



REEF KNOT

THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLS SAILING CLUB

No 16 - Spring 2013

The club's vision is to actively promote sailing and 'on the water' pursuits for the community, by making best use of our resources in a safe, sustainable and friendly environment.

COMMODORE'S REPORT Q1 2013

My report last year devoted a lot of time to reflection and to looking forward – this year I wish to concentrate on the future and building upon the significant advancement the club visibly made last year. Our members and committee should rightly be proud of the many successes achieved in a year when summer peaked early and then never really arrived.

Highlights that spring to mind are; new decking and paved areas, a refurbished club house, improved bar facilities, a great New Year party, a new website, a Facebook page, the Olympic spirit and the successful Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

We have just concluded the 2013 sailing programme and Julia and her hard working committee have matched this to a full and varied social calendar for the year so we are looking forward to a great sailing season both afloat and ashore.

Through the hard work of David Blakesley and Campbell MacCallum we have successfully secured 'Sport England' funding for a new and fully equipped Wayfarer dinghy, which will arrive at the club shortly. This new boat along with our existing fleet of Fevas are available for the membership to proactively use – the club's objective is to get as many new (and maybe not so new) sailors of all age groups on the water as we can this year – so come along and give it a go!



It is important for the lifeblood of the club to have a strong and vibrant sailing nucleus – this year with the optimistic expectation of a better summer, our attentions are very much focussing on making the best use of all of our assets to promote sailing and getting our membership enjoying their time on the water.

In this regard, at committee meetings we regularly discuss future plans regarding our East Quay land. The aim of our association with our tenant there – Oceanus – is to provide a conduit to allow new sailors to join our club after successfully completing their period of instruction. It is also to assist the club with the staging of our junior week activities – it is hoped this year through greater dialogue, we will see an improvement in this relationship.

CONTINUES P2



The clubhouse decorated in style for the Jubilee weekend

2013 marks the 350th anniversary of Wells Harbour Commissioners, the evolution and sustainability of the harbour is vital to the wellbeing and future development of not only our diverse commercial port but to the town and the local community. In this regard we have seen considerable change in recent years to the physical aspects of the harbour to accommodate the requirement of the offshore energy sector. It is recognised that change has not always benefitted the sailing community. It is, however, pleasing to report that resulting from much greater dialogue and engagement with the Commissioners and continued guidance from the RYA it is hoped that we will achieve our long term

objective of maintaining the best sailing area possible within the confines of the harbour and its approaches in the future.

With the start of the season looming, I will conclude by wishing everyone an enjoyable and successful sailing season. To achieve this, the concept is actually very simple – we have the best club, atmosphere and membership. All we need to do is just add sea water – Oh, and maybe some sun as well!

Best Wishes,

Chris Hardy Commodore.

REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT



Happy New Year to you all.

We had a successful season last year where we managed to sail all the races on the programme and even managed to sail one trophy twice with two different winners which is a first in my experience.

Once again I have to congratulate Chris and Tim for their success in Bosham, in what were quite testing conditions. The commodore and I tested our buoyancy and bailing skills, with thanks to a local fisherman for the loan of his bucket as ours floated free in a submarining moment as we tried to sail the boat dry.

With last year's experience of laying courses around the harbour we discovered that the berms were not quite the anticipated problem we thought, so this year we are racing on some smaller tides, which means they are a bit more time friendly so not so many early starts, but

the tides are still not as friendly as they could be, so as with last season there are some very early and quite late races. You may need a torch if one evening at the end of last season is anything to go by.

As with last year I have put some midweek evening sails on, and I will take the committee boat out to set a course. Any offers of help would be appreciated.

With the arrival of the new club Wayfarer, there is the opportunity for some family sailing this year. There are also two Fevas, one of which is set up for two-handed sailing with the genicka in the boat ready.

A system of logging in and out to use the club boats has still to be finalised, and also a secure but flexible store for sails and other kit.

Congratulations to the brave or foolish competitors for the Non Ferrous Spheres on New Year's Day, I understand it was a nice day to start the New Year.

And finally a late piece of information. The club had a successful day's racing at Norwich Frostbites this year. As you know this is a team race of three boats a side and in the first race a third place was secured. Unfortunately normal service was resumed in the second race and we filled the last three places. It was looking much better until James and Chris sailed into a hole in the wind, and had to watch three boats sail past as they sat waiting for the breeze everyone else had.

