



Half Hitch

The monthly news sheet from Wells Sailing Club



March 2014

THE SAILING SEASON IS HERE!

Since the last edition of *Half Hitch*, we have 'fitted out' at a very enjoyable Fitting Out supper and ventured out onto the water, on what turned out to be a lovely spring day and a perfect way to start the sailing season. We have exciting events lined up, particularly over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend when we will be having a New Members' Lunch and on the following day our inaugural 'Get Afloat Day'.



Above: first sail of the season XXX takes his laser for a spin.

Left and Below: First race of the season, four Sharpies three races a lovely start to the season.





FITTING OUT SUPPER

The Fitting Out supper attracted members new and old (make that 'long-standing' ed.), it was an enjoyable social evening with good food and little talk of the coming season's sailing but, we're expecting a new impetus this year boosted, no doubt, by our first 'Get Afloat Day'. Many thanks to all who helped: Mim, Sally, Sue, AND...XXXX?

NEW MEMBERS' LUNCH

Another of the popular New Members' Lunches will be held on the 4th May – members new and old are invited to come along and encourage the new (and maybe the old) to get out on the water *and* to enjoy the social life at the club.

The low cost of the lunch is just to cover the ingredients, and children eat free!



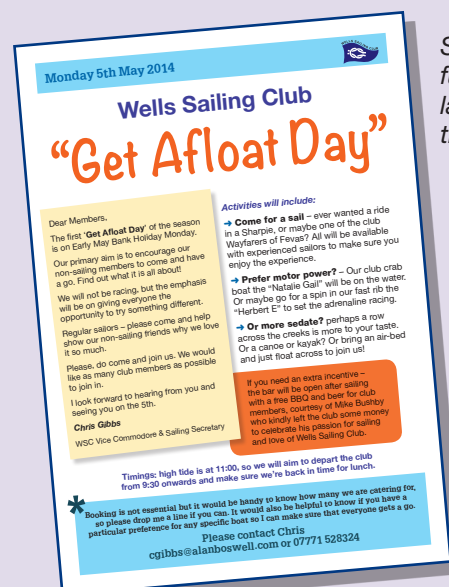
The fitting out supper – members young and long-standing enjoying the fare.

Sally and Mim, the masterminds behind the supper, enjoying a joke at the end of the evening.

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! If you haven't been on the water yet, come along and get a taste of what the regular sailors are enjoying. You won't be asked to do anything you don't want to, you could simply be a passenger in the *Natalie Gail* or have a go at helping a Sharpie, it's up to you!

See the poster full size on the last page of this newsletter



Sunday 4th May at 12.30pm

New Members' Lunch

At the Clubhouse

"Scrumptious home made cottage pie with delicious pudding to follow"

We are holding a lunch at the club on Sunday May 4th at 12.30pm for people who have joined us in the last 12 months – as well as a social time and a good lunch you will be able to meet longer-term members.

£3 per person ~ children eat free

Please contact Robert to book: robertwynne@live.co.uk
Mobile: 07799 654251 ~ Landline: 01603 425241
or sign up below



HOUSE COMMITTEE NOTES

The door key system has had its upgrade two new features in particular, the sensor outside is now at trouser-pocket or handbag level, saving time in having to get out your purse or wallet, and (some say more importantly) we now have a card that will keep the door 'off the latch' for longer periods - this override keycard is held by Peter Scillitoe and can be picked up by the bartender along with the keys. .

Skilled Christmas decor storage technician

Thanks to Simon Neale for putting away the Christmas decorations – we're relying on you Simon!

SAILING COMMITTEE LOG

The *Natalie Gail* has now had much of her restoration carried out by James with David Pentney-Smith and son doing good work with the keel – she will be launching in the near future ready for the season's sailing, and our "Get Afloat Day".

Our latest Wayfarer was put through its paces by Richard Cracknell and Greg Peel on Easter Monday, a few wrinkles to iron out but she definitely a good solid boat and exactly what we need to get members out on the water.

The dinghy generously given to the club on a permanent loan by Gary Anthony (on the basis we repaired her), has now been repaired by Richard as has her trolley. Anybody wishing to get out to the *Natalie Gail* will now have a reliable craft to do it in. Not only has Richard done good work on the boat but he has also named her *and* done the signwriting. The official launch date has not been announced but (for fear of more damage) we won't risk cracking a bottle of bubbly over the bows of *Attender*.

