

HOAC Centre Report 2020.

Aims of the association

Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre (HOAC) is a *registered Youth Educational Charity* providing outdoor and environmental education for the whole community but with priority given to young people and those who are disadvantaged or disabled.

Management Structure.

- The London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) owns the HOAC site which the Colne Valley Youth and Community Association (HOAC) manages under a *partnership arrangement*.
- This is governed by a *Service Level Agreement* which is reviewed every three years and is the basis for the annual LBH grant.
- A 25-year lease for the land was signed in 2003. The lake is on a management agreement.

Committee and staffing structure

- Trustees
- General Committee x 5 (elected at the AGM)
- LBH Councillors and Youth Service Officers who can attend meetings in an ex-officio capacity.
- Full Time Employees: Principal, Deputy Principal, Chief Instructor, Operations Manager and Operations Administrator.
- Contract, seasonal workers and sessional workers.

Functions

- The Committee act as advisors to the Trustees and help set overall policy and ensure that the Centre adheres to its charitable objectives.
- The strategic policy and decision making body is the Trustees.
- Committee members and Trustees make their time and skills available to HOAC on a *voluntary* basis assisting with areas of expertise such as *financial, marketing and legal*.
- HOAC staff make the operational decisions and carry out the day to day running of the Centre.

Finances

- The annual audit is currently carried out by Sterling Grove Accountants Ltd (formally Morgan Hamilton Inghams Chartered Accountants).

Staffing

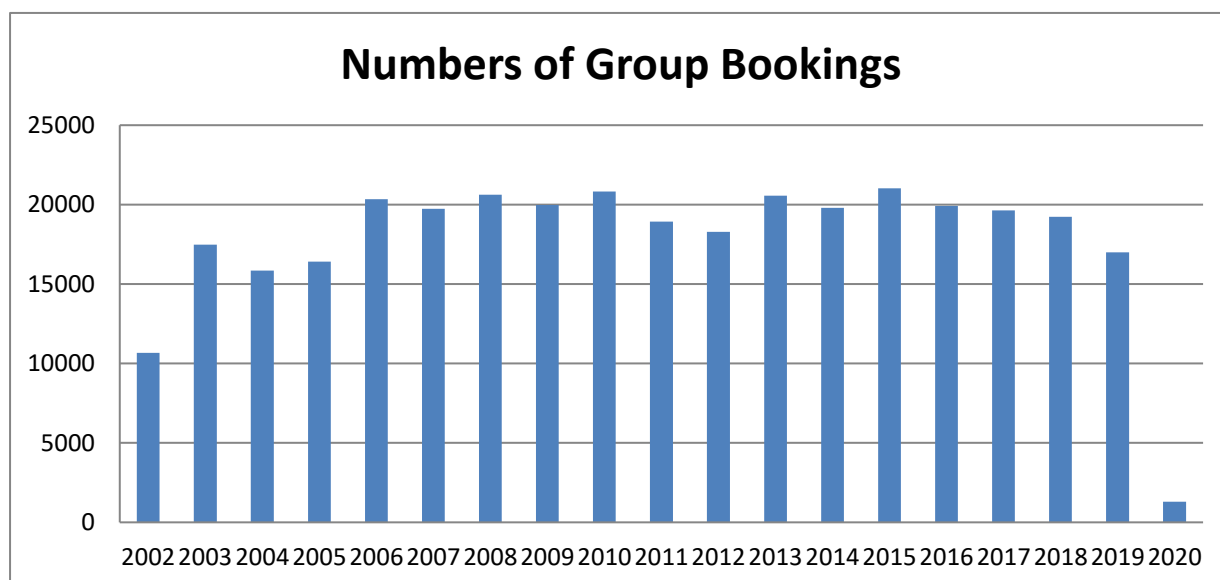
- The Centre operates with a full time staff of 5.
- A number of Senior instructors are employed on a contracted hours basis
- A number of Seasonal Instructors are employed.
- Sessional Duty Staff and Instructors are employed throughout the year as required.
- The tradition of *voluntary work* at HOAC continues and it is the commitment of all the staff (voluntary and paid) which helps make the Centre a thriving community facility.
- HOAC has a successful programme for training teachers and youth leaders to run many of the Centre's land activities, thus reducing costs for young people.
- The Young Leaders Scheme provides a highly effective route for young people to qualify and join the HOAC staff.

The year in brief – 2020 season

- Covid 19 has obviously had a massive effect on the centre. We were locked down from 21st March through to Monday 8th June.
- From Tuesday 9th June we reopened to members allowing them to hire and use club boats.
- We ran a reduced summer holiday program. We had 8-10's in the mornings and 11-18's in the afternoon, we had 650 children in over the summer
- We were able to offer activities for groups during September using reduced numbers due to low numbers of staff and to limit the numbers on site
- From October we closed the centre as HS2 finally takes over the centre.
- We managed to put the majority of our staff on furlough, protecting their jobs but we did lose our seasonal team and there has been minimal work for our sessional instructors
- None of the HOAC clubs have operated this year due to Covid-19
- HS2 have been taking more and more of the site, we lost our main carpark and had to recreate a smaller car park in the boat park for our customers to use.
- HS2 took our woodland at the end of September and are now removing all the trees.
- Since we have been shut we have been packing the site up ready to move to a new site once we are given the go-ahead.
- We expect to make substantial losses this season due to the closure during our peak period, however we had reserves to allow for such an eventuality

