



## Shropshire Sailing Club Newsletter September 2007

### Editor's Comment (Mike Royden [m.royden@virgin.net](mailto:m.royden@virgin.net) )

Not being one for frostbite sailing, I always get rather depressed this time of year with winter fast approaching and dark nights with us already. It all went too quick again didn't it? Personally I have not been able to attend the club as much as wished, due to holidays, work and family illness all conspiring to restrict our attendance. When I could get down it was heartening see such a hive of activity and many new faces. The junior developments have been especially impressive and great thanks must go out to those who have regularly given much time and effort into training and racing days. There is also much time spent in preparation and admin for this, it is not just the effort you see on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday. Many thanks to you all and well done to the strong band of juniors doing so well at the club.



I know a number of members have tied in sailing again with holidays over the past year - some experiencing the joys of Sunsail in several locations abroad, the beauty of Windermere at home, and a regular annual exodus to Abersoch for Dingy Week and school holidays. Still awaiting stories of your adventures though - it may inspire others, so send them in! This year we took the Topaz 300 miles to Salcombe in Devon. Thanks to a club member who I had a conversation about this in June - he gave me plenty of valuable advice about sailing around the area. We camped about one mile outside Salcombe in that glorious weather in August (you remember, it was the only sun this year),



It was exceptionally busy, both on the water and off, but we didn't let that put us off. There is a public slipway next to a car park, although the trailer park is usually sown up for places well before August, especially as there are so many races and regatta week. So the boat had to be dropped off while a car parking slot was found (not easy). Nevertheless, young sailors can be left doing all the rigging while Dad leisurely does laps of the car park waiting to battle for the next empty space. Rather like watching Chris Adlington roughing up the kids in musical chairs on Halloween Night (make a date in your diary!). As

we were exploring the creeks it was essential to know the currents and tides - doesn't take too long and you learn very quickly. A one-off (annual) harbour dues fee of £13 has to be paid to the attendant on the quayside. One pleasant afternoon was spent heading inland towards Kingsbridge, a nearby town at the head of one of the creeks. On the way we passed a familiar sight (well to me coming from Liverpool). A vessel I had been on countless times - the *Egremont* - a former Mersey Ferry, was now berthed in the main creek. It is used now as a floating residence and base for the Island Cruising Club, a sailing and sail training centre

offering holidays and RYA courses. She was built in Dartmouth in 1952 so she had returned home after being laid up in 1975.



It was great fun navigating the creeks and coming ashore to explore. There were also secluded beaches opposite Salcombe where sailors could come ashore away from the busy shores elsewhere. There was plenty of racing on offer and Salcombe Regatta was on too. It was a pleasurable experience sailing back to the slipway passing the busy Salcombe frontage where a steel band was playing. After the fly-past by a Lancaster flanked by a Spitfire and Hurricane, there was a night procession where a linked flotilla of small craft cruised around the harbour with young crews holding luminous lights. A fantastic firework display from the opposite headland finished off the week. I was put in mind again of Halloween at Whitemere which is marginally better. (check that date again! - Sat 27<sup>th</sup> October)

### **Mike Royden (Editor/House Committee)**

#### **Useful Information**

Island Cruising Club: [www.icc-salcombe.co.uk](http://www.icc-salcombe.co.uk)

Salcombe General Info: [www.salcombeinformation.co.uk](http://www.salcombeinformation.co.uk)

Salcombe Dingy Sailing: [www.salcombedinghysailing.co.uk](http://www.salcombedinghysailing.co.uk)



## What's On - Dates for your diary

### **Halloween Sat 27<sup>th</sup> October (Clubhouse 7pm after Saturday sailing)**

Fun and games, pumpkin carving competition, tasty food, Entry is free but there will be a small charge for food. We do not have a licence for the evening so please bring your own drinks. Torches may be useful for the youngsters.

We are also holding a **Pumpkin Competition - With Prizes** - to help decorate the Club House. Please do enter.



