



# REEF KNOT

THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLS SAILING CLUB

No 14 · Spring 2011

## COMMODORE'S REPORT

I think that Cheryl's picture captured a symbolic moment. Sue, Cheryl, Martin and I were on golfing, skiing and sightseeing holiday in California last year when we had the opportunity to charter a 32 footer for the day in San Diego Bay. For a while the Commodore and his wife took a back seat and let the Vice get on with it.

You may well ask what Sue, Cheryl, Martin and I were doing on a golf holiday and the truth is that although we lived next door to two superb courses for a week, we only ventured out once as a foursome. Martin did his best to teach us the basic strokes and I would like to think that by the 14th hole he was getting worried as I was making par! What a great teacher! Still, I digress.

After 38 years as a member of WSC I have finally put my head above the parapet and offered my services as a flag officer. From where I stand the future looks very promising. Campbell and others have delivered a great clubhouse, Martin with his natural leadership qualities has given us two years where we have been able to pay back to the members a good slice of the loan for the extension.

The small but growing fleet of dinghies for use by our juniors will be a boon for the coming season and I look forward to my fellow flag officers putting together a great programme both on and off the water.

Our Rear Commodore, Ben Johnson is very enthusiastic about the race programme and this year he has the exciting prospect of a British Sharpie Championship to organize as well as all the other events that are part of our racing calendar. There will be opportunities during the summer when we intend to put racing aside and concentrate on more leisurely pursuits. This will be when small tides dictate that racing would be problematic.

We can reflect on the pleasures of the winter social programme, Halloween, The Annual Dinner Dance, once again at the Crown, the Christmas festivities and the Flag officers' Lunch, which we combined with 'Robbie Burns' so a whiskey infused session and with Julia in charge of cooking, there was no danger of burnt offerings!

Julia, our Vice Commodore, has an abundance of ideas for continuing to entertain you off the water. Themed, mouth watering gourmet meals at very affordable prices will be on offer throughout the year. For those who wish to push the boat out from time to time, you will have



*"Taking over the helm"*

the opportunity of purchasing more up market wines to accompany your meal. Please read your emails and check the notice boards because some of the events will have limited numbers.

Remember that the success of the club depends on your valued support.

I am delighted to welcome some new faces to the Main Committee. Simon Neale has already been proactive in sorting out the loft space. Doing the necessary work of lagging all the pipes when the snow was a foot deep and the temperature plummeting to -5 degrees! David Blakesley has offered to take responsibility for the Herbert E which will lighten the load of our newly appointed Bosun, Alan Coe.

Since election as Commodore, I've been involved in discussions concerning the way forward for the club. Two elements are the appointment of a Press Officer and an Archivist, one to promote the Club and the other to collate the increasing history of WSC. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in either of these posts, or knows of anyone who might be, please get in touch with John or myself.

In my view, the engine room of the club is the post of Club Secretary and I would personally like to thank John Gibbs, who has agreed to continue his good work and guide me through the year. Having done the job myself for a number of years, I know that it is a serious commitment to the Club and I am grateful to him for that.

And finally, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all well for the forthcoming season with fair winds and blue skies. We can live in hope.

Bob Curtis



## **VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT:**

We, that is, Bob, me, and Ben, are looking forward to another exciting and interesting year.

Throughout the history of the Club, each new flag officer has brought to bear their own talents and qualities for the benefit of the Club. The philosophy of the Club remains constant. We are a 'self help' club, no paid staff other than Billie our cleaner to whom thanks are given.

All members who contribute their services do so willingly to raise funds to better the facilities available to the Club for the benefit of the membership and their guests.

The functions generate funds which are ploughed back in. Where else can you join a social event which not only gives excellent value for money, but also the proceeds are shared by all.

This is going to be a busy year with the British Sharpie Championships at Wells and the European Championships at Brancaster Staithe I will need your help to put on the appropriate functions to show WSC at its best.

We have a small core house committee, this year, but I would welcome everyone to join us when they can to assist with ideas, functions, and help – a carousel committee if you wish. No long term commitment, but join us to add to the fund raising with help when you can.

What would you like the Club to do for you and what are you prepared to do for the Club?

This year I am hoping to put on less formal suppers and lunches after sailing so those who do not sail can share the experiences of the events that have taken place on the water.

There will still be a number of set functions on the social programme, but do watch your emails or call me to find out about the additional events that will occur during the year.

Happy Sailing! Cheers!

