

Mainsheet

An occasional newsletter from Rollesby Broad Sailing Club

Winter 2005

FROM THE COMMODORE

Since becoming Commodore I have become more aware of just how much work is done by the committee and club members in running the club and as a result of this how much the club has progressed and developed over the last few years. For example this year there was the purchase of the new rescue boat and outboards; at the last workday in October over thirty members came and much valuable work was done. The very enjoyable annual dinner last month does not happen without a great deal of organisation behind the scenes.

However as a committee we are keen to keep the club moving forward. We are only there as fellow sailors and club members and to represent the interests and needs of all the club members, so feedback is always welcome.

One of the projects the club is working on is to develop better changing and shower facilities; negotiations are currently underway. Now we are in mid winter the need for this is very apparent, especially as the turnout in recent weeks has been very good in the A fleet and in the ever growing B fleet, meaning exciting racing for all whether they are generally at the front or rear of the fleet.

Sailing back to the clubhouse I remember looking at my feet in a pool of icy water in the bottom of the boat and wondering if they would ever thaw out. That was over twenty years ago, winter sailing at Chipstead as a teenager. Sailing in plimsolls, jeans and a leaky anorak. Thank goodness wetsuit and textiles technology has advanced so much in recent years and it is so much safer and more enjoyable staying warm.

My sister from New Zealand, a round the world sailor, finds it impossible to believe people go sailing in winter for pleasure (quite mad she thinks). The lively atmosphere of the clubhouse is a reminder of what a pleasure it is to sail with a group of vital people. As dinghy sailors we can have an adventure and still be home in time for tea.

Happy Christmas and good sailing in 2006.

Peter

NEW TROPHY FOR THE ROLLESBY YOUTH SQUAD

Hi I'm James and I have been sailing my Topper at Rollesby Broad Sailing Club since I learnt to sail with my dad when I was 10. There are several other children at Rollesby who sail other Toppers (Jack, Jamie and Adam), Splashes (Jake and Daniel) and there is even a Mini Moth (Sam). Rollesby is a friendly club with kind members. It is rather cold this time of year so if you have not sailed before or do not have sufficient clothing it may be better to wait until the spring or summer when you can start sailing on Saturdays if you don't want to go straight into racing. If you do want to go straight into racing we race on Sundays, often in the B fleet against other adults, (we do have handicaps so all the racing is fair and fun).

Racing is a great way to improve your sailing abilities. This year, thanks to the generosity of one of the adult members, we now have our own trophy to race for (under 16's only). It's great! Thanks to Janet and Jill we have plenty of chocolates and drinks to eat and drink to keep us going. In the summer the wind is far from overpowering but it is sufficient in strength and brilliant for learning in.

I think it's the best club in Norfolk to learn to sail and to continue sailing. The club has three toppers and two oppies which you can use to learn to sail in, so you don't need your own boat to sail at Rollesby. My dad is a qualified sailing instructor and is normally down there every Sunday if you want and help or extra information. I will update you on all the new information on what we've been doing in the Youth's section in the next edition of Mainsheet. If you normally sail in the summer but your club has closed for the winter then please get your mum and dad to bring you down some time and join us

James Wilson (Aged 13)

Written after a committee discussion on problems re: -
HEAVY WEATHER
and the Race Management Team - RMT

The recent heavy days caused problems for both competitors and safety boat crews. We all want boats to be able to enjoy sailing in exciting weather conditions but in reasonable safety so please read on.....

Personally we all have limits as to when it is wise for us to sail, and it takes experience to make the correct judgement. The RMT will always be happy to give impartial advice, about the difficulties likely to be found afloat, as they will have already been out there!

The Safety Boat is there for all competitors and MUST be aware of the whole situation, constantly reassessing it and being prepared to immediately leave one boat if another is in greater need. Crews that are safe but stranded must always be left until all riskier situations are dealt with.

Clothing – Recommendations are made by your committee – but what you wear is your decision made in view of the weather, your boat, experience and age. The RMT however has to assume that all sailors are dressed correctly - underneath - for the conditions!

Boats need to be checked most carefully and loose equipment secured in the boat or left ashore. Your signature on the entry form says your buoyancy is OK. Unfortunately painters are often short and weak

...BUT

Painters are essential - if you need help, either with righting or towing. In rough weather when boats capsize there is not time to jury rig painters. So for winter sailing we are asking every boat to have a 3-4m painter of 6 mm preferably floating rope - permanently attached and easily reached by the Safety Boat Crew. **To make this as easy as possible the club has ordered a reel of 6mm Marstron floating rope and will have 4m painters available for club members to purchase if they wish. The cost to buy at a Chandlery £2.88 from the club a bargain at £2.00!**

Boats without suitable painters, when needed, are a definite safety hazard as they take so much longer to rescue while putting others at risk. In heavy weather when righting and towing are time consuming, crews will have to be taken ashore and their boats retrieved later.

Because a Safety Boat with Passengers ceases to be a Safety Boat and becomes a Ferry! we will try to avoid this whenever it is safe to do so.

This decision will rest entirely with the RMT

Jim and Jill Searle

THE RSBC YOUTH CUP

At the Annual Awards Dinner, a Youth Cup (under 16 year olds) called the Chrysalis Cup was given for the first time. It was awarded to James Wilson for having the best results over the Spring, Whit and Summer Series. In second place was Jack Horwitz. All participants were given a prize on the night; they included Daniel Bradford, Adam Bradford and Sam Horwitz. Congratulations to all and we look forward to seeing them and hopefully other youngsters participating in 2006.

The Club would like to thank Brian Skinner for kindly donating the Chrysalis Cup. For those of you who are not aware the Cup is named after the British Moth. The intention is to run the Youth Cup in 2006 over the same series. Any suggestions on how we could better run the Cup would be appreciated.

