



# Mainsheet

Rollesby Broad Sailing Club

Occasional Newsletter

Edition  
**2007**  
**Summer**

## From The Commodore

The summer weather has not been very good for messing about in boats while gently topping up a sun tan, but at least there has been some really good wind to blow away the winter blues. The last few weeks has brought some really good sailing to Rollesby. On 23 June we hosted The Ramuz Trophy,



The following day was our Open single-handed and Enterprise Open. This was the most well attended Open we have hosted for many years and we had a separate start for The Phantoms with 15 on the water, mainly guests for the day. Even so local sailors proved dominant with Chris Sallis and Darren Pike 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. The Enterprise was won by Chris Mann and Heather Vaughan, the Bs by Ian Hanson while I narrowly won the As.

Many will have seen my open letter to the members either on the web site or in the club-house explaining recent discussions with the Water Authority regarding the future of the club-house. Since then we have heard that they will not be able to meet again to discuss matters until October but they do intend to put in new drains quite quickly, so we can expect work to commence shortly.

Summer would not be complete without a BBQ and, weather permitting, it would be good for members to meet up on 11 August. As usual, the fires will be lit around 12.30, just bring your own food and drinks and we can take the opportunity to catch up with a few tall ships stories. See you there.

**Bob**

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### *Dates for your Diary...*

Club Work Day .....	Sat 13 Oct
AGM .....	Thu 18 Oct
Annual Dinner, Prize Giving ...	Fri 16 Nov

### *Latest News...*

For the very latest News, Race Results, Pictures and Discussions visit the club website at...

**[www.rbsc.org.uk](http://www.rbsc.org.uk)**

### *This Newsletter*

Editor: **Valerie Anderson**

Your contributions are always needed and can be forwarded to Valerie, along with any images you'd like published, by email to...

[valanderson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:valanderson@tiscali.co.uk)



## Safety Is Everyones Responsibility

**N**ot just that of the Safety Officer, especially as I can only be at the Club half the time due to my work. A few things to look out for, common sense really: Most people if they see a fellow sailor struggling recovering a heavy boat will lend a hand. Avoiding back injury or hernia is important and speaking from personal experience neither is pleasant.

If you see children running near the water or without proper fitting buoyancy aids, a friendly reminder. Any improvements to the Club, which would make our sailing safer, for example my search for non-skid mats for the slipways. Any suggests please contact me and if you can put an unsafe situation right please do so, remember this is a self-help club.

Floating painters are available in the clubhouse for a nominal price. There is no requirement to fit these to your boat, but it is highly recommended. The reason being is that it makes it that much easier to recover a capsized dinghy. All of us that operate the safety boats are volunteers, though we have had basic training we do not practice on a regular basis. So when operating a safety boat the further away you can pick up the painter from the capsized dinghy the better, thereby avoiding possible damage to boats and injury to sailors.

Whilst on the subject of safety boat operators a reminder to us all. If you should run into a situation on a windy day with several capsized dinghies, remember to make sure all the sailors are safe, before you start recovering boats.

*Mike Horwitz email: [mikedhorwitz@aol.com](mailto:mikedhorwitz@aol.com)*

## Sailing at Rollesby Broad Sailing Club

*Mum says you've started sailing – how are you getting on Anna?*

**I think I like it Aunty Ann!**

*I have a friend who sails at a club, why don't you get in touch with her, she's a keen sailor!*

Admittedly, it was many months (*about 30*) before I followed this up, but I finally got round to coming in search of Jill Searle at Rollesby. This is going back 3 years now and I have learnt a huge amount from many good sailors who have given me patience and the benefit of their experience (as well as many 'let me off's' due to my lack of knowledge and experience at the start, middle and end of a race - and buoy rounding!! Thank-you!!)



I do not have my own boat, as some of you may be aware, I borrow the club

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boats and try my best with them. Initially, on a gusty, bit windy day, (*anything over 4 knots!*) I would opt for either a topper or worse, just watch.

"I'll wait and see how they get on – see if it drops a bit and maybe go out later, it's too windy for me at the moment"

I guess at the end of the day, you have to go out and see how to do it for yourself. How glad am I to have been pushed into getting on with it? Very! I did finally get the Laser out and persevered with it. I clearly remember the day I didn't capsize on a gust, I was sure I would. It just fell into place... don't panic, **L e a n O u t!** I do love windy, gusty days now, probably the best.

