



## Commodore's Column (Bryn)

The two working parties of the new season saw a flurry of activity. It was very pleasant to be back at the Club after the winter hibernation in what turned out to be a couple of 'spring like' days. Sun, Blue skies, Gentle breeze, Good company, produced a real treat for the outdoor activities, and even better, a tremendous amount of work was done.

All credit to the following members who answered the call and turned up for the start of the new season activities – I don't apologize for naming and praising -

**Stuart and June Murray, Ian and Jill Webb, Tony Beddows, Jim Shipp, Tim Allan,  
John Staples, Martin George, Brian Johnson, Leslie Bateson, Joan Daniels, Brian Rapson,  
Brian and Karon Ashton, Mike Davy, Alan Kempster, Frank Hodge, Ian Roberts,  
Dave and Colette Rugman, Dave Templeton, Roger Hilliard, Dave Evans, Don Mullinex,  
Bryn Morton, Dave Perkins, Dave Evans, Roger Hilliard, Dave RAF Evans,  
John and Mary Clifford, Bob Robson, Andy Davies, Mark Davies, and Geoff Jones,**

Workload included: -

- Bonfire set up and constantly fed with twigs, branches, driftwood
- Millions of leaves gathered and trundled to the 'hollow'
- Gravel mountain attacked and spread over mud holes
- Rescue Boats washed, scoured, sanded and primed, and launched
- Mouse nest in galley drawer removed and disinfected
- Jetty stabilised, leveled and tired up
- Gate renewed, Ladies cleaned and painted, Plumbing repairs
- Charity serviced and launched to much cheer and wet feet!

**Could all members who could not attend these Working Parties please contact Brian Johnson, or Mary Clifford, to complete outstanding jobs, spread the load and keep the enjoyment!!**

## EVENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS to Arnold and Karen on the announcement of their engagement

**We wish you both all the very best for the future**

**February Sailing Social** - Our season started with Frank running 2 very interesting Sailing Rules sessions at the Red Lion, Myddle. Plenty of good debates and sharing of experiences provided an entertaining evening and it was good to see some new faces (Ian & Gill Webb and Tony Beddows who tried their hand at racing in 2002).

**Commodores Evening – 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – This year we really are privileged to have our very own Olympian Jane Norris giving a talk and slide show on their Team Cathy Freeman efforts to take part in the 2004 Olympics. Bar and free buffet provided at the Clubhouse. Please come along and support and see our Ynglin team in European and American waters, pitting their skills against the best in order to qualify for the Olympics.

<b>COMMODORES EVENING – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2003 –20.00 hrs 'Reaching for the Olympics'</b>
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A Talk & Slide show by Jane Norris (Team Cathy Foster) about their competition racing to date

Free Buffet:: Bar: Please come along and give your support to our local lass.

Read extracts from their Diary of events - on the back pages

**The Lark Open -29th March** – this was a great success last year and we are again looking to getting all our Larks afloat. The Sailing Committee is currently finalising the details, but any member wishing to participate as helm, or crew,; or supporting the galley staff please get in touch with Mary Clifford. Last year the club was full and both sailors and spectators enjoyed a tremendous ‘day day the races’.

**LARK OPEN – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2003 – One-Class close quarter racing**

Take part in the racing, or Come along, and see the excitement of 15 – 20 Larks racing together

**May Madness?** - We are planning a ramble over ‘Worlds End’ near Llangollen one Saturday afternoon in May. Dave Evans has kindly offered to do the arranging, so could any members interested please add their name to the list in the clubhouse. Plan is an 8 mile ramble & food.

**Trailer Park Spring Clean** – We seem to have collected several ancient bits and pieces of trailers. Could all members please check out the Trailer Park and put their names on any Trailers or Trolleys to be retained. The current status shows the following ‘abandoned?’ Kit: -

- 4 small trolleys (Topper/Optimist/Laser)
- Large white trolley (FF?)
- `Albe`trailer- large wheels
- Black trailer with mast support
- Large grey trailer
- 2-tier blue trailer
- Maroon trailer with mast support
- Large silver painted trailer with mast support

**Warning!** - Trailers without identification by end April ‘03 will be deemed abandoned and scrapped.

**Vice Commodore’s Column (Brian)**

Our new Web Site is up and running. Our address is <http://www.shropshiresailingclub.co.uk> or just <http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk> so please check it out and let us know your thoughts and ideas.

