



Mere Whispers

SHROPSHIRE SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2011

Incorporating Notice of AGM and AGM Reports

Commodore's Column

The end of my term as Commodore is rapidly approaching and I must say that it has been a pleasure, privilege and honour to have been Commodore for the past 2 years. Chris Endacott takes over and I am sure that the club will carry on going from strength to strength. My one regret is that we did not manage to secure tenure of the ground around the club and funding for the new clubhouse but we are still moving slowly forward with the estate and one day in the near future we will hopefully be able to secure funding to build a new clubhouse.

My thanks go to all those who have worked hard on the various committees helping to keep the club thriving. In particular I must mention Brian Johnson and Chris Endacott, Brian for his tireless work in organising training courses and submitting bids for funding, many of which have been successful, and Chris for his massive involvement in running the membership and Duty Man side of the club.

I would appeal to all members to consider putting themselves forward to help on committee, it can be very enjoyable and rewarding. We need new blood to come forward so if you feel that you would like to get more involved please do not hesitate to let myself or one of the committee members know.

I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed sailing this year and if you don't currently race I would encourage you to take part. You may feel a little daunted by the prospect but let me assure you that it is a great way to improve your sailing skills. If you are not sure of how to get started let me know and I will do everything I can to help.

Finally can I wish you and your family very happy sailing for the coming year.

Warmest Regards

John James

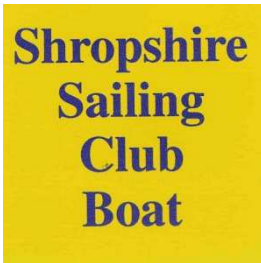
Commodore

Club Sailing Boats

Club dinghies are in a reasonable condition though we have suffered quite a few breakages this season. If you do spot something amiss then make a note in the maintenance log (it's on the race desk), tie a label on the boat indicating it is out of order and please tell a member of the sailing or general committees.

We have recently been awarded £10,000 by Sports England for replacement adult boats (we are hoping to get Laser 2000s) and we have another bid in for replacement Optimists and a couple RS Teras for the smallest of our members. We will be carrying out a review of club boats over the winter with a view to rationalising the fleet and disposing of any surplus in March/April 2012.

If you are using a club Topper then please ensure that the boom and all the ropes are properly stowed before you return it to the surf hut. The trick is to wrap



the mainsheet as much as possible along the boom (under tension) and just use the last few feet and a half hitch to hold it all in place – do that and you shouldn't find a complete mess in the surf hut the next time you want a Topper.

If a boat does not have this label (left) on it then **it is NOT a Club Boat!** Please do not pull Toppers off the racks without checking first. There are member's boats on the racks and their boats are not for your

use!

Power Boats

We are close to completing the power boat replacement project and a huge thanks is due to Bryn's team of Tim, Karen and Brian (and to others at various times) for coming up with a very nice set of committee and safety boats to take SSC into the future. The group have stayed within the budget for the project (£10,000) and were helped to do so by a £2,000 grant from the RYA and the £1,000 from the sale of the old Charity (well done John, our eBay champion!).

Testing, modifying and fitting out has taken quite a lot of time and effort and it still continues though work on the new committee boat (Charity II) is almost complete. Charity II is now moored on the inside of the Flying 15 jetty where static lines are in place to receive her so please don't try to park anywhere else (there are no mooring lines on the boat anyway!).

The team still has to do some work on the blue Orkney dory as the trim on that does not seem to be quite right.

Jetties

With the mere water level being very low, it's has been easier to see where work is required. The main jetty needs a few replacement tyres but the real issue is with the Flying 15 jetty which, having been in place for more years than anyone can remember, is in need of some restoration work.

Repairs were made at the recent Working Party day but the floating H section is a bigger problem which will take some time to replace. It is likely we will setup a group to investigate this and repair and replace it over the winter/spring period although we're also investigating the cost of a bespoke manufactured replacement.

Juniors

All the Junior Days have been well attended but after the events we too often find that club wetsuits and buoyancy aids are left lying around. If your child borrows a wetsuit, wash it out and hang it up on a coat hanger – buoyancy aids don't need washing out but should be zipped up and hung up in the "Surf Hut".

Low cost children's wetsuits are available on the web and we have one web supplier in Shrewsbury (www.pickpackpost.net); they are based in Longden Coleham where you can try the wetsuits on and avoid postal charges! Also remember that a 10% discount is available at Shrewsbury Marine (www.shrewsburymarine.co.uk) who stock branded wetsuits which are a good buy if your child has stopped growing! Finally, if you are looking for specialist wetsuits such as "Steamers" there's always Boardwise (www.boardwise.co.uk) in Cannock.

Training

A quick check shows that the club has formally RYA trained 24 adults and 39 young people so far this year. We also ran a two-day session for Red Cross 'Young Carers' with an overnight camp. These are young people who look after infirm family members and for whom such an event is a rare time off from their responsibilities.

New Affiliated Group

Following an approach by the West Mercia Police in Wem, a new affiliated Youth Group has been formed and is being managed by CSO Liam Heathcliffe. We have already run an RYA Stage 1 course for 12 young people from the local area. It's not clear yet just how often we may see this new group but a new affiliated group is very good news for the club and (together with the Red Cross event) supports our credentials as a community focused charity.

Deja vu! (Basil Thompson)

When we first joined the club in 1968, it was strictly a three class club - Flying Fifteens, GP 14's, and Mirror dinghies. The Fifteens were a result of the founder members - date 1952- getting to the stage of wanting something more stable than a GP14 (the fleet was the second group of GP's after Aberdovey, sail numbers 8-14).

