



Seasalter Sailing Club – 60th Anniversary Celebrations - Sunday 3rd June

Wow what a day! Over 150 people joined us to celebrate our anniversary.

The weather proved to be our Achilles heel, however we started the day (more in hope as the forecast was abysmal) before 8am – with Ian, John, Andy and Joe building Teras for the scouts and guests to sail. At the same time Lesley, Jane and Liz were busy preparing breakfasts for the early risers (sorry girls but I've only got a photos of you eating – you'll realise this as a continuing theme – lol!).



After a hearty breakfast we were joined by Sam from the RYA (thanks for the help Sam) and a host of Seasalter sailors who were hoping to take a troop of scouts, eager youngsters and other assorted newcomers (and old hands) out for a spin around the bay. The wind was by now starting to pick up (a force 5 from the east) and the swell was to say the least interesting! It was very quickly decided that the Teras, scouts/youngsters and a boiling sea were probably not the safest combination, however 3 Cats did set sail with three very brave newcomers as crew. Thank you Joan, Mark and Dave for helming.



An interesting sail was had by all three – with emotions from exhilaration (we hope!) to terror (we fear) probably passing through each of them. For even the more experienced sailors at Seasalter the conditions were shall we say testing! After a quick blast across the bay it was decided that all three boats should be brought in and that any sailing for guests abandoned for the day. Although a disappointment this was inevitably the correct decision.



Now, what to do with the youngsters who were still requesting to sail? When it was politely explained that the conditions were too excessive for the Teras, some even asked “ok – can we take the Pico out then?”. No fear springs to mind! We all wanted to give them a taste, so it was decided that a controlled blast around the bay in the Red RIB would give them all something to smile about. So taking it in turns all the scouts and visitors were treated to a Dave Stafford special (cheers Dave!) with fast tight turns and wave jumping just the ticket.



As those on dry land (an interesting term taking into account the conditions) helped out or took their turns three craft appeared from the east (and it's not even the festive season!). It turned out that Tankerton Sailing Club upon hearing about our 60th had decided to come and pay us a visit (terrific effort and one we need to bear in mind as it's their 50th this year!). A Dart 18, Dart 15 and dinghy were all helped onto shore by many willing SSC sailors along with their fancy red RIB (Dave Lincoln looked on with envy – he now wants one!). So having greeted the intrepid sailors we gave them a welcome hot coffee and cakes in the warmth of the clubhouse (sorry about the floor Lesley!) before they set sail at the turn of the tide for home –hopefully making it back unscathed. Tankerton very nearly gained a new member as John in his Weta thought they were SSC boats and was busy following them until a quick radio call explained the error of his (easterly) ways.



As the tide turned and we waved goodbye to the TSC boats disappearing into the mist we settled down to packing up sailing for the day – those in summer wetsuits (and some in even less) thinking of a lovely warm shower followed by afternoon tea. So with boats stowed and equipment packed away we turned to enjoying the rest of the day.



A fantastic array of cakes and fancies (sorry I mean the three Johns) awaited the afternoon get together of current members, past members, friends and extended families. A warm welcome was shown throughout the afternoon and we were all delighted with the terrific turnout – with past members reacquainting themselves with the club and each other and current members having the opportunity to meet those who had helped maintain the clubs ethos of friendship and good sailing across six decades. A special thanks to all those who baked cakes – a great selection that did very nearly all disappear by the end of the day (Paul Carters fairy cakes of course taking the prize – although are we sure it was him doing the baking?).

Old and new members mingled and chatted during the early afternoon. We were delighted to see so many prominent old members, including the Olympic duo of Ian Rhodes and David Williams and their extended families, the Mills family, Anne and Charlie Shuttle, generations of Springetts, Hamiltons, Dutches, Ludgates (nee Walker), Bushells, Evans, Fosters and Sales. We spotted five commodores from 70's to present day, Derek Austin, Frank Avery, Fred Williams, Jeff Kiddle and Chris Stafford. Many were visiting the club for the first time in many years – a visitor's book was signed by many and this showed how many visitors had happy memories of SSC and fun during their childhoods. Some were surprised at how small the clubhouse now appears as they returned as adults with children of their own!





Speeches were the call of the day with Frank taking us to Breton and back as well as to the halcyon days of the '60s, '70s and '80s. We were regaled with the exploits of not only the sailing but the building of the clubhouse in the mid '70s. The anniversary cake was then cut by Frank and Lesley (a nod to the 50th celebrations). Steve followed Frank's speech thanking all those that had shaped the club followed by an overview of the renaissance of SSC covering our Olympic heritage through to the current UK Sprint 15 Champion Kevin Dutch and the various improvements that have been made to the club and its facilities over the past 10 years. The club is on the up! It's hoped that some of the past members will remain new friends and revisit the club on a more regular basis – they are of course always welcome. Steve finished by presenting the President's wife, Kay with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her and Frank's contribution to the club over many loyal years.





After the speeches a bbq and music followed – thanks to John and Mark for the cooking of food (always a man's job) and Mike Lennon and his Bad Dog Blues Band who kept us entertained until late into the night. A great day was had by all and I'm sure everyone who was involved will take with them many happy memories.

Thanks to all those who helped, contributed or just turned up – we hope to see you all again soon. Many, many (we hope we managed to snap all of you!) more photos from the day (as well as our sailing calendar) can be found on our website www.seasaltersc.org.uk.

Now here's one date definitely not to be missed so get your calendar handy - our next event,

SSC Open Day on Saturday 21st July coincides with the RYA's National "Push the Boat Out" celebration.

As an RYA affiliated club we are joining the RYA "In a bid to showcase boating, in all its guises to the nation, we are encouraging as many people as possible to take the water on Saturday 21 July and make a real spectacle of our boating prowess".

We hope to give you chance to sail this time (weather permitting!) so bring your sailing kit, arrive around midday and our merry sailors will take you for a sail, reviving those happy memories you all share. We have a mix of dinghy and cat sailors so whatever you used to sail I am sure we can recreate "the feeling!", and no "I can't remember what to do" is not an excuse not to give it a go! As it's also a celebration of our Olympic champions, so please add to the colour by bringin/wearing anything in red, white or blue – we hope to make a splash (with colour that is!).

If you are interested just contact

Joan Willis - jwillis@me139ty.fsnet.co.uk, phone 01227 750415/07792496291 or

Ian Mills – ian.mills@balfourbeatty.com , phone 01227 265711 -or anyone else you know in SSC!