*Julia Angles*

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**visit our website**  
**[www.wellssailingclub.co.uk](http://www.wellssailingclub.co.uk)**

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## **SAILING SECRETARY'S MUSINGS!**

As I write this the first racing weekend of the season is provisionally set for 9th and 10th April, two good tides with starts in the region of 9am. With Easter being late everybody has the opportunity to get their boats sorted in time for the Grimes Cup series of races to be sailed on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the MDSF Pennant on the Monday for those who just can't get enough early season racing. They are handicap races open to all comers so let's kick the season off with a big turn out. For those of you with wooden craft and not much time, may I take this opportunity to guide you in the direction of either James Case or Richard Cracknell, both of whom have been known to brandish a varnish brush with quite some skill.

On the subject of wooden craft we have quite a season ahead of us for the Sharpie fleet. What with WSC hosting the British Championships on 18th–20th June and the Europeans at BSSC down the coast from 24th–29th July as well as the usual open weekends and hotly contested club racing, we have a packed season of racing. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who might have an interest in sailing Sharpies to have a word with anyone in the fleet as there are regularly crewing spaces available and sometimes drives as well. The fleet has great camaraderie and wide range of skills meaning that there is always close racing up and down the fleet and a warm welcome to anyone who has the gumption to simply turn up and have a go. I would also add that a 60 boat start line, a real possibility this summer at the Europeans, is quite something to be a part of. When in doubt steer clear of the shouting people! If anyone is keen then do contact either myself through the club or turn up and have a chat with one of the sailors on the quay, you will be most welcome.

With any luck the weather will be kinder to us this year and we will have lots of fine warm breezes for our sailing. There are plenty of nice afternoon tides this year in the schedule which means that it won't be too hard to organise ourselves to make it to the start line or at the very least the bar!

The junior program is in the preliminary planning stages as I write this so I have no details as yet but am hoping for a good turn out again. Last year we had terrific success in get the numbers of young sailors down to the club and onto the water but the weather, more often than not, was dreadful. This unfortunately made any real teaching almost impossible but I would like to congratulate all of the young sailors who braved the conditions, did a lot of swimming, but had a go anyway. I hope you come and join us again this year.

I look forward to seeing all on the water throughout the season and mine is a pint of Wherry should you find me at the bar!

Ben Johnson



## EX COMMODORES REPORT

I have been a sailing member of our club for 33 years... quite a long time but not as long as many of the stalwarts here today. The last 6 years I have had the pleasure of being Sailing Secretary including the last 2 as Commodore. I have been honoured to 'lead' the club.

On my departure what do I see ?

- A bosuns shed and now a bosun !
- Two serviceable rescue boats
- A lively and well supported club with a friendly family feel especially in the bar/lounge area
- A club where you can be Elvis one week and Dracula the very next (and use the same clothes)
- Great changing facilities and with a sizeable portion of loans repaid (mainly through social events, heavy drinking, volunteer cooking, raffles etc)

A club that has hosted many social events, Tans/Drascombes rally, leisure sailors, racing, canoeists, cruisers, phantoms, NWNSA, Frostbites, Regatta, Junior development. This is the whole club ... all people going onto the water has been a pleasure to me and I have tried to encourage as many as possible.

### How can we do it ?

Self help ... we are one club, a united group of people who contribute in all sorts of ways – All voluntary ... race officers, rescue boat handlers/starters, sailors, officers, committee members, auditors, old timers, newcomers, caterers, organisers, decorators, raffle girls, bar persons, junior development people. Many here have given too many years to count.

But there is new blood (though not necessarily young blood) coming through. New members, new committee members, new energy and drive/ideas.

The juniors, as with the main racing, have been hit by the weather. The future of Wells SC is partly in the hands of bringing these local youngsters through to competent sailors and club members. I wish the junior organisers a much better 2011 and lots of help from members in their work. If any members have old boats (toppers, lasers or similar) which might be available to juniors please let Richard Cracknell know. We have a good bunch of about 15 youngsters who we can hopefully, with good weather, continue their development and interest.

The club continues to welcome older brethren and this is our other strength. The club has an amazing social side for all members. In addition we have gained several people willing to help on the water, and recently even one or two sailors!

In a way I'm a little sad to go as many of the projects I have begun have yet to bear fruit. However I've had a great six years in the hub and I believe Bob, Julia and Ben have so much to look forward to. I have another challenge ... as captain of Sheringham Golf Club next year my ambition is to achieve a similar positive, friendly family feel to that clubhouse. We are already on the way but my experience at Wells has helped prepare me.

I might even have time to concentrate on my sailing so that the fresh faces on the Sharpie scene do not cruise past me ... one can only hope .

Thanks to all members for your support over the years and please continue to do so for your new commodore.

