



Half Hitch

The monthly news sheet from Wells Sailing Club



December 2013

A POPULAR AGM

The Annual General Meeting, held on the 17th of November, was well attended with 46 members being present.

Richard Cracknell was nominated to continue his role as Flag Captain, Chris Hardy to continue his as Commodore and Peter Emerson to maintain his as Club Steward and Recorder. All three were elected unanimously.

The changes rang with John Gibbs standing down from the many responsibilities he has ably completed as Club Secretary and Gwen Woodhouse ending many years of good service as Club Treasurer. Thank you both for the hard work you have put in over the years.

Robert Wynne was nominated as Club Secretary, and unanimously voted in – showing a strong feeling in the club that he is the right person for the job.

No nominations were given for the other officers, they would be decided by the General Committee who were nominated and voted in, comprising:

Gary Anthony, David Blakesley, Ben Cracknell, Chris Gibbs, John Gibbs, Mim Gibbs, Simon Neale, David Pentney-Smith, Peter Scillitoe, David White, and Sally Wynne.

In Any Other Business it was proposed that dogs be allowed in the clubhouse, after lively discussion the proposal was not carried on a vote of 12 to 26. Alan Coe (by letter) suggested that the Club trophies be redesignated to suit the fleets that currently sail – the proposal was carried by the meeting. John Gibbs thanked Janet Gibbs for her support of his role as Club Secretary.

It was agreed at the AGM that there would no longer be a joining fee, a measure taken to help make the club affordable for all.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the newly elected General Committee was convened on the 6th of December, all were in good spirits and a positive mood. The first item on the agenda was to elect the remaining officers and after discussion the following nominations were carried:

Vice Commodore – Chris Gibbs, Rear Commodore – Ben Cracknell, Sailing Secretary – Chris Gibbs, Honorary Treasurer – Mim Gibbs, IT Officer – David White, Communications Officer – Ben Cracknell, Head of House: Social – David Blakesley, Head of House: Facilities – Simon Neale
(Continues)

CLUB OFFICERS



Richard Cracknell
FLAG CAPTAIN



Chris Hardy
COMMODORE



Chris Gibbs
VICE COMMODORE



Ben Cracknell
REAR COMMODORE



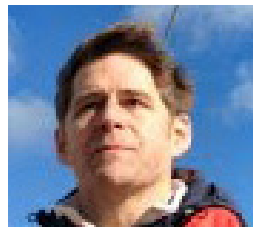
Robert Wynne
HON. SECRETARY



Mim Gibbs
TREASURER



Peter Emerson
CLUB STEWARD



David White
IT COORDINATOR



David Blakesley
SOCIAL MANAGER



Simon Neale
FACILITIES MANAGER



Gary Anthony
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Sally Wynne
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Peter Scillitoe
COMMITTEE MEMBER



John Gibbs
COMMITTEE MEMBER



David Pentney-Smith
COMMITTEE MEMBER



The sub-committees were elected as:

Sailing Committee – Chris Gibbs, Ben Cracknell, David Pentney-Smith, Gary Anthony, Richard Cracknell

House Committee – David Blakesley, Simon Neale, John Gibbs, David White, Mim Gibbs, Sally Wynne

Wine Committee – Peter Scillitoe, Peter Emerson, Gary Anthony, John Gibbs

The committee then discussed the following:

The Flood

The *Herbert E* was made ready in advance of the tidal surge in the event the Sailing Club resource was required to be deployed to assist the emergency services. The boat was however not required. We would like to thank all who assisted in this regard – particularly David Pentney-Smith and Jon Cracknell who volunteered to man the *Herbert E*.

We were pleased to see that there was very little damage to the clubhouse, which was fortunately built high enough to avoid the water coming into the sailing club. The front wall was damaged, a part of it being knocked over.



Flood damage to our wall.



The tide line!

Natalie Gail

Our committee boat was in the water during the flood and rode it well, despite dragging her moorings. The Committee resolved to ensure that she would be hoisted out in December and would ask if James Case would be able look at the maintenance required.

