

## DRAFT Blakeney Sailing Club Spring Briefing 2012

**Carnser clear up.** Early December saw a good turnout to help tidy up the Dinghy Park and enjoy the lovely mulled wine and minced pies provided by Silvia. Surprisingly there was more than the usual number of boats left on the Carnser despite a very high tide at the end of November.

**Sailing programme 2012** .The sailing programme for 2012 reflects a number of minor changes. Members have expressed a need for more social sailing activities and we have slightly reduced the number of race days in order to provide a better turnout by focussing on fewer days. We have also introduced a couple of days in which we will run a rowing race.

The programme starts with racing (sailing and rowing) at Easter. The first of the new social sailing events is in mid May. There is a Streaker weekend on the 9<sup>th</sup> June which may see some visiting racers. To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Norfolk 16s they will be joining the International 14s in early July. The Blakeney and Morston regattas are on the 21/22nd July and 4th of Augusts respectively. The fun week sees an extensive programme of sailing and social activities commencing on the 30<sup>th</sup> July. The North West Norfolk week sailing association visits us on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. The National trust will hold a number of events to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trust at Blakeney Point one of these, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August is the revival of the Marsh Marathon, last run in 1966. And the hog roast is on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Bosun.** We have over the years had some difficulty in finding racing marks that stay inflated for the whole season and are robust enough to withstand the rigours of Blakeney this year we will complete the deployment of the new rigid bouys, some of which were successfully trialled in 2011.

Another of the continual challenges the committee has been wrestling with is that of manning the rescue boats. This year we are going to pay the rescue boat drivers, part of the arrangement is that they will be out for both the racing and social sailing elements of the programme and will, as always, try to help all. The boats need a crew of 2 so we need volunteers to help.

**Subscriptions.** One of the consequences of the need to pay the safety boat drivers is that we will be increasing the subscriptions more than inflation this year. As you will see from the enclosed form, subscriptions for racers has increased by £20 and for non racers the increase is £10. With some 40 or so sailing events in the programme club membership is very good value for money.

**Winter lunch.** Following a successful lunch at the Moorings after the committee meeting in December David Woodcock has arranged for us to have our winter lunch at the Blakeney Moorings Restaurant, The only drawback is that there is limit of 40 on the number of people, as only 38 people attended last year's winter lunch there should be sufficient space however, to be sure you get a place please book early.

**Website update.** Trevor Carnell has been working hard to develop our web site and 4 new web tools:

1. New email address and corresponding mail box [sailing.blakeney@gmail.com](mailto:sailing.blakeney@gmail.com)
2. A Google calendar to track/manage the race and social activities and to also enable auto-alerts for each event <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=sailing.blakeney%40gmail.com&ctz=Europe/London>
3. A Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Blakeney-Sailing-Club/115657908546638>
4. A Google+ (the new Google version of Facebook). This will link in with all we do through GMail and Calendar <https://plus.google.com/112908588457941462876>

This is at an early stage, when it becomes available he will get the sailing dates uploaded so that I you can view them through Google Calendar. He will then link these in to those race and social sailors through your mailing address to ensure that you receive regular updates on what's coming over the proceeding weeks. If you have any suggestion please let him know through the face book page.

**MCZ.** I mentioned in the autumn newsletter that there has been a recommendation to designate part of the harbour a Marine Conservation Zone Reference Area. At a recent Parish Council meeting some 20 organisation were united in their opposition to this as it restricts a lot of activity (including sailing) in the harbour but also because the area is already covered by 6 different types of statutory protection. The Parish has written to the minister responsible

**Dinghy Park.** We need volunteers to help with the preparation of the dinghy park for the 2012 sailing season. Please meet at the Dinghy Park at 9:00 am on the 4th of March. The parish council are along with the dinghy park committee working getting the "Kingfisher" hulk moved from the dinghy park. The owner has agreed to move it, if he does not the council eventually will.