



SSC Newsletter May 2005

Commodore's Column (Brian)

We are now well into the sailing season. Some high winds and some flat calms so far. We have run very successful courses for RYA powerboat level 2 for some of our dinghy instructors and an RYA Level 2 course. Everyone passed so well done to all and thanks to Phil Simpson and John Ridgers for leading these events and to Mary Clifford, Chris Adlington, Tiffer Morris and Sue Tuerena for the dinghy instruction. Thanks also to our Training Principle, Bryn for arranging it all – remember, if you want to know about RYA courses then Bryn is the man to talk to.

I asked, in February, if anyone was interested in taking a one day RYA First Aid Course. Please let me know if you want me to pursue this.

You'll see from the table below that we are going to be really busy during the summer ! These special days don't only bring in much needed income; most are local community focused and will result in extra club membership in the longer term. Support for these (and many other) activities usually comes from a relatively small number of club members so this is a **plea** for your help. If you can get involved in any of these activities then please contact the lead person:-

Date	Event	Comment
21/22 May	RYA L1 Course	Dependent on Dinghy Instructors
11 June	Fun Day	Fun and games for the young and young at heart
25/26 June	RYA L1 Course	Dependent on Dinghy Instructors
28 June	Spinners & Weavers	Led by John Staples. A group who have a meeting scheduled once a year at SSC to practice spinning and weaving using traditional methods.
02 July	Shrewsbury Square	Being led by John James. Two or three dinghies set up on the square, posters and leaflets to hand out (it's the day before our club Open Day). Need members to transport boats and man the event.
03 July	Club Open Day	Need all hands really (perhaps not those manning the previous day's event)
10 July	Severn River Festival	Being led by John James. Plan is to have a couple of dinghies on shore to hand out posters and two or three boats on the river. Need members to transport boats and man the event.
16 July (a.m. only to 21 July)	Cambs ATC Activity Week	Just like Devon last year. No SSC "Staff" required but perhaps some oversight needed
20, 21 Or 22 July	Penley School Taster Day	Being led by Brian. Frank and Helen + John James have volunteered. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Another one or two people would be helpful
25 Jul to 03 Aug	Bucks Army Cadets	To be confirmed. Just like Devon last year. No SSC "Staff" required but perhaps some oversight needed
8-13 August	SSC Family Week	Being led by John James. John would like a rota to help organise events throughout the week.
15/16 Aug	Special ATC L1 Course	Being led by Phil Simpson and dependent upon Dinghy Instructors
10 Sept	ATC Taster Day 1	Being led by Bryn. Need perhaps four people
24 Sept	ATC Taster Day 2	Being led by Bryn. Need perhaps four people

I hope that most of you will have received the intermediate newsletter that was **e mailed** to members on 23 March ? If you didn't then either we don't have a record of your e mail address, we don't have your e mail address properly recorded, your e mail wasn't working or perhaps you just aren't an e mail user ! If you didn't receive it and believe that you should have then please call or e mail me.

The aim with these intermediate e mail newsletters is to advise what's going on in between the regular paper newsletters. I hope that you think this a good idea.



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As always, a copy of recent newsletters is available under "News" on the club web site. Here's what was in the intermediate newsletter (you can skip this if you have already read it on e mail) :-

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 modeling 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 modeling 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.

Stop Press !

The club is pleased to welcome another Affiliated Group ! This time it's Lakelands School & Sports College joining us under the name of "Laser". This group is being led by Sue Tuerena and aims to attract, amongst others, youngsters from Lakelands, The Marches and Rhyn Park Schools. They mostly plan to hire the club Toppers so it looks like our decision to purchase the additional boats has generated some additional interest in the club.

And finally and just to show how far our members are prepared to go, Tim Allan and Tiffer Morris will be attempting the Three Peaks Challenge on 18 June 2005. If this is all too much for you personally (hairy seas, cycling around Scotland and dashing up mountains) but you would like to find out more and perhaps sponsor their team to support Cancer Research then please take a look at <http://www.justgiving.com/shropshirelads%20>



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Vice Commodore's Column (Mark)

Our spring clean working party is on Saturday 28 May. We plan to emulsion the inside of the club house, do some repairs to the external fascia boards and run in a new and larger water supply. If you can manage the odd paintbrush or roller and a dustsheet then that would help. Do please try to come along. We plan to have a Bar-B-Q at the end of the day so please bring along some food to cook.

You'll see that we plan to have our **first ever** Family Fun week between 08 and 13 August ! (See separate briefing). Please call John James and tell him whether you plan to attend. If you can offer John any help on any of the days then please do. John and Helen plan to be there all week and are arranging all sorts of things to do but need **YOU** to tell them **YOUR** plans !

Sailing Secretary's Column (Frank)

We have enjoyed some good sailing already this year, with the usual mixture of winds albeit some weekends, like last weekend, with strong winds giving some exciting sailing. Don't let the season slip past come down and join in the fun.

Now that the weather is improving members are now beginning to use the Club Boats. Instructions re the hire of these boats are contained within a blue folder on the table next to the Galley.

Members may enter their booking in advance on the sheets but they must pay the hire fee immediately prior to taking the boat out. The variety of boats that we now have offers a good choice to members, especially new people who are still making their mind up as to buying a boat; however keeping these boats in good condition is important to us. We do not want members to turn up to find that the boat they have booked is damaged or has parts missing.

We therefore ask anyone who uses these boats to report any damage or missing parts by logging in the folder. Clearly we also ask that members leave all the boats in a tidy seaman like condition.

Now we are seeing berths occupied by boats may I remind you of the need to ensure that your boat is securely fastened down. Some boats are noted to have less than satisfactory tie downs, thin binder type rope is not sufficient. As noted previously in Newsletters a rear tie down is also useful as this can stop your boat from swinging around in a strong wind. This year boats have already blown over due to unsatisfactory berthing. Please do not forget if your boat does blow over it can also cause damage to the boat on the next berth!

