



Shropshire Sailing Club Newsletter July 2005

Commodore's Column (Brian)

It doesn't seem five minutes since we sent out the last newsletter and yet there has been much activity on the club front. There have been two more RYA courses since the last newsletter so thanks again to all our instructors for their support and to Bryn for making all the arrangements. We had a very successful Spring Working Party – our club is a good deal tidier, we have some new fencing and the clubhouse interior is now a very fetching shade of primrose yellow. Grateful thanks to all concerned and perhaps particularly to those youngsters who, kitted out in dustbin liners, attached the walls with great enthusiasm. You might also notice that some of the interior doors have changed from “institutional light blue” to a rather nice navy blue. Thanks to Sue Walter and the ladies of the House Committee for this.

Now ... are you a new member ? Need to start sailing but not sure how and can't get an RYA course this year ? **Then this is for you.** We will try to have an experienced sailor available on Saturday afternoon's during August to help you get started. The aim will be to teach you enough to get you going so that you can continue in either your own or in a club boat. This is not a certificated course and there will be no charge. Good grounding for an RYA course later on. If you would like to take part then please telephone Brian.

I suspect that Bryn will want to say something about the Fun Day on 11 June. I'll limit myself by just saying that this event gets better and better each year ! Great to see so many people joining in and particularly nice to see youngsters from our Affiliated Groups – there must have been over 40 young people at one time or another during the day. Well done Bryn ! The club regatta on the following day was also well attended. There are some photos on the club web site at <http://shropshiresailingclub.co.uk/FunDayRegattaPointandclicktoenlarge/index.html> or click the link directly from the opening page.

My thanks to everyone who supported the club publicity event in Shrewsbury Town Square on Saturday 02 July and at the Severn River Festival on Sunday 10 July (thanks to John James for arranging both events). There was lots of interest from the public and quite a few turned up to the Open Day on Sunday. 03 July. Again, we just seem to get better at these events. I'd like to say thank you to all the Sailing Club committee members who collectively make the Open Day possible and to all members who turned out with their boats to support the event. Only time will tell just how many people are attracted into sailing but these events certainly put us on the map.

And speaking of maps (or possibly charts), here a piece from Tim Allan

Three Peaks Yacht Race - Result and Thank you to Sponsors

I am delighted to report that your team from Shropshire Sailing Club finished in a very creditable 2nd (**SECOND !!**) place in this years 3 Peaks Yacht Race. Sailing Tiffer Morris' 36 ft Bavaria, Sanderling, the team completed the race in a time of 4 days 2 hours and 6 minutes, one hour ahead of the next team, and one of the favourites to win, sailing a Reflex 38. It was a memorable experience for all members of the team, from the lows of severe cramping for the runners and sleep deprivation for the sailors, to the highs of being first boat into Whitehaven dock and our runners doing the Ben in just over 5 hours, that after already running up Snowdon and Scafell Pike in the previous 3 days !!.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all those who sponsored me, a total of over £700 has been raised for Cancer Research UK. You can read all about our adventures by visiting http://www.maccartridges.co.uk/THREE_PEAKS/index.htm where there are race reports and lots of pictures.

Good stuff Tim, and now some items for your diaries :-

Date	Event	Comment
08 13 August	Family Fun Week	If you plan to attend on any days or would simply like to help out then please call John James on 01939 200685 or e mail him on jj@intenergy.co.uk
03 September	Junior Open	We are expecting a big turn out. If your junior doesn't have a boat, club boats will be available free of charge – to be allocated on the day
03 September	Dinghy Drive	Afternoon and evening. This, I'm told is rather like a Beetle



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	Drive except that you build dinghies rather than beetles. More info available in the club or talk to Sue Walters.
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Are you all getting occasional newsletter via e mail ? No ? Then call me. Perhaps we don't have your e- mail address ? Would you rather have your newsletter delivered via e-mail ? Saves on paper, envelopes, postage and folding time ! If so, give me a call.

