



SHROUD & CLEAR

TONBRIDGE TOWN SAILING CLUB

MAY 2026

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

So much goes on at our wonderful club. So much can be missed. Sometimes it's worth just taking a moment to reflect on all TTSC gives, all TTSC achieves. The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed the beautiful mother wagtail, flying in and out of the clubhouse recently. Her priority is, understandably, caring for her young chicks but what else does she see as she watches over us all at TTSC?

Take the last Sunday in April, for example...

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Just another day in the calendar. Just another Sunday at TTSC, some would say, but if you saw what I saw, from my cosy nest above, you would beam.

The duty officers opened the club, folk rigged boats and took to the water for competitive but friendly racing. Elevenes offered a chance to catch up with friends, welcome new racers and soak in the sunshine.

Juniors took to the water to enjoy carefully planned, fun activities, with squeals of joy a-plenty! Children smiled and laughed. Faces glowed.

Members returned to the water from last year's training courses, re-uniting with friends and instructors. New members were welcomed to the club by the training team and existing membership. Cake was shared.

Friends, old and new, gathered and chattered round the BBQ, enjoying food and a glass or two. People enjoyed a moment of peace, reading whilst overlooking the water, whilst others watched the birds. I wonder if they saw me flit by?

Sailors honed new skills, making the most of the gentle winds and sunshine. The patrol boat crew were on-call, supporting where needed and the canteen helpers beavered away. People tinkered with their boats and trimmed the grass. People lent screwdrivers. People raised flags. People assisted others with rigging. Blossom blew like confetti from the hedgerows.

People worked together to help put things away. People wished each other well. The gates closed and the sun set on another day (and what a pretty sunset it was, by the way).

There was kindness. There was hard work. There was happiness. There was teamwork. There was love. There was progress. There was laughter. There was beauty.
All the things I want for my little chicks, maybe.

Mother Wagtail x



ps. Thank you for providing me with a sheltered place to make my nest and raise my young. I'm hopeful we will have flown our nest by the time you read this but PLEASE, if we haven't, do NOT search for us or disturb us. We need to be left in peace, in order for us to survive.

REGATTA '26

TTSC Midsummer Regatta 2026

The highlight of the TTSC racing calendar!

Date: Sat 20th June

A day of racing for all levels of experience...

- Handicap racing for the *Clydach Cup*
- Separate starts for fast and slow handicap
- Prizes for sailors learning to sail in 2025 and 2026
- Class prizes for fleets with 5 boats or more
- Other prizes in age group categories
- Introductory training session for new racers before racing.

Cost: £3/boat
(Proceeds to Alzheimers Society)



4 races, 3 to count

Registration from 0900, training session 0930-1030.

First start not before 1100

TRAINING

TTSC's 2026 class received a warm welcome (with cake!) and met members of the training team, full of enthusiasm. Congratulations to our students who have been working hard on their Stage 1 and Level 1 courses.

Amongst other things, they have been getting to grips with how to rig boats, boat parts, wind awareness, weather, clothing, safety procedures, steering the boat, land drills* and the all important, capsizes! We wish the classes of 2026 all the best as they put their learning into practice on the water over the summer. Check out the Adult Improver and Junior Club sessions on the TTSC calendar and elsewhere in this Shroud & Clear. May there be fair winds, progress, laughter and smiles a-plenty as they continue on their learning to sail journey.

An enormous thank you, in no particular order, to our wonderful volunteer training team - admin, instructors, helpers, parents who 'mucked in', shore support, rescue boat crew, canteen, club members/Wednesday club helping with boat prep. and everyone who helped in their own magical way.



Thank You

Overheard this month:
'Full to over-flowing'
The amount of patience shown by our volunteer instructors



Congratulations

Many congratulations to Mark and Stuart for gaining their Senior Instructor Qualifications. Following in the footsteps of Brian, Ray, Malcolm, Bill... we know a lot of time, effort and skill was involved. Well done! Both very well deserved.



It was great to see Gareth, Adam and Peter 'smashing it' out there on the water in their instructing roles, following their recent qualification updates. Well done, chaps!

