



Seasalter Sailing Club Newsletter 'Feb 2006'

Editorial

I hope everybody has had a good Christmas and New Year. Now is the time to start thinking about the new sailing season. Paying the membership, getting the sails out, rigging the Boat Etc. Once you have paid your membership you will receive a copy of this year's programme and bylaws, along with some other information that you will need for the new season. I would like to wish everybody a good, safe and successful sailing season.

The Christmas walk

The Christmas walk on the 27th December was once again a huge success, lots of people turned out. But was this for the -10° Wind Chill or Dave Lincoln's more than Hot Chilli, the latter probably. If you want to find out what happened on the walk. Please read the 'Latest News' page on the website.



Phillip Hadaway

Questionnaire

The Club Development Plan is undergoing its 5 year review to look at what we achieved through the last Plan and where we aim to take the Club for the next 5 years. Frank Avery and Steve Willis are currently going through the Plan to prepare a draft to present to members. As part of this process it is important that we get input from as many members as possible.

We ask you to please take some time to answer the questions in the attached questionnaire and provide your comments about what you think we should do to improve the club and encourage its growth and development. Most of it is just ticking one box of 2 or more and some parts ask for your comments. The information received back can be used in two ways - to show what members feel about the club (how they would describe it to people who asked what they thought before joining) AND to identify what areas we should give priority to in developing our budgets for improvements and replacements.

It would be helpful if you could either post the completed form back to Steve Willis or hand it to him at the work party weekend of 11/12 March - either way we would like to have all responses back by 12th March. Whilst it would be helpful if you could write your name on the form you send back (so we can talk to individuals about their suggestions) this is not absolutely essential if you wish to remain anonymous.

Many thanks



Steve Willis

Progress through the winter

The double glazing is completely finished and has made a fantastic difference to the main club areas in terms of preventing the place feeling damp. On the sailing side the new VHF radios for the patrol boats are being picked up this week and propeller guards are being fitted to all the patrol boat's engines whilst they get their winter overhaul. Our thanks go to ICOM, the local radio manufacturer, for their generous discount on the radios and cases - some 20% off.

The 2006 Programme is on its way to those who have renewed their subscription - together with the new door codes (changed last weekend). Our thanks go here to the Dinghy Store in Whitstable for their support in advertising in the Programme that has helped defray some of the cost of its production and to Steve Sobey for his work in formatting and printing the Programme for us. Again we have an excellent and professional booklet - with different faces in the pictures.

Progress though the winter... (Cont.)

The programme comes with a revised copy of the Club Byelaws and Rules as there have been a few changes to both aid us gain Community Amateur Sports Club status for rate rebates and to formally introduce a 'No Smoking' policy in the club buildings.

Ben Saunders has finished the boat field parking plan and has already had to alter it to accommodate two new boats. Copies will be given to everyone and one will be held in the tower to make sure we all know whose boats are where. Unfortunately we have yet to get the boat stickers for the year so these will be hopefully handed out at the work party weekend.

Steve Willis

Work Party

Please try to get down to help on 11 March to help get everything ready for the season. We have a range of jobs to do but luckily nothing major this year. The following day we aim to have for helping each other rig boats and, weather permitting we may get out for a sail. High water is at 11:18 so we need to get rigging soon after 9am).

Steve Willis

Racing



Due to the success of the two fleet system, (Dinghies and Cats), the same format will be used again this season. Last Season there were at least 8 boats out for most of the spring and summer. (Apart from the last two series). It is probably the most boats turning out for a weekend's racing for several years, so thank you to every one that turned up.

The 12th of March has been set aside to rig your boats, without the pressure of without having to get on the water to race.

Phillip Hadaway

Sailing

It is not long now till we start sailing again (Joan is in withdrawal!). So, even though the temperatures are below zero don't put off that boat or trolley maintenance. At least go over your ropes and shackles etc. and see what you might need, - the Dinghy Show is in 5 weeks. We might have to introduce a bar fine for the first equipment failure of the year to encourage action!

