few good exhibitions this year, including Pam Marrs cheerful 'Trophies found lurking in the attic...' exhibition which has been a great success and will be running for a little while longer

There were delays with a planned 505 exhibition this summer so the current exhibition featuring a classic recycling project is still running – it has also proved to be very popular

The unopened HISC safe from the old building was finally opened this year, which was an event! The contents are being absorbed into the Collection, if they are relevant

Having taken a break last year, this year Archives will be attending this year's Christmas Fair. As usual, HISC merchandise will be available

Please note that the Collection is valuable in many ways and is always available to members and others for study/research/education

Thank you, Leonie, for your continued support and commitment in this area.

Looking Forward

As mentioned, we have had a very successful year in House, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making it such a positive one.

Looking ahead to 2027, you may notice a slight change in focus. With fewer championships booked for the year ahead, we will be placing greater emphasis on developing our corporate offering and building on the opportunities this presents.

Alongside this, we will continue to focus on what matters most, making HISC a place where you, our members, want to spend time, whether that's enjoying time with friends and family, welcoming visitors, or simply making the most of everything the Club has to offer.

We look forward to another exciting year and to continuing to make HISC a welcoming and enjoyable place for everyone.

Sophie Costard

Vice Commodore House