



REEF KNOT

THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLS SAILING CLUB

No 10 - Spring 2007

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Another year is upon us. Another year of potential expansion both on and off the water. On land we are getting ever closer to raising sufficient funding to enable us to extend the club house. Chris Hardy leads the Development Committee and Bob Barnett is hard at work applying to the relevant bodies for grant aid. Initial response is looking encouraging. By now you will have received the pledge pack fully detailing these proposals. Many of you have responded with interest free loans: for these we thank you – but there is still time for those who have not had the opportunity to assist! This extension is an absolute necessity. Our ever increasing membership deserves better facilities primarily off the water. Changing rooms must be updated, an expansion of the bar and social area would be helpful. With a fair following wind the extension could be a reality by early 2008.

We can't stand still and as a club we have to look at the ways of encouraging more boats onto the water, to encourage juniors to join the club to enable them to enjoy all that sailing offers. They are our future. At our last AGM we reduced Junior membership to just £10. We have plans to buy maybe two suitable boats and safety equipment to enable them to continue to sail after any courses the Club runs. We also have very experienced members willing to assist in this endeavour.

Club finances are healthy. We spend your money wisely, for instance, expanding car parking by re modelling the Cutting, improved maintenance of boat parking areas to name but two. Our new web site is up and running. You need to use it more. You can blog it and have your



The Club's successful Junior Weeks are encouraging more youngsters onto the water.

say! It's one way to keep you updated on any changes to both the sailing and social programmes. Every time we send members a communication through the post it costs approximately £75. If we have your e mail address not only is it faster and more personal but the cost is practically zero. (To put your mind at rest we will not disclose your address to anybody.)

I lead, and am guided by, a great team: Martin Read, Vice Commodore & Sailing Secretary, David Blakesley Rear Commodore & Chair of House Committee. John Gibbs Club Secretary (to help keep me on the straight and narrow!), Alex Watson on *Natalie Gail* and Martin Dutton aboard *Herbert E* looking after starting and safety afloat, Peter Scillitoe and Peter Emerson managing the bar – a vital source of revenue, one that helps keep our subscriptions affordable, not forgetting all committee members serving all aspects of the club and the ladies who produce such wonderful food at all our functions, we would be lost without you!

It is a great honour to be your Commodore for the next two years and with all your help and assistance both on and off the water, together we can continue to build on the success of my predecessors.

Campbell MacCallum

Commodore

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT 2007

After an outstandingly successful year in 2006, this chap MacCallum will be a very hard act to follow! The Annual Dinner at the Ark Royal proved to be an excellent evening with beautifully prepared food served in intimate, relaxed surroundings. This year we plan to have a Dinner-Dance. The venue is as yet undecided but we plan to hold it on the 10th November, so make a note in your diaries.

The Grand Boxing Day Draw made a handsome profit for the Club of £657, so we would like to say a very big "Thank You" to all our kind sponsors who offered their time, effort and resources to make the Draw such a resounding success. Every pound raised will go towards improving the facilities of the Club and we are making a concerted effort this year to encourage the younger people of Wells and district to discover the pleasure of sailing and the camaraderie of our Club.

The social events this year started with a new theme, namely a Burns Night on February 17th, complete with piper, haggis, plenty of whisky and a genuine Scots Commodore who regrettably refused to wear the kilt for some reason. The Fitting Out Supper will be on Saturday 24th March, followed by a series of Sunday lunches prepared by our faithful team of volunteers in the galley. We are also staging a Midsummer Swedish-style party, a Sea Shanty night with the RNLI, Coastguards, Coastal Watch and our local fishermen as guests of the Club; a Creole supper evening as well as a South Sea Island Spectacular.

Do support the Club by coming along to as many of these events as you can – you will have a great time and help your Club as well – and remember to **Book Early** to avoid disappointment. Please have a look at the Calendar of Events published elsewhere in the *Reef Knot*. Finally, I would like to thank the good friends of the club who have provided food at cost or free in some cases, such as Peter Patrick, Rory Watson and Arthur Howell and the House Committee members who have given so much support and encouragement to me recently.

