



# Half Hitch

The monthly news sheet from Wells Sailing Club



May 2014

## GET AFLOAT DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

This month has already had two successful events, the extremely popular New Members' Lunch and the inaugural Get Afloat Day which saw close to a hundred club members on the water – and a few more late arrivals for the barbecue which was sponsored by the late Mike Bushby. All of it a huge success, and undoubtedly some people will have been bitten by the bug and be seen again out on the water.



Pool buoy beach was the centre of operations, with rides available in everything from Sharpies to the club's fast RIB Herbert E.



THANKS TO JANET GIBBS FOR THE PHOTOS



Above: Photos of Get Afloat Day – Richard taking a club Wayfarer with numerous crew, Robert explaining Sharpies, Simon rows out with the ever adoring Scooby, Pool buoy and its beach – and of course the party afterwards.

Right: Andrew and Robert, chefs for the day on the club barbeque – delicious – thanks lads!

The Get Afloat Day was a reminder of what fun it can be just messing about on the water. The weather was the best it had been all season being reasonably warm and sunny, even the blustery wind wasn't a problem with only one serious rescue... when Simon's dog Scooby followed him after he'd gone for a sail – all was well, Scooby was rescued and both were returned safely to the beach.

A big thank you to Chris Gibbs for organizing the event and ensuring everyone got afloat, to all those who brought their boats along, to everyone who helped in the organization and of course to the previously dry members for coming along and dipping their toes in!

A few words were spoken at the barbeque to remember Mike Bushby, to thank him for leaving money to the club and for insisting we spend the money on having a good time – thanks Mike, we certainly did.

**NEW MEMBERS' LUNCH**

Around 80 members attended the most popular New Members' Lunch yet, 10 of them new members and 14 under 16s who all ate free plus 55 paying 'existing' (old) members.

The House committee would like to thank all those who helped, particularly Catherine, Rebecca and Faye in the kitchen and for distributing name stickers and taking money, and Caroline Mulderij and Mim Gibbs for the mammoth amount of washing up they undertook. Thanks also to team GBR69: Robert Wynne for the main course (who peeled a whole sack of potatoes the day before!) and Justine for the puddings, great effort. Not forgetting all those willing helpers offering their support throughout the day.

Also thanks to the new and existing members who came along and made the whole thing such fun.

**WAYFARER NUMBER TWO**

The new Wayfarer, (that is to say the newly acquired Wayfarer, which is older than the club's first Wayfarer *Gwendoline*) has no name, the committee would like suggestions – *Number Two* is not a good idea.

Please send any suggestions to Sailing Secretary Chris Gibbs CGibbs@alanboswell.com.

**MULTI TALENTED**

Our Christmas decor storage technician also turns out to be a horizontal surface maintenance engineer.

If you notice something different in the clubhouse, that it's a bit brighter, more shiny perhaps, it is likely to be due to an enormous effort Simon Neale has put in cleaning off the patina of many years from the floor. Thanks Simon, a great effort.

**SAILING COMMITTEE LOG**

*Nataile Gail* is now in service and it's a real pleasure to see the improvements James, David and Alex have made, particularly the changes James made to the seating arrangements!

Her mooring situation is definitely improving, the wheels that are to be used as sinkers have arrived and at 250kg each should hold our committee boat in position for a good while.





## BRITISH SHARPIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Arrangements are well under way for the championship to be held on the 20–22nd June, the Notice of Race has been circulated to Sharpie owners.

The Sharpie website is now up and running, competitors can now register online please do so as soon as possible. [www.sharpies.org.uk](http://www.sharpies.org.uk)

The House Committee are planning the social events and feeding and watering of sailors morning, noon and night, social events will be confirmed nearer the time.

We are also looking for volunteers on and off the water, come along and join in the fun. Contact Chris Gibbs [CGibbs@alanboswell.com](mailto:CGibbs@alanboswell.com).

## NEW MEMBERS

The committee approved four new membership applications this month; Martyn and Beverly Gibson, Martin and Tracey Few, Martin Gould and Steve and Val Gerrard. Welcome to you all.

## THE WALL

The General Committee have a satisfactory quote for the serious restoration now required on our sea wall and intend to have the work done as soon as can be arranged.

By coincidence some photographs have recently come to light showing the efforts that were made last time the wall showed signs of needing work...

## WINE COMMITTEE

The bar rota has been published with its traditional anomalies and quirks, check to see if you're on it and if so put the date in your diary, it's very embarrassing if you miss it.

If for any reason you can't make the date you're allotted ring one of the other bar tenders and ask to swap, or arrange another member to take your place – please fill in any changes you make on the rota in the clubhouse, if you can't then contact Ben who will do it for you – and, to be clear, he will fill in the form NOT do the bar duty!

If you would like to help out now or in the future behind the bar, please let Ben know, he'll put you on the list of willing volunteers [bencracknell@gmail.com](mailto:bencracknell@gmail.com).

Why are we telling Ben these things, well, he's just been elected onto the lofty heights of the wine committee with Peter Scillitoe, Peter Emerson and John Gibbs.

### Cool

The beer cooler has now been replaced by a new one which is quieter and considerably more efficient than the previous one.



Workers shown here: Terry Angles, Andrew Cracknell, Alex Watson, Stuart MacCallum, Bob Curtis, Gary Anthony, Chris Hardy, John Gibbs, James Case, Richard Cracknell, Ian Scott and Peter Terrington.



Right: Bob working 'til the last minute!





*Two more nostalgic shots of Sharpies in Wells harbour, supplied by Gary Anthony.  
Above: looks like they are passing the West Lake Tripod or is it the Fleets Beacon during a marsh tide?*

*Left: Gary Anthony crewed by William Cracknell in K80 Tinquá, Tommy Thomas with unknown crew in K47 Maid of Athens and Norman Woodhouse in K69 Adventure (using K116 sails).*

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **20th–22nd June : British Sharpie Championships**

**Breakfast baps every morning.**

**Friday 20th June** – Drinks and canapés

**Saturday 21st June** – Soup + Hog Roast Night

**Sunday 22nd June** – Breakfast Baps + Soup

#### **Friday 27th June**

Tan Sails event

#### **Saturday 5th July**

Frostbites' Meal

#### **Sunday 6th July**

'Get Afloat Day' No 2 – All welcome!

#### **Monday 28th July**

NWNSA – Breakfast Baps

#### **23rd–25th August : Wells Regatta**

**Saturday 24th August** – South Seas Party

**Sunday 24th August** – Hog Roast/BBQ.

**Monday 25th August** – tbc

#### **Sat 13th September**

Proms Night – Bangers & Mash

#### **Sat 18th October \***

Laying Up Supper

#### **Sat 22nd November \***

Annual Dinner Dance

\* Dates and venues to be confirmed