**Now here is where you could really help us out !**

If you are on the web, PLEASE log on to the site (just click one of the links above), look at the site and operate the menu that slides in from the left of the screen. Please select a few menu options. This not only helps test the site but also helps search engines “find” our site - you know, when you go to Yahoo, Google, Excite, Alta-Vista - these engines only “find” sites if there is plenty of traffic and lots of links from other web sites - of course, if you can link to our site from your own site then so much the better ! **There’s an E Mail link on the site so please let me know how it is for you**





## Hon. Sec's Column (Mark)

I'm already receiving bags of post and sending out Sailing Info on Announcements, Events, of interest to SSC members. These will go on the Notice Board, but if you want to be added to my circulation then send me your e-mail address at [mark.v.davies@btopenworld.com](mailto:mark.v.davies@btopenworld.com)

## Team Cathy Foster Diary, February 2003

The following is an extract from the team's diary - 'Home from Miami'. A full account will be placed on the Club Notice Board:-

**'Home From Miami'** - - Boy, we learnt a lot in Miami! Flat water sailing punctuated by serious choppy water when the fast motor boats raced past our course. Very different to the waves we've been training in Europe.

Firstly, the results. We sailed in two regattas - the Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta (a Grade 1 jamboree with all the Olympic Classes sailing at the same time) and then the US Pre-Trials (Yngling and 49er Classes only). The race by race scores were:-

Rolex Miami OCR - 24 boats total

10, 21 (hit someone so had to do a 720 penalty), 11, 11, 7, 9, 20 (hit someone so had to do a 720 penalty), 15 (OCS i.e. premature starter [OCS = Over Course Side) but realised it immediately and returned to restart), 25 (OCS, didn't realise it and therefore disqualified), 14, 11

Final Position 15th

US Pre-Trials - 21 boats total

10, 10, 9, 6, 7, 15, 2

Final Position 7th equal, 8th after tie-breaker applied

As you can see we were making lots of mistakes in the first regatta, and then applied ourselves in the second regatta to ironing them out and it worked - we achieved a much steadier scoreline.

The first week was a tough one. We chartered a boat from Bill Abbott, the Canadian builder, but had a lot of difficulty getting the mast to stand up correctly in the boat. One of our weaknesses has been the theory of setting up the rig correctly ('rig' being the mast and the supporting wires to the correct bend and tension) but having to work through the problems ourselves led to a much greater understanding. It also led to seeing every sunset while sitting on the boat fiddling for seven days, and a couple of dawns too. It turned out that the mast manufacturer for some crazy reason has started to change the position of some of the rigging holes at random so the wires provided were not the right length. We finally got it sorted the first race day of the Rolex OCR - just in time.

The race goals we set for the Rolex OCR were:

- To start on the line, on time (not easy on an imaginary line - you can't draw a line on water!)
- To do good hoists and drops of the spinnaker - our third sail which goes up when sailing downwind.
- To find out more about light wind sailing upwind and downwind sailing angles - to date we had done very little light wind sailing and we were looking forward to the opportunity to find out how to sail in these conditions before the summer regattas in Europe (traditionally light wind events)  
Having discovered all sorts of things in the first regatta, including that we did not have any speed issues upwind but that we were slow downwind, we then refined our goals for the second regatta.
- To get into position on the start line earlier, to start on the line on time and then to accelerate away well.



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<http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk>

- To look around us more and re-assess the tactical situation half way up the first beat (we felt we had been missing chances).
- To utilise the better in-boat communication we had developed in the first regatta
- Downwind: To fight hard to defend our place and to aim to overtake the boat in front when there was an opportunity.

This goal setting worked a dream. It helped us to analyse our performance daily in a way that we could make progress without getting depressed by the results, especially when we were making lots of mistakes in the first regatta. It meant that we were open to thinking about ways to reduce the big mistakes that enabled us to step up in performance in the second regatta. The last race 2nd place was particularly sweet for us, since we didn't drop back from a good position for the first time and it signalled a major improvement in our downwind skills.

Now we're home, catching up with all the shore work that needs to happen before chasing off to Cadiz again at the beginning of March. The laptops are smoking and our suntans are fading rapidly. Still, it was nice to sail in hot sunshine for once.....'

Cheers Team Cathy Foster

**And Finally – Here's hoping for an excellent seasons sailing , and looking forward to seeing you all afloat at SSC.**

**Bryn Morton Brian Johnson**