



HTCE - NEWSLETTER

Dear friends,

I started this newsletter in December 2025 but due to circumstances it was only finished today... In this newsletter, we will take you through some decisions taken at the 2025 Antwerp AGM, as well as guiding you towards the 2026 Half Ton Classics Cup in Hankø (NOR) which will be held from 1 – 7 August 2026.

But let's start with great news from Norway...

The Seldén Group, the world's leading manufacturer of mast and rigging systems in carbon and aluminium for dinghies, keelboats and yachts - with well known brands like Seldén and Furlex - have signed as the Hankø Half Ton Classics Cup **Title partner**.

We are proud and grateful!





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A presentation of the venue can be found on the HTCE website, under the 'News'-tab.

All further news can be found on the event's website at

WWW.HTCNORWAY.NO/HTCC2026/

With 40 half tonners already listed at this moment, the organizers can start dreaming of having ... 50 boats by the 1st of August... what would be quite an achievement!

On the entry list many familiar local faces, but also some regular visitors from Belgium, Sweden, and even France & Ireland with team Harmony coming for a taste of the local beer... And we even see a team from California/USA – Martin is currently fixing their Nussy 94 'new style'...



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THE 2025 HTCC

We'll all remember the fantastic yacht club, the excellent race committee, the fabulous pontoon drink, the delicious BBQ on the Club's terrace, the challenging wind conditions in Torbay, the spectacular and long spinnaker run of the offshore race...

A big applause to Peter Rutter for bringing that all together...



We were delighted to see many new faces around In Toruay, many French who crossed the Channel, a Norwegian X-95 that sailed from Belgium (and back to Norway after the event!), 4 Belgian teams, some British and 2 Irish who drove down from their island with a black and an orange boat, one with a fixed propeller shaft, and the other without...

The orange boat named 2 FARR came, saw and ... won, with a clear margin. A light blue boat with the beautiful name PER ELISA showed incredible boat speed, venerable GENERAL TAPIOCA demonstrated that crew age still rhymes with performance, ... but what most surprised us was that small old white French half tonner, with the smallest handicap but brilliantly sailed by her crew resulting in a 1st place in the overall Vintage fleet... a huge applause for the team of INSOLENT!

The main trophy, the Half Ton True Spirit Trophy, was awarded to the youth team with OPLITE, sailing over from Brittany, sleeping on board, ... perfectly in line with the old days...

Sure all teams enjoyed their stay at the English Riviera to such a degree that many will turn up in Hankø in a few months...



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NEWS FROM THE AGM

During the AGM the main topic on the agenda was of course the updated Class Rules. After a long debate, it was finally decided to stick largely to the last version of the text proposed in February 2025, albeit with some clarifications.

The new class rules will be effective on the 1st of February 2026. They will be published on the Class' website under the Class-tab in Class documents

In short:

Number of pro's on board (WS Cat 1) can be maximum 2: the owner + 1. If the owner is not a pro, then only 1 pro can sail on board during a Class event. In case of a rented boat, the 'owner' is replaced by 'the representative'.

You can still sail with 1 more than the crew number stated on your endorsed IRC certificate on the condition that the extra member is a 'youngster' of max 21 years old at the start of the event. This age limit was 18 years until now.

The Class still promotes youth teams sailing on a half tonner.

For the vintage boats there will be a proper trophy at the prizegiving.

NEWS FROM THE HTCE BOARD

NEW members of the Board

During the 2025 AGM 2 new members were voted on the board:

Peter Rutter (owner of QUOKKA IX)

Stian Tønnesen (owner of CANTIPPA)

Congratulations to both, and hopefully we'll have a French board member next year...

Endorse your half tonner

Stop the eternal rating discussions and offer an endorsed IRC rating certificate to your half tonner. ... The measurement process might be time consuming, but it offers the advantage of having a fair & correct IRC rating.

Remember that to enter your boat for the HTCC, you need such a certificate.



