



COMMODORES COLUMN

The season has started with a flurry both on land and afloat, not to mention the new early members of a pair of nesting Canada geese adjacent to the middle jetty, and a pair of Mallard Ducks adjacent to the Nissan hut – they know a cosy club when they see one!

But I digress.

We had an excellent turn out to the commodores evening (22nd March) where Jane Norris gave us a presentation of their Team Cathy Foster campaign for selection to the 2004 Olympics in the Yngling class of boat.

The presentation was absorbing demonstrating the hard work, cost, and commitment needed to select, trial, tune and race their boat throughout Europe and the USA. They are doing very well and improving all the time, and the club is extremely proud of their achievements. As a token of our appreciation donations from the raffle and club were presented to their campaign. Look out for their progress on their web page www.cathyfoster.co.uk and feel free to donate to this worth while cause.

On the 22nd March, 6 members attended our Rescue Boat Course. Please note that this now a requirement for all club members – see note-announcing introduction of Rescue Boat Familiarisation enclosed.

This event was followed by the Lark Open (29th March) and again a tremendous success all round. An impressive 25 Larks competed making this a fine sight for spectators and a grand prix for the racers. The action was 'snapped up' by our very own photographer Stuart Murray, who has captured a wealth of colourful boats in action. These are being arranged as a collage for display in the club. Many thanks Stuart. Talking about Stuarts – Stuart Norris and his able crew Louise Norris won the leading SSC Lark prize, and it was very pleasing to see the Norriss's back in the fleet.

Special thanks to Dave Turtle and the Sailing Officers, and Mary Clifford and the House Committee officers for making this event such a success and very professionally run. To quote the Lark Association – 'We'll certainly be back next year!'

Sunday Racing has been steady and encouraging with on average 6 boats competing. I note that Rear Commodore Frank Hodge has lost none of his sailing skills and is doing quite well in the Solo, having spent several years lounging about in those 'arm chair' Flying Fifteens – clearly it is the man at the helm and not the boat that makes the difference.

Attention – It has been noted that several members have not turned up for their duties – could I ask all members to please double check their programme and earmark their duty date.

26th & 27th April saw Phil and John running the Level 2 RYA course in some very testing conditions. This said, all budding sailors handled themselves very well and came out with flying colours – well done to you all.

New Members - SSC are pleased to welcome the following new members to the club and hope that they, like us, enjoy many many hours messing about in boats:

- Brian Hickson
- Alistair and Karen Nickless and Family
- Paul Cooper and family



Mere Whisper Trophy – with the season now underway and sailing activities outside the club, don't forget that this trophy is available for the best article to be submitted to the Newsletter for a non racing activity.

May Madness – 24th May - Calling all SSC Ramblers!!

Dave Evans has kindly agreed to arrange an afternoon ramble around 'Worlds End'. The walk will be about 4 hrs long, starting at the Prospect Café, near Llangollen. Could all members interested in joining us please add their names to the List in the clubhouse so that we can determine numbers and arrange travel arrangements. Map of course will be alongside the List.

Fleet Working Parties

The season starts with the GP14 Fleet undertaking the Working Party for May. Could all GP14 sailors contact Dave Templeton, and arrange a date for undertaking maintenance tasks as listed on the Maintenance Check List in the Clubhouse.

Vice Commodore's Column

House Committee

Owing to a hectic lifestyle transporting Olympic Judo hopefuls around the country, Hilary Adlington has yielded to the inevitable and reluctantly resigned as club quartermaster. June Murray has very handsomely offered to take on the job and can be often be found offering cut-price chocolate bars and crème eggs on Sundays and owing to ill health, Bruce Cusworth has asked to be relieved from serving on the House Committee. These jobs must be very popular 'cos like a genie out of the lamp, Lesley Bateson has popped-up to taker his place. Our thanks to Hilary and Bruce for years of good work and a very warm welcome to June and Julie.

SSC Web Page Update (<http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk>)

Moving the club web site to it's new home seems to have worked wonders. Some 450 people have visited the site in less than three months. On the web site, did you know that you can :-

- a. see the sailing and social programme
- b. get copies of all the Newsletters
- c. check the weather forecast at Whitemere for up to five days into the future
- d. advertise items for sale or wanted (no charge)
- e. look for crewing opportunities

Ladies Changing Rooms

We are looking to refurbish the ladies changing rooms – the current 50's style is just so "yesterday" ! If anyone has design, decoration, plumbing or electrical skills and would like to contribute then the House Committee would appreciate your help.

Saturday Novice Races

For everyone that thinks racing is all about haring around Whitemere at high speed and at great personal risk, then these events are just for you. The aim is get a gentle and **fun** introduction into the joys of racing. We have set up a number of sessions on some Saturday afternoons courtesy of the regular racing types. Our approach would be :-



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- a. doing a number of practice starts
- b. sailing some simple courses
- c. talking about tactics on the start line and on the course (not too heavy and only if you want to !)