*Martin Read*



PAM FARRELL





## **WELLS SAILING CLUB ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING**

The Annual Financial Meeting will take place in the clubhouse at 1100 on Sunday 27th March 2011

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### **AGENDA**

Attendance

Minutes of the 2010 AFM

Matters Arising from the minutes

Presentation of Accounts

General and Business Accounts.

Bar Account

House Account

Building Fund

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.*

## **WAVING THE FLAG**

The elation generated by actually achieving something is universal, the sensation of excited satisfaction is basically identical no matter what the activity. It is as true for the toddler on attainment of the transition from three to two wheel cycling as it is for the aspiring car driver making a first unaccompanied outing.

Would-be boat handlers are also subject to this emotion, no matter what the means of propulsion – that magic instant when things suddenly go right, fall into place and make sense – though it must be said that like Archimedes one may get thoroughly wet in the process.

A sailing club like ours is in an ideal position to activate joy and satisfaction in achievement. Those amongst us who have been fortunate enough to see baffling mists

clear and have been rewarded with at least some ability can both move forward ourselves and put others into a position where the 'Eureka' revelation can happen. This could be realised through almost any water-borne activity from the miracle of just floating in a boat on the water to planing across waves or indeed making a successful landfall in a snug harbour after a long trip.

Rather like pulling on an old pair of comfortable slippers many of our established members will slide back with their boats again this Spring. I would like to think that we can take the trouble to engage others in our on the water activity, be it creek crawling, fishing for mackerel, motor boating, East Hills picnicking, small boat sailing and racing and, of course, junior section activity.

*Richard Cracknell, Flag Captain*

# Social Programme 2011

23rd January (Sunday)	Flag Officers' Burns Lunch
20th February (Sunday)	Italian Lunch
26th March (Saturday)	Fitting-Out Supper
30th April (Saturday)	ABBA Night
14th May (Saturday)	Supper after Sailing
17th – 20th June	British Sharpie Championships
25th June (Saturday)	Frostbites supper
9th July (Saturday)	Grand Summer Supper
2nd August (Tuesday)	NWNSA breakfast
13th August (Saturday)	Supper after Sailing
28th August (Sunday)	Regatta Barbecue
24th September (Saturday)	Supper after Sailing
22nd October (Saturday)	Laying-up Supper
12th November (Saturday)	Annual Dinner Dance
10th December (Saturday)	Christmas Buffet

Other light lunches and suppers to be announced,

please watch your e-mails.

Volunteers to help welcomed.

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



## WELLS SC V FROSTBITES

After a bitterly cold December it was a relief to find clear and sunny skies for our annual team race at Frostbites SC on the river Yare just outside Norwich. Even more surprising was a pleasantly consistent Westerly force 2 and a reasonable tide height.

A fantastic team effort by the newly installed Flag Officers saw a record number of Wells sailors arrive ready for action. After facing a rigorous selection procedure (based entirely on weight and willingness to get changed) the chosen crews were James Case & Ben Johnson, Richard Major & Chris Hardy, and Chris Gibbs & Noelene Hardy, leaving the majority of WSC members to watch from the warmth of the club with "hot toddies" in hand.

For those that don't know, the usual format of the meeting is that the home team wins convincingly. So we expect Frostbites to thrash us at theirs but in the return match sailed in sharpies we thrash them back. The difference between winning or losing the event overall often comes down to whether the away team can avoid coming last.

We sailed an inspired first race. James & Ben finished in 2nd place, Chris & Noelene came 3rd with Richard & Chris doing a sterling job of keeping the remaining Frostbites at bay. The second race was a return to the usual form – Frostbites taking the first 3 places – so the less said about that the better.

Have we done enough to win the prestigious Braconash Trophy? We'll find out in the summer when we host Frostbites for the rematch.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### British Sharpie Championships 2010 at Brancaster Staithe SC

From the following result table it is plain to see that the visitors from Holland and Germany mounted a sustained assault for the overall top positions. Well done to them.

It was pleasing to record that Chris and Tim in *Windspiel* just managed to retain their title – that's an impressive seven in a row.

Congratulations to them and to all Wells sailors.

