

Blakeney Sailing Club Spring Briefing 2015

Carnser clear up: Blakeney Dinghy Park Committee Regulation 2 states: “No items may be left on the ‘dinghy park’ between 1st December and the 1st March. These dates are mandatory and will be strictly enforced. Owners who transgress will find their craft removed without notice even if the period is only a day. [Regulation 10 will apply]”

For those who remember the Wombles of Wimbledon, that is what the clear up on 7th December 2014 felt like to me. Many hands make light work and light work was made of clearing the Carnser last December. There was some confusion as to what time it started so those who arrived earlier than others got a head start to keep warm! It is surprising what is left behind at the end of a season and ended up on John Seymour’s trailer (thanks John) to be taken and disposed of. It seems strange to write about this as a social event but that is certainly what it was. Thanks to all who contributed to the craic, the mince pies, mulled wine etc. A shorter committee meeting than October’s followed, after which we adjourned to The Moorings for a well deserved and warming lunch.

Winter work: The club has carried out necessary servicing to our patrol boat outboard engines and repairs to Lapwing are underway (thanks to James Cowan of Norfolk etc for the use of his yard, facilities and help launching her again). Before the start of the sailing season there is still more work to be carried out on Lapwing. Other work that must be undertaken includes sourcing and replacing the channel marker and beacon poles, and securing the mooring chain that was removed during the work on the Carnser. And of course we need the racing hut to be got into position (thanks to Charlie Ward for looking after it) and racing buoys (thanks to Edward Allen for looking after them).

Programme: Your committee – thanks to Séan Moore - has produced an eventful calendar of races, regattas, social sailing, social gatherings and, a new venture, the Pursuit Race and Picnic (more below). It cannot be denied that Blakeney Sailing Club is primarily a racing club but it is also a social one and there is a welcome for all who want to spend time on the

waters at Blakeney in any way at all.

BSC has a new fixture, two Pursuit Race and Picnic events. These are designed to be truly inclusive for all in the club. The first will take place in July and the second in August, with modifications if required! Those wanting to race would have the additional enjoyment of a handicapped bank start, similar to the Regatta starts; the race would follow the course set by the Race Officer of the day and would end after one hour, the leading boat being declared the winner. At this event, racing is not compulsory, those wanting to free sail, paddle or row would enjoy the benefits of the patrol boats and the camaraderie of the club. All would meet after an hour at an agreed site to share picnics and have a good mardle. This would be a good time to experience each other's boats. I rather suspect there will be cups awarded for this event!

Rowing: The club has received a letter from the Coastal Association of Blakeney, CRAB, stating it will not be registering all its members in BSC as before but encouraging members to join BSC in their own individual right. We hope many CRAB members will want to continue their membership with us. BSC wishes CRAB continuing success and looks forward to hearing more from them.

Winter lunch: Sunday 1st March 2015 is the date, 1pm is the time, The Moorings, Blakeney is the venue and Ann Cleall is the person to contact on ann@tignes.co.uk or 01263 710043 Numbers are limited so early application is advised, please see separate booking form.

Money matters: The club has managed to keep its membership fees at 2013 levels. These are now due, together with declaration that your boats have adequate insurance and in particular hold insurance against 3rd party claims in the sum of at least £2,000,000 arising from any one incident.

The club is a registered Community Amateur Sports Club (Reg.No. CASC 05631) and therefore able to increase the value your donations by 25%, if you feel inclined to make a donation, now is a very good time.

Members of Blakeney Sailing Club will this year be able to advertise items for sale on www.blakeneyclub.co.uk Please log on to this site for more details

Lastly the club is grateful to Ann Cleall for continuing to run the 100 Club raising money to support the club, new members are always welcome.

Volunteering: The club could not enjoy the facilities offered at Blakeney without the enthusiasm of its volunteers. Volunteers are needed to support the various events planned for this year; it is hoped that the club members will view these opportunities as occasions to have fun together.

Sylvia Levette has said how happy she has been with the support she has had in the Galley and if you feel motivated to help her please step forward.

The club continues to have the benefit of professional helms to run the patrol boats. We welcome back Chris Keys, he is joined by Steve Banks and we hope they will be very happy in our patrol boats. Tony Webster, through knee injury is unable to help us this year, get better soon Tony. Remember to be effective each patrol boat requires another set of hands, a volunteer to act as crew. Please volunteer to help them.