I wish that you all have a good new year and hope to see you on the water as much as possible.

Alan

WAYFARER TRAINING BOAT AND FEVAS

These boats will be available to club members throughout the season at no cost.

Inside the clubhouse, on the notice board, will be a record sheet which must be completed before any boat is used.

The record sheet incorporates a check list and requires the user to sign their confirmation of competence.

More information can be obtained from:

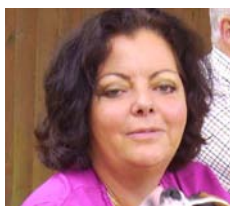
Sailing Secretary: Alan Coe – 07425 136 023

Flag Captain: Richard Cracknell – 01328 710517

Safety Officer: Martyn Flitcroft – 07771496014

If you intend to use any of the club's boats, you **must** contact one of the above before doing so.

VOICE OF THE VICE COMMODORE



2013 Came in with lots of bangs, flashes and oohs! Well at least at WSC it did. The fireworks were a huge hit, Simon Neale and Mark Hasdell organised the display superbly. Martin Read donated some rockets for that

additional bang factor. It was truly a spectacular affair. The whole evening, from David Blakesley for the music to Annette Parkinson for the decorations, Sue Read, Nikki Crossman, Alison Cracknell and Jenny Kenny for helping with the food, it is what this club is all about. Mind you it was good to have Emily and Matthew Cracknell and Alexander Neale helping in the kitchen.

However, a huge bouquet of thanks has to go to Arthur and Liz Howell, who donated the fireworks – the display was amazing and far surpassed expectations. Throughout the year Arthur has generously supported the club and to be honest I would not wish to serve you anything than other meat or fish from the Howells. So we are doubly lucky in being able to provide excellent locally sourced food which, thankfully, Liz and Arthur are often able to join us for.

Having paid back the loan to the members, the House Committee has been able to turn its attention to the refurbishment of the Club. New decking and lights outside, thank you to Alan Coe and Simon Neale and also to Nigel Ely who has been instrumental in providing a new integral music/PA system, all of which has greatly improved our facilities.

The electrics have been upgraded, the interior redecorated, new patio facilities provided and overall the club has been given a facelift... this will continue to happen. A huge thank you to Simon Neale who has overseen this.

We still remain a self-help club, Rachel who does and organises the cleaning generally only comes in once a week. She does a tremendous job but the rest of the time it is up to us to ensure that the club is left as we would like to find it. The mops and buckets are found in the Bosuns cupboard!



Well what have we got in store for you this year? 2012 was quite disappointing with weather and tides so we did not achieve our Indian picnic but hopefully we can this year. We did however give you English roasts, French Bistro, Curry, Chinese, Mexican, Hungarian, Italian and Wells seafood.

This year I am quite sure that with your help we can put on all sorts of events. Just let me know what you would like or are willing to help with.

I am already looking forward to the Moroccan Buffet, fancy dress optional!

For those of you who are wondering, the House Committee is me, Terry Angles, Simon Neale, Peter Emerson and a welcome to Sally Wynne, all ably helped by the poster lady Janet Gibbs and as always my 'sister' Sue Read.

Last but not least a huge thank you to Terry who despite his illnesses over the last few years has been a huge help and inspiration. He never lets up!

Lets look forward to a wonderful summer and sailing year.

Julia



JUNIOR SAILING

The Harbour Trust financed Junior Sailing instruction this year.

We hope that with the availability of the new Wayfarer training boat and the Fevas (at no cost), juniors will take advantage of this opportunity to advance their skills. All you need to do is join the club. (£15). You will be most welcome.

Contact the secretary (John Gibbs 01603 419272) for further details.

WELLS S.C. LOTTERY BID 2012

When Chris Hardy took over the position of Commodore in November 2011, he was inspirational in laying out a direction for the club and instigating a five-year plan for progress and development, both on and off the water. Part of this process was to allocate every committee member a specific role and responsibility, hence Campbell MacCullum and David Blakesley were given the task of investigating funding for the benefit of Wells Sailing Club.