Training Principle (Bryn)

Demand for Training this year has 'gone through the roof' and we just cannot cope with the unexpected high level of interest. Clearly SSC is a victim of its own success. To date we have run 3 courses using the services of all our 14 Instructors and passed 35 trainees: this despite turning away some 20 unlucky applicants and the planned October course already full with further trainees on standby. The Training team have consequently been very busy and continue to turn out very professional 1st Class courses. This has also generated a lot of enthusiasm by having a flood of new members giving the club a real buzz.

On the 21st May we had our annual RYA Training facility inspection. This was quite nerve wracking to me, especially when I discovered how stringent and serious the RYA took these inspection. Literally, every part of the course/facility was inspected (4 hrs of grilling). I need not have worried though because preparation and attention to detail by Phil, John, and Brian showed SSC to be in fine shape – we excelled in some areas and had a few minor improvements to consider for raising our standard even higher. When you see one of your Training Instructors at the bar.....buy him/her a well deserved drink!!!!

Fun Day

Well what can I say.....sheer chaos again, but more so this time because there were kids everywhere. Forty took part in the games (20 boats!!) going in all directions. For all the instructions given, I might just have well been speaking in welsh!! For example -

Instruction	Result
Boats go to mark 5	Half the boats go to mark 7
Helm's start from jetty and crews wait to be picked up from committee boat	Some crews stay on shore, some helms and crews go on committee boat

Get the message??

Never- the-less all the games were keenly fought and quite close: and all done by the juniors demonstrating their sailing skills!!

Bottle Race Charity should have gone to Mark 7 but went to the far horizon beyond Mark 5: Finding bottles was like finding fleas. Amazingly a very close contest with Blues winning by 22 to 20 points

Dead Man's Chest Apologies to John & Sue (for putting them at risk, as an armada of boats descended on them). Honestly, when I did a reci, there was only a breeze – how was I to know that it would blow a force 4 when the boats decided to arrive at the cove!! The GP14's were the 1st there, but not the first to unload – they decided to gybe and twirl and get into everybody's way scattering the chasing fleet (team tactics?), meanwhile John and Sue rescued boats from the trees. A great spectacle. Again amazingly, the game was very close with the Reds getting all the Dead Men's heads in the tyre by 2 minutes ahead of Blues.

Jolly Lolly Biggest chaos of all with Charity boarded by what seemed hundreds of kids, until John threatened the 'keel haul' and we achieved the boarding of crews only with Blues on Starboard and Reds on Port. This was swiftly followed by helms collecting crews, zig- zagging to the moored Lollies with final pair collecting the ball and hoisting the bucket up the yardarm. Amazingly again a very close race with the Blues winning by 2 seconds.

Can I say a big thank you to all the kids (for making it a great day) and to all the Fun Day team for managing to keep control of those damn kids.



Sailing Secretary's Column (Frank)

Junior Open Day

Saturday 3 September is the date of the Junior Open with the first race scheduled to start at 13.00 hrs. Entry fee per boat is £3. Prizes are also awarded.

This year we are hoping to attract a good turnout to this event, especially seeing how many juniors are taking part in the Saturday Junior events. There are two club trophies for this event, one for the winner and one for the first SSC placed winner.

We are also hoping that we will see entries from our Affiliated Groups membership, historically Ellesmere College have participated and it is hoped that they and hopefully Oswestry School will join in this year.

Whilst it is a three race scheduled event it is accepted that our Juniors are still going through a learning curve in racing skills. Nevertheless this event should be most enjoyable and will give those Juniors who have not raced much before an afternoon where no other boats will be around to get in the way.

Please come down and join in, if you need any help or training before the event please contact any member of the Sailing Committee.

Buoyancy

Whilst all members recognise the need to have their boats insured another essential feature is not so obvious. That is boat buoyancy. Every boat is required to have adequate buoyancy fitted, each class will have different requirements applicable to that particular boat. Buoyancy tanks are for that purpose, they may also provide some storage space but this is not their prime reason, indeed hatches large enough for storage are usually very vulnerable to extreme leakage.

