



Shropshire Sailing Club Newsletter October 2005

Commodore's Column (Brian)

Brrrrr ! Returning from Egypt (38 c) to the UK (11 c) a few weeks ago reminded me that the autumn is with us and the end of the year fast approaching. The Halloween Party on is on **Saturday 29 October** (there's no entrance fee ; wellies and torches for junior games) and whilst there's still plenty of opportunity for sailing, it's also perhaps time to take stock and look towards the **AGM on Friday 25 November**.

I think it's been a great year. We have been busier than I can ever remember and it must be quite a few years since there was so much activity at the club on a regular basis. Why is this ?

Well in part, it's due to tireless dedication from club committee members. As well as a firm foundation of longer term members, we also need a continuing influx of members willing to join these committees and generate the new ideas that keeps us so active. One role we will need to change out soon is the membership secretary - it's a vital communications job that includes handling membership enquiries, processing forms, database input and posting out info. If any member is keen to try their hand (for at least a year please !) then do discuss - either with Karen or myself.

Another key part is that the club seems attractive to new members and particularly to youngsters. It's usual, each year to lose a few members and to gain some over the year. The trick is to gain more than we lose ! We lost about a dozen for 2005 (a typical figure) but we have gained over 40 new memberships and that does not include all the partners and family members. A truly stunning achievement. New memberships come from many different areas including publicity events, people who "drop by", people who come for a training course and join up or hear about our activity weeks and some are attracted by our web site. A large number come from personal recommendation by existing members. The influx of youngsters is due, in great part to the very successful youth club run by Rob, Tiffer and Chris.

To find out how well we have done and to look forward to next year, please **DO** come to the **AGM on Friday 25 November**. It's your opportunity to have your say and get the low down on the club's performance during the last year. Importantly, it's your opportunity to vote in a new club management team. Please do remember to get any submissions to our Hon. Sec (Andy Davis) by **28 October at the latest**. Submissions can be to put someone forward for a particular post or to suggest that a key issue be discussed.

Can I tempt you with a free buffet ? The bar will be open.....

In case you are wondering what happened to our plans for the club house, they have not gone away but they have generated a lot of new ideas and these range from the original "extensions" to a complete new building. Whatever we eventually do, it's going to cost a lot more than our club cash and investment reserves so we are going to need help from funding bodies such as the National Lottery.

Juniors in the news. Rob Shelley reports (Photos on the club web site)

At the invitation of Phil Simpson we took a Shropshire Sailing Club junior team to compete in a Team Racing Event at Manley Mere near Chester on 10 October. In the Under 14 age category George Shelley, Robert Morris, Tom Endacott and Jack Evans were noticeably the youngest team but finished in a commendable 3rd place.



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Sailing in Toppers, seven teams entered our category and each team raced 6 times. The top four teams then raced off in the final - a race in which we were competitive but unfortunately hampered by gear failure.

Each race was short and sailed in a small figure of 8 course. With 12 boats on the start line, this led to some very exciting racing with congestion particularly on the start and at the first windward mark - all excellent experience!

All our team sailed well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of sailing on different water in an open style event. The idea of racing as a team rather than as individuals added an additional challenge to the day.

Congratulations to the team. The day was thoroughly enjoyed - hopefully we can compete again next year.

And now, John James writes as follows

THE FAMILY FUN WEEK 8th - 13th AUGUST

'A FANTASTIC TIME' , 'WONDERFUL' , A LOVELY WEEK' , 'GREAT FUN'

These were just some of the expletives used by people who attended the family fun week back in August. The weather was very kind to us with brilliant sunshine most days. Children enjoyed the experience of sailing and improving their sailing ability, some who had never sailed before were, by the end of the week, sailing around the mere with confidence. Many mums dads and children who joined in the fun are now regular attenders at the club.

About 20 mums and dads and 20 children attended each day, some even camped in the field next to the club. This was not without incident when, on the first evening, we went to go to bed in the dark, only to find 10 cows wondering through the camp area when we thought we had already secured them in the adjacent field. Fortunately there were no stampedes and the cows remained fairly quiet too.

