



## Shropshire Sailing Club Newsletter March 2011

**TRAINING:** Interest in training places in 2011 has grown to the point where all adult places have been reserved and there are now no adult places left until July; if you need an adult level 1 or 2 course please let Brian Johnson know. There are still places for young people but it would be wise to book now to avoid disappointment.

**POWERED BOATS:** A project to review committee and safety boat requirements for the next five years has been running since November. It's hoped the first fruits of this initiative will be on the water around Easter.

**BONFIRE NIGHT:** was a great success with more than 100 members and their guests attending. Fireworks Afloat represented the return of a popular event after a gap of several years and a bit of a risk for the Social Committee with £250 spent on fireworks and another £160 on the insurance!

The weather was perfect with a mirror smooth mere reflecting the display and doubling up the effect. After the display some Halloween games made an appearance while the disco was setup – then disaster struck! (well some of us think it was a disaster). The amplifier, kindly loaned by the Royden family went “pop” and there was silence....

We learnt a few things for next year: start earlier (we were not expecting so many young children but delighted to see them so maybe we aim for 7.00 launch in 2011 – or earlier?), have food available from the start (we had a few baked potatoes left over); and have a backup sound system available!

A big thanks to everyone who baked potatoes and prepared the food, to Chris & Chris for braving the aerial bombardment on the firework raft, to the Baldwin family who helped get everything ready on Saturday morning and to the Roydens who went to so much trouble to bring us the sound system. If you'd like to help this year, or have any ideas on how we might improve the event do let us know.

**CASH HELP:** The club has approached a number of external bodies, including the RYA, to see what grant funding might be available to support our activities and to develop links within the community.

We have been quite successful in the past; some of our training dinghies, safety boats, buoyancy aids and wetsuits have been funded by external bodies or local companies so fingers crossed this time around.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** A new membership fee structure was approved by the AGM and will be introduced from 1st April 2011. Following a review of our fee structure and that of more than 20 neighbouring clubs we have restructured the fees to bring our structure (but not costs) in line with the majority of local clubs and national clubs. As a result adult and family membership fees have gone up but berthing fees have come down, joining fees have been reduced and are now a flat rate.

For most members there will be no overall change but those without a boat at the club will see an increase. Those with more than one boat or with boats on racks, or at home (sail only) will see a small decrease. By way of compensation for members who joined in the last two years training fees for current members will be held at the 2010/11 levels and there has been no change in boat hire costs for 2011 despite a big rise in the cost of maintaining the club boats. We remain competitively priced, about fifth from the bottom in a basket of more than 20 local clubs, and we hope the new structure will be sustainable and be more attractive to new members.

Renewals for 2011 will be sent out by email shortly.

**JUNIORS:** First Saturday afternoon fun session is scheduled for April 9. Details to follow from Paul Dutton (07808 479964).

**WEBCAM:** This new feature of the club website is proving very popular – we soon hear when it stops working. Just for fun we're adding "the week in a video" to the website so you can watch what happened as well as what's happening.....

**SOCIAL EVENTS:** A lot planned including

- a Hog Roast for the Family Fun Day (no need to bring food, drink and a tent - just drink and a tent!).
- A 6 hour Charity Team Race (the day after the Fun Day to help clear the head).
- and we're talking to Llyn Brenig Sailing Club about joining in their Fun Weekend at the end of August....
- plus a Commodore's Evening, Car Treasure Hunt, Fireworks Afloat and much more!

Helpers and good ideas welcome.

**RACING:** Due to the weather, the 2010 racing season ended early with the final weekend of sailing on the 21st November and the 2011 season didn't get underway until the 23rd January. New faces, including juniors, are very welcome.

**BURST PIPES:** Thanks to Simon Forster for his work at the club during the bad weather before Christmas to greatly minimise the damage.

**JUNIORS ON THE ROAD:** Several juniors are spending the winter on the road training with different fleets. After 2010's success in the Feva fleet, Rob Morris and George Shelley are sailing together in the RYA transition 29er squad. Ed Shelley is in the RYA National Feva squad, while Becca Morris and Tom Dutton are in the East (of England) Feva squad. The Feva trio all have partners from other clubs. Good luck for their summer competitions.

**LADIES SAILING (GIRLS AFLOAT!):** Specially designed to encourage more female members out on the water. These sessions will be held on the first Wednesday each month, from 5pm until 7 or 8pm, beginning on May 4th.

In addition to the usual rescue boat there will be an experienced club member on hand to help with rigging, boat launch, sailing tips etc. Club boats will be available (at usual hire rate) or team up with others to sail your own boat. Coffee and cake will be to hand. Further info from Karen Ashton (01691 772312).

Gents, please note that this does not restrict your Wednesday sailing at all. Karen says they may even share the cake.

**CLUB DINNER:** was an excellent night at Shrewsbury Town. Thanks to those who made it fun and especially John James for organising.

**CLUB SOLO:** A grp Solo has been added to the club fleet. Available to hire in the usual way for cruising or racing, it has already been highly placed on a few Sunday outings.

**SATURDAY CRUISING:** The first safety cover is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BANK ACCOUNT:** We have a new bank account. It is at the Nat West, Sort Code : 01-15-48, Account : 40107051. For direct payment use your membership number (on renewal invoice) as a reference. Please delete any internet payments setup to the old Barclays account.

**SORRY:** for the length of time it's taken to produce this newsletter and for the consequent omission of some contributions from what is now the dim and distant past.

This newsletter was brought to you by Paul Dutton and is based entirely on SSC members' contributions. If you would like something including in the next newsletter, due in less time than it took to produce this one, contact me on [duttons.family@gmail.com](mailto:duttons.family@gmail.com)