David Blakesley

Rear Commodore

WELLS SAILING CLUB EVENTS 2007

February

Saturday 17th. Burns Night Supper **7.30 pm**

March

Sunday 18th. Annual Financial Meeting - followed by...
Flag Officers Lunch – bangers & mash **1.30 pm**

Saturday 24th. Fitting Out Supper **7.30 pm**

Friday 30th. Harbour Users Cttee Meeting **7 pm**

April

Monday 9th. Lunchtime baps after sailing

Sunday 15th. Sunday lunch **2 pm**

Friday 20th. Race officer instruction evening + snacks **7 pm**

May

Sun/Mon 6/7th. Wells Open Meeting for Sharpies
Lunchtime baps

Sunday 15th. Sunday lunch **2 pm**

June

Saturday 2nd. Sea Shanty night for RNLI, Coastguards, fishermen etc. **7 pm**

Saturday 9th. Drascombes BBQ **6 pm**

Saturday 23rd. Frostbites late lunch / supper

Saturday 30th. Midsummer Swedish – style party **7 pm**

July

Sat/Sun 7/8th. Burnham Overy Sharpies Open meeting

Saturday 21st. Creole evening **7.30 pm**

August

20-24th. Junior Week

Friday 24th. Junior disco evening **6 pm**

25-27th. Wells Regatta – BBQ's on Sunday and Monday lunchtimes

September

Saturday 1st. South Sea Island Party **7.00 pm**

Sunday 23rd. Sunday lunch **2 pm**

October

Saturday 13th. Laying Up supper **7.30 pm**

Saturday 20th. Lewisham Band evening

Sunday 28th. Sunday lunch

November

Saturday 10th. Annual Dinner-Dance

Sunday 11th. AGM **11 am**

December

Saturday 8th. Christmas party **7.30 pm**

Weds'day 26th. Boxing Day Draw + soup and mince pies

January 2008

Tuesday 1st. The Grand Raffle 2 pm in the Clubhouse



visit our website:

www.wellssailingclub.co.uk

SAILING SEC'S CHIT CHAT

I am normally writing this winter message with frost on the ground and cold winds a blowin'! However I sit in my lounge looking out on the garden with blue skies, temperatures in the teens and with snowdrops and pussy willows appearing.

I can remember when I was about 10 living in Norwich. The snow would fall and stay for months – we street urchins would be on Mousehold every day sledging, using snowballs to break icicles from gutters and creating great slides on black ice in the playground.

How things have changed.

Global warming now means only a day or two when Norfolk stands still because of snow and ice. It may be best because virtually all adventurous activities are banned or children wrapped up in cotton wool – at least they don't know what they are missing. It may not be long before we have a summer break from sailing as June to Sept are too hot to venture out, yet Nov–Feb will be ideal. Fitting out supper will be in October and laying up in May. We could all go to Scotland for midsummer and have barbies on the beach. Sort of like an inverted Australian way of life – with the Non Ferrous Spheres trophy mid season.

I am considering buying some new sails from East Anglian Covers. The special material is called tarplin, and they are made to quarter size so that they can be used in the winds we seemed fated to experience. This could be a great investment for the future with the increasing occurrence of force 6–10 .

Anyway – before climate change grasps us too strongly, we have a fabulous year in prospect. Sharpies have a very busy year, open events at Brancaster, Wells and Burnham, Nationals over a long weekend in June and the Les Dye in Sept. But most important is the European Champs at the national sailing base at Portland in August. This is the venue for the 2012 olympics. I hope Wells will be well represented.

There is a full programme at Wells SC from end of March to the beginning of October.

Highlights at Wells include the Tan Sails weekend (9 June), Frostbite Team race, (23 June), Tommy Thomas weekend (21 July), Wells Regatta (25 Aug).

The commodore and I are keen to increase the number of people on the water. We want to see recreational sailors as well as racing. We would like to see more juniors coming through and joining the handicap fleet. We would like to see more juniors going on to crew and helm Sharpies. We are applying for grants with a view to buying boats and equipment so that we can sustain the interest of local youngsters who come to our junior week.

WELLS SAILING CLUB ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING

The AFM will take place in the clubhouse at 1100 on Sunday 18th March 2007

Agenda

Attendance

Minutes of 2006 AFM

Matters Arising

Presentation of Accounts

Main Accounts

Bar Account

House Account

Any items to be included in AOB should reach the secretary (in writing) no later than 11th March 2007.

We have included in the schedule 5 occasions where sailing will be informal and recreational. We may well include a picnic or informal short fun race. It may give the chance for juniors and others to try a sharpie, or for veterans sailors to work with less experienced members. It would be good for cruising members to experience dinghies and vice versa.