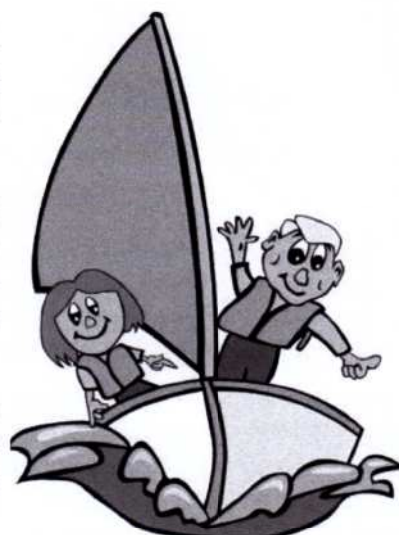
1. <i>Windspiel</i>	Chris and Tim	WSC
2. <i>Wou</i>	Dennis and Marcel	NED
3. <i>Annamarie</i>	Paddy and John	BSSC
4. <i>Bunyip</i>	Klaus and Sven	GER
5. <i>Plasjager</i>	Erik and Patrick	NED
6. <i>Titania</i>	Richard and Bob	WSC
7. <i>Rock-a-Bye</i>	James and Jimmy	WSC
8. <i>Poejse</i>	Brian and Tim	BSSC
9. <i>Skybird</i>	Adam and Gerard	BSSC
10. <i>Tela</i>	Ben and Sally	WSC

## A MESSAGE FROM THE POSTER GIRL

Whenever the house committee arrange a 'function' I have the pleasure of producing a poster. The purpose of the poster is to inform, perhaps raise a chuckle and to encourage members to book and support the club.

The posters are then emailed as an attachment to all members by the secretary. If you have an email address and have not received any posters please inform the secretary and he will check to make sure we have your correct email address.

These posters also appear on the club website. If, however, you do not have a computer please keep an eye on the House committee notice board and on the door as you enter the club. We do not want anybody to miss the opportunity to join in the fun!!





## NOTICES

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.
- 2) Any vehicle not complying with this will be assumed to belong to a non member and will be asked to move.
- 3) Overnight parking is not permitted.
- 4) Park tidily so as many vehicles as possible can be accommodated.
- 5) Remember to replace the chain at all times.
- 6) Parking in front of the clubhouse is only permitted by members 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 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 7 times during a year.

## 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 Nieson Close, Wells-next-the-sea.

## 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. Please adhere to this site. If you are bringing a boat to the club, please make sure you inform the Rear-Commodore, Ben Johnson, who will identify your personal site. Winter boat storage should be paid for at the end of the sailing season by those wishing to use this facility – once again, contact Ben Johnson.

## 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 2 years standing and should know the applicants well enough to say a few words on their behalf.

## WORK PARTIES.

As you may be aware, Wells Sailing Club has always been a self-help organisation. Renovation, maintenance, grasscutting, 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 on 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

To be kept up to date with what is happening on and off the water this season, send your email address to John Gibbs (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 [john.gibbs3@tesco.net] so that he can add or restore your address onto the group list.

## SHARPIE SAILORS

Please check your weight certificates are in date, if not contact Richard Cracknell t:01328 710517 to arrange a weighing.

*Good sailing!*



## JUNIOR SAILING WEEK 2010

As with every year, the Wells Sailing Club Junior Week was a great success. We were blessed with fantastic weather all week which does make learning that much more enjoyable.

22 students signed up for Junior Week. This was the most the club had seen and it was great to see that there was so much interest.

We split the group into three smaller groups. Complete novices, Small amount of experience and experienced sailors.

The experienced sailors were a great asset to us instructors, jumping in and out of boats acting as assistant instructors helping the novices pick up the basic skills.

All of the students in the novice group picked up the basic skills very quickly and by the second day they were handling the boats very well.

The students with a small amount of experience regained their skills they had learned previously and progressed very quickly.

At the end of each day we like to finish with a game or two. I feel this helps the students improve their skills and helps them learn more without them realising. The games mainly ended up with most students in the water and a lot of the time the instructors followed.



LYN PYGNEY



LYN PYGNEY

By the end of the week all the students were able to sail their boats very competently and could do what we set the aim for at the beginning of the week, to sail around a triangular course. We set this as a target as it shows us that the students can sail on all points of sail tacking, gybing and controlling the boat.

We got to end of the week and we still had 22 students which is always good to see. We had got to my favourite part of the week ...the BBQ. With fantastic food supplied by various parents, everyone enjoyed good food in the sun. At the end of the BBQ we presented all the students with their certificates.

All of the novices gained a RYA stage 1 certificate, all of the 2nd group gained a RYA stage 2 certificate and the group 3 signed off more of their log book working towards there stage 3.

Finally, I would like to say that the junior week is one of my favourite weeks of the year and I look forward to it each year. The students are a delight to work with and are always very polite and helpful.

I would also like to thank all of the parents that help out with the week and finally I would like the thank Lyn Pigney for all of her work every year. This week would not be possible without Lyn's help and commitment.

I look forward to Wells Junior Week 2011 and hope to see you out on the water very soon.

Bob White, Principal of Oceanus Sailing



LYN PYGNEY