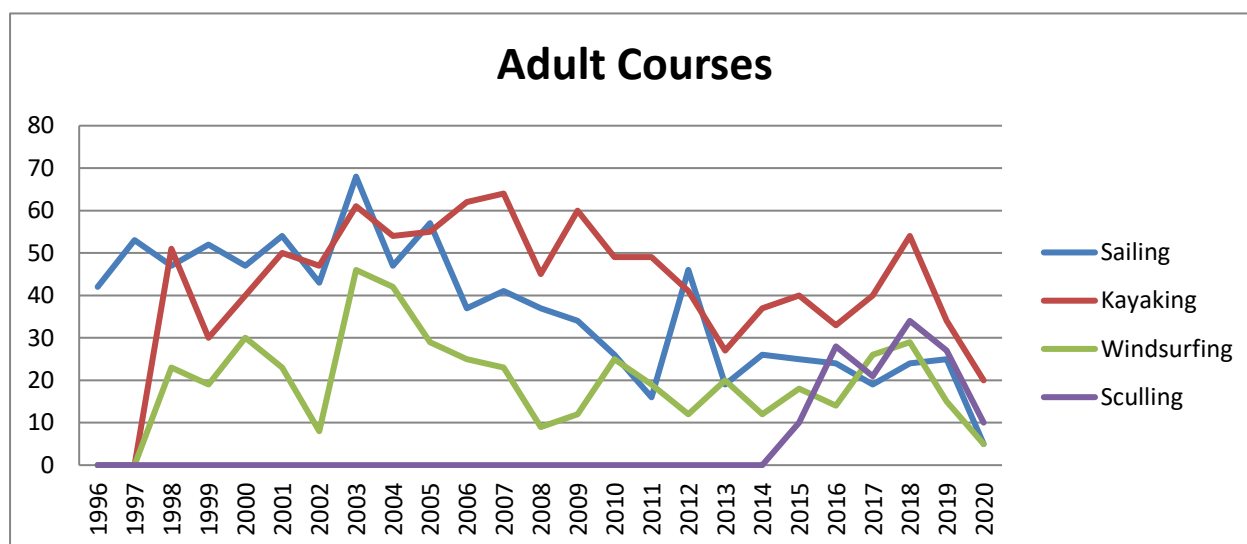
Group Bookings

Nearly half of the centres income usually comes through group bookings, so losing it for the current season has had a dramatic effect on our income. We made the decision not to take deposits from schools that were cancelling due to the pandemic this has cost the centre, but it is hoped that this will keep our customers happy and willing to come back in future years. We were able to offer activities during September when the covid restrictions were lifted



Adult Courses

Adult course have been in decline in the last decade, very few courses ran in 2020

