



Half Hitch

The monthly news sheet from Wells Sailing Club



March 2014

SAILING SEASON AHOY!

The sailing season is about to start – less than a month now – with a shakedown weekend on the 12-13th April and the first racing on the following weekend 19-20th. As you will see in this issue a work party overhauled the club boats, so even if yours isn't ready you'll be able to come down and enjoy being out on the water.

FITTING OUT SUPPER

To celebrate the start of the new season the Fitting Out supper will be held on the 12th April at the clubhouse. It will be an informal affair of a buffet with the expectation of chat and mingling – and of course predictions of the season's sailing events each of us intend to win.

It would be great to see all sailors, potential sailors, helpers and all other members there. As it's a buffet meal we can accommodate a lot of members – and the more the merrier! Contact Mim Gibbs to book mimgibbs@gmail.com or 01603 761020. See poster on next page.

NEW MEMBERS' LUNCH

Another of the popular New Members' Lunches will be held on the 4th May – we hope that members new and old will attend to encourage the new (and maybe the old) to get out on the water and enjoy the social life at the club.

GET AFLOAT DAY

Our inaugural **Get Afloat Day** will be held on the Early May bank holiday, Monday 5th May. It will be a great chance to set the season in motion with a day on the water and at the clubhouse. Our aim is to get as many club members as possible on or over the water: if you haven't been afloat yet now's your chance! We will have a meeting point with refreshments set up somewhere on the marshes and invite all members to join us for a trip to "the other side". All the club boats will be out and there will be lots of experienced sailors available to help and encourage. Even if you don't want to sail come for a trip round the bay in 'Natalie Gail' or a whizz along the beach in our rib the 'Herbert E'. You won't have to get up too early either, boats will start leaving the clubhouse from 9:00am and when we come off the water at lunchtime there will be a BBQ and beer at the club.

Dates for your diary

See page 3 ➔

HOUSE COMMITTEE NOTES

Social events aside not too much to report this month, some maintenance needed on the disabled facilities in the club which will be undertaken by Simon Neale. The Gas boiler will be serviced by local tradesman Mike Craske and the door lock update is in hand with Kings and Barnham.

Sunday lunch triumph

The Sunday lunch on March 9th was a great success, thanks to Tricia, Hilary and Patsy, who all gave their time and many of the ingredients to keep costs down. Thanks also to Arthur Howell and Peter Patrick for supplying the meat and potatoes, both of which were delicious! Thanks also to Jean Terrington for taking all the bookings and organizing the list of diners so efficiently.

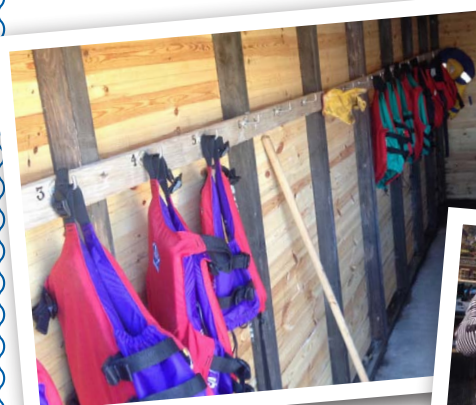
RENEWAL REMINDER

For those of you who have been working on bringing your boat up to perfect condition and not thinking about the paperwork, a timely reminder: payment of membership fees is due by the end of March. Please make sure you have sent your fees and membership form to Mim before then or you will have to re-apply for membership.

LOST (AND FOUND?)

Have you a club lifejacket at home? The pictures below show what they look like, please have a good look around at home as we will be needing them for this year's junior events – and while you're looking see if any of our waterproofs are there too – thank you!

While we're on the subject, a Feva mast has gone missing, not something you'd accidentally take home with you, more likely borrowed or possibly washed away in the flood, if you happen to know where it is, or have a spare one you'd like to donate please contact Chris Gibbs.



Left: Once the pride of the club (probably), the lifejacket rack is now looking a little depleted....



Right: Mim showing the style of the Club's lifejackets, please look out for them.



SAILING COMMITTEE LOG

A work party gathered on the 9th March to look over the club boats and ensure they were fit to sail with all parts present. It was a beautiful day with the tide arriving as we set about our tasks – apart from the workers we also had some curious onlookers, it's always good to have people interested in what we're up to!

The newly acquired Wayfarer is now on her launching trolley and ready to sail. Her side benches aren't fitted yet, which is fine as they are not a structural part – Gary Anthony has kindly offered to restore and varnish them as they were rather worn, so, for the moment, he has them in his workshop.

SAFETY CRAFT

The *Natalie Gail* will ride on her existing mooring while we arrange to have a new one put in place. We are coordinating with the Harbour Commission to do this as efficiently as possible. We have been offered disused railway wheels (at a yet-to-be-negotiated fee) to act as the sinker, these are perfect for the job, we simply have to retrieve them now. A flat bed truck or similar will be required as each one requires at least four people to lift it! Other harbour users would like some of these wheels too so we will combine where we can to make their collection as cost efficient as possible.

Herbert E is now sitting on a well-oiled trolley, David Pentney-Smith has made sure that all wheels are in good condition and ready to roll.

Our VHF radios have reached the end of their useful life, this year they will be replaced by some new ones – particularly in light of our hosting of the Sharpie nationals, and of course for the safety of club members at all times!



Maddie managed to be helpful and colour-coordinated while helping with teh fevas!



Phil Oldroyd, Richard Cracknell and John Pigney setting up the 'new' Wayfarer for the first time – all present & correct!



One of the Club Fevas, ready to be taken on the water.



Martin, Mim and Imelda 'The clothing crew', discussing tactics



WINE COMMITTEE

The bar rota will be circulated shortly, once final confirmations have been made. Peter Emerson has changed shifts and will no longer be able to steward the bar at weekends as frequently as he has previously.

A replacement for the bar fridge is being sought, we require one of a particular size to fit in the existing space – if we are to avoid further cost in rearranging the bar.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The revamp of the membership forms has raised some queries and some overlaps have been noted – the Junior Application Form, for instance, is not required as Juniors can apply on the standard Membership Application Form. The forms will not change this year but for next year there will be a review by the committee. People applying to join the Club can now get the application form from the clubhouse or from the Club secretary. Membership renewal forms are available in the Club and from the Treasurer.



From the archives: *I know, I haven't changed a bit!* De presents William and Ben with a prize for something – possibly new year's day race judging by the decorations.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING

The Club AFM will be held on
Sunday 13th April 2014 at 11am

SLIDESHOW

The AFM (see above) will be followed by a slideshow of archival pictures of the Club, sailing, and the building of the Clubhouse. We already have a number of photos but would be really pleased to see any that were taken before 1975. We can scan prints, negatives and slides, if you have any you would like to share please let Sally know – sally.wynne@live.co.uk or 01603 425241 – when we return your originals we can also give you the high resolution digital scans if you would like them.



Wells Sailing Club Fitting Out Supper

On Saturday 12th April at 7pm

MAIN COURSE	PUDDING
Chilli and baked potato with a green salad	Apple pie with custard

£5 per person

Please book with Mim Gibbs
mimgibbs@gmail.com or 01603 761020 by the 8th April

Dates for your diary

12th April

Shakedown weekend

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

13th April

Annual Financial Meeting

Slide show – 'Building the Clubhouse'

19th April

First race of the season MDSF pennant start 9am

4th May

New member's lunch – book with Sally Wynne
sally.wynne@live.co.uk or 01603 425241

5th May

'Get Afloat Day' – All members welcome!

20th–22nd June

Sharpie Championships

6th July

'Get Afloat' day – All members welcome!