



REEF KNOT

THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLS SAILING CLUB

No 13 - Spring 2010

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Sitting in my office looking out at the snow and the freezing temperatures which make even playing golf a non-starter, my thoughts drift to April ... only 6 weeks to sailing at Wells! My dear *Poelsnip* is sitting in a barn somewhere with broken mast sobbing quietly with feelings of abandonment. Oh the pleasure she will feel when James Case picks her up and uses his skilled touch to bring her back to her original pride and joyful feelings. (Such a long line to remind James he promised to do her up.)

The winter has not been calm. Massive beasts have been changing the shape of our harbour. An outer harbour of huge dimensions has been constructed in Buxton's Bight ... over 150 metres by 100 metres with sand banks 5 metres high ... this is for access for boats servicing the offshore wind farm on the Sheringham Shoals where they are constructing initially 90 windmills and two offshore substations.

Many locals have been shocked by the size of the operations but they also bring promises of economic growth, employment and a lifeline to the harbour. The sailing club was one of those organisations to be consulted on this development. Our position has been clear and we have maintained open communication with the harbour master who is responsible for the dredging and building of the harbour. We would not stand in the way of such a potential beneficial development but we have asked them to consider our needs as much as possible. The RYA has supported us in this matter.

The banks of the new harbour have reduced the sailing area south of the lifeboat house by around 20% – no more creeping through the Bight out of the tide or running on the shallows next to the island, no more Richard Cracknell appearing from behind the lifeboat house! Possibly a good thing... no... it will limit choice and prevent large starts from the bank area. We have asked Bob to assure us of two things:

1. The hook placed at the north east end of the east harbour bank should be reduced by 100 metres. He believes this will happen naturally but we have a further meeting with him before sailing begins. He seems open to taking action if we ask.

2. Dredging to the north of the lifeboat house is creating

banks or berms by the side of the deep water channel from the no 2 to no 12 buoy. Bob has said these will be no more than 1 metre high... we are seeking assurances that if they cause problems for sailing craft, that he will flatten them... watch this space. Our main concerns are with big events like NWNSA or Sharpie championships.

A good side maybe that we could use the outer harbour to moor boats and rescue craft for big championships and use Holkham Bay at all times of tide. In addition the wind farm people are offering community funding. We may well get help with our junior programme.

The season begins a little late this year as many of our regular sailors are skiing with Bob's Tours until 11th April. The first races will be on good tides with reasonable starts on April 17–18th. Meanwhile our sailing secretary is keen to use the prior weekends to prepare for the season with testing out the rescue craft. He is also asking anyone who would like to help during the year to contact him. We need skilled people and helping hands. Can you manage a boat, would like to learn or just be a pair of hands – this is your chance even if you could only help occasionally... come along. There will be rescue practices on the water, boat care, and a short first aid/resuscitation training opportunity. Please contact Martin Emerson for details.

2010 is a busy year on the water. Sharpies may travel to Burnham Overy (May 1–2), Brancaster Staithe (May 22–23), British Championships at Brancaster



The harbour mid-February 2010

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT: JANUARY 2010

Staithe (June 18–20), Europeans at Hamburg (August 1–7) and the Dutch (September 3–5) finishing with the traditional Les Dye at Brancaster Staithe (October 2–3) There has been talk of maybe a group attending a day at Wroxham or even entering the Three Rivers Race.

There is no specific Sharpie open at Wells this year but we hope to invite invaders to the regatta or the Tommy Thomas. We are unsure of the implications of the dredging and maybe we should not chase big events until the silt has settled. However we are hosting a Phantom Open (July 17–18), NWNSA (July 27), the Drascombe Rally (June 19–20) and of course our friends from the Frostbites (July 10).

The other area of sailing we hope to see develop is the junior section. For those who have already begun last year or before, May 3rd is set aside as juniors only and we hope all club members will help out. Another chance is the weekend of May 22–23. Junior week is June 1–4 and application forms are enclosed with this newsletter and will be on the web site and in the clubhouse. Oceanus will be leading the week with support from Wells SC members. Please let Martin Emerson know if you can help on any day either in support boats or if you wish to coach 1:1 in a boat. At the end of the week is a weekend where the juniors can take part in races organised by the club. Again any members willing to help or lend boats please let Martin know.

Further races or sailing events for juniors are placed in late July (31) and August (1,7,8,14,15) with a junior championship weekend on September 4–5. Support for this weekend from club members would be appreciated.