We will shortly be drawing up the first duty rota for the year (covering March to the end of May) and this will be circulated as soon as possible.

It would be very useful to find out how many members want to attend any of the courses or seminars that are planned for the year so if you could let Steve Willis (e-mail swillis@iee.org) know by the work party weekend it would help him make plans. The events planned for the year are (dates for first four to be announced):

- RYA Powerboat 2 Course (handy also if you want to hire motorboats on holiday)
- RYA Club Race Officer Course (for those that would like to be in the tower instead of a patrol boat)
- Race Officer and Patrol Boat crew refresher seminar - internal to club members
- Mock Protest Meeting - to hold a protest meeting under the Racing Rules of Sailing for practice
- Sprint 15 class association Training Weekend (13/14 May)



Sailing...(Cont.)

We already have interest from several clubs for the training weekend and currently expect some 8-9 boats from other boats to attend. Even if you don't have a Sprint 15 (Dart 15) the event should cover much of interest in terms of getting the best out your boat.

Don't forget that if you want a copy of the Racing Rules of Sailing, the Handy Guide to the RRS or the Safety Boat handbook we have copies for sale at 10% off the normal price - contact Steve or Joan Willis.

So, no excuses get off the couch and sort out the gear and the clothing, work out what you need to buy or do and get ready for the water. The first series is held on 18/19/26 March and we need a new set of winners on the rostrum.

Steve Willis

Sprint15

A new season will soon be upon us so dust down your boats (don't polish it Jeff) and get ready for the sailing.

We need 15's on the water to make life difficult for the 18's and that pesky 505, so get down to the club and get on the water, to race or practise.

This year sees the class running its training weekend at Seasalter, to take part you need to be a member of the association (only £15). From reports it seems to be a fun and educational weekend, with the class hotshots telling and showing you how to do it, you never know things may click and **YOU** could upset the existing order.



'Free Sailing'

Maybe your sailing does not totally mean dashing around the cans, would you like to venture a little further along the coast when time and tide are in our favour? If so have a chat with me.

So lets make a special effort and sail this season we are a sailing club not a boat owners club.

Chris Stafford

SSC Honorary Life Membership.

As some of you may already know Dave Dalton has retired from the post of Honorary Treasurer after seven years of valuable service to SSC in this role.

We would like to thank him very much for all the work he has undertaken as Hon. Treasurer to the Club throughout this period, between 1999 and 2005. There have been many changes during this time and his efforts in keeping the Treasurer's role running smoothly are greatly appreciated by all on the Committee. In recognition of this and to mark our appreciation of his loyal and valued service the Committee has appointed him as an Honorary Life member of Seasalter Sailing Club.

Dave, Wendy and family will still be around the Club on a regular basis when they are not "cruising" the Swale on their new boat! We are very pleased that they will still continue to help at the Club wherever they can.

We all send them our best wishes for the future.

The General Management Committee

Social Events

In the near future the seasons social events will be sorted out with hopefully one event each month, watch the notice board.

Many thanks to the regulars that pop in Friday nights.

How about staying for a drink and a chat after sailing it is a painless away of increasing club income, the social side earnings have helped with the cost of the double-glazing. It's your club lets use it, if you have any ideas for socials let Lesley know.



Social events... (Cont.)

It is hoped to run varied Social events this coming year apart from the Fitting Out Supper and Laying Up Supper.

We will be hosting the Sprint 15 Training weekend and the Shearwater TT .**We will need help for both these events.**

Following last years successes we hope to run another Wine and Wisdom, a Salsa night and a beach games night, the dates for these have to be confirmed so watch the notice boards. If you have any ideas for fun and games contact Lesley.

Chris and Lesley Stafford

Club website

The Club website is now under new management (Michael and Chris Stafford along with myself). The updates should be published on there shortly.

Any Comments on the change of design (slightly) would be most welcomed.

Phillip Hadaway

And Finally!

A Reminder to all sailors, please do **not** use the hose to wash down your boats after sailing, as the water at the club is metered, Thank you.



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