Frank Hodge gave an introduction to knots and when the children were advised that they could use some of the knots to tie mum and dad up they seemed to pay extra attention. Mike Davy showed his skills by assisting the children with building a bridge, using drums and planks, between the two jetties. He then made the poor children (by this time crying & screaming for help) walk along the bridge until eventually it all collapsed and everyone fell in the water - it was questionable who was having the most fun - Mike or the children.

Evening entertainment included a BBQ, quiz night with a chilli supper and a Bingo night with a fish supper. I was the caller and was aware that one has to now be very careful to use the correct terminology so as to be politically correct. Therefore there were no '2 fat ladies' instead '2 rotund females' made an appearance.

A number of new members joined the club as a result of participating in the fun week and welcome to you all. We are aiming to hold the same event again next year, so keep an eye on the programme and get the date booked in your diary.

Many thanks to all those who helped out, including Mike Davy, Frank Hodge, Brian Johnson and Sue Walters, but most of all thanks to those who took part, without you it would not have been the success that it was.



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Not to be outdone, Sue Walters tells us about the House Committee Events Trophy

After the excitement of a fantastic Junior Open with so many boats and eager juniors on a gloriously sunny day, there followed a BBQ that was very well attended. Then from about 7.45 onwards.....

What a commotion; what a frantic hour or so; what noise; what fun! Yes, the very first **Dinghy Drive** held on Saturday evening, 3 September, was a huge success thanks to all those who helped to make this event go ahead. We had 32 players all vying to get their names on our new trophy and the whole evening was very noisy, very fast and enormous fun. I don't know who were the noisiest or the most competitive - the youngsters or the adults - but it certainly looked as if everybody enjoyed themselves. From the feedback it was hoped that we hold this again and if you would like that please let anyone on the House Committee know so that it can be included in future events.

The winners of the Dinghy Drive, who will have their names inscribed on the trophy, are:

Junior	-	Liam Royden
Senior	-	Chris Adlington

Thanks must go to:

Our galley slaves	- Trudi Graham and Sarah Anderson
Our chief burger flippers	- Mike Royden and Malcolm Walters
Our deck swabbers	- Karen Ashton and Malcolm Walters

and anybody else who helped in whatever way they could. It was much appreciated and helped to make such an enjoyable evening for us all.

Membership Secretary's report (Karen)

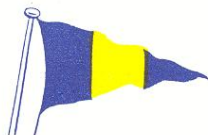
The Club has signed up an astonishing 103 (YES 103) new members this season. All the names can be found on the Club Notice Board. A number of these folk have come with boats, (a welcome revival for the GP fleet!). All the berths are full including the new rank of berths created between the Flying Fifteens and the Boathouse. Over the winter we will be squeezing in some more berths and re-numbering, so don't immediately panic if your berth number changes next season.

Club members should feel very proud that the Club has been found to be so attractive. The usual comment made by new members is that they find everyone so helpful and welcoming. But the sudden increase in new members presents new challenges-not least remembering names and matching children to parents. Also a higher proportion of people needing a bit of help or to be shown the ropes, such as where things are stored, rigging boats, how to lock up etc etc. If anyone, 'old' or 'new' has any particular suggestions how this could better be achieved, or how new members can be quickly made to feel at home, please let me know or talk to someone on the General Committee.

Sailing Secretary's Column (Frank)

Junior Open

Whilst you will hopefully have all seen the e mail circulated after the Junior Open I feel that a few more words should follow such a successful day. We had 20 + boats out on the day, mainly single-handers with a few two person boats. This was a major improvement on previous years and I believe reflects all the



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efforts with Novice days but especially the Junior Training days run by Rob Shelley and Tiffer Morris et al.

We were fortunate with the weather being fine although the wind was a little light for the latter part of the day making it difficult for some sailors. For a number of those racing it was their first time and was obviously quite a challenge; nevertheless they were all very enthusiastic and you could see races developing within the fleet, from the front to the back, as particular boats competed to beat boats around them. This of course is true of all fleets as wherever you are there is always somebody who you will try to beat home making every race interesting.

Each of the 3 races was won by a different sailor and there was some close racing within the fleet. Over the day the individual improvement was clear as helms became more confident. As OOD the problem that I had was to make the races long enough to be competitive, with different handicap boats participating, but short enough to retain enthusiasm. This was not helped sometimes with the wind dying towards the end of a race and boats taking longer to finish!

