



REEF KNOT

THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLS SAILING CLUB

No 7 - Spring 2004

COMMODORE'S REPORT

The water temperature is rising — honest! — not much, but sufficient for boat owners to start looking down the garden/in the shed, etc. at their various boats and craft that are requiring some TLC and preparation prior to the new season. Amazingly it is only four weeks away.

Looking back, the 2003 season finished on a very high note for WSC and we were all proud of Chris and Tim Gibbs winning the European Sharpie Championships. Let's hope we can bring the honour back to Wells again in 2004 after Vinkeveen in August.

The junior fleet grew visibly during the season as Richard Cracknell's hard work and patience in coaching the junior members and organising race days paid off handsomely. It was great to see such a large number of juniors on the water on Friday nights and weekends throughout the summer. Future champions are surely on the horizon. Provided they are fed with a full English breakfast after sailing, that is!

Junior Week was again a huge success and the event showed what can be achieved when you combine the enthusiasm and high spirits of our youngsters with the considerable help and assistance of club members and parents.

The family atmosphere of the club was further enhanced with the modifications to the front of the club house and the opening of the new decking. Thanks must go to Uncle Ed and his wife Judy, along with Gary Anthony, for erecting the deck with military precision! It proved to be an instant success and it was also good to see members watching time whilst enjoying the odd sundowner on the deck during the summer's warm evenings.

During the close season, permission has been granted to James Goodley to operate a sailing school from the club's land on the East Quay. This will bring in incremental revenue to the club in terms of rent. More importantly, we believe it will increase the profile of sailing and other water-borne activities in the harbour, which will benefit the club in achieving its common aim to

promote sailing. We wish James every success with this new venture, which is due to commence in April.

We have a few projects in the pipeline for 2004. We are looking seriously at extending the decking further and then paving the remaining area up to the front wall to enable the club to make the best use of its frontage. We are also looking to do something about the side entrance to the club which certainly causes a problem in northerly winds.

The other, and longer-term, project is the possibility of extending the clubhouse to the rear. A small committee has been set up to look at what could be achieved if we extended the clubhouse by a further 20 feet to the south. Whilst presently very much at the discussion stage, it is envisaged that it would be possible to improve considerably the size of the main function area, provide a wet bar, relocate the kitchen and provide larger changing facilities with an external access — we will keep you posted on developments.

Chris Hardy

VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

Dear Members,

The new sailing season will soon be upon us. The 10th of April is not far off! In this short article I will endeavour to inform you of what the new season may bring and what we hope will be achieved.

Last year, to my mind, was the turning of the corner (or tide!) as far as participation on the water was concerned. Although the Handicap Fleet, in practice, ceased to exist, the introduction of Junior Racing was a great success. This aspect is again catered for in the new racing programme. Once more under Richard's steady helm! I can assure you the sailing committee will actually encourage our younger element also to partake in the various Handicap Trophy Races. This does not mean our more senior sailors are excluded. Go out there and give it a try.

The Sharpie fleet looks set to return with increased

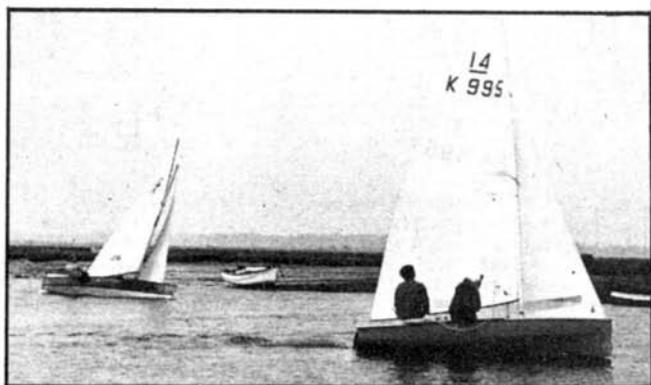
visit our website: www.wellssailingclub.org

numbers, with several boats missing in recent years making a comeback. In some cases with new owners at the helm.

The British Championship at Brancaster will, I hope, encourage people to get afloat early in the season and allow quite a number of boats to air those new sails!

The Europeans at Vinkeveen — the home of Dutch Sharpies — could, by all accounts, be the biggest fleet out ever, I have heard the number 70 mentioned. All in all it looks set to be a cracking year, especially if the boys were to repeat last year's success.

Junior Week is at the planning stage and this time will be in the very capable hands of Jimmy Goodley. Information will be distributed to members in the not too distant future. I would also like to wish Jimmy and his sailing school a fair wind and much success in their first year of operations.