*'What does 'push' and 'pull' mean again?! We know it on land but when we get in a boat for the first time, somehow we completely forget!' Many of us have been there!

SAILING AWAY

It's not just the younger members that have been venturing further afield for a sailing fix. Bill has also been racing at Hayling Island. Here he is on the start line with over 50 other Solos. We're not sure where his boat is though! Somewhere behind a wave, we're told!



WHO NEEDS A HULL, ANYWAY?!

SAILING AT HOME



It's all Happening!

WEDNESDAY CLUB

The fabulous Wednesday club team have been looking after our fleet of club boats, making sure the vessels were at their best, ready for our trainees to learn to sail. They have carried out general maintenance around the clubhouse, including plumbing repairs and outdoor furniture refurbishment. Making the most of a spell of fine weather, they achieved some grass cutting (lots of grass cutting!) too and we mustn't forget the preparations made for us to enjoy summer BBQs. That BBQ cleaning was much-needed!



AWESOME
JOB!



MEMBERSHIP



Welcome to our new members. It's lovely to have you.
Welcome back to those who have re-joined TTSC. Great to have you back.

It's good to see passers-by show an interest in what's happening at TTSC. Thank you to those who have given them a little time to answer their questions. There are some information leaflets in the boat just outside the compound for them to take away, if they are interested. The smallest of conversations and a smile to a passer-by/dog walker can go a long way towards ensuring our membership thrives.

ADULT IMPROVERS

NEXT SESSION: SUNDAY 31ST MAY

BBQ - ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

GET RIGGED FOR
AFTERNOON SAILING BEGINNING 2PM

Class of 2026, class of 2025 or just want to get out on the water with a little reassurance, knowing there is someone 'on call' if you need a little refresher with something, this could be the afternoon for you!



EASY FUNDRAISING



A great way for you to support the club, and it doesn't cost you a penny!

Please do give it a try. It will cost you nothing and will help us to raise funds for safety equipment and to keep the club running for everyone. This will enable us to raise funds in the form of cashback when you shop through the app. It does not cost anything to use and features a lot of high street brands.

Please sign up to Easyfundraising >>>>>

www.tonbridgesailing.org

JUNIOR CLUB

Junior Club continues to thrive. It's great to see our younger members and families enjoying time on the water together. Thanks to the wonderful Graham and Michelle and all those who help with the club, activities alongside time to 'just sail' are much-enjoyed. We understand the Safety Boat crew also got involved in the last Junior Club, helping the youngsters to complete the challenges! So much fun and so much learning :)
Go 'Team Junior Club'!



Junior Club 2026



Your chance to sail, build confidence, make friends, and have serious fun on the water!



26 April	28 June	13 September
31 May	12 July	11 October
28 June	23 August	

1.30pm to 4.30pm

- Build your sailing skills in a fun, relaxed setting
- Mix it up – different boats, different fun

For more information, scan the QR code to join the Junior Club WhatsApp group.



Next Junior Club Sunday 31st May

<https://www.tonbridgesailing.org/junior-club>

SOCIAL

Chichester Week

From Saturday 25th July 2026

A couple of people have been asking about the upcoming club rally camping holiday at Chichester harbour, so please find a little 'repeat' from last month's Shroud & Clear about what sort of things have been enjoyed in previous years. If you would like to see the price list for 2026, please speak to or message Barry.



BAD JOKE TIME AGAIN!

STILL SORRY, NOT SORRY!

A blue yacht and red yacht hit each other in a race.
They got marooned!



Why do pirates have a hard time remembering the alphabet?
They get lost at 'C'!

DUTIES

Please sign up soon if you haven't done so already.

Thank you to members who have been undertaking their duties with care and responsibility. Doing your bit to open/close the club, serve refreshments, provide safety cover, run races etc. are such an important part of keeping TTSC alive and thriving. The club simply wouldn't operate in its current format without you! Special thanks to those who have volunteered to help with additional/last-minute cover.