You can do as much or as little as you like and any club member is welcome. The keywords are fun and not too serious.

Event	Leader	Time
Saturday 31 May	Frank Hodge	Meet at 2.00pm, Start at 2.45 pm
Saturday 07 June	Brian Johnson	Meet at 2.00pm, Start at 2.45 pm
Saturday 21 June	Tim Allan	Meet at 2.00pm, Start at 2.45 pm
Saturday 05 July	Brian Ashton	Meet at 2.00pm, Start at 2.45 pm
Saturday 19 July	Mark Davies	Meet at 2.00pm, Start at 2.45 pm
Saturday 02 August	David Templeton	Meet at 2.00pm, Start at 2.45 pm

The Flintstones

Is your garden full of rocks and boulders ? Great because if you don't want them then we do ! We'd like to improve the club grounds adjacent to the jetty and just under the laser berths. It's currently supported by a number of rather unsightly concrete slabs and we'd like to face this area with some rocks to look a little like the rest of the beach area. Nothing too tiny please. Anything about two handfuls or bigger would be about right. If you can help then please create a reasonably tidy pile in that area.

Rear Commodore's Column

New Rescue Boat

We have taken delivery of our new rescue boat, which as many of you know has been funded by the National Lottery through Awards for All. We have selected a Jeanneau Newmatic 3.6 Metre boat fitted with a tiller steered Honda 15hp engine. The boat is fitted out with anchor/warps and has its own purpose built trailer.

This model of boat has been sold in Europe in many hundreds for general leisure use but particularly as a rescue boat. It is a polypropylene moulded boat with built in side buoyancy compartments. A bow compartment has been adapted to hold the fuel tank and this leaves a large open working space in the boat. The engine is four-stroke using unleaded petrol with NO oil mix, apart from not having to worry about mix the engine is said to be more economical. Our first trials showed the boat to be very stable and lively giving good performance, it was also used on Sunday as Rescue boat in fairly strong winds where it assisted several capsized boats.

The cost of this boat is less than our grant and we have been allowed to reallocate the surplus towards another Training Boat, your Sailing Committee is currently trying to locate a suitable boat.

Rescue Boat Familiarisation Course

Whilst instructions for the Rescue Boat Duty have always been located in the Duty Officer box we have reviewed these and prepared a more detailed set including location of keys, operation, guidance and instructions on each boat.

A copy of these has been positioned in the rack under the notice board in the Club House and an encapsulated copy has been positioned within the Boathouse.

Help and assistance is of course always available from any member of the Sailing Committee, a good way of course is to go out with an experienced Rescue Boat operator on a Sunday or Saturday.



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Your Committees are endeavoring to ensure that all members receive some training in rescue boat operation. Our membership form now requires new members to undergo a Familiarisation Course as part of the joining process.

Similarly existing members will be encouraged to spend a little time with a member of the Sailing Committee to receive some basic training.

Don't forget **IF IN DOUBT ASK**

Securing your Boat

All of our boat berths have tie down loops in order that we can secure our boats against the wind. It is a requirement that we all use the tie downs to secure our boats properly.

If our boats do work loose in a storm it is often the boat in the next berth which is damaged!

Dinghies that are berthed on the front row adjacent to the water can be at the highest risk as the transoms can be lifted by the wind and the boat swings round. Often this is compounded by members using inadequate bow supports. A tyre standing on end under the bow soon falls out letting the boat move.

One way which I have used previously is to drive a metal stake flush into the ground at the transom, with a length of rope fastened to it. This can then be tied to the transom gudgeon/pintle to avoid movement.

Whatever you do please make sure your boat is secured properly

And finally

Forthcoming Events to look out for

11 th May (Sun)	Day Series	Best of 3 races based on personal handicap
18 th May (Sun)	Laser & F/F Regatta	Let Mark or Bob know if you want to sail a Laser or F/F
24 th May (Sat)	May Madness	Calling all SSC Ramblers!!
31 st May (Sat)	BBQ, Novice Training Cruising	Fun for all. Bring your own food BBQ. Bar
1 st June (Sun)	Club Regatta	All boat classes
7 th & 8 th June (Sat & Sun)	RYA 1 Course	Level 1 starter course for beginners
14 th & 15 th June (Sat & Sun)	FUN WEEKEND	A full fun weekend activity

Boat for Sale

WAYFARER

GRP hull, Wood Deck, Sail No. 1853

Complete with all equipment, Launching trolley and Cover.

Requires Renewal of Decks and general overhaul

The club has decided to replace this boat this season and is offering it for sale to members on a sealed bid basis.

Estimated Value 250

Closing Date for offers – 13th June 2003. Please send to Hon Treasurer (Ian Roberts).