

Mainsheet

An occasional newsletter from Rollesby Broad Sailing Club

Spring 2005

From The Commodore

After an Autumn of light conditions, the weather changed once Christmas passed to give some more robust sailing in January. The New Year Regatta was well supported with exciting sailing and a busy rescue boat. The number of winter sailors remains high with thirty boats racing in the spring-like sunshine on 16th January.

The general committee has been busy, in particular looking at the rescue boat situation. The fitting of propeller guards to engines was examined and a decision was made to leave the props exposed for best manoeuvrability and performance of the boats. This is in common with most other clubs and R.Y.A. practice. The topic however, has raised again the consideration of rescue boat driver competence and the committee is keen to establish a list of drivers for the O.O.D. duties. Further training sessions have been planned (see below) and we seek support from the membership in this.

A new rescue boat and spare engine have been ordered for the Club - details are explained later in this newsletter.

The Club continues to be very active with 175 memberships on the books. We look forward now to the approach of the spring and a full programme has been arranged as you will see from the fixture list.

Following the work day on the 27th March, is the popular April Fools' Regatta on the 3rd April and we hope to see the returning summer sailors with 'pristine' boats.

The activities planned follow a similar pattern to last year with support for casual sailing on Saturdays. Look out for the social evening at the Clubhouse on Friday, 22nd April.

John

Youth Cup

A Youth Cup is being initiated for the first time this year. All those 16 years of age (at the start of the competition) and under are eligible. The aim is to encourage the Youth of RBSC to participate in Sunday racing, improve their skills and enjoy competing.

The competition will take place over three series: Spring, Whit and Summer. The winner will be the one with the best result over these three series. A table will be kept in the clubhouse so you can keep tabs as to how you are progressing.

Prizes will be given out at the annual awards dinner in November. The prizes are still being considered, but it is anticipated that there will be a trophy with the winners name engraved and a replica trophy to keep. There will also be prizes for all those who participate in at least 50% of the races.

If you are interested could you please let one of the committee members know so we could get an idea of numbers (Note: Competitors can join in with the Youth Cup competition at any stage during the three series).

We are also open to suggestions on prizes.

Mike Horwitz

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Dates for your Diary.

Work Day **Sunday 27 March**

April Fools' Open Regatta **3 April**

Spring Social Event **Friday 22 April**
Hot Buffet, Prizegiving and Talk by Matt Boreham on his successful attempt to row across the Atlantic single-handed. £4 to include a donation to the RNLI. Children £2
Bring your own drink.

Open Day **Saturday 11 June**

We need your support to make these events a success. More details nearer the time

Membership Renewals

Not only will you save yourself £5, but also help Liz Gibbs if you get your form and cheque to her by the 14 April as she will be away from that date sailing the high seas for one month on a Tall Ship.

The new OOD rota is on Page 4. Please put your duty day on your calendar

Wayfarer Race Training

As a relatively recent convert to racing when I bought my current boat, the previous owner Chris Hawkes (an experienced racer from Waldringfield) told me it takes 4-5 years to learn how to make a Wayfarer go fast. At the time I didn't believe him but in my first race at Rollesby I couldn't understand why all the other Wayfarers sailed off into the distance. I soon realised what a challenge racing was and came to understand it's not about winning but learning to sail well.

Four years later I realise Chris Hawkes was right and there is still much to learn. When properly set up and going well the Wayfarer is a very rewarding boat to sail. Certainly coaching from a highly skilled sailor can help the learning curve. To help increase our sailing skills at the club we have organised a Wayfarer race training day at Rollesby with Michael McNamara. For many of you he will need no introduction: a sailmaker (the sailmaker of choice for many wayfarer sailors in the country) a national and world champion in several dinghy classes, a free thinker and a brilliant sailor. At the 2001 Wayfarer Worlds in Ireland I watched him leave even the really good sailors in the fleet trailing in his wake. In one race as we struggled up the windward leg I saw a boat way out in front and watched the amazing spectacle of perfect spinnaker gybes in a force 5 picking out the shifts as he flew downwind. The boat speed and handling were simply awesome. Later on I went to a training weekend run by the class association and led by Michael McNamara it was a great weekend; he is an excellent teacher and we all learnt a great deal.

We are lucky that through Auriel Gibson he has agreed to come to Rollesby for the day on Saturday April 16th, Rigged and ready to go for 9.30, it will cover boat tuning, on water training, workshops, rules and video replay. The day is mainly for Wayfarers and is for sailors of all abilities. Wayfarers will be given priority though if we need to make up numbers we can open it to boats of similar type. There is a maximum of 10 boats. cost £25.00. If you are interested please contact me, There are entry forms in the clubhouse and they have been emailed to you as well.