Work is in hand to expose all of the berthing blocks and to paint them, new berthing number tags are also being produced.

On a similar note would members please note that it is their responsibility to cut the grass on their berth and under their boat. Whilst some members do cut the main areas of grass it is not practicable for them to move each boat. It is our club, lets all play our part to keep it tidy!

Anti goose lines have been fitted to all boat jetties in an effort to stop birds fouling them, to date these seem to have worked. It does require their removal prior to sailing, which is a simple task of lifting out the end post and winding in the hose reel, or in the case of the short lines lifting out the posts and gathering up the lines. Then of course their replacement after sailing! This is clearly worth doing as it is much more pleasant to get in and out of your boat from a clean jetty.

Please check your programme to see when you are on duty, it can be a major problem if you do not turn up on your scheduled day. Also of course check to see what events are on such as the Fun Day and various Regattas, Class events, Novice racing and Junior training.

Enjoy your sailing



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Power Boat Bosun (Bryn)

Caution - to avoid damage to Outboards (Rib & Dory)

With the exciting development of the Affiliated Groups and an increase in the demand for Sailing Courses, there will be an increase in the usage of our Rescue Boats. The motors have been serviced, but both the Dory and Rib motors are old and in need of some tender loving care.

To help the situation could all members review and adopt the following instructions during operation of the boats: -

WHEN MOVING CONTROL LEVER FROM NEUTRAL to FORWARD or REVERSE,

REMEMBER TO SQUEEZE THE CONTROL LEVER KNOB (to lift the Plunger out of its Gate).

WHEN MOVING CONTROL LEVER FROM FORWARD to REVERSE or REVERSE to FORWARD, PLEASE PAUSE IN NEUTRAL FOR **2 SECONDS** DURING THE SHIFT (to allow the engine speed to reduce before the change).

Safety : Rescue Boat Engine 'Kill Cords'

Please note: -

- The engine Kill Cords are to be kept in the Rescue Boats, when boats are put away. This is to ensure they are readily available for the rescue duty.
- In accordance with RYA instructions, the Kill Cord must always be used during operation of the Rescue Boats, with one end attached to the On/Off switch and the other to the helm's leg / ankle.

Fun Day 11th June 2005.

Calling all members for a full day of fun on the water

A Day with emphasis on FUN for all and a chance for the youngsters to show their many ways of sailing a boat, finishing off with a spot of Al Fresco cooking.

10.00 to 12.00

**Messing about in boats
(Picnic, admire the scene, and cruise)**

Games afloat:

13.00 to 14.30

Yo Ho Ho & a Bottle of Rum

14.30 to 16.00

Dead Man's Chest

16.00 to 17.30

Jolly Lolly

Al Fresco Picnic

18.00 BBQ (Bring and cook your own food)

18.00 to 22.00 Bar available



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Membership Secretary's Column (Karen)

Perhaps because of the daring exploits of Ellen McArthur or the UK successes in the Olympic Games or maybe just because of our open, friendly reputation and attractive facilities, the Club has experienced unprecedented interest from new members so early in the season.

First to sign up were Lyn and Jackie, novice sailors but keen to get on the water and in time to meet everyone at the Commodore's evening. Not to be left out, Anne then joined as an Associate. They were followed by the Beckett family. Dad's already a sailor but with Mum and 3 children registered for the June RYA course they could soon be a force to be reckoned with. Penny and Thomas (Junior) followed with Thomas already doing well in the racing on a wet and windy Sunday.

Next to join up were the Butler family, who are already seasoned sailors from Gresford, then the Whitehead, Robson, Roydon, and Regnart-Butler families, adding greatly to our junior numbers. Then came Stella with her Mirror, Lawrence and Ben (Junior) with their Mirror and Kenneth with a Wayfarer, these boats having all been approved by the Sailing Committee.

We warmly welcome these new members and hope they will enjoy all aspects of Club membership. Please keep a look out for them and give a helping hand when needed.

More applications are currently serving their 14 days notice on the clubhouse notice board and 4 further prospective new members were at the club on Sunday.

As a result of this activity all the existing Club berths are now taken and paid for except the one occupied by the nesting goose! The Beach Master is doing his best to create new berths as quickly as possible which may mean making use of the area adjacent to the Boat house again. Please remove any trailers that have been left in this area.



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FAMILY FUN WEEK 8TH – 13TH AUGUST 2005

The general committee this year have agreed to organize a **Family Fun Week** to run from 8th to 13th August at the club. Various activities will be arranged for each day with social events in the evenings. Although it still sounds a long way off please do make a note in your diary well in advance and if you can, come along for the week or even just a day or two. A little closer to the date a full week's programme will be produced.

For those who want to camp / caravan we are aiming to use the field adjacent to the club. Evening activities will include cruising / racing / fun events for all ages and club house functions will include a quiz night, bingo, BBQ's etc.

This is the first time that we have tried such an event so please do try to make it, the success will be down to you taking part.

Anyone able to volunteer some time to man the rescue boat etc should contact John James tel 01939 200685 e-mail jj@intenergy.co.uk .

In order that we can judge interest can you please complete the following proforma and return to John James either by post or simply fill in the boxes and e-mail back. If you like, telephone me on 01939 200685

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FAMILY FUN WEEK 8th – 13th August 2005

I / We will / will not be at the Family Fun Week (No attending _ of which _ juniors)

I / We will be attending on (tick here)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

I / We will be camping / caravanning

Some assistance on the various days will be required and it would help if you could indicate if you are able to give some time for training, manning the rescue boat etc.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Name : Tel No