Finally, I am sure all members would appreciate the time and effort put in by all officers, committee members, rescue boat teams etc. We are a self-help members' club and we are fortunate to have so many positive people helping in all sorts of ways. If you wish to get more involved give me a call... I can find something for you! Please check carefully the officer of the day and bar rotas. Plan ahead and let us know if you need to swap duties.

The great improvements in the club over the last few years has been possible because of the tremendous support of the vast majority of our members. We were even able to pay back 28% of the very kind loans given to the club. This is because you support our great social committee brilliantly led by Bob Curtis. Each raffle, meal, event, and pint/gin you drink means we can look to the future with confidence. Eat more drink more, have more fun... at the club... see you all soon.

Martin Read

The not very PC Commodore

Well, what a year! As promised your House team did hit the ground running with some great events which included the **Grand Midsummer Supper**, the **Country and Western Evening**, the **Curry Evening** and my particular favourite, **Halloween Supper** with our Commodore exploring the possibilities of illusion with his mobile bats.

The **Annual Dinner** goes from strength to strength. Again we filled the Crown Hotel and had a waiting list. A reminder to all members to look out for notices, read your emails and respond quickly in future.

The **Christmas** season was a great success with 55 attending the Party. My special thanks must go to Annette and Katy who made the clubhouse look spectacular and I look forward to many years of their inventive flair, and to Jill and Laurie for their culinary expertise.

The **New Year's Day "Swindle"** raised a staggering £130. Thank you to all members who donated their most cherished items. Terry Kane's mulled wine added to the bar profits and Sue Read's 200 sausage rolls ensured that nobody left the clubhouse feeling hungry.

Take the opportunity to inspect our new kitchen, generously supplied and fitted by David Blakesley. What a transformation! The tweaking and improving of the clubhouse continues.

Manning the Town car park during the summer raised £1100. We hope to repeat this event with your help. A request for volunteers will go out nearer the time.

A list of the proposed social events is published in this *Reef Knot* but do keep an eye on our web site, www.wellssailingclub.co.uk for all the latest information and if you have not done so already, please let our secretary know your email address in order that we can keep you informed of the latest developments on the sailing and social scene and save the club money in postal costs.

This year the House committee, raised £4300 towards club funds and for that I thank Peter, Janet, Sue and Julia for their energy, skill, innovation and talent in producing a great social programme. Behind this team there is a small army of willing helpers and I do thank them all.

We do, however, appreciate any input from all our members so please come forward with ideas and help.

Wishing you all a successful season on and off the water.


Bob Curtis

Vice Commodore

WSC SOCIAL CALENDAR 2010

Sat 27 March – Fitting Out Supper
Sat 1 May – Elvis Nite
Sat 29 May – Grand Summer Supper
Sat 19 June – Drascombe Event
Sat 3 July – Frostbites Lunch
Sat 17 July – Hog Roast

Tues 27 July – NWNSA Breakfast
August Regatta – Barbeque
Sat 4 Sept – Junior Championship Barbeque
Sat 23 Oct – Laying Up Supper
Sat 13 Nov – Annual Dinner Dance
Sat 11 Dec – Christmas Party



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

EDITOR'S NOTES

It is most encouraging to note the increasing popularity of the Sailing Club and the resulting influx of new members who are enjoying its facilities both on and off the water. Rises in membership do, however, mean an added burden on the fabric of the club and its grounds, including the car and boat parks.

The Officers of the club would like to remind and inform members of a few basic guide lines which will assist the smooth running of the club.

■ 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.

- 1) 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.
- 2) Overnight parking is not permitted.
- 3) Park tidily to increase the number of spaces.
- 4) Remember to replace the chain at all times.
- 5) Parking in front of the clubhouse is only permitted for delivering or collecting, eg, for social functions.

■ Improvements to facilities.

We are sure that you will agree that improvements to the clubhouse, in particular to the changing rooms, showers, toilets and internal and external storage areas and the continued modernisation of the kitchen and bar, have been a great success and it is pleasing to see so many members enjoying these added facilities.

Members are reminded of the legal requirement to sign in guests who are not members. This includes wives, husbands, partners and friends etc. of Full, Associate and Junior members. Guests may only be signed in up to a maximum of seven times during a year.

■ Boat park.

Because of the increased demand on a limited space, we are getting close to overspill into our land in the Cutting. This is less convenient as it is further away from the slipway. The Sailing committee may request that boats which are sailed infrequently are to move to make way for those that are used regularly.