Though the training is to help us progress it is also ideal preparation for the Wayfarer Eastern Area Championships which Auriel Gibson is organising. They are conveniently local this year at Lowestoft on May 14th and 15th; several club members are planning on going. Nothing can beat large fleet racing, testing yourself against other sailors especially if you have friends from your own club there to add to the fun. I have always found at these events there is a warm welcome to sailors of all abilities. After all we simply go sailing for pleasure. If you are new to the club or don't know me, come and say hi, I sail a black Wayfarer no.955 (now out of the water till March) and am generally seen falling about the boat, getting in peoples way and sailing backwards to buoys I've missed out. Another thing I have learnt in the last four years is it's always the crew's fault but that's another story.

Peter Martin,

Wayfarer fleet captain

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A polite plea for a p word

Is a **perfectly pleasant peaceful principle** with a **powerful persuasive purpose** in the **pursuit of prompt positive progress**, which **protects participants in proximity from prangs!** Did you guess the description was that of saying **'protest'** or even **protest possible!** so avoiding the **predictable promise of prolific personal punitive problems in practice.**

Work Day

Sunday 27 March 10.00am onward

As usual a lot of work has been done by members throughout the year to maintain the club but there are always jobs to be done, such as filling in the potholes on the roadways, creating a hard standing for the new safety boat and the usual Spring Clean. Please support us by coming along, even for a short time. In saving money by doing jobs ourselves, we keep our subscriptions at a very competitive rate.

Please bring your own tools. Lunch provided
For more information see poster in Clubhouse or

Safety Boat Changes

Our 25 hp engine has died; our back up 18hp engine is 18 years old. Our main Dory is generally mashed and has also broken its back on its trolley! The major failure of resources occurred - of course - on a windy day. We had to use the small Green Boat and 3.5hp to recover the Dory & buoys, as this was the only engine left running! No one was put at risk but we have made changes to our safety cover.

Our first step was to buy a 6hp Honda 4 stroke for the Green Boat when used as a backup. Its main purpose remains as a safety boat for casual sailors with oars & 3.5hp engine. Because it is a stable platform, it can be launched and in use so very quickly.

We need reliable engines with good low speed pulling power rather than super high speed. Our safety boats need to be stable, load carrying hulls with low freeboard and low maintenance. Many hours were spent researching different craft, styles, materials engines etc. It came to a choice between a Dory, a Rib, a Commando and a Seastrike. The first 3 required 25hp engines and the Seastrike 15hp because of its aluminium hull weight. This made a considerable price difference.

The committee decided unanimously on the Seastrike which has been ordered & should be with us by the beginning of March. This had the biggest load area, a flat v hull shape and low/no maintenance apart from perhaps a hammer! It will have a Honda engine with electric start. This 'luxury' item was considered essential in view of our new mandatory requirement to switch off the engine when near anyone in the water. Kill cords are also now mandatory, but easy clip on belts with keys are provided.

Brian Skinner is contemplating trying to restore one of the dories in the future by removing all the sodden inbuilt foam.

Jill Searle

Safety Boat Training

Health and Safety is becoming an issue for all sailing clubs, Trying to make sailing on Rollesby Broad, as safe as possible is something we would all aim to achieve. Some two years ago the Committee foresaw the need to significantly increase our pool of members with appropriate power boat/safety boat qualifications. This led last April to a two day in-house course based on the RYA Level 2 (excluding tidal work!) and named the RBSC Safety Boat 1 covering basic boat handling for OOD's and an RBSC SB 2 which covers rescue techniques. Attendance was, however, disappointingly low and the idea of starting a self supporting club scheme did not get off the ground.

This year Jim Searle has been persuaded to try a further one day course and this will be held on Saturday 23 April offering training and certification based on SB 1 which covers launching and recovery, safe handling manoeuvring under control and coming alongside. This is intended for those with a little SB experience who would prefer to drive the boat than run the box!

John Bailey, a new member, has offered his services as a qualified power boat instructor to run courses on Saturdays 18 & 25 June, either one day courses for SB1 or the two day course leading to SB2. These will be arranged subject to demand and on a first come first served basis. Both courses give members the opportunity of familiarising themselves with the Clubs two new safety boats – there is a minimum age of 18 years and participants should be competent swimmers.

A list of experienced drivers has been drawn up, these people will continue to be covered by our H & S document, but we would welcome the opportunity of formalising their position. This can be done by observing them drive around the test circuit! on their OOD Duty day if they contact us before hand. Copies of circuit available.

Should you be interested to learn more etc contact

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OOD Co-ordinator

2005/2006 OOD Duty Rota

The duty rota stipulates who drives the club safety boat (**in bold**) and this person could also be the designated Officer of the Day. Those unable attend are expected to arrange a swap of duty, informing their OOD of what has been done and, if possible, amending the rota posted on the Clubhouse noticeboard. It is vital that the OOD's support team is adequate to the demands of the day.

Thank to those who fulfilled this duty last year and a reminder to others of their commitment - affirmed annually - to help with the running of the club.

Jim Anderson