If you are able to help cover any future duties, please sign up via duty man (accessed via the members page on the club website) or let Fiona, our wonderful 'queen' of helping to organise duties, know. We're not sure the club would operate without her making sure we are all 'in post' either!



RACE OFFICER TRAINING

If anyone is interested in learning how to run/organise a race, please speak to or message Barry Bone. If you would like to give Assistant Race Officer or Race Officer duties a go, this would be perfect.

Barry: ttsccommodore@outlook.com



SUP

The club's stand up paddleboards are pumped up and ready to hire.
Look how colourful that one is!

Members are reminded that the SUP protocols can be found in the Members' Area of the club website.

TTSC SUP members do not need BCA membership to hire & use TTSC Paddleboards. SUP members at TTSC, if using their own paddleboard, must register as individual members of the British Canoe Association ("BCA") and pay the BCA annual affiliation fee. BCA membership provides third party insurance.

Another wonderful way to take to the water.



QUOTE CORNER

"You can never cross the ocean
unless you have the courage to
lose sight of the shore."
- Christopher Columbus

YOUTH RACING

As well as enjoying time on the water at TTSC, our younger members, with the supportive encouragement of Stuart and their families, have been busy sailing and racing away, taking the name of Tonbridge Town SC far and wide.

Please find a snippet of their amazing racing adventures below.

Jonathan and Dan sailed in light winds at the Topper Open at Whitstable YC.

Myles and Charlie represented TTSC at the Kent Schools Sailing Association Opening Splash regatta at Downs SC in Deal. It's fair to say that with more light winds conditions were challenging!

8 TTSC sailors including 5 juniors took part in an Introduction to Racing Day at TTSC. With light winds forecast all but one of the juniors were persuaded into Toppers, whilst two adults sailed club Lasers.

The early May Bank Holiday Weekend saw the Eric Twiname Junior Championships at Rutland Water. Jonathan in a Topper and Charlie in an ILCA 4 represented the RYA London and SE Region at this national multi-class event.

Jonathan and Dan took part in the Topper Coastal Championships at Hayling.

Imogen, Niall and Isaac sailed outside of Haysden Water for the first time at Martello Lakes in Hythe, taking part in a KSSA Start Racing Day. The event began with a morning of race tuition, followed by four races in the afternoon. During the racing, they remained closely matched, regularly swapping positions. All three completed every race, while a number of other competitors were forced to retire. Their experience sailing in the gusty, shifty conditions at Haysden Water clearly helped them adapt well to the challenging conditions. All three sailors came away with a medal for their efforts, and Niall was awarded a cap for finishing in first place overall — a fantastic achievement. They are already looking forward to taking part in more events in the future.



So what is coming up for our young sailors?

In a few weekends time is the Summer Championships at Grafham Water 13-14 June.

Meanwhile Jonathan is heading off down to Weymouth during Half Term for 3 days of training in preparation for the 420 World Championships in July.

Good luck, Jonathan!

For those just being introduced to racing looking ahead there are a number of opportunities to develop their sailing:-

- 23rd May - TTSC Commodore's Cup race pm
- 30th May - TTSC Commodore's Cup race pm
- 31st May - TTSC Junior Club
- 13th June - All girls training run by KSSA at Dover Watersports (for girls only!)
- 20th June - TTSC Midsummer Regatta – this will be accessible even to new sailors from the Level 2 course.
- 27th June - Junior Regatta at Chipstead SC - a perfect event for those new to racing with Oppies and Toppers for hire.

If anyone would like to know more about Youth racing and training please contact ttscyouthracing@outlook.com.



CAUGHT ON CAMERA AT TTSC



Canadian geese and their goslings watching the boats return from a pleasant afternoon on the water



A dunlin making himself at home on the slipway, keeping racers company as they rigged and launched their boats.

OUR COMMITTEE:

basically, helping to make nearly everything we see in these newsletters, down at the club and where TTSC is represented, possible!

And *that*, is quite something.

Just working away in the background doing my thing, reading, writing messages, answering questions, attending meetings, juggling a few things and...making a HUGE difference!



THIS!

Happy Sailing!