

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

TRAINING COURSES: course places are filling up rapidly but there are still places available. The dates are:

Level 2 / Stage 2	(25 & 26 April)	(for Level 1/ Stage 1 or relevant experience)
Junior Stage 3/4	(2 & 3 May)	(for juniors who have completed Stage 2)
Level 1 / Stage 1	(16 & 17 May)	(for complete beginners)
Level 1 / Stage 1	(6 & 7 June)	(for complete beginners)
Level 1 / Stage 1	(12 & 13 September)	(for complete beginners)

Email Brian at helm@vodafoneemail.co.uk

DINGHY INSTRUCTORS: In 2008, 10 of our younger members became assistant dinghy instructors. None of these youngsters were over the age of 16 at the time so huge congratulations to Ben Lawrence, Louise Norris, Robert Morris, George Shelley, Una Davies, Crystal Truman, Tom Endacott, Lottie Rapson, Hester Allan and Francis Baldwin.

Would you like to teach others to sail? You need only to be a competent sailor. The club runs an Assistant Instructor course on a Friday evening and the following Saturday and Sunday during which you would find out how sailing is taught both in the classroom and on the water. If this works well then we would arrange for you to take a Power Boat Level 2 and First Aid course (if you don't already have these). There is no cost to you, but the quid pro quo is that those who qualify are asked to use their skills on one training weekend a year (more of course if you feel so inclined!). And it's the first step towards becoming a dinghy or senior instructor.

HOUSE COMMITTEE: comprises John James, Mary Clifford, Sue Walters, Mark Davies, Vic & Tess Hyde, Penny Hearn and Mike Roydon, but volunteers are very welcome. Throughout the year the committee ensures general cleanliness and tidiness of the club house and surroundings, including where necessary, maintenance of the building and its infrastructure.

PRESENTATION DINNER: 72 guests, including 17 juniors, heard John James stand up at the Hawkstone Hotel and suggest that next year we would be looking at other venues. Nonetheless the night was good fun and it was great to see friends again and anticipate the new season.

HAPPY DAYS: 2008 events included the presentation dinner at the Walls Restaurant in Oswestry; a skittles night and fish & chip supper at the Comrades Club in Ellesmere; Commodore's evening at Welsh Frankton Village Hall with entertainment by 3 Men in Bow Ties; and the wet 'n' wild Halloween party, where the usual suspects made fools of themselves. There was a great turn out for the Junior Open and a big thank you to Rob Shelley and team for a great day. I think the youngest competitor was nine, which again shows just what our youngsters can do.

WHO'S WHO: Those that couldn't attend the AGM should take a look at our web site to see changes in our club officers at http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk/ssc_whos_who.htm

SAD NEWS: it is with deep regret that we report the death of John Staples and Glynn Rogers. John was a club member for many years being the Commodore at one point and a leading light in the Flying 15 Fleet. Glynn was another long term member who, with Roy Lambert did a huge amount of building work at the club including the concrete surround in the boathouse, bricking up the gents changing room and putting the security doors on the boathouse and Nissen Hut. Both will be sadly missed.

OPEN BOOK: The club has a facebook page for members to keep in touch, advertise gear, arrange sailing outside of usual hours, publicise forthcoming events and so on. Join facebook (only a minimum of personal information is necessary), search for Shropshire Sailing Club in 'groups' and apply to join.

CRUNCH TIME: when changing between forward and reverse gears in the safety boats, please pause for two seconds in neutral. Failure to do so is damaging the gear boxes and costing money. If you have found it difficult to start the Rigiflex when it's cold then it's worth pulling on full choke – being careful not to flood it. If it still won't start and it is flooded, disconnect the fuel line and continue until it splutters.

SOMETHING FISHY: There's a Commodore's Evening on Friday, 1st May, involving skittles and a fish supper at the Ellesmere Comrades Club, beginning 7.30pm. More details nearer the time.

NB: According to the Commodore, the date is definitely May 1st and not as reported elsewhere by the Membership Secretary, who has been severely chastised.

THERE'S MORE: The house committee is also promising,

April	Fun Bingo Night with hot supper
May	Open Day
June	Fun Weekend
August	Quiz Night with BBQ
September	Family social evening
October	Skittles or Ten Pin Bowling

Details to follow nearer the time.

2008 RACE RESULTS: Take a look at <http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk/2008results.htm> or select "2008_Results" from the club website.

2009 RACE RESULTS: will be posted week-by-week and can be found by following the link from the club's facebook page.

THAT'S ALL: Some people have greatness thrust upon them. If you were wondering, this newsletter was compiled by Paul Dutton (Mirror M66025) after he was made an offer he couldn't think how to refuse. If you want something included as a paragraph or two, please let me know via email to duttons.family@googlemail.com .

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