The Race Officers will be trained again by Matt Boreham after sailing on Good Friday, 3rd April 2015. Each Race Officer will need volunteers to assist the organisation of the club's races, to help keep an eye out for the safety of the sailors and liaising with the patrol boats.

Volunteering is fun and helps keep the club afloat; you can register your interest by contacting Jane Armstrong on armstrong.jane7@gmail.com

Alan Collett

Commodore

PS: Please see amplified sailing notes below.

AMPLIFIED NOTES FOR SAILING, ROWING AND SOCIAL EVENTS 2015

The fun begins with:

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 Vice Commodore Matt Boreham, after racing on Good Friday. There will be an organized cruise on the Monday in addition to racing.

B) 16/17th May - Featuring the RYA “Push the boat out” initiative to encourage newcomers to the sport. Featuring racing, cruising and rowing on both days. Please invite anyone you know who might like to take to the water. Members with two (or more) man boats are asked to make them available. There is a race scheduled on both days along with the opportunity to try rowing a skiff.

C) 6/7th June – The RNLi Pennant weekend The object is to raise funds for the Lifeboat so there will be a charge of £5 per boat per day. The Sheringham Lifeboat (other duties permitting) will attend on the Sunday and visit the quay for a bit of bucket rattling!

D) 11th July/9th August – BSC has a new fixture, two Pursuit Race and Picnic events. These are designed to be truly inclusive for all in the club. The first will take place in July and the second in August, with modifications if required! Those wanting to race would have the additional enjoyment of a handicapped bank start, similar to the Regatta starts; the race would follow the course set by the Race Officer of the day and would end after one hour, the leading boat being declared the winner. At this event, racing is not compulsory, those wanting to free sail, paddle or row would enjoy the benefits of the patrol boats and the camaraderie of the club. All would meet after an hour at an agreed site to share picnics and have a good mardle.

E) 12th July - Hop on/Hop off – not the Coast Hopper but another innovation, this time at the behest of the rowers who have suggested mixing in with the sailors and heading off to the Watch House. There the crews will change, giving sailors the opportunity to row and vice versa. Similar swops could take place at the Lifeboat House. An opportunity not to be missed!

F) 3/7th August – Mid Week Holiday Sailing with racing every day including the North West Norfolk Sailing Association day on Wednesday when we can expect to be joined by their competitive fleet. Friday features the Morston Regatta with a bank start at Blakeney.

G) 8th August – The Marsh Marathon returns, with teams invited to use any non-motorised means of transporting a baton from Blakeney quay to the Lifeboat House and back. There are very few rules. Good planning and aggressive tactics have proved useful in the last two runnings of this event with the current record standing at 39 minutes. Risking life and limb, in this fashion, has been rewarded with stale biscuits in the past so we are anticipating a very competitive field! £10 entry per team.

H) 9th August – Another Pursuit/picnic as run in July with any adjustments made in the light of experience.

I) 15/16th August – Blakeney Regatta weekend with the BSC versus the Cockle and Oysters cricket match on Saturday afternoon. BSC lead two one in this series so we expect the C&Os to bring their A game this year. Will those that wish to play, or help with the teas, please let Sean Moore know?

J) 17/21st August – Fun week commences with a proposed day out on the West Sand. Food, drink and sun lotion are essential! This, along with all the subsequent events, is subject to a decision, which will be made on the day in the light of prevailing conditions. Joe Carr and Susie Emmett have kindly agreed to run these events. Please be rigged and ready to go at the time shown in the programme. Cycling, tennis and the ever popular walk are all scheduled for when the tide is out.

K) 21st August – The annual Hog Roast. This was a huge success last year, when we celebrated our 75th anniversary at Blakeney village hall. Tickets will be available from Ann Cleall on a “first come – first served” basis. This is always a super evening so put it on your calendar now!

L) 30th August – Our AGM will take place at the Blakeney Hotel at 15:00. All welcome.

M) Sunday 7th December – time to clean up the Carnser ready for next year! This will be followed by a Club lunch, which should be booked with Ann Cleall.

Sean Moore

Rear Commodore Sailing

3rd February