The most obvious choice was to try to obtain funding from the National Lottery and the sub-section which was relevant in our case was called Sport England, which offered grants from £300 to a maximum of £10,000. A vast amount of information was downloaded from the website then the various options were discussed at the general committee meetings over the next months. The main criterion of being allocated a grant was that the money could only be spent on essential equipment which would further the sport of sailing and make it more widely available to the local population. In effect, the money had to be spent on a boat which the club could use to help introduce newcomers to the pleasure of dinghy sailing, or beginners who were not sufficiently confident in their skills to go out with a more experienced crew and improve their abilities. After much debate it was decided that a Wayfarer would be the ideal boat to apply for, so the online application got under way in Campbell's loft study.

The first problem became apparent very quickly – two amateur computer users who became more and more frustrated as the information they had laboriously typed in suddenly disappeared without trace when they moved on to the next page, despite having hit the save button.

Added to which, every question answered instigated a whole series of sub-queries, the answers to which had to be cross checked with earlier pages to eliminate any anomalies (and there were plenty!) Salvation came in the form of the Royal Yachting Association, in particular David Lennard-Jones who came to David's house one morning and spent the best part of the day giving invaluable advice on the best way of phrasing our answers and showing how to navigate the seemingly endless online application pages without resorting to throwing the computer out of the window. David L-J showed himself to be one of those rare people who have infinite patience with computer dummies and a genuine desire to further sailing in our area. Later in the application process, another RYA official called Robbie Bell answered numerous phone calls and checked our application online before we submitted it, and kindly made several alterations and amendments to ensure we had the greatest possible chance of success. David L-J and Robbie had been instrumental in securing sizeable grants for other sailing clubs in the area and without their help our application would have stood very little chance.

In the event, we were delighted and thrilled to hear in late 2012 that we had been awarded over £9,800 and the order for the boat was placed with Hartley Boats of Derby. A deposit was paid before the end of the year and the boat will be collected some time in February. It is planned to have a welcome party to celebrate the new arrival and we look forward to welcoming our friends from the RYA who were so instrumental in our successful bid, so keep your eyes on the website and please make every effort to come along and join the celebrations, then come and sail the new boat as soon as the weather improves. **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!!!!**

David Blakesley

CLUB OFFICERS



Richard Cracknell
FLAG CAPTAIN



Chris Hardy
COMMODORE



Julia Angles
VICE COMMODORE



Alan Coe
REAR COMMODORE



John Gibbs
HON. SECRETARY



Gwen Woodhouse
TREASURER



Peter Emerson
CLUB STEWARD



Robert Wynne
WEB MODERATOR



Sally Wynne
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Peter Scillitoe
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Terry Angles
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Gary Anthony
COMMITTEE MEMBER



David Blakesley
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Simon Neale
COMMITTEE MEMBER



Martin Flitcroft
COMMITTEE MEMBER



David Pentney-Smith
COMMITTEE MEMBER

JUBILEE FLOTILLA

Janet Gibbs

Celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Wells took the form of a flotilla. The lifeboat was to lead all the boats down the channel, turn at the quay and return towards the lifeboat house.

The quay was covered with trestle tables for the use of picnickers who would then have a grandstand view. Everywhere and everyone adorned in red, white and blue, waving flags and giving a very patriotic feel to the day.

Encouraged by our flag captain, Richard Cracknell, many members decorated their various boats – and themselves – and participated, even the clubhouse had its bunting and flags!

Each boat was given a number for recognition and as they turned in the quay the harbour master gave a short commentary about each boat.

The boats all assembled at the lifeboat corner; never has so many boats been seen on the water at once – a truly incredible sight as 60 boats took part, large and small. The canoes and small boats without an engine kept close to the bank. The sight of so many decorated boats following (or attempting to follow) each other, flags waving, bunting blowing in the wind was remarkable. Those near to the young Gibbs children would have heard their vigorous singing of the national anthem again...and again...and again...and again!!

We were very lucky that Saturday had been chosen, the weather was good, not pouring with rain as it did in London on Sunday. It was a truly memorable occasion for all those who took part – and for all those who watched.