Racing took place on Sundays as now but members could also sail at any time. There was no restriction of requiring a safety boat on the water; in fact the only motorised boat was a great lumbering clinker built dory. Open meetings did take place in the two dinghy fleets and were usually weekends with camping in the adjacent field.

The races were always started from a line to a marker buoy roughly where the flagpole is now. In fact there was a race box rather like a tree house reached by a ladder which was becoming unstable so most race officers preferred to stay on terra firma. Cannons were used for the open meetings, made by Ivan Carson-Abbott and taking shotgun blanks (Ed. we still have them in the store) and making a helluva noise to the extent that the feathered inhabitants of the Mere took flight and the dogs of the neighbourhood became totally gun shy cowering even at a car backfire.

However to the story - the marks for the course were:

Wood, Pump, Limit, Middle, Primrose, Deep, Lily, North and Road.

Can you guess where these marks lay? At open meetings the visitors were given a map and shown the course and expected to find their way around. Often some confusion would ensue to the advantage of the home side.

Gradually, the dinghy classes expanded with the addition of Miracles and Fireballs in sufficient numbers that they too merited open meetings. But confusion still reigned until a bright spark came up with the idea that it would be much simpler to number the marks clockwise and in just the position that they are today (or are they? – Ed).

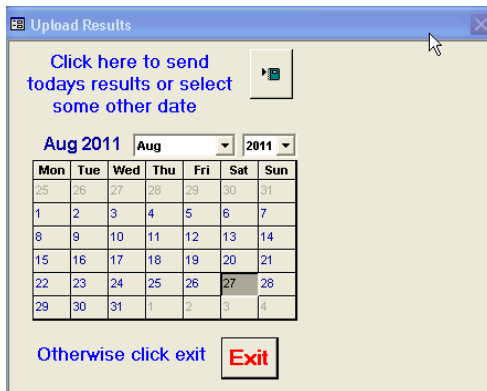
**Limit 1, Deep 2, Road 3, Pump 4, Wood 5, Primrose 6, Lily 7, North 8,
and.....**

But where is "Middle"number 9?

Race Management System

There have been some occasions when the system has not emailed the day's race results and this means that we don't have anything to write up in the local papers or put onto our web site. There does not seem to be a 'system' issue and

to try to narrow down the problem can we ask all OOD/AOD's to make sure that they exit the race system using the **Exit** buttons (not 'Start' and 'Turn Off Computer'). You should see the screen below and should select the '[Click here to send today's results](#)' button.



Men's Changing Room

Bit of a mess isn't it? Well this winter we want to make it more habitable – a new door that opens and shuts, pressure wash and paint the floor, mend the broken window, paint the walls (inside and out), replace some of the rotten bits, replace the missing light and smarten it up for the 2012/13 season.

Can you help? Are any the jobs above within your skill set? Can you paint? Make doors? Replace broken windows? If not are you willing to learn? No age or sex discrimination – all welcome! If you'd like to be part of the team please let Chris Endacott know: membership@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk

Winter Sailing - Not!

We started Winter Sailing in 2009 after the Grosvenor Estate lifted the requirement to remove boats from the site from January and February and following a series of mild winters. The first year we had ice for a couple weeks in January and a £1,000 electricity bill (which Dave is investigating). Last year we had to stop sailing at the end of November and we were not ice free until the 23rd January. We had over 14 breaks in the pipework (thank you Simon for all the repair work) and we also had some damage to sails left in boats when they became a winter refuge for the local mice population.

So Sailing Committee has reluctantly decided that this year we will NOT run the Frostbite Series in January and February – we will however have the New Year Day Race (ice permitting). Our intention is to winterise the club at the November Working Party, ensure all sails are stored in the "Surf Hut" and that the pipe work

is drained down in anticipation of another winter freeze. No Frostbite series for 2012.

Welcome to New Members

There's more detail about numbers in the Membership Secretary's AGM report but suffice it to say that we have had a lot of new members join us this year, many of them with boats which have made us to find more space in the dinghy park (another project in the offing for 2012 is a new split-level rack for the Lasers which seem to have been breeding – any civil engineers out there?).

A big Welcome to:

Ken Lowe | Amy Hill | Neil Stonehouse | Simon Harris | Matt Lush | Ian, Jane, John, Ted & Daniel Atkinson, | Julie Barker | Steve, Carol, Caroline & Charlotte Gibbs | Finlay & Sheila Ross | Jayne, Phil, Molly, Harriet & Patrick Garner | Carol & Scott Reynolds | Hugh, Angela, Emma, Rebecca & Mark Jones | Christopher, Victoria, Charlie and Isobel Owen | Colin Jones | Richard, Natalie, Mark, Sam, & Tom Spence | Kate and Naomi O'Hanlon | David & Violet Hey | Oliver Higgins | Ros Jagoe, Jeremy Bolton, Alice Jagoe-Adams, Amy Bolton & James Jagoe-Bolton | David, Claudia & Rex Cooper | Marlene Baukema-Jones, Leigh Jones, Scott Jones, Sophia Baukema-Jones, Jamie Jones. | Lyndon Absolon & Jill Brown | Patricio, Philippa, Luis, Emily & Sebastian Bell | Ben Warren | Martin, Hazel, Emily & Alfie, Charlie Digby | Scott McClennan & Sarah Marshall | Jonathan & Callum Smith | Amanda, Charlie, Tom & Jodie Beever | Tony, Lorraine, Jason & Jack Beresford | Mark Sumner & Stephanie Warr | Sarah Jowett, Dave Staton & Alice Staton | Terence & Monique Robinson | Mike, Nikki, Joshua & Paige Lavin | Steven, Martha, Sebastian, Oliver & Natalia Toms | Lance Morton

We hope you've been able to make full use of your membership so far this year (even those of you who joined in September). If you have any concerns or suggestions please let any committee member know.