As well as the Club boats, Tony and I were lent Jim Searle's Wayfarer, a breed of boat I had learnt in and was a little familiar with. Little by little, as it does, confidence came and I began looking outside the boat. What a lot of you about at the start line with me!

I hope to continue sailing with you for some time to come. In the mean time, I may well go back to reading a 'How to sail' book and see if it makes any more sense than the other time I picked it up, though I was never too good with books!

My sincere thanks to all for maintaining RSBC, whether it's just in membership or actively taking part occasionally or on a regular basis providing a friendly enthusiastic group of sailors with whom I have enjoyed sailing with.

*Anna Wright*

## **Eels Foot Broad**

Just a reminder to those who sail through to the Eels Foot Broad to avoid the reed fringes and the three zones designated to protect birds. (See map in the clubhouse) This is a condition of the lease and subject to review at three year intervals.

## **Mixing Work and Play**

Waveney Sailability came about through the enthusiasm of a number of East Anglian based Rotary Clubs. It was the centenary year of the formation of Rotary International. Their members were searching for a worthwhile project that would mark this special year; many ideas were raised from putting monuments in parks to decorating roundabouts. They realised that the wonderful recreational facility of sailing on the Norfolk Broads could not be easily enjoyed by people with disabilities. Thus Waveney Sailability was born.

Raising funds became the order of the day. Money came from local trust charities e.g. Suffolk Single Gateway, Awards for All, Rotary Clubs and local companies as well as individuals. The staff at Barclays Bank did a sponsored rowing stunt; Radio Broadland sought sponsorship from its listeners and the Broads Authority generously added to the funds. In parallel with fund raising came the need to find a permanent home for the Club, and to provide qualified instructors. Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre provided enthusiastic help and has formally trained 10 (including 4 disabled) members of Sailability to RYA assistant instructor level and 6 to operate the safety boat. The Waveney and Oulton Broad Yacht

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Club, which has suitable floating landing stages, operates nearby and have allowed the use of their facilities as a meeting point.

The Club is now an independent charity; its ties remain strong with the local Rotary clubs since many of the helpers that turn out to prepare dinghies for the day's sailing and to help in general are Rotary members. We started this season, our third, with approximately 30 members. We have eight purpose designed Access dinghies, and two Squibs (these were gifts). One of these has been modified to take less capable sailors on the water with an experienced helmsman. Our rescue craft, a 5.4 Avon Commercial RIB with a special semi-submersible rescue mat, was presented to us at the beginning of this season by Tony Mobbs and his family in memory of his wife Thelma; the boat is named after her. Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre and Suffolk County Council kindly provided the engine, a 60hp Yamaha. They have also taken on the responsibility of maintaining it. In return for this gesture an agreement has been made for them to use the boat for their normal teaching sessions. So by making this unique agreement the boat will be in constant use serving the local community.

The club now seeks to be more ambitious; the first two seasons were aimed at providing the members with the taste of independence that sailing gives and we will continue to do this. This season, however, now that the Club has sufficient boats, we plan to offer the more experienced sailors the challenge of competition with the hope of joining the Access dinghy racing circuit and maybe the Para Olympics.

We meet each Tuesday from May to October at 1pm to 6.30pm. If you are interested in getting involved in any way give me a call on 01493 663837 or talk to me at the club. I find it good fun and very rewarding, especially when I got to use the facilities for real last season following my foot operation.

*Jackie Soards*

### **To Bin Or Not To Bin?**

Fortnightly refuse collection is a hot topic these days. We too have been having problems with what is being put in our two waste bins at either end of the Clubhouse. Some of it attracts the unwanted attention of local wildlife and such items as disposable nappies have not been appreciated by our team of voluntary unpaid refuse collectors. (we do not have a council collection.)

The Committee have therefore decided to remove both bins for a trial period and although there will still be bins inside the clubhouse, members are asked to take their rubbish home with them.

*Jim Anderson*

### **Albacore Nationals Swanage**

For the second year running Dennis Manning and I entered for the Albacore Nationals. The event consists of seven races held over three days. This year the venue was at Swanage, Dorset. We travelled down on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July and rigged the boat ready. Swanage is a picturesque seaside town which turned out to be very busy as the weekend coincided with the an-

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nual jazz festival.



