

Blakeney Sailing Club Mid Season Newsletter

A gang of willing helpers managed to erect the new hut on the Carnser, paid for by the insurance company in replacement for that lost during the surge. Thanks to John Seymour for not only fitting out the inside of the hut but also for procuring much of the replacement equipment that we had lost. Steve Soanes produced a stunning 2014 yearbook.

Sailing

As Easter was late this year the season started slightly later than normal and the warmer weather encouraged a good turnout for the racing in April. Patsy Seymour's brilliant idea of getting some one from the RNLI to man the safety boat has worked very well, not only bringing their RNLI expertise to the job but also giving them the experience of dealing with capsized dinghies. Matt provided a very helpful couple of hours race officer training which not only helped people new to the task but also reminded the experienced of what they should be doing. The RYA "PUSH THE BOAT OUT" initiative was led at Blakeney by Alan Collett who, with his helpers, organised a Blakeney sailing experience of trips in various boats. This has led to BSC gaining a number of new members.

Warming weather and water make social sailing at Blakeney all the more of a pleasure. Our social sails this year are attracting new sailors and their boats to join us. Although there was some surprise with the break from traditional racing for the RNLI Pennant the social event successfully raised nearly £150.00. The International 14s had a weekend of good though cold northerly breezes which provided enjoyable racing.

As we pass midsummer we have plenty of tides to look forward to. We have our first Point Day of the year in the second weekend of July when we hope to have a happy flotilla of all sorts of boats setting off to round Blakeney point on the last of the outgoing tide to enjoy a day on the sands before returning on the first of the next tide. If you've never done a Point Day then don't miss out this year. It's a unique experience that Blakeney sailors can have. It gives you a whole new perspective on the harbour we sail in - not to mention the chance to take part in a grand bring and share picnic followed by an energetic game of rounders. Soon after that we have the Sailing Club Fun Week with a whole week of sailing and much more. What's not to like?

Rowers

Exciting times for CRABbers! A beautifully crafted second skiff, a membership of 40 and a trophy for the fastest 4 oar wooden boat in the Cork Ocean to City race, not to mention being singled out as the second prettiest boat in the Regatta! Thanks very much to Antonia for towing the skiff all the way across the Welsh Marches and the Irish Sea. We've also taken out some very enthusiastic Gresham's Cadets and young people from the Holt Youth Project.

A group of CRABbers took part in the Vogalonga, in Venice, which is a 30km procession of 1500 rowing boats in and around the island. Later this summer we will be rowing around Osea Island, Hayling Island, Southend Pier, and hosting the Morston and Blakeney Regattas and the Broads Tour to which lots of clubs have signed up. This is in addition to our popular Wells -Blakeney excursion and Watchhouse Rowing Camp.

We're already planning our autumn schedule with two boats entered for the Great River Race in London in September, where we will be defending our position against the other St Ayles skiffs, especially the Dutch!

Forthcoming events

Fun week commences on the 27th of July with a day at the Point followed by the usual mix of sailing and social activities including Cycling, Walking, Tennis and an evening in the White Horse on the 31st (please let Sean know if you want to go). This year we are going to host the North West Norfolk Sailing Association on two days, the 29th and 30th of July, those that want to race can join in (for a fee). The Marsh Marathon will be held again on the 3rd of August. This is followed the next day with the commencement of Race week on the 11th of August with some of the highest tides of the year.

New Chandlery

I was recently walking around Neil Thompson's boat yard in Glandford and I took the opportunity to look at the new chandlery shop which he has installed in a mezzanine floor in his big shed. The shop fills the gap left by the closure of

Perry Long's Maritime chandlery and he stocks all those little bits and pieces, fittings and rope we need as well as Honda outboard engines. The shop is open 7 days a week.

AGM/Volunteers

A number of key offices of the Club will become vacant at the AGM in August, several people have put their names forward for election, you too might like to help run the club. The AGM is on the 16th August at 3pm in the Blakeney Hotel; make sure your voice is heard.

75th Anniversary Dinner

The Club is going to hold its Annual Club Dinner at the Blakeney Village Hall on Friday 15th August. Not only does Blakeney have more capacity but also has a bar which will provide beer and wine so don't bring your own. We will start at 7:00 pm for drinks before sitting down at 7:30 pm. Your invitation to the 2014 75th Anniversary dinner is enclosed. In a number of previous years at Binham and Cley we have been full to capacity so this year there should be room for everyone and their guests. In order to ensure you get a place at this Celebratory event could you let Ann know how many tickets you need as soon as possible ann@tignes.co.uk ; last year's success was partly due to the help from a number of volunteers with the myriad of tasks that go into making the event such fun. Ann Cleall, who is leading this year's bash, is looking for volunteers to help. There will be a preparatory meeting in the club room on the 28th July after sailing (around 10:30) for all helpers. If you have any photos that you would like to see on the projector please send them to Steve Soanes. This year's event is more expensive than previous years to pay for the commemorative goodies.

Update on repairing the sea defences at Blakeney Freshes from the Environment Agency (summary of update for the Parish Council on the 3rd of June)

"Repairing the defences will be very expensive and the cost exceeds the amount which can be justified from the national flood risk management budget applying the usual criteria. The Freshes are of high nature conservation interest and are covered by environmental site protection legislation. We have held discussions with Defra based upon advice from Natural England on the legal responsibilities in relation to the designated features and habitats. It has been concluded that it is sustainable to conserve this site in situ in the short term (approx 20 years). During this time an adaptive management approach can be adopted which recognises it is inevitable that these habitats will evolve over time. The meetings with local interest have been very constructive and it have provided sufficient confidence for us to develop firm proposals for implementing works later this summer. JacksonHyder have now been appointed our contractors. The contractor is currently preparing detailed designs and estimates for some alternative approaches. When this information is available we can finalise the funding position and then provide full details of the works we propose to undertake".

Dredging

"One of the major problems for the project is the disposal of the spoil estimated at around 6500 cubic metres, an initial idea was to spread it over the Dinghy Park but this could at best account for about 20% still leaving a major problem. Following the damage to the sea bank in last Decembers tidal surge a thought was whether out spoil could be used to repair the Bank. Contact has been established with the Dept of Environment and the thought was not instantly ruled out but we were asked to obtain a particle analysis to see whether the spoil was suitable, that has just been received and an initial appreciation is that the spoil might be suitable. This is a very small step forward but in the right direction. However there is still a very long way to go. We continue to press."

A tip from your Rear Commodore

Keen to widen your sailing experiences? Sean Moore has been scouring Europe for enjoyable and affordable sailing venues and enjoyed a very good weeks sailing with <http://www.windfornells.com/en> in Menorca.

Joe Carr - Commodore