Tony Barnham and Janet Sanderson in their International 14 Rainbow

TWO TAKE GUN AT WELLS

WELLS SC's Boxing Day race for the unusual Non-Ferrous Spheres Trophy was first sailed five years ago in — to quote the official club version — 'a spirit of ill advised and alcohol stimulated bravado, providing an opportunity for the befuddled to watch the befuddled.'

Befuddled or not, the existence of two separate finishing lines is a state of affairs which would normally yield a bumper crop of protests had not the Wells organisers inserted a special paragraph in this year's sailing instructions specifically prohibiting any protests: "all contention must be lost in the Christmas spirit."

Conditions were a good deal better than many a day during

the official season and Myrtle French's Sharpie *Patience* was first down to the beach where she misjudged the tide, hit a mark and let through last year's winner, Richard Cracknell's *Sea Witch*.

Cracknell and his crew, Deane Nudds, current British Sharpie champions, were first over the normal finishing line ahead of Tony Barnham and Janet Sanderson in their International 14, *Rainbow*.

Indeed, Cracknell got a gun from officials who — like Barnham — were unaware that a special finish had been laid opposite the club house, a quarter of a mile upstream.

Suddenly realising his luck, Barnham turned on the pressure and overtook the Sharpie on the final beat, winning this scratch race and regaining the trophy which he won when it was first sailed in 1968.

A special prize was awarded to William and Ben Cracknell, aged 12 and 10, who completed the course in their Christmas present, a Heron called *Lazy Trout*.

Clipping from
Yachting and Boating Weekly
January 3 1973

One change to the sailing programme, Saturday June 19th, Racing will be postponed to another date.

Finally, a reminder. The water is becoming quite congested as more and more people make the most of what Wells Harbour has to offer, and if anybody is unfortunate enough to be involved in an incident it should be reported to me without delay, and I will contact the harbour authorities if necessary.

May I wish you all a very happy and successful season.

Gary Anthony

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT 2004

If you haven't visited the club recently, you are in for a surprise! The new decking installed by Uncle Ed and Judy Wardrop, ably assisted by Gary Anthony, has been a resounding success and the main room feels much lighter with the new windows and patio doors which lead out onto the deck. New carpet has been installed in the main room by Terry Angles, Bob Curtis and Matthew Owen; Peter Scillitoe's refurbished bar goes from strength to strength, and he and Jill have done a splendid job of redecorating the ladies changing room. The men's changing room has a retiled shower and toilet area, and the Pigney family worked tirelessly to repaint the woodwork at the front of the clubhouse to make the whole place smart and tidy. A very big *Thank You* to all those members who have worked so hard to improve our club. But, don't forget that we have a continuing programme of improvements and volunteers are always needed to help out, so if you feel that you can help us, please turn up to the work parties. The dates are given in the Social Programme (see *Work Party*).

On the social side, we have had several parties involving French, Texan and Arab themes which tested members' ingenuity in creating costumes, as well as introducing foods which are not normally found in Wells. Couscous and sheep's eyes come to mind (though the eyes were, in fact, lychees with grapes inside). This year we are planning a series of Sunday Lunches in the clubhouse, when the lady members will take turns in creating a meal. So if you feel like taking a break from the oven, come down to the club and enjoy the convivial atmosphere. Don't forget to sign-in early on the list on the main door as numbers are strictly limited to thirty persons.

The number of new members applying to join the club has increased dramatically over the past year and there is a real sense of enthusiasm about the place, especially as we now have a strong core of junior members who are keen sailors thanks to Richard Cracknell's encouragement with Friday evening Junior Sailing last season. Please make a real effort to come down to the club this year and support both the sailing and social scenes. You certainly won't regret it!

David Blakesley

WSC SOCIAL PROGRAMME 2004

MARCH

Sunday
21 March **Sunday Lunch**

APRIL

Saturday
3 April 7.30pm **Fitting Out Supper**

Sunday
18 April 10.30am **Work Party**

Sunday
25 April 12.30pm **Sunday Lunch**

MAY

Sunday
23 May 12.30pm **Sunday Lunch**

29 May—1 June **British Sharpie Championships**

JUNE

Sunday
6 June 2.00pm **Work Party**

12-13 June **Frostbites Meeting**

Sunday
27 June 12.00 noon **Beach Picnic**

JULY

Sunday
25 July 1.00pm **Clubhouse BBQ**

AUGUST

1-6 August **European Sharpie Championships**

Wednesday
4 August 08.30 **NWNSA Breakfast Baps**

Sunday
15 August **Wells Lifeboat Service**

23-27 August **Junior Week**

26 August 7.00pm **Junior Disco**

SEPTEMBER to NEW YEAR'S DAY

Saturday
18 September **Annual Dinner**
(South Sea Island Theme)

