

Mainsheet

An occasional newsletter from Rollesby Broad Sailing Club

Winter 2004

FROM THE COMMODORE

After a busy summer at the Club, the winter sailing has started with good support. We welcome several new racing members, together with returning winter sailors.

The open meeting on the 31st October met with light winds and only attracted three Wayfarers. The Enterprises however, were out in force with ten boats racing and it was nice to see all the blue sails on the broad. There were five visiting boats. The visitors won the day with a first and second but David and Di Goodwin represented the Club on the podium with a third.

Light winds have continued to be a feature this Autumn but attendance had been high with 28 boats racing on the 14th November, 19 'As' and 9 'Bs'.

The annual dinner and presentations was held at Gorleston Golf Club and enjoyed by fifty members. Thanks to David Parsons and Val Anderson for organising the event. The Golf Club rules required gentlemen to wear a collar and tie and this inspired many to go to "full dress" with dinner jackets being "dug out".

The racing results and reports are being featured regularly in the E.D.P. sport section thanks to conscientious O.O.D.s - Please remember to fax the results sheet in when it is your turn in the box before you leave.

The Committee will endeavour to run the Club for the benefit of members and will continue to press the landlord for improvements to the Clubhouse. We will also consider the long term replacement of the rescue boats and the issue of propeller guards.

Committee members, David Parsons, James Lewis and Adrian Lincoln, have stood down and we thank them for their service. Ian Dale and Jeff Jordan have joined the Committee. Ian has agreed to co-ordinate the maintenance of the Clubhouse and Jeff will organise the upkeep of the Club boats.

The sailing programme is currently being finalised for next year. This will follow a similar pattern to 2004/05. Following the successful Commodore's Weekend in 2004, it is proposed to hold another one in 2005 on the 3th/54th September - A date for your new diaries.

The new automatic starting timer and signal has been installed. This will give accurate timing and allow a start to be made by one person in the box.

There is no scheduled sailing on Sunday, 26th December - Boxing Day - but we hope to hold some casual races so come along and work off the Christmas Pudding! Coffee provided but bring your lunch.

The next major event is the open New Year Regatta on Saturday, 1st January, 2005. We hope for fine weather and a good turn out. Do come along to the events - even if you have no-one lined up to sail with - there are always chances of matching up crews with helms.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas Holiday and a Happy New Year with some good sailing.

John

Parking

With increased turnouts on Sundays, the car park is getting very full. Please do not block the way through to the overflow car park - park sideways along the line of the blue rope.

Liz Gibbs

Young Sailors

Next year an **Under-16 Cup** will be awarded as there is an increasing number of youngsters sailing on Sundays. It will be based on three series. More details in the next newsletter.

For Sale

Wanderer 14. No. 367. GRP construction with a white hull and cream deck. Supplied with jib and slab reefing main sail, combi trailer, 2hp Mariner outboard and mounting bracket, seat cushions and oars. This boat makes an ideal family cruiser or club racer, very similar to a wayfarer but much lighter and easily sailed single handed. Can be viewed in the club boat park. Priced at £2200 ono. Please contact Dave Parsons at the club or phone 01502-730992.

Race starting and timing system for the 21st century.

The starting box now boasts an automatic system that makes the routine of sounding claxons, hoisting flags at the correct time and starting the stop watch a much simpler process. The equipment commercially produced is housed in a smart grey box mounted on the desk. Easy access is provided to the three control buttons, one to turn the equipment on, another selects which of three count down programmes you require and lastly a single button to start the whole timing process. There are two large easily read numerical displays, the first displays the progress of the starting sequence and the second displays the elapsed time once the race has commenced. But, like all things in life there is a down side, you still have to raise and lower the flags by hand and in the right order, but once again the equipment assists with a muted buzzer providing advanced warning when flags are needed to be raised or lowered. A more detailed explanation of how to use this equipment has been included in the racing handbook.

Another recent introduction to the race box is a new

fax machine. It is easy to use and ensures that results sent in on a Sunday evening are received in good time for inclusion in Tuesday's Eastern Daily Paper.

David Parsons

Berthing

Over the past year, the number of boats berthed at the club has increased and it is becoming difficult to find a suitable berth for new arrivals. In order to solve this, we are going to reallocate berths. We will let you know if your boat is to be moved provided it has a **current transom sticker** otherwise it may end up at the far end of the boat park.

It is also important that we can identify your boat easily if we need to contact you if it has been damaged by wind etc.

So before Christmas

- 1) Make sure your transom sticker is on the boat.
- 2) Tie down securely to prevent wind damage.
- 3) Inform both us and the Membership Secretary of any boat ownership changes.

Bernard and Hilary O'Donnell

Preparing for a Great Adventure

(Barry and Helen Bradford with Daniel and Adam left here last winter to explore the east coast of Australia by boat. Here is an extract from their emails of their preparation for the trip.)

22 July 2004 What can I say about our new life? Well it's hard! It's hard using such small amounts of power. It's hard using such small amounts of water. It's hard being in such a confined space with 3 other people. (Even if they're the people you love!) It's hard doing the things most people take for granted like supermarket shopping. It's hard doing all of the above while you are trying to work on the boat with all the spare time you have! So is it worth it? You bet it 's worth it! It is a priceless experience that is character building not just for the boys but for Helen and myself as well. We have met so many nice people, we have seen so many amazing creatures, we have explored so many incredible places, and nearly every night as the sun goes down we are blessed with the most fantastic sunsets. And all this in a place whose winter has day after day of unbroken sunshine that is as hot as a summer's day in good old blighty! We have been exploring the local Gold Coast while we have been working on the boat but now she is in A1 condition and we are going to start the long haul north to warmer waters and the Great Barrier Reef. If any of you are wondering what an earth we have been doing all this time since we bought our boat, well the simple answer is Lots! You see a boat may seem like a small amount of space, but this space is filled with an enormous amount of gadgets, wiring, navigation lights, wood, (that needed varnishing!) electronics, pulleys, blocks, winches, ropes, chains, guard-rails, water tanks (leaky), pipe work (leaky), boiler, gas pipe work, two inboard engines and an outboard engine, solar panels, wind generator, mast, boom, sails and rigging! All of this needed at least some maintenance and at worst replacing or modifying! And don't let me paint a picture of an old dilapidated boat, this is the best boat we looked at and she could have probably made the trip without too many dramas, but my family is on this boat and only A1 will do when you're dealing with the sea! I hope this paints a clear picture of where we are at the moment and now for the first time I am starting to get excited because up to now there has been a lot of uncertainty about buying the boat and then a lot of work in getting her sorted. I've just to buy a wind surfer and then we are going to start the real adventure that we dreamed of!