NELSON, TRAFALGAR AND WELLS SAILING CLUB

The truth... based on a poem by Len Turner

In 1805 on a Sunday... 'twas October 7th I think, Nelson
popped into the clubhouse... to meet Hardy and buy him
a drink

Pack your kit the admiral tells Hardy... the Frenchies are
putting to sea, Someone has to go and stop them... I'm
sure that someone is me

Problem is we're short handed... last battle demolished my
crew, Do you think there's a chance the sailing club... would
be willing to offer a few

You must ask the club captain said Hardy... and to find
out what he thinks, I'm sure he 'll be willing to help you...
provided you buy him some drinks

Nelson joined Richard for a meetin'... his question was
blunt and outright, What odds getting club members... to
volunteer to join and fight

You're lucky the club's busy... 'tis time for Julia's lunch, I'm
not sure about volunteering... 'cos they're a pretty difficult
bunch

Don't mention the fighting or Nelson... just highlight what's
good on the trip, There'll be rum, sea air and sunshine...
and the Victory's a wonderful ship

Volunteers for Trafalgar Richard shouted... anyone know
where it is, John Pigney a teacher and educated... said 'in
Spain near Cadiz'

There was lots of noise and confusion... with everyone
giving their views, It's like our AGM said John Gibbs... but
minus the verbal abuse

The eldest all wanted to go... at their age nothing to lose,
The family Cracknell signed on... they thought it was a P
and O cruise

Their tablets for piles and blood pressure... did they need to
order more, Some asked if they needed Viagra... cos they'd
served in the navy before

The ladies were keen to tell Nelson... they fancied a few
days at sea, Close contact with handsome French sailors...
and Nelson's cabin for tea

All the volunteers were divided... into those who sailed or
did not, Sailors were to handle the ship... the rest would
load cannon and shot

Appointing Terry Angles bosun... it's your perseverance I
like, That a man of your age and waistline... continues to
ride a bike

Richard you be my cannon commander... a key role when
we have to attack, You will be exposed to French gunfire...
but as captain you're familiar with that

Rob Wynne I appoint you my scribe... and as such you'll
be always on call, So you'd better bed down in my cabin...
said Rob I'll sleep back to the wall

Admiral Nelson stood on the poop deck... which is
something admirals do, When Hardy who was using his
spy glass... shouted 'the French are in view!

He ordered Richard to prepare cannon... and then to fire
a burst, The French fired back at Victory... and we were
taking the worst

Richard's guns weren't ready for action... his men had
been sick and unfit. So they'd not cleaned the guns as
instructed... the barrels were clogged up with... grit

Hardy saved Philip the lead gunner from a flogging... he
told Nelson he doesn't mind pain, In fact he rather enjoys
it... I know cos I heard if from Jane

I know about guns said Arthur... I know about discipline
too, It would give me a great deal of pleasure... to sort out
this motley crew

Martin Read warned Arthur be careful... they dislike being
ordered about, If you try they'll suggest sex and travel... but
in much ruder terms no doubt

Get those cannon loaded said Arthur... through teeth
gritted in pain, Roll a ball down the barrel step back... once
cannon's fired do same thing again

Simon Neale picked up two of the biggest... saying I'll
try double for luck, When a cannonball smashed into the
decking... and a powder keg was struck

There was a tremendous explosion... his colleagues were
duly impressed, When Simon flew through the porthole...
with 2 cannonballs clutched to his chest

What on earth is he doing said Hardy... James replied
'getting wet', He's just come up for the third time... he hasn't
dropped balls as yet

Alan Coe up in the crow's nest... that's a long way up you'll
agree, But seeing that Simon had problems... Alan bravely
dived in the sea

80 feet from nest to water... with rigging and decks to be
missed, Alan hit the sea with hardly a splash... after two
forward rolls and a twist

Simon was at last dragged to safety... half drowned and in
shock with pain, He imagined he heard Singing Postman...
so he jumped overboard once again

When fished out once more Hardy shouted... give mouth to
mouth or he'll die, Dead silence then everyone murmured...
RIP dear Simon goodbye.

Nelson's plan was to target the flagship... he explained to
Bush, Come up behind till we're hard astern... swing to port
and we'll give them a push

And that's exactly what happened... as you students of
history know, With her rear end gone the flagship sank...
for the French was a fatal blow

Eighteen French ships were captured or lost... and the
remainder ran away, And those were sunk in a violent
storm... which occurred on the very next day

And then in his moment of triumph... Admiral Nelson was
shot, And Hardy and Terrington being closest... took him
down to his cabin cot

Did Nelson then say 'Kiss me Hardy'... In the moment he
passed away, The navy imposed a D notice... so it's difficult
to say

The navy forbids kissing admirals... unless you're an
admiral too, And as Hardy was not court marshalled... it
would seem the story's untrue

Most of it of course never happened... and should anyone
think it might, Then you'll need the specialist treatment...
that I'm booked into tonight.