### **Annual General Meeting Fri 23<sup>th</sup> November (Clubhouse 7.30pm)**

To find out how well this year has gone and what we have to look forward to next year, please come along to the AGM on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. It's your opportunity to have your say and get the low down on the club's performance during the last year. Importantly, it's your opportunity to vote in a new club management team. Please do remember to get any submissions to our Hon. Sec (**Brian Rapson**) by **26<sup>th</sup> October at the latest**. Submissions can be to put someone forward for a particular post or to suggest that a key issue be discussed.

### **Your Sailing Club needs YOU!!**

We are short of members on the House Committee. The committee is responsible for social events, maintenance of the buildings and grounds and provision of supplies. We have around 5 meetings per year which are not unduly arduous. It is a good way to meet other members and feel part of the club. If you are interested please get in touch with **Mary Clifford** ([maryclifford@lineone.net](mailto:maryclifford@lineone.net) or 01939 260184)

### **Laying up - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

A call for club volunteers to help lay the club up for winter! Hot drinks and snacks will be provided. Don't forget - member's boats must be removed from the premises by the **31<sup>st</sup> December 2006** in accordance with the club licence.

### **Annual Dinner / Prizegiving 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

Information to follow shortly

**Mary Clifford (House Committee)**

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## Reports

### Sailing Secretary's column (Tim Allan)

Most fleets have decided on their Fleet Captain for 2008 but those in the 'menagerie' fleet might wish to know that **Karen Ashton** has offered to stand again but if you have another candidate in mind ... ?

### Try a Vision

In the summer the Club purchased two new RS Visions to replace the ageing Wayfarer and older GP. These boats were chosen for their reputation as a training dinghy. They are spacious, have an uncluttered cockpit, are easy to rig, can be reefed, and are very light, so are easy to launch and recover. Plus they feature an asymmetric spinnaker and trapeze so have performance similar to others in their class such as Laser 2K. We have used them on the last two RYA courses and received good feedback from both instructors and students alike. The most recent course experienced strong winds and the Visions demonstrated their good manners and suitability for Level 2 sailors. The boats are available for hire at £12 a session, which is tremendous value, so please give them a try, great for cruising or racing. The only condition we apply is that you please ask a Club Officer for help with rigging the first time, and particularly if wishing to use the spinnaker.



## Safety Boats

Can I draw your attention to the amended bylaw regarding use of the Safety (Rescue) Boat:

### CLUB BYLAW 10.6 USE OF SAFETY BOATS

The Safety Boats shall only be under the control of a member aged EIGHTEEN years or over who has EITHER successfully completed an RYA Powerboat Stage 2 course OR attended a Club run 'Safety Boat Familiarisation' session, OR has satisfied the Sailing Committee that he/she is capable of safely driving the Safety Boat. Exceptionally the Sailing Committee may approve a Safety boat to be under the control of a Junior Member who has successfully completed an RYA Powerboat Stage 2 course, AND under the following conditions:

- aged SIXTEEN years or over and assisting with Club organised Training or Coaching activities
- aged FOURTEEN years or over and supervised in the boat by an adult member (qualified as above)

The Sailing Committee will maintain a list of names of approved Junior Members.

Juniors under the age of EIGHT years are not permitted in the Safety Boats except when the subject of a rescue situation.

The Coaching inflatable is not defined as a Safety Boat. It may only be under the control of a Senior Instructor, Dinghy Instructor or Club Coach, engaged in delivering a Club organised training or coaching session. At no time are passengers allowed to be carried.