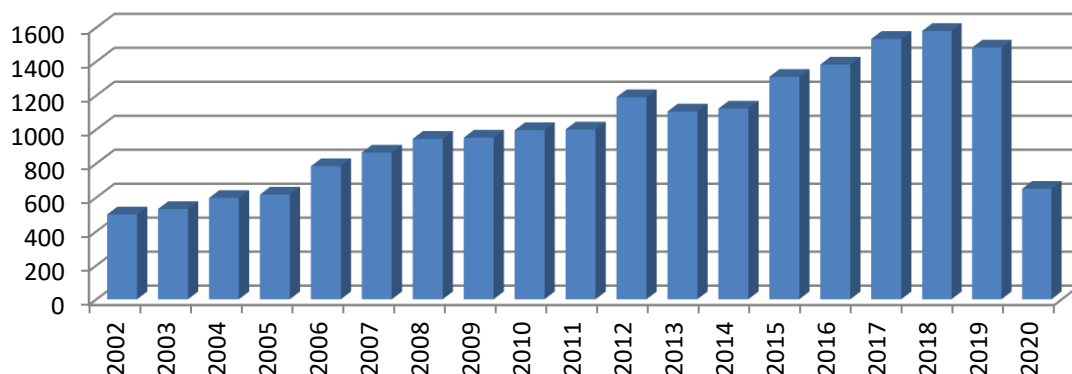


Holiday Courses

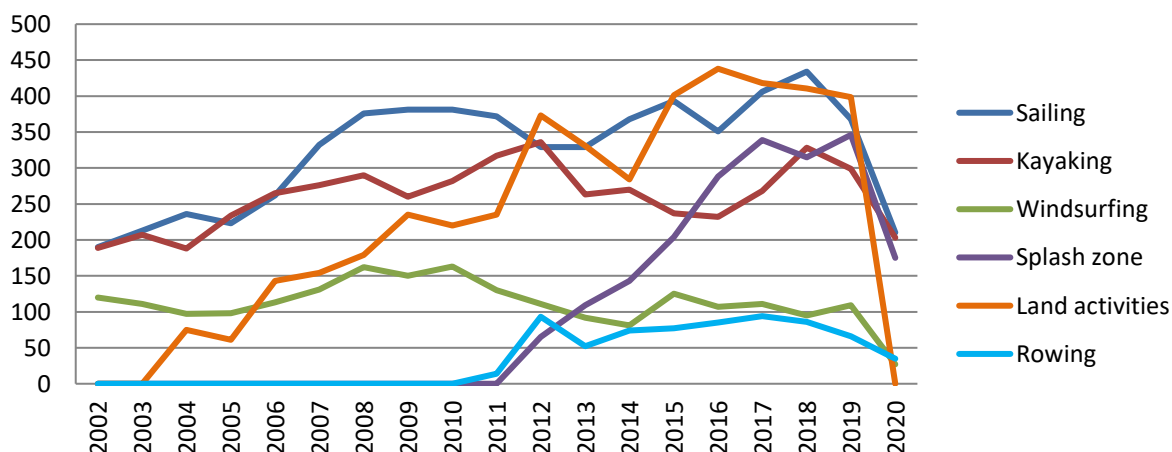
Our holiday course program has grown quickly over the last few years. However this season due to the lockdown our numbers dropped massively however we are pleased that we were still able to offer 650 spaces for children over the summer holidays.

	<i>Easter</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>	<i>Autumn</i>
2002	0	0	499	0
2003	0	0	531	0
2004	0	0	596	0
2005	0	0	616	0
2006	0	0	783	0
2007	0	19	863	11
2008	0	49	944	14
2009	0	45	951	30
2010	0	45	995	6
2011	0	42	999	27
2012	62	20	1189	36
2013	40	8	1105	23
2014	56	24	1122	18
2015	48	59	1309	21
2016	45	49	1381	26
2017	25	62	1532	17
2018	39	34	1579	16.5
2019	40	37	1481	28.6
2020	0	0	650	0

Summer Holiday Courses



Summer Course Breakdown



Membership and Clubs

We only opened to members this season this resulted in a sharp increase in membership mainly with our short term summer deal. Those that have membership unused due to our current HS2 imposed shutdown will have their fees carried over into next season, or will be refunded if they wish

HOAC run clubs

None of the HOAC run clubs ran this season, but will be resurrected once we move to our new site

HOAC Community Clubs

Queensmead Sailing Club – offer members a wealth of opportunity both at HOAC and on the many offsite trips for a very small annual fee. The club was obviously affected by the lockdown but were very active once the centre opened again. It is sad to report that Bert May the club commodore was taken ill with a stroke at the beginning of the season, the club members have rallied together to help support him and also to keep the club ticking over in his absence.

Hillingdon Rowing Club – also suffered from the lockdown, but did return for a few sessions towards the end of the season, they are continuing to row over the winter at other clubs on the Thames.

Hillingdon Junior Canoe Club – usually run various events on the lake throughout the season, but also run trips to more ‘exciting water’ where youngsters can experience the thrill of moving water and enhance their skills beyond the limitations of the HOAC lake

HOAC community events

Racing at HOAC

The volunteer Race Committee worked very hard to get racing happening again at HOAC and came up with imaginative ways of keeping the sailors entertained working around the restrictions in place. They also organised and ran the end of season “Final Fling” which catered for 40 boats out sailing in very windy conditions that gave the centre a good send off.

All of our usual events, Special Needs Day, Family Open Day, Young Leaders didn’t run this season

Young Leaders

The young leaders course is a very important aspect of the centre, bringing in volunteers to help out on our courses and then for them to proceed to becoming instructors in the future. Despite the centre not being able to run the main young leaders course, we were still able to run some of the graduate courses which has resulted in 5 new sailing instructors joining the instructing team ready for 2021

The Future

HOAC has finally succumbed to the advance of the High Speed 2 project with the centre sadly closing at the beginning of October.

HS2 and LBH had stalled in the negotiations during the lockdown period and are only now working towards our relocation. This leaves HOAC in a very precarious position with no real security over our future.

The council are still hopeful that they will move us in time for next season but even if this is successful there will still be a lot of work going on and it will take time for the centre to be able to offer all that it does now.

Unfortunately we cannot reveal where this new site is, however it is within the borough and is close to our existing site, as soon as we are in a position to share more news about our move and our plans for 2021 we will do so.

Special Thanks

With a busy community facility like HOAC a great many people help make the Centre a success and it is not possible to thank everyone individually. Below are just a few to whom special thanks are due:

- The various councillors of the London Borough of Hillingdon, especially our ward Councillors who have been very supportive.
- Everyone involved in the HOAC management, trustees and committee for all the effort they have put in over the season.
- The team of regular maintenance volunteers - Wal Saunders and Bert May, they both stepped down from their roles at the beginning of the year just before the pandemic took hold but have helped keep the centre running for many years.
- The leaders and volunteers of all HOAC associated clubs and all the helpers and staff who have been waiting eagerly to start re-running their clubs.
- The young leaders who volunteer their time to help make HOAC the success that it is
- Last, and by no means least, all the users who continue to use the facilities and provide the drive for securing the future of the centre