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New Class Logo – available to all

If you would like to add the new HTCE logo on your sailing gear (polos, sweaters, jackets, ... just send us a message (info@halftonclass.eu) and we'll send you the logo in pdf-format.

New Class Stickers

We made stickers with the new Class logo, available in Belgian, French, Irish, and UK colours (the Norwegians have their own stickers). They can be obtained with the respective 'fleet managers'

UK: Peter Rutter

IRL: Patrick Boardman

BEL: Philippe Pilate

NOR: Espen Bakkerud

FRA: Philippe Pilate (he's in Brittany quite often...)

All other countries: please contact the Class...





EUROPE

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FLEET NEWS

IRISH FLEET

The old BLUE BERRET PI has emerged after a long refit – he's actually looking to buy some second hand racing sails that fit his mast – if you can help them – please contact the Class and we'll put you in contact.

UK FLEET

There's a huge task waiting for Peter Rutter which is to rebuild a good and representative UK-fleet at the East and South coast...

What is needed to have CHIA-CHIA, HOOLIGAN, XANDRA, SECRETS, DEMOLITION or CHIMP racing again? There must surely be other X-95s, SJ30s, SJ32s or Trapper 950s around to grow the fleet... (we made enough Class stickers...)

BRITTANY FLEET (FRANCE)

There is a new member in the Brittany fleet ! A French team is bringing PER ELISA to Brittany, after a long Cornish life... The target for the next Spi-Ouest France is now set at 10 halftonnars so that we can have our own class...

A well-performing Brittany & vintage half tonner is now up-for-sale: check the 'market place' on our website and learn all about COLLECTOR... That is if you're not too late yet...

BELGIAN FLEET

Latest 'addition' to the BEL-fleet, TOM POUCE, after a 10-month long refit, made its debut during the local end-of-season 'Antwerp Race' on 18th October, just 10 days after her re-launching. Racing in the cruiser-racer class (as the IRC endorsed from 2024 was really obsolete), the blue/white Berret 1978 half tonner led the 43 boat fleet for the entire race, securing victory both in real as in corrected time.

In IRC class 3 GENERAL TAPIOCA finished 2nd on corrected and HALFAJET, with an entire novice crew, finished 8th.

Sure that by spring 2026 we'll also have more news from the Nieuwpoort fleet...

A Belgian Open ½-Ton Weekend is in the planning for the weekend of 5-6 september – stay tuned... and put it in your agendas!



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SCANDINAVIAN FLEET

The Norwegian halftonners have just published their 2026 sailing program – feel free to travel over to Norway to join hem – Martin will find you a boat!

9/05	Hvaler Rundt
10/05	Summer Series
30/05	Kostervalsen
12-13 June	Faerderseilasen
24-28 June	Hankø Race Week / NM ½ Ton
1-7 August	Seldén Half Ton Classics Cup - Hankø
19 Sept	MK Båt Cup / Løkkevika

CLASS EVENT DATA

Half Ton Classics Cup 2026: 1 - 7 AUG 2026 – Hankø (NOR)

Half Ton Classics Cup 2027: in France - Brest or Le Crouesty/Arzon - ...

Half Ton Classics Cup 2028: vacant – California/USA?

➔ If you have other events to suggest, please contact us





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CLASS MEMBERSHIP FEES 2026

Yes indeed it's time to transfer your 2026 membership to our accounts...

By paying your membership fee you give a strong signal to the Class in general and more specifically to the board. The Half Ton Class is a story about you and us, and we write that story together!

Also you can only participate in the Half Ton Classics Cup when you have paid your membership fee...

The fee of 100 EUR is to be paid by bank transfer only, to:

Half Ton Class Europe

IBAN: BE78 0018 1280 2886 -- BIC: GEBABEBB

Communication: 'member 2026' + boat name + sail number + your name

Wishing you and your families all the best for the New Year, and may all your sailing dreams come true!

That's all for now...

Fair winds & following seas...

Bert – Ward – Jeremy – Philippe – Stian - Peter

info@halftonclass.eu