Martin Read

BOAT PARKING

It is always difficult to accommodate all boats/canoes on our limited amount of space.

To make for the easiest and most efficient use of our boat parking areas, please:

- Park tidily, so as not to obstruct other water users.
- Identify your boat clearly by attaching a tag with your name on (available at no cost from behind the bar), to your boat/trailer/cover.

Unidentified craft may be moved to the winter storage area.

CAR PARKING

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

- 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.
- Overnight parking is not permitted.
- Park tidily so as many vehicles as possible can be accommodated.
- Remember to replace the chain at all times.
- Parking in front of the clubhouse is only permitted by members delivering or collecting, eg, for social functions.

WORK PARTIES

As you may be aware, Wells Sailing Club has always been a self-help organisation. Renovation, maintenance, land clearing, rescue craft preparation and handling, bar etc.etc. have always been done by club members at no charge.

Information about future work parties will be posted on the club notice board and circulated by email. If you can help, please let the party organiser know in good time so that in the event of the date being inconvenient to the majority of helpers, it can be changed.

EMAIL ALERTS

Are you receiving up to date information by email?

Did you receive lots of posters last year about all the social events? If not you may be missing all the fun!

If you would like to receive updates in this way please let John know on – john.gibbs125@gmail.com

Please remember to update John if you change your email address.

USE OF THE CLUBHOUSE.

Members are reminded that the clubhouse is available at all times in the sailing season but there are guidelines which should be respected:

- Showers – the temperature of the water is controlled automatically by thermostat which should not be altered.
- Water is metered. Excessive use is expensive.
- Use of the kitchen is restricted to making tea and coffee. Please wash up afterwards.

For non-club activities:

The Club is available for members to use for their own or their charitable organisation's events. There are some ground rules however:

- During any such event the organising party may not exclude other club members from using the club.
- All alcohol and other beverages is to be provided by WSC or a corkage fee agreed with the head of the Wine Committee, Peter Scillitoe. You would also have to discuss the manning of the bar with the Club Steward, Peter Emerson, and any associated costs.
- The date of the proposed event and its purpose should be notified to the Vice Commodore who will raise the application at a full committee meeting for its approval.
- If the date and event is agreed the member will receive a booking form from the Vice Commodore, which form should be completed and returned to him/her with the appropriate donation to the club to cover the cost of cleaning, gas, electricity and wear and tear etc.
- No decoration of any type may be affixed to the walls or the ceiling.
- If any member wishes to borrow WSC equipment such as tables, cutlery or chinaware they should contact the Vice Commodore, or, if they wish to borrow glasses, the Head of the Wine Committee.

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 £75 joining fee. Send your money to Gwen Woodhouse, 31 Nielson Close, Wells-next-the-Sea, NR23 1LU.

CLUBHOUSE KEYS

These are available *only* from the secretary at a cost of £5, do not borrow a key and have your own cut without informing the secretary, who has a list for security reasons.

WELLS SAILING CLUB ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING

The Annual Financial Meeting will take place in the clubhouse at 11am on Sunday 24th March 2013

AGENDA

Attendance

Minutes of the 2012 AFM

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Presentation of Accounts

General and Business Accounts

Bar Account

House Account

Any Other Business (AOB)

Any items to be included in AOB should reach the Secretary (in writing) at least one week prior to the meeting.



Winter sailing was somewhat affected by the weather. What heroes! These two sailors are heading for the showers

visit our website
www.wellssailingclub.co.uk

OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK Robert Wynne

At the beginning of last year the club decided that a new website was required that could cope with the club's requirements well into the future. A firm local to Wells, Trickyweb, was tasked with creating the new website which went live in May 2012.

I very rashly, in a moment of non concentration, volunteered to look after the new site and create a Facebook page for the club.

I think the new website is excellent and allows us to do many things the old site just couldn't cope with, it will also allow us to add more features to it as and when they are required. For example, we could add a facility called a 'payment gateway' which would allow payments to be made to the club online. Under development at present is a member's page which will contain information that can only be accessed by current members via a login facility. We may also add a 'for sale' facility soon.

