



Half Hitch

The monthly news sheet from Wells Sailing Club



February 2014

INTRODUCTION

The days are getting noticeably longer and signs are that when it's not been blowing a howling gale, the odd very mild and sunny day could have almost tempted sailors back on the water. Our thanks must go to Alison and Sue for hosting a great 'full house' Sunday Lunch at the Club on the 26th of January and also to Robert Wynne for enabling us to secure our second club Wayfarer and for going to pick up and deliver the boat to us.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

The Sailing, House and General Committees met on Friday 7 February. Things have moved on since the last meeting and the organisation of the sailing season and social calendar are now well under way.

Wayfarer

Good News – The club has acquired a second Wayfarer!

We were approached by a retired sailor who wanted to donate his (unused) boat to a club that would make good use of it, he just wanted a small payment to cover the cost of new tyres, tubes and wheel bearings on the road trailer.

Needless to say the boat was collected immediately and is now in storage awaiting the beginning of the new season.



It is a fibreglass MKII with front and aft built-in buoyancy, it has a newish mainsail, older mainsail, spinnaker and pole and is on a combi trailer.

A big 'thank you' must go to the previous owner Steve McCloy of Huntingdon for his very generous offer to the club.

Another good reason to get on the water this summer!

Subscriptions

The 'e-mailout' of our subscription renewal forms has been a success with over a third of the club members having already returned their completed forms and fees to the club's Hon. Treasurer. For those who haven't yet returned theirs, please send them to:

Miriam Gibbs
Hon. Treasurer WSC
83 Cecil Road
Norwich
NR1 2PJ

Membership forms update

You may have noticed your club membership renewal form has been updated. All of the the club membership application and renewal forms have been redesigned and updated and are now available in the clubhouse, from the club secretary and on our website.

AFM date

The Annual Financial Meeting date has been set for 11am on the 13th April, The official notice of time and the agenda will be sent out nearer the time.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Fitting Out supper

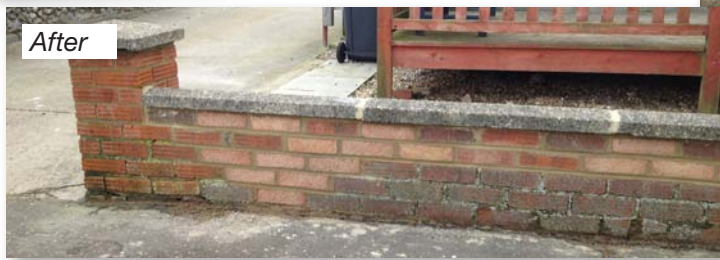
The Fitting Out supper will now be held at the clubhouse on the 12th April. It will be an informal meal and follow the shakedown day organised by the Sailing Committee.

New members lunch

Please come along to this very informal lunch (before the sailing on 4 May) to meet Club Members – new and old! There will be a chance to sign up shortly – offers of help are welcome!

Dates for your diary

See page 4 ➤



Club wall

We are pleased to report that WSC Member Jason Carbis has completed the repair to the flood damaged wall in front of the clubhouse – thanks again Jason, it's looking good!



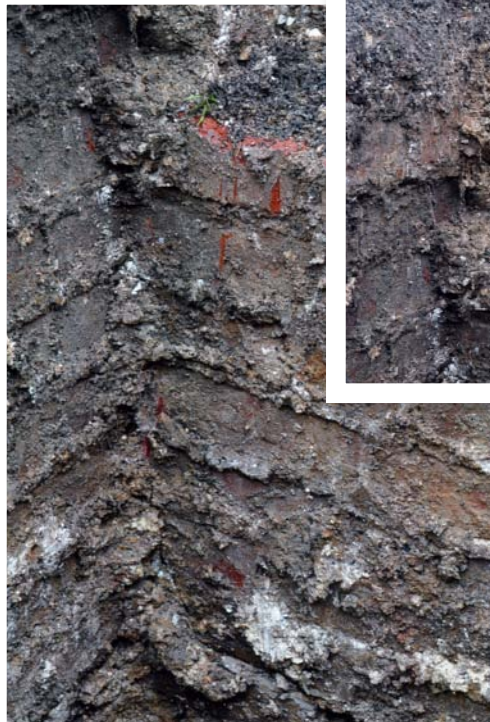
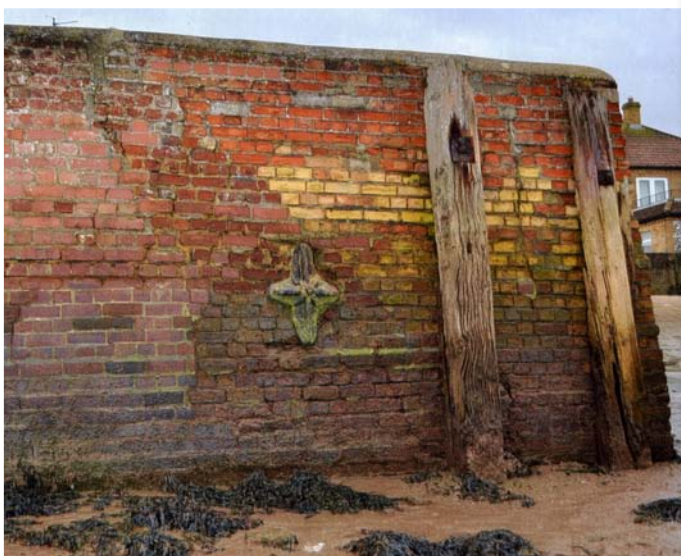
The Quay Wall

Good news on the wall! After investigations from behind by excavating around 5 tons of soil, Simon Neale, David Pentney-Smith and Andrew Cracknell (in a small digger) found that the back of the wall was in good condition, which gave the go-ahead for restoration work to be commissioned on the front of the wall without fear of collapse.