## Top Tips for Safety Boat Use

1	At all times, wear the kill cord on your leg or buoyancy aid. If you are the driver, do not enter or exit the boat with the engine running.
2	The first thing to do at a capsize is to count heads – can you see everyone that was in the boat?
3	If a dinghy has inverted and there is any concern that someone may be underneath - lift the bow and rest it on the side of the safety boat. This allows air to get underneath.
4	Be comfortable with the safety boat. Many people are more at home with the dory with its wheel steering and single lever control than the orange rigiflex with its tiller and twist grip throttle – it’s all too easy to turn the throttle the wrong way! Take an opportunity to familiarise yourself with the boats at a quiet time.
5	Most people do not want to be rescued if they capsize. They will usually tell you. The drill is to be there but to stand off downwind. You may insist that people come into the safety boat if you believe that they are in danger.
6	Propellers and people are not a good mix. If there are people in the water, turn off the engine. Consider turning off the engine when dealing with a capsized dinghy.
7	Try not to “point” the engine at a person in the water. Always approach them to the front or to the side.
8	People come first. Take people on board by all means but do not attempt to recover a dinghy if you are not happy to do so. This is particularly important if the dinghy is in the trees.
9	If you have agreed to be the “rescue person”, even if temporarily, do not abandon the role until or unless you have handed over to someone else. The rule is, <b>No safety boat, no sailing.</b>
10	You should get no closer to the beach than the end of the jetties. Keep away from the banks if you are not rescuing – watch out for fishermen and their lines.
11	Do make sure that you have sufficient fuel. Our safety boats all use unleaded petrol and supplies can be found in the fuel store to the rear of the Nissen Hut.
12	Keep a look out. Whilst rescuing one boat, another could be in greater difficulty – if the people in the first boat are safe, check out the other.
13	Do not joy ride around the mere – it annoys the fishermen and wastes fuel.

**If in doubt, ASK for advice**

## Oppies are GO!



We now have the two Club Optimists back in service, with grateful thanks to Chris Endacott and Brian Johnson. These boats are available to members free of charge (please use the booking

system) and we hope they will help some of our youngest members to get

afloat. Oppies have proven over decades to be able to offer very safe and exciting sailing for smaller children. Again please don't hesitate to ask for help if unsure how to rig.



*No longer relegated to the role of the pirate ship on fun days - oppies can be even more fun! Many thanks to Chris and Brian!*



## Have you done your Duty?

If you have done a Rescue or Race Officer duty for the first time this year then I hope you found the experience rewarding if not entirely relaxing !! Thank you for supporting the Club in this way, your attendance is absolutely fundamental to our ability to offer safe and enjoyable sailing to our members, both cruising and racing. If you are scheduled for a duty in the remainder of the season please check you are still able to attend and if not please try to find someone else to swop dates with.



If unable to swop, please contact the Monthly Duty Officer (listed in the Programme), as soon as possible, to enable them to have a chance of finding a replacement. This year we have had a few days when alternative cover has not been arranged in advance and this has meant that members who have come down to sail have had to forego their sailing in order to provide cover for each other. If you are uncertain about how to perform your Race Officer duty then please contact the Sailing Secretary. If you have not previously done a Rescue duty then please contact any member of the Sailing Committee and arrange to have some familiarisation. We will again organize a Race Officer and Rescue training session at the start of next season.



*If you can see the float, you are too close!*

While on the subject of Rescue Boats, please always use the minimum speed necessary for the situation at hand. This will minimise risk of damage or injury, save on our fuel bills, and please our neighbours and fishermen.

## Tell us what you think

All the members of the Sailing Committee are eager to provide you with the best sailing experience possible at Whitemere, whether you be cruising or racing, young or old, novice or grand master. Please tell us what you think, where you would like us to focus our efforts. If you have raced this year, what did you think of the new format? And of course we would always be delighted if you can volunteer to help out in any way, shape or form. As is often the case in clubs and organisations, a large share of the work tends to rest on a few shoulders and it is sometimes easy to forget just how much is being done to keep things running smoothly.

## Events

Our Family Fun days did not happen this year. That's basically because they need responsible volunteers to run them and we cannot expect the same people to run them year in and year out. So .... if you would like to see Family Fun Days in the Programme next year, do consider volunteering.

## Tim Allan (Sailing Secretary)

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## Rear Commodore & Training Principle's Column (Brian Johnson)

A big thank to the Sailing and General Committee's for the two new RS Vision training boats. It is a substantial investment for any sailing club but those members that have used them will agree, I think that they are a huge improvement on the Wayfarer and older GP14 that we have "retired" after years of service. I'd particularly like to thank Rob Shelley who put a great deal of personal effort into assembling the case for and the financial arguments to support the purchase. Don't forget that these boats are available to hire when not being used for training at just £12 a session.