If you haven't managed to visit the new website yet please do and have a look, below is a quick overview of what you will find:

- The 'Fixture List' detailing every race and also showing the results of the races by clicking on the 'show results' arrow at end of each line.
- A 'Social Diary' with a links to Janet's excellent posters showing full details of the event.
- 'Club News' will give you a list of all the news posted back to when the site was formed.
- 'Club Officers' with photographs and functions within the club.
- Copies of 'Reef Knot' back to 2006
- A 'finding us' facility which gives an aerial view of the club's location to provide an indication of our whereabouts in Norfolk or the country.
- A comprehensive 'links' page with details of various weather forecasts, tides, wells harbour, RNLI, Beaufort Scale, the EDP, various sailing clubs and associations and other things as well.

The club Facebook page has been up and running since the new website was formed, it is a forum for comments and somewhere photographs can be posted of racing, social functions or anything else anyone thinks is relevant. You do need to be signed up to Facebook to be able to access the club's page, once done if you click 'like Wells Sailing Club' you will be notified via Facebook of anything that is then posted on there. Last count over 60 people had done this which is an indication of its success.

If anyone wants any more information, or has any suggestions about any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me at robertwynne@live.co.uk, on 07799 654251 or 01603 425241 or of course through Facebook!

RECENT HISTORY IN FOCUS



When our long time serving Commodore V.S Thomas died a few years ago was I called in to help his relatives with the clearing of his personal items. I had been his crew in the early 60's,

a position from which I have had the influence of his chess-like analytical approach to boat performance and racing rules. It was at this time that he had adopted the Cracknell family (Tommy being a lifelong bachelor). His wartime service army career included him being a Major in the Gurkhas after which he fetched up in Wells School as a handicraft teacher. He found himself temporary accommodation in a local guest house where he remained until it was sold many years later.

Among the clearance items (a few tools etc) I inherited a vast collection of photographs and transparencies (slides) which reflected his life and interests during the 60s and 70s. Other than a quick glance at a few initially, they have remained in our attic – this until the recent onset of snow.

Damp and cold drove me from my work shop. I resolved to get through them using a resurrected viewer.

What a job ! Two days later, having waded visually through endless school trips and sports days, Wells Carnival activities, Norfolk Education Committee adult and children sailing courses, National and European Sharpie events and, of course, aspects of Wells Sailing Club, nearly all of the slides have been viewed.

It must be said that Tommy's output is best judged on volume rather than quality. Typically there are back views of bystanders looking at distant mountains or white dots of sails on a blue horizon, or obscure zoo animals, or a group of unknown individuals gathered round a foreign Sharpie.

However, it was possible to gainfully salvage a few interesting visions from the heap of discards.

Recognisable shots of boats have been passed on to their present owners, and so on...

Similarly, 'young' members working on the construction of the clubhouse or sailing in numbers are a reminder of our heritage. Tommy had been a prime mover in the land acquisition and the building finance and fundraising.

A personal reminder to us, showing Alison's tolerance, was a shot of my first built lightweight Sharpie, Woomera which had been hoisted over the door and squeezed into our kitchen to receive its final coat of varnish.

In later years, Tommy teamed up with Don Wadman, former headmaster and owner of Maid of Athens, the sum of the age of the crew bordering on the astronomical.

We are the inheritors of this man's somewhat eccentric single minded intelligence and strategy with its many faceted benevolence and leadership.

Tommy made history, as we do now.

Richard Cracknell

Flag Captain

SIMON'S ROW

On the Sunday 19th May 2013, Simon (pictured) will attempt to row across the North sea (at least as far as the Fairway buoy), if it is still there. The row is in aid of the following charities – RNLI, Homes for Wells, and Rescue Wooden Boats.

More information will be published nearer the date on the website, by email from the club secretary, in the press and around the town.

We wish him every success.

Watch this space.



THE FUN OF BEING ON THE NATALIE GAIL – REVEALED!

In 2012 I put my hand up to join the volunteer list for the Natalie Gail. As many of you know there may have been an ulterior motive for my wanting to be involved in the sailing program, however it was very rewarding to contribute in a small way to a successful sailing season.

The following provides a few reasons that may encourage you to consider volunteering this season.

- You will develop your vocabulary

As things heat up in the storm of the race a call of 'Water' is the mildest call you will hear drifting across the wind!

- 'Running it up the flag pole' will take on a whole new meaning

Your flag handling skills will improve exponentially, and in an era that is focused on the transferability of skills in the workplace I can vouch for the fact your linen folding and rolling skills will be second to none; the speed with which you can hoist your venetians up and down without snagging will be supersonic and you will have a new found respect for flag bearers across the world.