All boats are allocated a specific space on the park. If you bring a boat to the club, please make sure you inform the Rear-Commodore, Martin Emerson, who will identify your boat's space. Winter storage should be paid at the end of the sailing season, those wishing to use this facility – please contact Martin Emerson.

■ Membership Applications.

If you are proposing or seconding new members, please make sure that they fill in the form accurately. Remember that proposers and seconders have to be members of at least two years standing and should know the applicants well enough to say a few words on their behalf.

CONGRATULATIONS!

It is not often realised by many club members that Wells Sailing Club sailors demonstrate racing skills and tactics of the highest quality. These abilities are a product of team work and experience and are a splendid example to younger members and something the Club should be proud of.

In the 2009 British Sharpie Championships Wells Sailors achieved 5 of the first 10 positions.

- 1st Chris and Tim Gibbs
- 2nd James Case and Jimmy Goodley
- 3rd Martin and Ollie Read
- 5th Richard Major and Bob Curtis
- 6th Richard Cracknell and Gemma Nye

Congratulations to all the Wells crews and helms in these and other events.



In his Radial Laser class category **Richard Major** has become a Grand Master and is ranked 2nd in the UK.

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Please renew your subscription as a club member by March 31st, after this date you will incur the extra expense of paying the £75 joining fee. Send your form to Gwen Woodhouse, 31 Nielson Close, Wells-next-the-Sea.

WINTER BOAT PARKING

Members are reminded that fees for this should be paid to the Treasurer. If you have stored your craft over the past winter and have forgotten to pay, please get your money to Gwen as soon as possible.

EMAIL

To be kept up to date with what is happening on and off the water this season, send your email address to John Gibbs john.gibbs3@tesco.net (unless you are already on his members email list). If you are not receiving emails at the moment and think you should be, contact him so that he can add or restore your address onto the group list.

visit our website
www.wellssailingclub.co.uk



Silver Surfer

BOB CURTIS

AM I FLAGGING

A few years back I had an opportunity to spend a short time in Hong Kong. My host arranged for my inclusion in a party crewing a relaxed days cruising from the strangely named Aberdeen Boat Club. Having been served breakfast on the terrace and the yacht having been rigged by the “boat boy”(a girl in this case), we were sampaned out to the anchorage with provisions both liquid and otherwise for the tour of the local waters. On our return the sequence was reversed, apart from the breakfast bit. Of course the same basic principles apply to all sailing boats so it is usually fairly easy for a dinghy sailor with only limited big boat experience to slot in, never-the-less the vision of other forms of the sailing spectrum from gravel pits to royal yacht clubs can give room for thought and speculation.

A home produced Christmas card from yesteryear featured every Sharpie in Wells Sailing Club, as I remember this totalled almost thirty, of these ten or a dozen would race at the weekend. Social change which surreptitiously rushes us on into regions and circumstances undreamed of has certainly altered all that – so that now, in all probability, club members are making more excursions in boats with inboard and outboard engines, plus of course the essential refreshment both liquid and otherwise. Although many of these craft have auxiliary sail power it might be considered an idea to rename ourselves the Wells Boat Club, what do you think? To quote *Wind In The Willows*; ‘There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats’.

Richard Cracknell

Flag Captain

THE COMMITTEE

The general management, social events and sailing schedule are organised by the committee which meets on the first Friday of the month.

The committee is elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. This takes place the Sunday after the Annual Dinner in November. This year about thirty members attended the AGM and ten members were nominated and automatically became the committee. The club’s rule book states the committee could number twelve.

How can we involve more members in the running of the club? The dinner was well attended, some eighty people, the majority being members. This asks the question ,why were there not more members at the AGM? Would more people attend if the AGM was scheduled on a different date? Are members really apathetic, or do they feel the club is well run? Is it the same people who do things and therefore appear to take over and not seem to welcome new ideas and views? Strong words perhaps.

Remember, it is your sailing club. Surely, you as a member would wish to contribute too. We all have different gifts and talents. If you wish to be involved more, then say so. If you have any ideas, or would like to organise an event then let the committee know.

Patsy Clarke



PAM FARRELL



JANET GIBBS

Juniors practice rigging with help from an old hand.

WELLS SAILING CLUB ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING

The AFM will take place in the clubhouse at 1100 on Sunday 21st March 2010.

Agenda

- Attendance
- Minutes of the 2008 AFM
- Matters Arising
- Presentation of Accounts
 - General and Business Accounts
 - Bar Account
 - House Account
 - Building Account
- Any Other Business

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