Some boats have buoyancy bags in the bow and also side bags, others have a front buoyancy tank with side bags whilst most modern boats have built in buoyancy tanks. It is of course essential that this buoyancy works, the problem with buoyancy bags strapped into a boat is that straps can become worn or fastenings insecure, often resulting in bags popping out when the boat capsizes. I have even seen a dinghy where the foredecking ply was completely lifted off when the bow tank fastenings came loose! In the case of buoyancy tanks they can develop leaks and the owner will not know until they capsize and have problems. Due to this situation many classes now insist upon buoyancy tanks also having positive buoyancy inside the tanks. Lasers for example have simple plastic containers inside the hull both in the bow and stern tanks.

Generally all classes have a requirement for an annual buoyancy check and the Class certificate signed accordingly. Taking a typical dinghy the class may call for a complete swamping of the boat, then for say two persons to sit in the boat for 15 minutes. Other classes require the boat to be tipped on its side in the water, with the mast horizontal, then two persons should sit on the hull for 15 minutes. This should be repeated for each side. Any more than 1 ½ gallons leakage per tank is unacceptable.

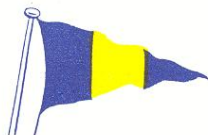
Some classes also allow a pressure check to be applied, the club has a manometer system that allows pressure to be applied, then the leak decay measured.

Even on Whitemere a boat with unsafe buoyancy is not acceptable, a capsize could result in your boat becoming swamped to deck level. This could be very dangerous making boat recovery extremely difficult with the added risk of damage. This is of course apart from personal risk, especially if there are young persons on board.

It is recommended that you make yourself familiar with what your class requires and then to make sure that your boat complies. The Sailing Committee will be keeping an eye on boats to ensure compliance, with a long term aim of annual checks.

Berthing

Once again may I remind members of the need to keep their berth tidy and cut. It is much easier when the main grass is cut to make the site tidy. Also please do not forget to fasten your boats down securely, boats are still found insecure.



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Boat Hire

There has been good use of the club boats this year but there have been minor problems with the documentation and payment. As I am sure you are aware Officers carrying out club tasks are doing so voluntarily and therefore the easier their job is the better. It would be appreciated if members hiring boats could comply with the process: Before you sail fill in the book, pay the correct money/cheque and place the completed envelope in the tin. If you do not have money an IOU is acceptable but please pay next time you visit and certainly before you hire again.

As an alternative some members have asked to run a credit system by paying up front. It has been agreed to also try this system for those wishing to do so. Members wishing to pay upfront should contact our Treasurer Helen to pay. You will still be required to complete the documentation prior to sailing.

Membership Secretary's Column (Karen)

The recent fine weather has been a great inducement to sailing! Several of our newest members have been out regularly and the Club boats are being well used. Since the May newsletter we have signed up even more members.

The Thomson family have joined and their children have been on the sailing course. Lets see that Oppie on the water! Michael York from the SYA is now a member with his Mirror which he hopes to find some time to sail this season. The Scorer and Crow families and John and Patricia are new to sailing so we will welcome help and encouragement from the more `established' sailors. Then we have the Tanner family, Nigel rapidly improving his skills in a club Topper. The most recent recruits are the Jones family, (Cian very keen after the RYA course at the weekend, gets his Mum up early to make his sailing sandwiches), and then Su and Katherine.

Welcome to you all.

...and finally, a big thank you to Frank Hodge, John & Helen & Ellie James and Sue and Malcolm Walters for supporting the Penley School sailing experience on 20 June.

Stop Press

Following a close fought battle on Saturday 16 July, the new holders of the Sailing Club Quiz trophy are "Ellie's Team". The following team members will have their names incised on the shield

Helen & John James, John Hodges, John & Julie Woolfenden.

Stop the Press again

Sue Walters, captain of last year's winners has stated that she is not pleased with this result and would like it known that the "Galley Slaves + 2" plan to thrash all comers next year.