- Winning a goldfish at the fair is now a dead cert

After 3 or 4 weeks fishing for the mooring line there is no way that you will not win a top notch prize at the fair for yourself and loved ones!

- Medically proven improvement in bladder control function

There are no options that offer a modicum of decency on the Natalie Gail – say no more!

- Development of problem solving skills

Consider the following scenarios that were faced, (with good humour) in 2012:

- How does one start a race when the start marker has drifted underneath the pontoons of the biggest CAT in the channel?
- What action can be taken (other than tears or blasphemy) when secured firmly by a mooring line around the prop shaft on setting off to start the racing?
- How does one record the finish of a race when it's dark?

On a less light hearted note, yes there are some very early morning starts and yes it can be cold, however when rugged up and hove to with boats milling around for the start, there are not many more beautiful places to be. The peace and stillness of an early start is simply breathtaking, and towards the end of the season, as the nights draw in, the odd twilight sail (by accident or design eh Alan?) provides a stunning backdrop for the elegance of the sharpies.

What about the logistics and mechanics of the Natalie Gail? Honestly – some instruction on starting the old girl, checking of the filter and greasing the stern gland are the main areas to be covered for those with basic boating knowledge.

How about the dreaded 'mooring' procedures? Well yes, they do provide a challenge on occasions and nigh on everyone who has taken the Natalie Gail out has had a wee tangle with the lines at some time or another, including our illustrious Rear Commodore. However what's life without a challenge? We all get it wrong on occasions, and not everyone will have their stuff ups immortalised on their

50th birthday cake! On the positive, there is always a race officer with great experience of wind and tide to help with decision making and provide a bit of extra muscle to help you moor up. It is this race officer that also has the knowledge and responsibility for the flag handling – thus no worries on that front either.

So why not give it a go? You get to spend time with some great people and in between the serious stuff of watching for capsizes and race duties, can enjoy a good chat or sit back and enjoy the view. The Natalie Gail volunteers are an essential part of the racing season, and for those less adventurous souls who prefer to keep their feet dry, the Natalie Gail presents a safe and enjoyable opportunity to participate on the water.

Thanks to my fellow Natalie Gailers and Herbert E volunteers for some great memories of last season and good luck to all for this coming season.

Regards from down under,

Shelby.

PS For those of you who prefer a rush of speed there is always the opportunity to assist on the Herbert E. Why not talk to Martin and consider joining the fun closer to the water!



A WORD OF THANKS

John Gibbs' request for contributions for this newsletter seemed a very good opportunity for us, as new members, to say a very big thank you to everyone at Wells Sailing Club for making us so welcome. We have Simon Neale to thank for getting us involved in the first place. Our Sharpie was on our drive for so long, Simon saw it on numerous occasions and assumed that it must be for sale since it hadn't moved! He knocked on the door and that was the starting point of us becoming part of Wells Sailing Club. It has the feel of being a big family – and we like being part of it! Thank you.

Philip & Jayne Jones

**BSOA CHAIRMAN'S CHAT
AND WELLS NEWS**
Martin Read

My sharpie *Poelsnip* lays outside my office window reminding me of the summer days on the water. Come to think of it the recent gales and heavy rain also remind me of summer days both on and in the water! What a year for weather, if it wasn't blowing a 'hooly' we were becalmed.

Bosham was the classic example. All the preparation and the welcome given the fleet by Dick and Bosham Sailing Club was nearly undone by that depression. The race committee did extremely well to complete an event. Some of the sailors got wet, some damaged gear, some were very uncomfortable in the conditions. But don't you know it many came back claiming to have enjoyed it! The Dutch seemed easy and our champions (Chris and Tim) managed comfortably... or so Tim said. What a performance also by Ben Cracknell to be the second Brit boat. He has been improving through the last few years and deserves that result. We all know though he has a secret weapon in 'horizontal' Sally.

Turnouts for the Burnham and Wells Opens were not so good and we do hope Brancaster sharpies will come and join us on these occasions.

Wells has had a steady season with most races having 4-5 boats but on occasions up to 8. It was good to see

BOSHAM 2012
Ben Cracknell

Eleven Wells boats arrived at Bosham, to a wet and windy scene, water lapping around the clubhouse and a gale whipping up white water in the harbour. Thirty Sharpies arrived at the event, not all chose to sail.