As we set off for the briefing on Friday morning the wind was blowing at a force 4 but Swanage bay looked calm and inviting for a sail.- just the job for a "Broads Sailor" I thought. The race officer soon indicated, however, that we would be in for more of a challenge and that, because this was the "nationals," the races would be held out at sea. After dire warnings about submerged rocks just off the beach and strong currents over the shallows at the south of the bay we set sail with some trepidation on my part. The race course was a triangle and sausage with 1500 metre legs. With a plenty of sea room and a considerable swell this was vastly different to our usual sailing at Rollesby – a real treat! The breeze held up for the first race giving some fast reaches and "exciting runs". After two hours of racing we came in at mid fleet -17<sup>th</sup> out of 33. During the second race the breeze dropped to force 2 and the sea flattened with the turn of the tide. This made life easier for those with limited sea experience and we improved our position with a 14<sup>th</sup> place.

On Saturday we arrived to find a stiff

force 5 blowing and after setting out a bit late we reached out to the race course on the plane to arrive just before the start. The race was heavy going in a large swell but after some screaming reaches (just in control??) we finished 24<sup>th</sup>. At this stage the wind was getting stronger and we decided to go back ashore while the going was good. We arrive back at the beach to find a few others already there. During the next race we met the "casualties as they came in – broken mast, broken rudder, concussion etc and thought that dipping out might have been the right decision.

The last race of the day only attracted 17 hardy sailors. An early finish gave us time to listen to some jazz

Sunday dawned with a light force two North East and we set off in optimistic mood. After a good start we arrived at the windward mark in second place and stayed with the leaders to take 8th place, our best result and a "Top 10 "pennant.

In the last race a poor start and beat found us last at the first mark. (Those of you who know Dennis will realise that at this stage my status as helm was at an all time low!). During the race we improved our position in the fleet and on the last beat I elected to go inshore when the rest of the fleet went off shore. This tactic paid off as the wind veered and took the boat up to the mark whilst keeping out of the strong ebb tide. After overtaking a dozen boats we came in at 13<sup>th</sup>. We ended the series in 18<sup>th</sup> place compared with 28<sup>th</sup> last year. The overall winners, from the USA were Barney Harris and David Byron (Potomac River SC). Second was Orlando Gledhill crewed by Jon Frary (St Marys). Many of you will remember Jon when he sailed as a junior at Rollesby.



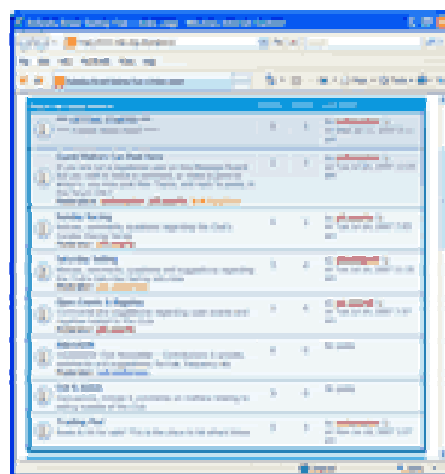
Swanage Sailing Club proved to be a good and friendly host to the event. They have 650 memberships and a waiting list. There is a large clubhouse next to the beach and launching area. Each evening the members put on a reception with food for the competitors. The race management was first class with clear instructions and good safety cover

*John Saddington*

## **[www.rbsc.org.uk](http://www.rbsc.org.uk)**

Recent changes and additions to the Club website have hopefully enhanced communication between members and the flow of up to date, and accurate, information to those officers of the Club who need it.

We're keen to encourage greater participation on the website by Club members. As such, the online Message Board has been replaced with a much more robust version, powered by an industrial strength backend database, capable of handling many users at the same time. The new Message Board is split into three areas: Public Forums (*viewable by anyone*), Member Only Forums (*only viewable by registered members*) and a Private Committee Only area. As well as being more robust and capable this new Message Board includes a private messaging system and allows simple Polls to be posted, we've moved Members Ads onto the Message Board, to enable Members to post their own Ads. Whilst we've registered most Committee Members and Club Officers, and forwarded them their login details, it is hoped many more Club members will register on the board making discussions more meaningful through their participation!



Before **YOU** register please visit and read posts in the **GETTING STARTED** section.

Our Gallery of images is great but it does rely on a frequent and regular stream of pictures being submitted to keep it fresh and topical. If you'd like your pictures included you can send them to me through the form provided in the Gallery itself. As always we'd welcome any additional content for publication on our websites home pages. Just forward your copy, along with any photos you'd like to include, to the webmaster.

Also, we are working on producing a survey to canvas Members opinions on the widest range of Club facilities and activities that members will be able to complete online. When it's ready, it will be published on the website. The address of the Club Website is **[www.rbsc.org.uk](http://www.rbsc.org.uk)**