The committee will specify the work and put the job out to tender in the coming weeks.

Above: Digging the hole; with help from Andrew (and a small digger) several tons of soil were removed.

Below: The wall from the sea side showing the signs of many previous repairs.



Excavation showed the wall is stable and buttresses to the rear of the wall are in good order.

DOOR KEY SYSTEM

The newly installed card system is working exactly as hoped. However it has been suggested that it might be improved if a timer system could be added to allow the door to be 'on the latch' during busy times to avoid frequent use of the card/internal release button. Amusing as it is to see people miming 'please open the door' as they stand in the rain outside, Chris Hardy has arranged for this modification to be installed.

THANKS TO CLUB STALWART



Many members contribute their time and make an effort to ensure the smooth running of the clubhouse and its facilities, none more so than Peter Emerson, who, amongst other duties as Club Steward, keeps the bar and makes sure the fire is laid and lit. Over

Christmas and the New Year period Peter has kept the fire lit and the bar open on all club occasions, it has been a very welcome sight, particularly on a winter's evening. Thank you Peter, it is much appreciated.

SAILING COMMITTEE

The Sailing Committee have been finalising dates on the fixture list to ensure the sailing season will get off to a good start. With the Sharpie Championships, more club boats and our new 'Get Afloat' days all adding to the interest of the new season.

Sailing work party

A work party has been organised by the sailing committee, to check over all of the club's sailing boats and safety craft. We are waiting until the weather is a little warmer and will be holding it on the morning of the 9th of March.

The intention is to check all club gear – including boats, trailers, buoys, radios, flags, equipment, clothing – to make sure they are ready for the season.

Please contact Chris Gibbs if you'd like to help.
cgibbs@alanboswell.com

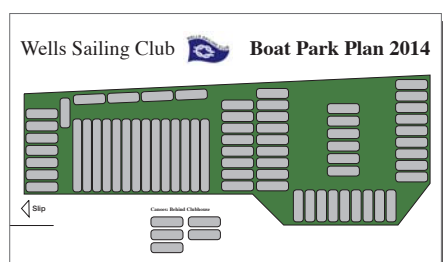
Natalie Gail

The committee are looking into laying a replacement mooring after the old one dragged during the December floods

Boat Parking Plan

The boat parking plan will be displayed in the clubhouse to show where members should place their craft. Priority for more accessible sites will be given to boats that sail the most

Please note the parking plan is only to be filled in by the Sailing Secretary!



The British Sharpie Championships

The championships will take place on the 20th–22nd June, we already have a committee boat and some safety boats in place including the *Natalie Gail* and *Herbert E*. But more helpers are always welcome, whether experienced or not there is always work to do on and off the water. If you would like to be involved please contact Chris Gibbs for on-the-water help or David Blakesley for help on land.

'GET AFLOAT' DAYS

You will see on the fixture list that that we have organised 'Get Afloat' days on the 5th of May and the 6th of July.

We are hoping that these days will give the whole club a chance to get on the water, whether it is sailing, rowing, canoeing, having a trip in the club boats, *Natalie Gail* or the *Herbert E*, or even swimming! Come and have a go in any boat you haven't tried before. We will arrange refreshments somewhere 'over the water' and really hope that we can all enjoy a fun day afloat, maybe followed up with food and drink back at the club.

Special trophies

The club has traditionally encouraged members in special categories to sail by offering prizes for each group, and to this end we will be setting races for the following 'special' people: Ladies, crews, novices and juniors.

These races will be announced during the season and will be in addition to the races on the fixture list.

Fixture list

The fixture list will be sent to all members in the coming week, primarily by email. Printed copies of the list will be available in the clubhouse and a downloadable copy on our website www.wellssailingclub.co.uk

SECURITY WARNING

Police are urging boat owners to be vigilant after thieves targeted a boat in Morston. The theft took place between Wednesday 29th of January and Friday 7th of February whilst the boat was moored in Morston Quay.

A Mercury outboard engine was removed from the vessel. Anyone with information about this incident should contact PC Jason Pegden at Wells Police station on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Officers are also urging boat owners to be vigilant and ensure the necessary security measures are being taken to help protect their property which are often targeted at this time of year.

Norfolk Police has outboard engine security covers available for purchase. For more information or to order a cover please call Norfolk Constabulary on 101.



FROM THE ARCHIVE

This archive photo of a busy start line was taken by 'Tommy' Thomas, it came to light when Richard Cracknell was sorting through some boxes left to him.



A recent photo of the harbour mouth. Despite it being quite a good tide the shallow areas are clearly shown as is the dark line of the channel. With thanks to Mike Page for the photo: www.mike-page.co.uk

Dates for your diary

9th March

Three Course Lunch – book with Jean Terrington 01328 711126.

Sailing work party – contact Chris Gibbs cgibbs@alanboswell.com

12th April

Shakedown weekend

Fitting Out Supper – book with Mim Gibbs mimgibbs@gmail.com or 01603 761020

13th April

Annual Financial Meeting

19th April

First race of the season MDSF pennant start 9am

4th May

New member's lunch – details tbc

5th May

'Get Afloat' day – All members welcome!

20th–22nd June

Sharpie Championships

6th July

'Get Afloat' day – All members welcome!

