



SSC Newsletter August 2004

Commodore's Column

Time flies by and it's time for another newsletter. I'm drafting this after the RNLI Day Series on 01 August where **Francis Staples**, our OOD for the day, had a novel approach to personal handicaps. A complicated system but the gist seemed to be that if you have a Laser you get a low handicap and if you have a Solo you get a high handicap (only joking Francis). The whole point was that the handicap was based on your performance on the day so if you did well in the early races your handicap was increased for the latter races and everyone ended up very close at the end of the day. I don't know who won – it was probably Francis !

Congratulations to **Fiona and Andy** on the birth of their son Christopher. Here's the photo.



Our **Open Day** was a success. Less visitors than last year but more people seemed to have signed up for membership. I'd like to welcome the following to the club :-

Roger, Lesley, Stephen and Lucy Hall, Edwin Williams, Colin, Angela, Oliver and Natasha Smith (welcome back !). Trevor and Christine Spittle, Colin, Sarah, Karl and Craig Anderson, Anne, Elizabeth and Alice Matthews, Mary Offland and Family, Trudi Graham, John Simmons, Malcolm Walters and Graham Whitewick

...and there are six membership applications pending

Did anyone catch **Phil Simpson's** slot on Shropshire Radio on 29 July ? Very professional Phil and a good plug for the club. Speaking of Phil, he will be moving jobs later this year so the best of luck to him. It does mean that we will see less of Phil and will need to do some reorganization in the training area.

Lottery Applications for Youth Training Boats. Mixed news here. We were not successful with Awards for All. They felt that our Constitution "made it clear that we were not "Open to All". This was rather surprising since we were successful, last year in obtaining a grant for the new rescue boat. We plan to write to them asking what section(s) of the Constitution makes them believe that we are not "Open to All". However we have also heard from the Local Network Fund who have awarded us a very generous sum that will enable us, with a contribution of our own, to purchase **two RS Feva Youth Training Boats for the club**. As with the club GP14's, the new boats, when not being used for training, will be available to club members for a small hire charge.

The day trip to **Bala** that was organized by Bryn attracted few takers. A pity because it was a great day out for those that did go. Sailing on a large lake, waterside BBQ courtesy of Gill

In the same vein, I've noticed that following an initial flurry of interest, the **novice racing** on Saturday afternoons is now attracting less interest. Given that the people who run the events are giving up a Saturday afternoon, it's disappointing when only one or two (sometimes none !) turn up – perhaps we should abandon this next year – but what do **YOU** think ? Talk to the regular racers and see if you can convince them to carry on.

The activity week for the **Devon Army Cadet Corps** has been a great success. Feedback from both the Cadets and club members has been very positive and we would certainly welcome them back – not to mention the £575 that this event has added to club funds. Making the mere available to groups such as these brings in some welcome revenue and helps keep our fees at the lowest level. If you know of a group that would like to make similar arrangements then please get in touch with Brian, Mark or Bryn. Incidentally, I noticed a sudden increase in the number of lady members attending the club during the days when the army were there. Claims that this



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was due to the large amount of “beefcake” available have been strongly rebutted – I am advised that their attendance was simply a coincidence – it so happened that a number of early retirees and summer holiday teachers just happened to be at the club at the same time (every day allegedly). Actually, it might be worth organizing a week, next summer when people might want to get together at the club during the day. Can’t promise the beefcake but if you like this idea, have a word with **Gill** or anyone else on the House Committee.

Just a reminder that the **Lark Open**, abandoned due to strong winds in March is rescheduled for Saturday October 23rd and the **Junior Open**, abandoned due to foul weather in March has been rescheduled for 18 September.

By the way, if anyone would **prefer to receive their newsletter via E Mail** then please let me know. It would save the paper and postage and you could have a permanent record on your computer. If you would like to do this, please drop an Email to the club or directly to me (helmpost@btopenworld.com).

Vice Commodore's Column

There's a bright and shiny **new Flymo** lawn mower in the Nissan Hut store. Please use it to keep your berth and the club grounds nice and tidy. It has a very high “highest” setting so the blade **shouldn't get damaged**. It even has an electric start ! It takes unleaded fuel as before and you can find supplies in the fuel store. Don't forget to engage the engine (red handle) and press the fuel bulb five times before attempting to start it. As with all grounds equipment, please ensure that you wear safety glasses and boots.

Junior Fleet

We have run four Saturday afternoon Junior Days this year. The weather has varied from a flat calm one day to gusts of Force 5 on another – conditions which has given our youngsters a variety of challenges! The afternoons have been fun and helped by Phil Simpson generously allowing us to borrow the Kingwell Toppers. Activities have ranged from water fights (resulting in wet children and even wetter Dads), racing round buoys collecting sweets, and a trip to the beach on the far side of the mere in search of treasure. The very windy day saw four Toppers full of Dads and children flying around the mere before swimming and swapping boats became more fun! We are trying to run informal, fun afternoons – they are not intended to be formal coaching sessions.

All Juniors are more than welcome to come and join in the fun. Call Rob Shelley for details.

Sailing Secretary's Column

Would duty officers please remember the following -

Charity's cover should be replaced when finished for the day

Rescue boats in the boat shed should be left with fuel tanks on board and kill cords attached

Rear Commodore's Column

Lucky again this year!! Glorious weather, warm sunny and just enough wind with a very good turn out for the **Fun Saturday on 12 June**. Nice to see some new faces from Oswestry School. I must say they seem to spend an awful lot of time IN rather than ON the water!! The results were :-

Bottle Race – A fine sight of a sailing Armada, with very close encounters.

Blues: 34 Points with 32 bottles and 2 points for first to anchor their Optimist and be first ashore.

Reds: 31 Points with 31 Bottles

Seamanship – Beating, Sailing backwards and Rescuing Lollies

Reds won by ½ Leg

Drakes Drum Relay – Tow that Drum, Pass the Baton Drum, Pass it to whom??

Absolute chaos, but a great spectacle of criss-crossing boats and adventurous seamanship

Blues won by ½ Leg

The day was completed by the traditional ‘cook your own’ BBQ, with sailors showing some exotic delights of food cooked from Smoked, Rare, Medium, Well done to ‘Burnt to a Cinder’. All in all a Great Day and Great FUN.



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Rescue Boats

Could all members please note the following instruction when operating the **Dory engine**, especially when selecting Reverse from Forward. Over the past 12 months the Dory engine has spent more time being repaired than on the water. Investigation revealed that at her ripe old age of 20 years, she now needs some 'tender loving care' when moving through NEUTRAL.

CAUTION – Moving Lever through Neutral for 'Forward to Reverse' and 'Reverse to Forward'

In order to prevent gearbox damage please operate as follows:-

Forward to Reverse

Move Lever from Forward to Neutral and pause for 2 seconds in Neutral position before smartly moving to Reverse

Reverse to Forward

Move Lever from Reverse to Neutral and pause for 2 seconds in Neutral position before smartly moving to Forward

Avoid at all times moving Lever from Forward to Reverse or Reverse to Forwards without pausing for 2 seconds in Neutral

Training Boats

We have had a few "hairy" training days of late. Whilst we can reef our GP14's to some extent, a far better solution would be to use smaller sails when it's windy. Does anyone have **any old sails** that we could adapt for this purpose ? If so, please give Brian a call.

...and that's it.

Don't forget

The Ellesmere Regatta on 12 September, the Junior Open on 18 September and the Lark Open on 23 October.