The VHF radios have now been replaced – ensuring we have reliable safety and organisational communications during racing.

Security note

Would anybody putting away the *Herbert E* please check all bolts are made secure on the doors – if this isn't done the wind can blow them open – the RIB is securely locked inside but the doors could be damaged if left to swing.

BRITISH SHARPIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Arrangements are well under way for the championship to be held on the 20–22 June, the Notice of race has been circulated and it is now possible to register online at the British Sharpie Association website: sharpies.org.uk

TAN SAIL BOATS

This year the "tan sailors", will be welcomed more than ever into the club and will be encouraged to use the full club facilities. Later in the season we will arrange racing alongside our own for them as required.

Volunteers?

It's hard to imagine a better way to spend a Saturday morning than being afloat in Wells harbour – seeing children gillying off the quay, watching the fishing boats come and go, seeing the beach huts from the water and being able to get a really close up view of the club racing out past the lifeboat house and into the channel. The word 'volunteers' has undertones of an arduous task – far from it, this is an opportunity to see things from a different perspective that few people get – and one of the benefits of being in the club, even when you don't sail! Those that get involved, even if it's only occasionally, really love it – and aren't asked to help more than they wish, and when they do choose to be involved their help is most welcome.

If you would like to be involved please get in touch with Chris Gibbs, or any committee member – or just turn up at the sailing club an hour before sailing and offer your help.



Sights from the committee boat: Sharpie Adventure and a lovely view of the Beach huts, so distinctive of Wells.



Racing home with the sailing club in the far distance.

WINE COMMITTEE

The bar rota is on the very cusp of being ready, just in time for the season and will be circulated shortly, once final confirmations have been made. Peter Emerson will be missed but will hopefully still frequent the club.

Our replacement for the bar fridge is still being sought, Peter Scillitoe is doing good work in sourcing one.



SLIDESHOW

Sally Wynne presented a slideshow featuring the early days of Wells Sailing Club, including the building of the Clubhouse itself. Club Members were asked for old photos Gary Anthony and James Case had many to share with submissions from Janet Gibbs, Matthew Cracknell and XXX.

We hope to make the collection available to all members by putting it online, we will let you know!

For the time being we are collecting photos for the dates 1975-1985, so anything you have would be appreciated – we will scan retouch all images and offer to return high resolution scanned images to you.



'Tommy' Thomas, Ruth Case and Sam Peel with a Sharpie and a dog on the 'Hot Boiler' – from James



A wonderful shot of Sharpies supplied by Gary, this could be after a running start from town line.. two laps course 1!



Tom Dack lending an experienced eye to the building of the club while XXX looks on. Photo by Tommy Thomas.

Dates for your diary

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' No 2 – All members welcome!

Monday 5th May 2014



Wells Sailing Club

“Get Afloat Day”

Dear Members,

The first ‘**Get Afloat Day**’ of the season is on Early May Bank Holiday Monday.

Our primary aim is to encourage our non-sailing members to come and have a go. Find out what it is all about!

We will not be racing, but the emphasis will be on giving everyone the opportunity to try something different.

Regular sailors – please come and help show our non-sailing friends why we love it so much.

Please, do come and join us. We would like as many club members as possible to join in.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the 5th.

Chris Gibbs

WSC Vice Commodore & Sailing Secretary

Activities will include:

→ **Come for a sail** – ever wanted a ride in a Sharpie, or maybe one of the club Wayfarers of Fevas? All will be available with experienced sailors to make sure you enjoy the experience.

→ **Prefer motor power?** – Our club crab boat the “Natalie Gail” will be on the water. Or maybe go for a spin in our fast rib the “Herbert E” to set the adrenaline racing.

→ **Or more sedate?** perhaps a row across the creeks is more to your taste. Or a canoe or kayak? Or bring an air-bed and just float across to join us!

If you need an extra incentive – the bar will be open after sailing with a free BBQ and beer for club members, courtesy of Mike Bushby who kindly left the club some money to celebrate his passion for sailing and love of Wells Sailing Club.

Timings: high tide is at 11:00, so we will aim to depart the club from 9:30 onwards and make sure we’re back in time for lunch.



Booking is not essential but it would be handy to know how many we are catering for, so please drop me a line if you can. It would also be helpful to know if you have a particular preference for any specific boat so I can make sure that everyone gets a go.

**Please contact Chris
cgibbs@alanboswell.com or 07771 528324**