The club is reliant on the members who keep the sailing going – the rescue boat handlers and officers. We are indebted to Alex, Martin, Eddie and Mark for all their work . We cannot expect them to manage the boats all the time.

Would you like to assist and learn how to manage the committee boat or the rescue boat ? Please contact me if you feel you could help us either regularly or on some occasions. You do not need to be an expert – you can learn and enjoy being on the water and assisting your club.

Best wishes to all club sailors – I look forward to seeing you on the water regularly.

Martin 01623 821439



British Sharpie Champions 2006, Chris and Tim Gibbs

'THE SITE UNDER DEVELOPMENT'

I wish to report that behind the scenes the club expansion plans are gathering significant momentum. The Pledge Packs have been circulated to the membership and the Development Committee would like to thank all those who have provided the club with interest free loans to date. Receipts should now have been sent to all those who have so kindly responded in a positive manner so far. We still have a very long way to go, so if you haven't offered financial support to the project to date, any assistance now would be greatly appreciated.

We have recently had two very positive developments on the assistance front, the first being that 'Sharpie Helm' Paul Goakes, a Chartered Building Surveyor, who has a wealth of experience in building project management, has agreed to take on the task of managing the estimating, tendering, procurement and construction aspects of our extension project – thank you Paul. He has been working hard of late completing the working drawings and is presently compiling the detailed quantity specifications that will form the fabric of the tender document, which will then be circulated to the interested builders. It is envisaged that we will be in a position to reach the tender stage just before the Easter period.

The other positive aspect is that club member Robert Barnett, who has recently been extremely successful in securing significant funding for a local Youth Club Project in his home town of Chipping Norton, has agreed to come onboard and guide us through and manage the veritable minefield of identifying suitable grant funding sources. Robert has also agreed to take on the role of co-ordinating the careful and timely lodging of any specific application bids that he feels we may be able to secure funding for. In this respect he has already identified three possible avenues of potential funding that we can possibly pursue in the near future.

When work commences, one of the first and significant tasks in terms of volume, we will have to undertake, will be the removal of vast amounts of earth at the rear of the existing clubhouse. So to personally do your bit – digging deep in your pockets to assist and subsequently spread the surplus earth, could well mean your support takes on a new dimension and could be an opportunity to 'assist' the club in more ways than one!

Yours aye,

Chris Hardy

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

If you are proposing or seconding new members, please make sure that they fill in the form accurately and in full (with telephone and email addresses). Remember that proposers and seconders have to be members of at least two years' standing and should know the applicants well enough to say a few words on their behalf.

CAR PARKING

We are very fortunate to be allowed to park our cars so close to the Clubhouse. Consequently, we are bound by the following conditions to be able to continue to have use of the land.

1. All vehicles should display the club sticker (available at the bar) when using the car park. Any vehicle not complying with this will be assumed to belong to a non-member and will be asked to move.
2. Overnight parking is not permitted.
3. Please park tidily so that as many vehicles as possible can be accommodated.
4. Remember to replace the chain at all times.
5. Parking in front of the clubhouse is restricted to members while they are delivering or collecting (such as sundries for social functions).

BOAT PARK

In 2006 we had many new members with boats. The number of boats requiring parking is now greater than the spaces on the quay. However, there is more space in the winter storage area, only 30 metres away. Some boats last year, while parked on the quay, were not sailed at all or only on very infrequent occasions.

The Sailing Committee requests that owners of these boats:

- a) Inform the sailing secretary that they are happy for their boats to be parked in the winter park.
- b) Understand if and when the Committee requests that their boat is parked in the winter boat park.

Martin Read t: 01263821439 e: hilltopdc@lineone.net

THE BAR

Members are reminded of the legal requirement to sign in guests who are not members. This includes wives, husbands, partners and friends etc. of Full, Associate and Junior members. Guests may only be signed in up to a maximum of 7 times during a year.

BAR PERSONS

As you are probably aware, the bar provides considerable income for the Club, which means that bills can be paid and subscriptions can be kept at a reasonable level. In addition to this, equipment for sailing and social events can be updated continuously.

We are always short of people to do a stint behind the bar, which is not difficult and can be fun. If you are willing to help, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can plan a rota for the year.

Contact any of the Officers of the Club to volunteer and we will be delighted and grateful for your help. (Contact numbers are printed on the front of the Fixture list)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Reminder – if you intend to renew your subscription as a club member, please do so by March 31st, as after this date you will incur the extra expense of paying the £50 joining fee.