

Blakeney Sailing Club Spring Briefing 2014

The **Carnser clear up** with, what is now becoming the traditional, mince pies and mulled wine, was well attended. However there was not much to clear up as the storm surge on the previous Thursday had swept the Carnser clear. The Starters hut was found in pieces over a mile away and its contents were strewn all over the marsh. A few bits and pieces have been found but the Hut and contents are now the subject of an insurance claim. The good news is that despite being pushed up on to the Quay the committee boat "lapwing" was refloated with almost no damage. Some of you may have seen the photographs of the sea beating against the door of the club house, fortunately that too held and only allowed about 5mm of water into the club house, this was bailed out on the evening of the surge and, other than the fuse on the fridge tripping, there was no damage.

Those of you who have had the opportunity to inspect the remains of the sea wall near the Carnser will have seen that some of the Dinghy Park and much of the bank nearby has been destroyed and, as yet, I am not aware of any plans to rebuild the sea wall so it looks like we may have lost a small part of the dinghy park. The Environment Agency will be holding a drop in session (Blakeney Scout Hut - behind Village Hall) on Thursday 13th Feb 2.30pm - 7.00pm to get your views. I am sure they will eventually come up with a plan. However, this might take some time, In the meantime preparation for the 2014 season must go on. Therefore Edward Allen will be leading the traditional Dinghy Park preparation group which will meet at 10am on Saturday 22nd Feb for a chaining session on Dinghy Park. If you can help please bring heavy gloves, sledge hammers, heavy spanners and strimmers.

Programme: 2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of Blakeney sailing club and your committee have been working hard to provide a sailing programme, social activities and some interesting souvenirs and mementoes to mark the occasion. The programme drawn up by Sean Moore (attached with amplified notes) provides the usual mix of Racing and Social sailing together with some new activities. One important feature of this season is that we do not have an individual dedicated to being Bosun, so we will all need to participate in order to help provide the patrol boat cover that we need. As you can see from the sailing programme, there are a number of gaps to be filled.

Review of Rules and Regulations: . One of the more onerous jobs that has been undertaken by John Seymour over the winter months has been that of reviewing and revising the various rules and regulations that the club has to have. This has been in order to reduce duplication and to make them more coherent and up to date. These are currently being reviewed by your committee and will be published in the year book.

Rowing: (Report by Victoria Holliday) Having Hoi Larntan on Barton Broad for the winter has proved a success with many mince pie-fuelled calm sunny outings. CRAB is up to 28 members so it is fortunate we have been building a second skiff which we plan to launch around the Easter weekend. We have an ambitious racing schedule for the spring/summer, which may be pruned, but at present includes Boston, Massachusetts, Cork, Venice, the south and east coasts, Glasgow, our own Blakeney Regatta, and another Watch House Rowing Camp. We will be holding free public Taster sessions in Blakeney when we bring Hoi Larntan back, and hope to encourage more members especially amongst the young.

Dredging: The damage from the tidal surge has put the dredging plans back into the melting pot. Many more options can now be considered but they might take a long time to come to fruition. For example, if they decide not to rebuild the sea wall between Blakeney and Cley this will substantially alter the amount of water flowing in and out of the harbour which will change the requirement for dredging.

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.

Subscriptions: For the second year in succession we have agreed not to increase the subscriptions so they will be kept the same as last year. However, if you would like to make a donation to the club please fill in the appropriate part of the form as we are now in a position to be able to reclaim gift aid on donations. Please also be sure to sign the form to confirm that you have the appropriate insurance.

Outboard Motor Thefts: We have been informed by Iain Wolfe of the National Trust that there has been a spate of attempted thefts along the coast at the Brancaster and Burnham area. One was successfully foiled by the public and this is just to remind you to be alert to any suspicious people/activity in and around boats.

We look forward to a successful and fair weather season on the water.

Joe Carr

Commodore

PS: Please see amplified sailing notes below.

AMPLIFIED NOTES FOR SAILING, ROWING AND SOCIAL EVENTS 2014

A) Easter – Four days of sailing with two races scheduled for each day. With the renewed emphasis on safety and training it is hoped that as many as possible will attend the Race Officer training, being provided by Matt Boreham, after racing on Good Friday.

B) 17/18th May - Featuring the RYA “Push the boat out” initiative to encourage newcomers to the sport. There is a race scheduled on the Saturday with a Social sailing event on the Sunday.

C) 31st May/1st June – By popular demand two social sailing events. Please be rigged and ready to go by the times shown in the programme. The plan of action will be made on the day in the light of existing conditions and the composition of the fleet. Please contact Susie Emmett for further information on Social Sailing Events.

D) 14th June – Racing includes a rowing race. Will the race officer please ensure that the rowers finishing times are recorded? Any queries regarding rowing events should be directed to Vicky Holliday.

E) 12th July – A day on the West Sands, at the point, beckons as the tides are early and late this weekend. We sail out on the morning tide and return on the evening one. Lots of refreshment, fun and games have featured at this event over the last two years and a repeat is hoped for. We may hold this over to the Sunday if the weather is unfavourable.

F) 27th July - Fun Week with lots of Social Sailing and land based activities including tennis, cycling and the popular guided walk. Day to day plans will appear on the Carnser hut as decided by Joe Carr, Susie Emmett and the weather. We will be joined by the North West Norfolk Sailing Association event on the Tuesday and Wednesday for some competitive racing.

G) 2/3rd August – The annual Morston Regatta and rowing race takes place on the Saturday morning followed by the BSC versus the Cockle and Oyster cricket match. BSC were the easy winners last year (we had the better “ringers”) so the C&O team will be hungry for revenge! Sunday sees the third modern running of the Marsh Marathon when competitors will risk life and limb in pursuit of out of date National Trust biscuits. The rules will be explained on the day but it is simply a matter of getting a baton to the Lifeboat House and back to the quay as quickly as possible. As many as you like in a team and entries to Edward Allen on the day.

H) 11th August – Mid Week Holiday Sailing (MWHS) commences. We hope to have race training on the Monday and be joined by youngsters, who have been taught to sail by Norfolk Etc, so there will be challenges for all skill levels.

I) 15th August – The annual Hog Roast is scheduled for this Friday night. We plan to have this at Cley village hall where it has been such a success for the last few years. Please contact Ann Cleall for tickets.

J) 16/17th August - Our blue riband event Blakeney Regatta and Rowing Race. This is a pursuit race. The slowest boats start first followed by the flying machines. First boat home is the winner. Lots of prizes and a great event to take part in whatever your skill level. Entry and course on the day. Everyone is welcome at the Club’s AGM at 3pm at the Blakeney Hotel, on Saturday.

K) 6th September – An innovation in that the Cockle Club have kindly agreed to allow BSC members to helm their splendid Cockles in a race. Please meet at the National Trust building on Morston quay at 3pm. There is talk of a social event afterwards.

L) Sunday 7th December – time to clean up the Carnser ready for next year!

Sean Moore

Rear Commodore Sailing

17/1/14