Communication with members

We will now be communicating with members more frequently and usually via email to keep everybody informed about current and forthcoming events in the club.

Please let Robert know if your email address changes: robertwynne@live.co.uk

The Quay Wall

The quay wall is crumbling and has lost some courses of bricks (see pic). This is of some concern as it appears to be the responsibility of the club to maintain it, and if it were to need substantial rebuilding it would be very expensive.

Simon Neale, David Pentney-Smith and Andrew Cracknell, are to investigate and report back.



FOR SALE

GBR 16 *Titania*, Abeking and Rasmussen, a fully equipped fast boat including road trailer. Contact Bob Curtis for more details. Phone: 01328 710460

GBR 47 *Maid of Athens*, Baay. Contact Roger Richardson. Phone: 01328 711582

EVENING TALKS

If anyone has topics they would like covered in a free evening talk at the club, please let us know. We have a number of experienced sailors willing to share their expertise! Contact: sally.wynne@live.co.uk

WINTER SAILING PROGRAM 2013/14

We propose that all the winter races (see below), except the one on Boxing Day, start from a line at the clubhouse and a course to be agreed by the sailors using moored boats, buoys and harbour marks etc. These are intended as fun races but with a trophy at the end.

As you can see the boxing day race is the *Non-Ferrous Spheres Trophy*, all those intending to sail please contact Richard Cracknell. Phone: 01328 710517

Winter sailing tides and start times

Date	High water		Start time
	Time	Height	
Non-Ferrous Spheres Trophy			
Thursday 26 Dec	12.12	2.0	11.30
Sunday 26 Jan	13.47	2.1	13.00
Sunday 23 Feb	11.49	2.2	11.00
Sunday 23 March	10.32	2.5	10.00
Sunday 06 April	11.29	2.4	11.00

HELP!

WSC is a self-run club and offers of help are always welcome. We have had a fantastic response from members recently and look forward to a busy 2014!

HERBERT E TRAILER

It was decided that *Herbert E's* launching trailer needed replacing as it was becoming more and more difficult to use. On investigation by David Pentney-Smith and Richard Cracknell they found that it was well built and a significant restoration would be the best way forward.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND BAR OPENING

BOXING DAY : Clubhouse open 12am – 3pm

Morning Sailing *The Non-Ferrous Spheres trophy 11.30*
Ring Richard Cracknell 01328 710517 if interested.

December 29th : Clubhouse open 12am – 3pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY : Clubhouse open 10am – 3pm

Soup and a roll (Chez Lupin) will be served.

Grand Swindle Raffle 2pm (remember to **bring** prizes!)

COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any comments about this newsletter or wish to contribute please contact Ben Cracknell. For sale, ideas, anything! ben@benstudios.co.uk

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party was a great success, despite being cancelled (and then reinstated!). Alison and Richard Cracknell stepped into the breach and with many helpers and supporters made it a very jolly evening. We found out that the clubhouse isn't big enough to accommodate all the people who wanted to come along!

The decorations were amazing – see below. Thanks to Bob Curtis's Team (sorry we haven't got names), great work!

The evening started with a quiz about more and less well known members, this involved mingling and asking questions about each other which was interesting and really got the evening off to a good start. Many correct entries were received but the first was the youngest person there – a Ms M Gibbs, seen in the picture below with all the pens in her hat. Well done Maddie!

The meal was baked potatoes – a big thanks to Peter Patrick for these – served with delicious turkey and ham and many kinds of salads and chipolatas – all brought by volunteers – thanks to you all too!

We played a team game whilst seated – the winning team had a strong Gibbs presence.... This was followed by Martin Read on his guitar.. Thanks Martin! We then all sang Christmas carols before clearing the floor for dancing.

Gill Lupin has converted the left over meat into a delicious soup to be served up on New Year's Day – come along and enjoy it. Also get rid of unwanted Xmas presents and win some more!!

