

Blakeney Sailing Club Spring Briefing 2013

Carnser clear up. The attraction of mulled wine and minced pies combined with the prospect of heavy labour ensured a good turn-out to help with the clear up of the dinghy park in December. This was followed by a very pleasant Sunday Lunch at the Moorings.

Although currently snow is thick on the ground, it is only a month or so until the Dinghy park opens at the beginning of March. In the meantime the National Trust will cut the grass and Edward Allen will be leading a working party on Sunday the 24th February at 10:00 to prepare the Dinghy park for the 2013 season.

Sailing programme 2013. The sailing programme continues to evolve to meet members' requirements with additional rowing and social sailing complementing the usual racing programme. The season starts with racing for both rowing and sailing boats on Good Friday. The first social sailing event is on the weekend of the 11th of May.

The International 14s and 16s event is combined with a Streaker Event at the end of July. The annual fun week with a range of sailing and social activities commences on the 4th August in the midst of which the North West Norfolk Sailing Association comes to Blakeney on the 8th and the week concludes with the Blakeney Regatta on the 10th & 11th. Following last year's success, the Marsh Marathon will be run on the 17th of August with the added complication of a neap tide, so no rowing or sailing over the Marsh will be possible. This should make it far more interesting and a great deal muddier!

In order to make it easier for juniors and novices to get into racing we are, in conjunction with Norfolk etc. (the local sailing school), providing a race training day on the 18th of August so that people who would like to try racing but would like some practice and coaching, can get a chance to do this prior to the commencement of the race week on the 19th. A separate page covering this is attached to this Briefing. Please pass this on to anyone you know who would like to give it a try

As usual the annual Hog Roast will be held on the Friday of the race week, August 23rd. With the prospect of a large tide and an early start on the Saturday for the Morston Regatta.

Blakeney Rowing Club (report from Vicky Holliday) /CRABlakeney has an exciting program of racing next year. The first race is on Good Friday, 29th March. Do please come along. I am organising a Rowing Camp from the Watch House July 24-28th - expeditions, racing, fun. All rowers and kayakers are invited. The Blakeney Crabbers are hard at work on their skiff, Hoi Larntan, which is coming on apace. Many thanks to all of you who have been involved so far. Check us out on crablakeney.wordpress.com. Do come and lend a hand if you can. We are also planning our skiff rowing debut at the Skiffie World Championships in Ullapool July 8-14th - we need lots of rowers so please let me know if you would be interested in taking part. We will be providing skiff rowing coaching in June for all those wanting to row, whether world champions or not. Victoria Holliday 01263740348 and Ian Duffill on flinthouse2@btinternet.com

Social Sailing (report from Susie Emmett) In these cold and dark non-sailing months we have been thinking ahead to the social side of our sailing. As a result we have some great social sails planned in the BSC calendar 2013, giving us plenty of chances to use the tides and breeze to explore our fabulous sailing area - and enjoy pop-up picnics on our way. We will also introduce a couple of fun contests such as our very own adaptation of orienteering on the water. We will be making more use of online media to keep in touch, to share what we are doing with club members and those that are interested to join. You will already have heard about our Facebook page (Blakeney Sailing Club) which we invite everyone to contribute to. It is lovely to see the photos and stories being shared there. There are changes being made to our website so it will be even more useful to us all. It has been great to be approached by prospective new members for our Club who have been attracted by the sound of the social 'side' of what we do. So look out for those new faces and boats and say hello to them.

Bosun. Having successfully trialled Alan Robinson's anti-theft device during 2012, we have now purchased a second outboard engine to replace that which was stolen in 2011. And Alan has kindly volunteered to

manufacture another of his devices. Hopefully the success in discouraging the thieves during 2012 can be sustained.

As with 2012 Geoff Cleall and Mike Rush will be organising the safety boats this year and should you know anyone who would like to go out with them and can help with rescue activities please contact Geoff. g.cleall@btinternet.com

Subscriptions. Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2013 membership renewal form.

As you will see, following a number of years of having to increase the subscription, we have, other than the introduction of a fee for Rowers' racing, taken a break from this practice and kept them the same as in the 2012.

Winter lunch. David Woodcock has again kindly arranged the winter lunch for us at the Blakeney Moorings, an invitation is enclosed with this newsletter, and as space is limited please respond to the invite soon to ensure your place.

Marine Conservation Zones. I understand that the Environment Agency have decided not to proceed with establishing a reference MCZ (rR4A) on the south side of the harbour. Had it gone ahead this would have restricted the sailing and boating activities in the harbour.

Dredging. (report from David Woodcock) Sometimes one begins to understand how Sysiphus must have felt. Last time we had the good news of the grant, and a small subcommittee was created to take the matter forward. But, as is sometimes the way, the initial meeting allowed us to get carried away and when we received the revised proposals for the scheme, the costs had gone through the roof and we all took fright and were back to square one.

As a first step a report was prepared for the Parish Council to gain their support for what we intended to try and do, and this was forthcoming. The second was to focus efforts on the Bridge sand area by straightening and deepening the channel. A meeting has been arranged with the various interested parties, The Crown (who own the sea bed), National Trust, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation. This is due to take place very shortly and the outcome will determine whether the project has a life. I will keep you updated.

As this is all our news at this time, I look forward to the sailing season and seeing you on the water.

Joe Carr
Commodore