Mike Horwitz
mikedhorwitz@aol.com

SAFETY – BUOYANCY AIDS

There is a rack of buoyancy aids in the clubhouse donated by members of RBSC for general use. **If you use them please make sure that they are properly sized and correctly fitted.** Parents are responsible for their children and the choice of equipment they use. The buoyancy aids are inspected regularly and any damaged ones discarded. If you find any that are damaged, please put them to one side and inform me or any member of the Committee.

Whilst these buoyancy aids are available, the Club cannot be expected to be held responsible for how they are used. Therefore we **use them at our own risk.**

A note on children's buoyancy aids with collars: they are for the use of those up to approximately 7 years of age. The reason for the collar is that younger children tend to be heavier in the head and shoulder area. The collar adds buoyancy reducing the possibility of the child floating upside down. Otherwise buoyancy aids with collars should not be used due to the risk of getting tangled up with the rigging of your dinghy.

Any further donations of buoyancy aids in good condition would be much appreciated. Any questions or comments on buoyancy aids or safety in general please feel free to contact me.

Mike Horwitz
Safety Officer
mikedhorwitz@aol.com

FROM THE SECRETARY

In September 7 members reported items from their boats as missing/stolen. The boats were Lasers and Toppers and the majority of the items were centreboards/rudders and tillers. The police were involved and an ex-member was charged with attempting to sell some of the stolen items on Ebay. He pleaded guilty.

In late October some of the missing items were left in the clubhouse. The police were informed and they hold the anonymous note of explanation as evidence. The members involved were asked to identify their centreboards/rudders and they have been returned to them. I still hold unclaimed items. If you are missing items from your Topper/Laser please let me know.

Although this type of theft is unusual at RBSC, I urge you to take the advice of the police, insurance companies and RBSC and take home any removable items from your boats.

Tony Gibbs

COMMITTEE 2005/2006

The new Commodore is **Peter Martin** who sails a black hulled Wayfarer

Bob Hawkins is the Vice Commodore and Treasurer with a new Solo

Roger Wilson is Rear Commodore sailing a Laser

Tony Gibbs, Secretary, a new Solo sailor in Bob's old boat

Liz Gibbs, Membership Secretary has a Wayfarer, Laser and a Sea-Hopper.

Jill Searle, Sailing Secretary sails a Wayfarer and Laser.

Bernard and Hilary O'Donnell, Berthing Secretaries with a Wayfarer and Laser.

The General Committee is **Jim Anderson, Martin Cornwell, Mike Horwitz, Ian Hanson, Jeff Jordan, Derek Page, John Saddington and Brain Skinner**

The above are to be found at the club on most Sundays.

NNSA GUESTBOOK EXTRACT

As one of the people who has qualified as an Instructor, while Filby remains unavailable to us, I have experienced amazing co-operation and friendship from many people at such places as Horning SC, Rollesby SC, N.O.T, Hickling SC, Norfolk Punt Club - the list goes on.

This help has not just been 'passive' support; it has been their time, effort, and pockets unloading/towing boats, lending personal kit, cups of tea and welcome advice. They have not benefited from these activities in any way - in all cases their motive is to help others to experience and enjoy sailing.

By helping me and the NSSA they can pass on their enthusiasm for sailing to a new generation of children and instructors. In all cases their **assistance has been beyond all expectations and has also been so generous as to cause twinges of embarrassment** - all this from regular people who have nothing tangible to gain from their actions.

The NCC do have something to gain by getting the NSSA back to Filby - they could then rightfully claim they will have done their part in restoring and progressing an organisation that promotes youth sailing and all the social benefits that it provides - it also allows all those people who have assisted the NSSA in this 'nomadic' year to rightfully feel that they have made a difference and helped to keep an essential organisation going through a difficult year

Neil Thurlow

FOR SALE

Javelin 448

Two suits of sails plus suit of cruising sails.

Two spinnakers

Combi trailer

New cover

Fair condition

£650

Mirror main and jib

Reasonable condition

£10

Mariner 2hp Outboard

Old but has had little use

£90

Peter Martin

O1603 455341

THE COMMITTEE HAS ADOPTED A NEW DESIGN FOR CLUB CLOTHING

Items can be ordered direct from 'Sew Your Gear'
or if you are not in a hurry we will make a bulk order to save you the P & P cost

Discounted Club Prices

Includes Logo on Right Chest & VAT (P & P & ins. on a single order is £2.50)

Adult Sweatshirts ~ £21.75 **Child** ~ £17.50

Adult Fleeces $\frac{1}{4}$ zip ~ £25.50 **Child** ~ £21.25

Adult Polo Shirts ~ £18.50 **Child** ~ £13.60

Fleece Hats Navy ~ £7.50 **Caps** Various Colours ~ £10.00

Colours Lt Grey ~ Navy ~ Royal these show the logo to best advantage but
other colours are available



See
Notice
Board

**Sew
Your
Gear**

RBSC Logo

Embroidered

onto

T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Fleece, Caps, Towels

We specialise in personalised boat images.

*All boats are customised with your sail number, hull colour, and boat name or number.
Also Company, Team & Club Logos.*

For more details contact:

☎ 01344 780556

✉ info@sewyourgear.com

★ www.sewyourgear.com

Make It Personal!

Club Contact

Jill Searle

01493

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New Year's Day Open Regatta 1 January 2006

1st race 10.30am

Work Day

Sunday 19 March 2006

If you have had any sailing experiences that other members would enjoy reading about, please forward them to me by the end of January for publication in the Spring edition of the Mainsheet.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Valerie Anderson

Editor

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