

Dear member,

In the 2005 subscription renewal, we asked for your e mail address as a means of contact. One thing we can do with this is to send out information between the paper newsletters that we post out four times a year. If you would like to comment on this approach or on the contents of this newsletter then please let us know by e mail to [enewsletter@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk](mailto:enewsletter@shropshiresailingclub.co.uk)

#### New club boats

Those of you that attended the last AGM may recall what I said about the importance of RYA training courses. They not only provide around 20% of our income; they are a major reason why and how we attract new members to the club. In past years, the Kingswell Affiliated Groups had very kindly made their Toppers available to the club for junior training. Things change and Kingswell were not able to renew in 2005 although their members will continue to sail under other arrangements. This news left the club with a major problem - how were we to continue youth training if appropriate boats were not available to us ? Following much discussion, the club has decided to purchase the 6 Kingswell Toppers and make them available for youth training and occasional hire by club members.

#### New Affiliated Group

By coincidence, we had, in late 2004, been approached by the Shropshire Youth Association (SYA) (<http://www.webleicester.co.uk/customer/sya/>) with an aim to promote sailing within the community. Purchase of the Toppers has enabled us to provide a means whereby SYA can meet their objectives and the club can look to recoup part of the purchase cost of the Toppers over a period of years. A very warm welcome then to the new SYA Affiliated Group and an equally warm welcome back to the Kingswell youngsters !

#### Boat Hire

All this has caused the club's committees to take a long hard look at boat insurance, maintenance, hire charges and, importantly, boat replacement in the longer term. Unlike a commercial organisation, we do not seek to make a profit but it's a fact of life that boats do not live forever and must eventually be replaced if we are to continue to have club boats available for youth training and for members to use. We have undertaken some complex financial modelling to try to understand this. At our current hire rates, it would take 34 years to find enough money to purchase brand new Toppers and 15 years to obtain 3 year old examples. We have therefore concluded that hire rates must rise and have determined that the 2005 rate shall be £6 for a morning, afternoon or evening session. Whilst this is not, in any way, a "commercial" rate, it is one that we believe will be acceptable to club members. From a financial modelling point of view, our calculations suggest that this figure may provide a fund to replace these Toppers with 3 year old examples every 8 years - the estimated useful boat life being 11 years. Only time will tell if this approach works for us. We have further determined that, to avoid complication, this rate shall apply to all boats irrespective of class so the rate will apply equally to the Toppers, GP14's, Wayfarer and RS Feva's.

Frank has developed a loose leaf folder to replace the old diary system. Please take a moment to look through the information before taking out a boat.

And finally, we do try to put urgent and useful info on the club web site so please bookmark it <http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk>

Best Regards

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