

Blakeney Sailing Club summer briefing 2012

Sailing

The dinghy park filled up promptly after the 1st of March in anticipation of good sailing weather. Racing started with mixed but cold conditions over Easter. This also saw the start of the clubs inaugural rowing race. Windy conditions so far this season have lead to a number of cancelled races but those brave enough to cope have had some exciting sailing.

Social sailing

The first formal social sailing event was held In mid May when a breeze and beautifully blue sky tempted thirteen boats and eighteen social sailors to catch the scant tide and, laden with goodies to share, to head for the Point. For some it was the first time to moor at Pinchen's Creek, for others it was the first time to have sausage rolls, quiche, flapjacks - and more - mid sail. The second of the May weekend's social sails had even less water and a lot more wind. Buffeted by a stiffening breeze we whizzed up the Cley channel - a first for some -and almost surfed out again on some crazy surges but, and very importantly, still managed to picnic briefly and deliciously on the Watch House bank. Shared conversation, food and drink on shared water and wind: the very first social sailing events in the Blakeney Sailing Club calendar were felt to be a great success. If you want to see Blakeney social sailing then here is the link to the film we made. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCgtihzgLYA> . Unlike conditions on the Thames, the weather for the Blakeney jubilee pageant proved to be dry with light winds. There was a good turnout of over 65 boats. As planned the fleet sailed in line ahead from the Blakeney cut past the quay and the Red house around a turning mark and back past the quay. The boats and participants were well decorated with bunting, flags and royal regalia and were rewarded with applause and acclaim by the people waiting on the quay. There was a very good picture in the EDP and Steve Soanes took some excellent pictures which can be found on our website. <http://www.blakeney sailing.co.uk/IMAGES/Jubilee/index.htm>

Open meeting

High winds resulted in the cancellation of the first day of the Streaker open but the second day saw a fleet of local and visiting boats battle it out over two races in light conditions. The Sunday also saw the completion of the wells to Blakeney charity row that had been organised by Vicky Holliday. The galley provided welcome refreshments for all

Fun week

Commences on the 30th of July with a leisurely bike ride. As with previous years we are offering a range of boat and land based events. If conditions allow are going to see if we can get everyone to come for a day at the point on the 1st or 2nd of Augusts. This means going out on the last of the morning tide and returning on the first of the evening tide. This year the North West Norfolk sailing association holds its race at Blakeney in the middle of the fun week. So members can either participate in the race or sail independently. Having won last year's BSC v. Cockle cricket match on the Blakeney playing fields we need to make sure that we have a good turnout to defend our title and to provide tea.

Blakeney regatta is on the weekend of the 21st July and Morston Regatta on the 4th of August and the Marsh marathon on Sunday 5th August, This race is a revival of relay race run in the 1960's. The object is to carry a baton from Blakeney Quay to the Old Lifeboat House on Blakeney Point and back. It is a team race with no limit on team members, it can be a one individual to any number but combustion engines or electric outboards are forbidden. The race is open to any team and there is no age limit young or old and drug testing will not take place. There will be categories from the following: - Sailing, rowing, running, swimming, cycling and any combination of these is allowed. The start and finish line is the Grease Pole on the north side of Blakeney Quay. Entry and Briefing for competitors will be at 0815 with a proposed start at 0845. The national trust are providing free guided trail with wardens and encouraging picnickers on the same day.

Last year's golf outing was successful if you would like to take part this year please contact Alan Robinson

The mid week holiday racing starts on the 20th of August, We are very keen to encourage younger members to take part, there are lots of cups. So I look forward to a good turnout.

Rowing

Vicky Holliday who has been rowing in the harbour for a number of years is keen to increase the number of rowers from the initial 6 people who have rowed in a variety of boats. She is happy to provide coaching to new rowers as well as providing competitive activities during the forthcoming regatta, marsh marathon and racing schedule.

Outboard security.

In order to attempt to counteract the theft of outboards Alan Robinson has very kindly built a contraption that locks the outboard in place on the boat into the ground. The cover of the outboard has been replaced with a soft one provided by the police and the engine has been micromarked by the police.

Club house

Steve Soanes has replaced last year's frieze with an up-to-date one for this year which looks very good. I mentioned in last summer's news letter that the National trust would like to borrow the clubhouse. At last they have agreed to for several days this summer. They will have access, on a none-exclusive basis, at times when we have nothing in the sailing programme. This will not preclude members using the facility at any time.

Marketing Team

To help promote the club and make better use of IT the committee has formed a small sub-group. The group is actively involved in developing ways to let everyone know about the club. This will be done through the Website, via social media, with leaflets and by sprucing up notice boards on the hut and the clubhouse. We would like everyone to contribute to this activity so if you can spare some time to tell us about your sailing experiences in Blakeney or can help in this activity please contact Bill Glauert billglauert@gmail.com or take a look at the Website

Annual Club Dinner

The club is again going to hold its Annual Club Dinner at the Cley Village Hall on the 24th August. As with last year we will start at 7.30 pm for drinks before sitting down at 8.00 pm. This year the speaker will be

Your invitation to the 2012 dinner is enclosed. One of the most difficult parts of arranging the annual dinner is fixing the numbers, both last year and the year before we filled the venue to capacity (which is why we moved to Cley). So it would be immensely helpful and would secure your place if you could let Ann know how many tickets you need. anncleall@btinternet.com; Last year's success was partly due to the help from a number of volunteers with the myriad of tasks that goes into making the event such fun. Ann Cleall, who is leading this year's bash, is looking for volunteers to help with the preparation, please let her know if you can help.

Agm

AGM Sunday the 5th of August at 15:00 at the Blakeney Hotel, please support your club and come and tell us what you want from it.

We have lots of activities lined up for this summer so I look forward to seeing you all out on the water.

Joe Carr
Commodore