



Newsletter Spring 2012

People



A big welcome to 2012 – we would like to produce four newsletters each year so if you would like to include something please drop an e mail to editor@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk There's a lot more info on the club web site and so it pays to visit on a regular basis (see <http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk/> and click 'Members' and 'Club News'

Club members come in all shapes and sizes and bring with them many different skills. If you use the committee boats, safety boats or Toppers then join me in a thank you to Chris Truman. He knows all about working with stainless steel and has provided for the club, that amazing bow fitting on the new committee boat, outboard locks on safety boats and from an original idea generated by Rob Shelley some years ago, cheek plates on all our Topper tillers so that, hopefully, we will never again need to repair or replace a broken Topper tiller. Thank you Chris!

Long long ago – in fact in 1950, a few people were looking for an inland place to sail. They settled on Whitemere as the best of the local lakes and thus was born Shropshire Sailing club with 12 of the earliest GP14 sailing dinghies. One of those 'founding fathers' was one Dr Frank Nugent who went on to become one of the best GP14 sailors in the country. He married Jennifer Fenn-Wiggin whose family were also founder members. Dr Frank went on to become the UK Olympic Doctor and has most recently done much to ensure that ensure the Weymouth Yachting facilities are in good shape for the Olympics in 2012. A lifetime dedication to sailing has been rewarded with the rare honour of an OBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours list.



And finally, thanks to Tesco plc who have donated to the training team, a range of wetsuits and of wetshoes (every little helps ☺)

Committees

The Social Committee social@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk

Would welcome any ideas for social events in 2012 – larger events tend to be well attended but not so the smaller events so the focus right now will be on the larger events with the hog roast on the Fun Weekend, 23/24 June, a quiz night (with food) on 08 September and of course Fireworks in the Autumn. The Social Committee would welcome new members too!

The Sailing Committee sailing@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk has quite a few things in the melting pot. An ad-hoc group led by John James and including Chris Adlington, Dave Wright, Steve Parker and Adam Jones has been set up to debate the size, shape and composition of the club dinghy fleet. Boats for adults look to be all set with the recent £10,000 grant allowing the club to purchase three second hand Laser 2000 but now there is a need to rationalise the Visions, GP14, Laser, Solo and Wanderer. Getting 'just the right' boats for our younger members is always tricky - the Toppers have done well, the Fevas great but perhaps a bit too powerful for some, and there is just one serviceable Optimist for the very young. If you would like to comment in this area then do please call John James, our training principal training@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk

The powerboat team have been hard at work on the Orkney dory. Though it has a nice new engine, it's proven a bit leaky and also tricky to handle. It's therefore been taken apart, refurbished and put back together in a rather different way which we hope will improve it no end.

To support our 'new' Laser 2000's and to kick off the proposed Junior Race Coaching club on Sunday mornings, the club has asked the RYA for some coaching days – that's where professional coaches are made available to us to meet some specific target. Our younger members should already be aware of the Sunday proposals but do contact John James if you would like to get involved in Laser 2000 training – even if you don't own one!

The General Committee gc@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk

Another year and another full programme of events. The Sailing, Social and Training Committees have all worked hard to put together what promises to be one of our most comprehensive programmes ever.

New trophies and series have been added to the racing calendar and the Wednesday Evening racing has been retained. The Spring & Autumn Open meetings have been replaced by Club Class racing to encourage our preferred classes to get on the water and we now have the Newcomers Trophy to compete for in 2012. The Team Racing day returns in June so pick your winning team for 2012!

A full Training Programme is on offer and in addition to the RYA adult and youth courses we also have **OOD training, safety boat handling, Start Racing** and **coaching for the Laser 2000 fleet** and a proposed new **youth Race Coaching Group** on Sunday mornings.

In 2011 we had some very successful social events such as the Family Day (with Hog Roast) and the Fireworks and they are back on the Programme for 2012. We had a very well attended and enjoyable AGM even though it was held at the eastern edge of our patch so we will be looking for another warm and inviting venue for 2012 (preferably with free beer too!). Suggestions welcome.

We are hoping to get a Cruising Group active at the club. Not everyone wants to race and weekend trips away to sail at other clubs, large lakes, or coastal sailing centres would be a good addition to the range of activities on offer. To get us started we will run an evening introduction looking at how you prepare boat and crew for cruising on open water without safety boat support.

Of course the big national event in 2012 will be the Olympics. A successful British sailing team will increase interest in the sport, but to grow and sustain the club we do need to improve the facilities and that will be the key focus for General Committee in 2012.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the club during 2012, a year of sunny, windy days!

AGM 2011 was held at Joule's Brewery, Market Drayton on the eastern edge of our patch, we had a record turnout for the 2011 AGM with over 32 members attending. After the formalities of the AGM were over, members were given a tour of the brewery by James Joule who literally took us from top to bottom. The evening was then rounded off with a pork bap (from pigs grown locally on the waste grains from the brewery) and free beer. And when we came to pay, our cheque was returned to us as a donation to club funds and has now been spent on new trophies including the Joules Trophy for the Men's Championship. A big thank-you to the team at Joule's Brewery! To find out more about the brewery and find pubs near you please visit their website:

www.joulesbrewery.co.uk

Annual Diner 2012 A new venue: The Boathouse, Ellesmere. We could hardly be closer to the club and it was good to be seeing our money going back into sustaining a locally facility. The day we had chosen threw up some interesting weather, freezing rain in the afternoon and patches of snow in the evening. Fortunately over 60 members were able to get to the Boathouse safely and were greeted by two wood burning stoves well alight, a glass of sparkling wine and a selection of hot and cold canapés. This proved a popular innovation allowing everyone to have a good chat before moving to the tables. The main courses and sweets were all of a good standard and the evening was rounded off with a Disco which managed to clear the dining room and get everyone on the dance floor– a first for a SSC event! We may well be returning in 2013.....

Mere Whisper Award

The Mere Whisper Trophy was donated to the Club by Arnold Grayston. It is awarded at the annual dinner for non-racing, sailing achievement. Arnold was Commodore from 1996-1999 and during this time he circumnavigated Wales in his Wanderer dinghy named Mere Whisper. Making use of the river Dee as well as the sea he logged 681 miles, raising funds for the Club and Hope House in the process. Arnold is still an associate member and he hopes that the trophy will encourage others to sailing adventure. The holder(s) in 2008 were Mike, Lewis and Liam Royden, for an account of a camping and sailing holiday in the Lake District and in 2009 to Gordon McKellar for completing a sailing marathon in Scotland, raising funds for charity. So if this year you are going off to do something adventurous in a boat in a non-racing way, why not tell us about it (before you do it!). It does not have to be a circumnavigation but it should be an 'achievement'.

New Years Day Sailing



The annual Topper Bash was the usual chaos with all rules being broken, buoys being moved (during the race) and prizes awarded in a seemingly random manner (including for just being there and being a junior). For a full report (or complete exaggeration depending on your point of view), please look here http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk/content_files/results/2012/Regattas%20and%20Opens/New%20Years%20Day%202012.pdf and here for more photos ... http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk/php_pages/galleries/2012.php