Sally and I love those conditions; we were only worried that the racing would be cancelled. Dick kept a cool head and promised better weather in the morning, and he was right... just! We sailed a couple of miles out to the course area in a lot of wind – quite exhausting in itself – but, as the water was protected from the westerly wind by Hayling Island the waves were quite small – we certainly wouldn't have gone out to sea at Wells or Brancaster Staithe in that gale!

The racing got under way and the committee managed to get in three races on the Saturday.

Paddy and John had bad luck, having a sail ripped in the first race, removing hope of gaining a deserved position in the rankings. Robert and Will also suffered a breakage resulting in some spectacular photographs, and sadly, an injury that kept them out of the championship.

Sunday dawned without a noticeable drop in the wind putting some seasoned sailors in two minds about going on the water. Despite this the committee put on three races that were completed by up to 18 Sharpies.

Gary Anthony back on the water with Alan Coe although he still misses the third race if it's past opening time! There is the beginning of a second fleet growing and on occasions staying with the old timers. Ageless Richard Cracknell has turned out regularly and surprised many with flawless tactics... beware those who treat him lightly. Simon Neale has been an always present and its good to see Tim Ashby, Philip Jones and Rob Wynne on the water more often.

Towards the end of the season I was beginning to think I might be amongst the fastest boats but on the last weekend Chris Gibbs returned just to make sure there was no change in the pecking order. All I can say is that it was his lucky starting and serendipitous tactics that allowed him to squeeze home, rather than boat speed.

It would be great to see James and Chris more next year and we will do our best.

See you all in the new season.

**SHARPIE NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP 2012**


Pos	Sail No	Boat	Helm	Pts
1	GBR77	Maid of Arnhem	Chris + Tim	7
2	GBR2	Tela	Ben + Sally	23
3	GBR226	Fuut	Richard + Oggy	38
5	GBR135	Poelsnip	Martin + Ollie	55
6	GBR129	Madrigal	Richard + David	57
7	GBR118	Cymba	Simon + Kieron	72
8	GBR111	Southern Cross	Charles + Tim	72
9	GBR12	Rock-a-bye	James + Jimmy	81
14	GBR15	Redwing	Chris + Alan	98
18	GBR16	Titania	Bob + Cheryl	155
19	GBR69	Adventurer	Rob + Will	155

Just WSC results, only UK boats counted in position.
Full results in Sharpie Newsletter and website

Some bouyancy testing and capsizing drills were going on throughout the weekend and a good result could be had by avoiding this... and avoiding those who were practising it!

I'm not sure what Chris and Tim's winning secret is, but I find it helps a lot if you had a good natured crew who can stay 'horizontal', as Martin put it, for the duration!



Social Programme 2013

January 25th (Sunday)	Burns lunch
February 24th (Sunday)	Roast Lunch by Alison and Sue
March 2nd/3rd (Saturday and Sunday)	Volunteer work party lunch provided
March 23rd (Saturday)	Fitting Out Supper
April 6th (Saturday)	Official Launch Party for the new Wayfarer
April 14th (Sunday)	Lunch
May 5th (Sunday)	Meet the New Members light lunch
May 19th (Sunday)	Simon's charity row to the Fairway
May 25th (Saturday)	Quiz, Bangers and Mash supper
June 8th (Saturday)	Supper after sailing
June 22nd (Saturday)	Moroccan Themed mid-summer Buffet
July 20th (Saturday)	Frostbites supper
July 27th (Saturday)	Carnival Raft Race BBQ
August 7th (Wednesday)	NWNSA Egg and Bacon Baps
August 25th (Sunday)	Regatta BBQ
September 21st (Saturday)	Chinese Supper
October 26th (Saturday)	Laying Up Supper
November	Bi-annual Dinner Dance (date and venue TBA)
December 7th (Saturday)	Christmas Buffet

OTHER EVENTS will be arranged from time to time, help always appreciated.

ALL DETAILS WILL BE ADVERTISED ON THE CLUB BOARD,
BY EMAIL, FACEBOOK AND ON THE WEBSITE

Any adjustments, additions and reminders will be emailed and published on the club website.

Volunteers to help welcomed!

for up-to-date news visit
www.wellssailingclub.co.uk