Sunday 12.30am
26 September **Sunday Lunch**

Saturday
16 October 7.30pm **Laying Up Supper**

Saturday
6 November 7.30pm **Bonfire Bangers & Mash**

Saturday
4 December 7.30pm **Christmas Party**

Saturday
1 January 2005 12.30pm **New Years Day Draw**

OVER THE BAR

What's new to report? Well there is an ever-increasing range of drinks and snacks — and the bar will be open more often.

Club members have demonstrated their approval of the increased range of soft drinks stacked behind the bar. At times it has been difficult to stay ahead of demand!

For the convenience of the snacker, crisps in all flavours, chocolate bars and peanuts are now available.

Alcopops we have as requested by the more sophisticated drinker. Current sales are slow but we expect more interest when the sun shines and the sailing season is underway.

The range of bottled beer offered throughout the winter months has been a hit and will continue throughout the year and the real good news is the introduction of Woodforde's Wherry on draft which has been so popular at social functions it is to become a permanent feature throughout the sailing season.

We continue to offer wine by the bottle — or for the more genteel, the smaller two-glass bottle.

The new extended opening times are:

May to end of August

Friday evenings

Saturday evenings and at sailing times

Sunday lunchtimes

Wednesday evenings

September to April Sunday Lunch times.

Why not bring a picnic, sit on the sun deck in front of the clubhouse and enjoy the sunset?

If you have the desire, we have the facility!



In September the Fairfax cup was finally handed over, at an impromptu prizegiving, to last year's rightful winner (it's moving from left to right!).

BAR ROTA 2004

Below is the bar rota for the coming year. As you know, the bar provides a major part of the income for the Club and ensures its financial stability. We rely on the goodwill of the members to support and tend it. If you are unable to do your bar duty, would you please make arrangements to provide relief cover. Keys should be collected from and returned to Peter Scillitoe at *The Anchorage*, East Quay.

April

Sun 11	Terry Angles
Mon 12	Alan Skidmore
Sun 18	Martin Read
Sun 25	Keith Ashby

May

Sun 2	David Blakesley
Mon 3	Robin Howes
Wed 5	Bob Curtis
Sat 8	Graham Wild
Sun 9	Mike Bushby
Wed 12	Sheila Owen
Sat 15	Kevin Parr
Sun 16	James Case
Wed 19	Gary Anthony
Sat 22	Ollie Wells
Sun 23	Alan Coe
Wed 26	Gary Anthony
Sat 29	Richard Price
Sun 30	Mike Cowdrey
Mon 31	Tom Osborne

June

Wed 2	James Woodhouse
Sat 5	Ed Wardrop
Sun 6	Richard Cracknell
Wed 9	Peter Scillitoe
Sat 12	Peter Terrington
Sun 13	Andrew Cracknell
Wed 16	Peter Emerson
Sat 19	Neil Richardson
Sun 20	Ben Cracknell
Wed 23	Peter Emerson
Sat 26	Patsy Wagg
Sun 27	Cheryl Crowthord
Wed 30	Mike Coe

July

Sat 3	Terry Norton
Sun 4	Rodney Crafer
Wed 7	Mike Coe
Sat 10	Alan Walker
Sun 11	Joe Ellison
Wed 14	Jean Davies
Sat 17	Campbell MacCallum
Sun 18	Richard Major
Wed 21	Sue Ebrill
Sat 24	Mike Woodroffe
Sun 25	Wilf Foyers
Wed 28	Matt Owen
Sat 31	Laurie Lupin

August

Sun 1	Roger Richardson
Wed 4	Ian Scott
Sat 7	Annette Sage
Sun 8	Peter Groom
Wed 11	Matt Owen
Sat 14	CherryCase
Sun 15	John Gibbs
Wed 18	Alex Curtis
Sat 21	William Youngs
Sun 22	Chris Gibbs
Wed 25	Chris Woods
Sat 28	Robert Wynne
Sun 29	Paul Goakes
Mon 30	John Pigney

September

Sun 5	Ben Goakes
Sun 12	James Goodley
Sun 19	Chris Hardy
Sun 26	Miles Hodges

PLEASE CONTACT THE NEXT PERSON ON THE LIST TO REMIND THEM

Reserve list

Ray Smith
Rory Watson
Amanda Howe
Daniel Money
Linda Shaw