Another big thank you to the training team. In case you don't know, this is headed up by our Senior Instructors, John Ridgers, Chris Adlington, Rob Shelley, Tiffer Morris and Sue Tuerena. Tiffer and John are our Chief instructors for dinghy and power respectively whilst Chris leads the juniors. It's the commitment given by these together with our dinghy instructors and junior assistants that make it possible for the club to continue to be an RYA Recognised Training Centre.

It's been another busy year. We ran **Start Racing** for the first time and there are other advanced courses such as **Sailing with Spinnakers** and **Seamanship** that we might consider for 2008 - it depends on what club members want so **do let us know** as we will be meeting soon to develop our plans for the new year. Tim Allan and Jim Shipp have also been running racing improvement sessions on Wednesday evenings and just might be willing to do so again but you need to let us know if you are interested.

### Dinghy training statistics for 2007

Start Racing (8)	Adult Level 1 (12)	Adult Level 2 (6)	
Junior Stage 1 (32)	Junior Stage 2 (9)	Junior Stage 3 (1)	Junior Stage 4 (5)

Whilst I generally talk about formal RYA courses, do remember that a great deal of training goes on in our Junior fleet so as well as saying thank you to all our instructors, I'd like to say a particular thank you to those that run our Junior Days ..... Chris Adlington, Tim Allan, Tiffer Morris and led by Rob Shelley your Junior Fleet Captain.

RYA Level 1 at SSC





**Well Done!**

*(pics by Chris Endacott)*

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## Junior Report (Rob Shelley)

### *BALA SAILING CLUB JUNIOR OPEN*

The Bala Sailing Club Junior Open was held on September 23. A strong south westerly, peaking at 22 knots, provided extremely challenging conditions for the 16 entrants - as well as some highly exhilarating genniker runs. Seven visiting boats from Shropshire Sailing Club enjoyed both the conditions and freedom of a much larger stretch of water.

Thanks are extended to The Race Officer did well to finish three long and one, final, short race - interesting courses adding to the challenge of the day.

A range of boats including Fevas, Lasers, Picos, Toppers, a L2k, Oppi, Taz and Tera had a close fought day with Hitchman of Bala leading Robert Morris of Shropshire Sailing Club in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Bala sailors Pettit, Norfolk and Hughes lay in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place, on points just ahead Shropshire entrants Shelley and Brisbane in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> place.

A fun day at a very welcoming club - this is a thoroughly recommended event. A special thanks to the Bala sailor who loaned a Topper mast for the day following a breakage during the first race.



*A bleak start to the day*







*Bala pics - Chris Endacott*



## *SHROPSHIRE SAILING CLUB JUNIOR OPEN*



*Rob runs through briefing before the start*

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> September provided perfect conditions for the Shropshire Sailing Club Junior Open - slightly overcast skies complemented with a force 2 to 3 wind strength all day. Twenty one home boats were joined by a visitor from Ripon Sailing Club. Six short races were run during the day - and for several a start line consisting of over 20 boats was a new experience. The event was won by Robert Morris with one point separating boats in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place. Tom Endacott in second place led George Shelley, Louise Norris and Lottie Rapson who were separated with a tie break. Many thanks to Chris Endacott who photographed the event and you can see these via the club website - just click "Junior Open" on the opening page at <http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk/>









## ***JUNIOR SAILING 2007***

Reflecting on the 2007 Junior Sailing season raises a question - how on earth did we fit so much in? We did, because of the fantastic, infectious enthusiasm of the youngsters themselves but equally importantly due to the time and effort given by some many adult volunteers.

