



# SSC Newsletter November 2004

## URGENT

The General Committee are sorry to advise that we are not able to have a bonfire and fireworks at the Halloween and "Bonfire" party on Saturday 06 November ! The reason for this is that our club insurance company have just advised that such events are not to be covered in our new insurance period starting on 01 November. Even if we did pay an additional premium of £315 for just one night (and we did consider paying this fee), we would also be required to have the bonfire and fireworks at least 100 metres away from any buildings or boats. We have measured all over the club grounds but there just isn't anywhere that we can have a bonfire and fireworks and still safely arrange for member's boats to be safely secured.

We will do our very best to still make the evening go with a bang (!) and hope that members and guests will still want to come along for the fun, games, food and bar.

Once again, we are sorry that it has come to this. We did not want to cancel the whole event but the new regulations give us little or no other option in the time available. Would anyone like to make a bid for £70 worth of fireworks ?

## Commodore's Column (Brian)

The end of the year is fast approaching and it's time for the last newsletter. Conveniently, it's also time to send out the document package for the AGM so we can save on the postage ! I'd like to start by making some pleas :-

1. Please DO come to the AGM on Saturday 27 November. It's always a great night (well I think so), not as boring as you might think, and the club committee's really want your thoughts on what the club has been doing and what we might do next year. The House Committee will be slaving over a hot stove to produce a great spread and really don't want to take any of it home.
2. Please do try to get top the club on Sunday 12 December for the laying-up event. There is always quite a lot to do to bed the club down for the winter ... and associated with this is the requirement to make plans to take your boat away during January and February.
3. Please do try to get to at least one of the Working Parties on 06 and 20 February 2005. We may well do some tree and brush clearing with the Angling Club so wellies and gloves would be a good idea.

The **Annual Prize Giving Dinner and Dance** will be on Saturday January 22 January at the Four Crosses just by the old Montfort Bridge. Again, watch out for a poster or talk to a member of the House Committee. The cost should be less than £20 a head.

## **Novice Racing**

We will probably be running the novice race series again next year. If you are interested, **please** add your name to the list on the main notice board. It will help us understand the demand.

Thanks to Bryn for finding a set of finely crafted storm sails for one of the GP14's – these are in the red sail bag in the Nissan Hut. Thanks also to Stuart Norris who came up with a range of sails for the other GP – we are already using the genoa and are part way through cutting down a mainsail to produce another storm mainsail.

## Vice Commodore's Column (Mark)

For those of you that know what a cooker is, we now have two new cookers, to replace the old one which has finally given up the ghost. It will keep the galley slaves happy for a while.

Talking of galley slaves, you will realise that there are a number of events in the next few weeks. It is always the same few who volunteer to prepare the food. To make matters worse, the Lark Open was during half term, which has made some of the old lags unavailable. So this is a plea for anyone who would wish to add their name to a list of volunteers to help the House Committee to lay on these events.



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We don't ask for a frequent or regular commitment - if 10 people just help out once each, it would make a tremendous difference. New members – it's a good way to meet other club members. Can you help your club?

The Clubhouse and adjacent buildings are old. We patch them up, but they will sooner or later require replacing. We have started investigating how we could improve, add to or replace the buildings and how much it might all cost.. Similarly, we have started looking at how the funds could be raised. We have been advised by another club to think big - they say we won't get financial help for a part replacement. If this is true then we need a long term plan to replace the lot - which means raising lots of money.

Are there people out there who could advise and assist in raising funds? Would you be willing to help your club in this way? I'd like to talk to you !