The day was won by Tom Hearn in a borrowed Laser with Karl Anderson second. Third place was taken by Robert Morris and Hester Allan in a Mirror.

For next season we are developing thoughts on setting up a "Silver Squad" of say 8 Juniors to receive Race Training in addition to continuing both our Novice and Junior Training days. Hopefully we will be able to build further on the growth of Juniors whilst encouraging racing knowledge and experience.

Mere Regatta

This year 16 boats entered the Regatta sailed on the Mere at Ellesmere. This day is part of the Ellesmere Festival and for some years now we have been invited to sail there. This of course requires quite a bit of setting up with buoys to be put in position and for our own Power Boats to be towed down for use as Committee & Rescue Boats. Also a team of members to run the event: OOD, Asst OOD, Rescue boat operators and a Beach Team to sign-in helms, collate racing results and to answer any visitor questions. It is usually a good event, this year being no different. The wind was light NE all day with some marginal planning in the afternoon.

Racing was keenly contested with places changing throughout each race. The day was won by Martin Cushing - Laser, with Frank Hodge - Solo second. Bryn Morton sailed well to take third place in his Solo.

GP14 / Solo & Menagerie Open

This event was run on Oct 9th and was a good days racing with a fresh SE wind. The GP 14 fleet had 3 entrants, with 3 in the Menagerie including one visitor, 7 Solos entered including a visitor. It was disappointing to not see more boats in the Menagerie fleet but those who took part enjoyed some good sailing. The Solo fleet had some competitive racing with some marginal planing in the afternoon making for some interesting conditions.

Stuart and Louise Norris won the Menagerie in their Lark from Dave Turtle, a visitor and ex member, in his Fireball. The GP 14 Trophy was won by Ian & Gill Webb with newcomers Colin and Caroline Woods performing well and staying dry to attain second place.

In the Solos Jim Shipp won, with Tim Allan second and Frank Hodge third.

Autumn Sailing

Whilst we only have a few scheduled Saturday sailing days left we continue racing on Sundays until almost Christmas. You can of course continue to sail on a Saturday, providing you organize some rescue cover but why not come and sail on Sundays either to race or just to cruise about?

We do tend to enjoy some good Autumn and then Winter sails in December when the winds can also be a little stronger than those summer drifts, but also some very nice bright crisp days.



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Training Principle (Bryn) 2005 Summary

Training throughout 2005 has seen a huge increase with demand outstretching supply to the extent that the overflow from 2005 has had to be added to the forthcoming 2006 season. In 2005, SSC has successfully run 48 course places with 22 Adults and 26 juniors completing and achieving their RYA certificates.

To the Trainees, well done and congratulations to you all !

Great credit must be given to the club's Senior, Dinghy and Assistant Instructor training team, who have volunteered their spare time over several weekends - no mean feat since this each event requires a training team of between 8 and 12 people.

The good and particularly pleasing points are:-

- The success of the RYA annual Inspection in May 2005 (we are in fine shape)
- The number of new members and juniors that have taken the courses ; this is seen as a vital barometer for ensuring a sound and healthy future for SSC.
- Trainees are already seeking to improve their skills by looking for advanced courses next year.
- The fact that some juniors are venturing further abroad such as participating in the recent Manley Mere Event where SSC gained a very creditable 3rd place!!! Many thanks to Phil, Rob, Chris and Tiffer for making all the arrangements and going along on the day

Planning is already in place for continuing this success, and as we speak the training team is being strengthened by the addition of John & Helen James, Lucy Morris, Mike Davy, and Jed Denham who are taking the Dinghy Instructors Course in October. We also plan to run an Assistant Instructor course towards the end of November.

All in all this has been a very successful training season, and please excuse the training team while they take a well earned rest in readiness for the training schedule in 2006.

*** Goose Poo Alert ***

It won't have escaped your notice that the hanging CD line used on the jetties is proving less of a goose deterrent than when first installed. We are told that the geese wander off to the main mere to be fed by the tourists, digest this elsewhere and then deposited the remnants on our jetties. Three key points then

- Do be careful when using the jetties and do wash your hands when you have finished sailing
- Do replace the CD line when finished with the jetty - it does help
- Do try to keep the level of mess under control by contributing some muscle - brooms are available by the club house steps