A list of events cannot capture either the fun we have all had or the ongoing improvement in sailing ability. On behalf of all the adults I know we have all thoroughly enjoyed organising events this summer. The notes below are a mere snapshot :

- Five Junior Afternoons with between 15 and 28 boats. A combination of coaching and fun with the more experienced helping to coach the less experienced on the last session of the year.
- On several Saturday mornings advanced race coaching sessions were run - a special thanks is extended to Stuart Norris who brings a huge level of experience to these sessions.
- Several formal RYA courses have been run with 45 juniors being awarded certificates. Several juniors have started to take on an Assistant Instructor roles with huge success.
- The Fun weekend, organised by Bryn, was thoroughly enjoyed. A great day of fun sailing was followed by a huge 'camp-over' and a massive entry in the Open Regatta the following day.
- Tom, Lottie, Rob and George represented the club at the Pico Challenge in Colwyn Bay in May. They were joined by Hester, Francis Baldwin and both Norris's at the Bala Sailing Club Junior Open in September.

- Club members have also sailed in both Abersoch dinghy week and Mirror week.

These notes do not fully describe what a busy and vibrant part of club life the Junior Section now represents. I can only urge you to attend some events and see for yourselves!

## Rob Shelley



*Tim coaching Juniors using video analysis after filming them on the water*





**Camping over on the Fun Weekend**



## Duty Days - A polite but firm reminder

There is a published schedule of "duty days" both in the programme which is circulated before the season starts, and a reminder chart in the clubhouse, for OODs/AODs, and safety boat crew. Additionally, the names and telephone numbers of the Monthly Duty Officer are also displayed.

For the club to function . we need people to perform this minimal duty responsibility. If, as a result of circumstances, they find that the date previously confirmed with them is no longer convenient, all we ask is that they:

- a) Contact other members who might swap their duty day , and
- b) Exceptionally, tell the Monthly Duty Officer if a substitute has not been found, but giving as much notice as possible .

Routinely this year, there have been occasions when those on duty clearly have done neither, leaving those who have turned up to race with the problem.

If anyone has any constructive views as to how this issue can be better managed next year , please either contact a member of the Sailing Committee, or send a note to one of the Club Officers.

All suggestions will be carefully considered for next year's programme.

### Mike Davy (General Committee)

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#### For Sale:

##### **Laser 2000.**

- Sail No. 2473.
- 1 set of sails: - Main, Jib and Gennaker (Yellow).
- Combination Road Trailer / Launching Trolley.
- Boat cover + under cover for travelling.
- Spare Rudder / Tiller combination.

An excellent family boat able to give a great sail to the inexperienced and experienced alike.

What the class association says about it: -

<http://www.laser2000.lasersailing.com/>

**Reason for Sale:** - The boat is not getting the use and trips out it deserves (*only sailed half a dozen times in 2006 and twice during 2007*).

Price: - £4,000 o.n.o. Contact: John Ridgers.

Telephone: - 01691 671433 to arrange a viewing.



*(right: A Laser 2000 at Whitemere – not the one for sale – just for illustration purposes)*

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## **The New Jetty**

Many thanks again to the volunteers co-ordinated by John James who have turned out to help complete the Jetty. John has been the driving force behind this re-build and the club is indebted to him for his lead. As we should also thank the usual crew who turned up to assist and make fun of the Commodore's dress sense, haircut, car, tools, boat skills and lunchbox.

A great deal of hard work - much appreciated by all who will use it. I, for one, can't wait.

## **Gertie the Goose.**



## **Photography**

I haven't been able to attend as many sailing days during the summer as I would have like to have done (with my camera in hand), so many thanks to Chris Endacott for his excellent photographs. There were dozens more to choose from, and difficult to make selections. We try to make the photos accessible to members - in the newsletter, on the SSC website, and both Chris and myself put collections on CD to loan to members.

## **Mike Royden**

## **Newsletter distribution**

This newsletter has been distributed to members with a registered email address on the club database. Paper copies have been sent to members for whom we don't have such an address. Please let us know if you change your address - home or email.

We are now putting a PDF version of this edition with colour photographs on the club website as well as the usual word version to aid your viewing experience!

If you would like to contribute anything to the newsletter please email Mike Royden on [m.royden@virgin.net](mailto:m.royden@virgin.net)

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