

Blakeney Sailing Club Spring Briefing 2016

Spring is just around the corner or, by the time you read this, may have already arrived. The London Boat show has come and gone but there may be still time to go to the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show on 5th and 6th March at Alexandra Palace

Boats may be brought back to the dinghy park from Tuesday 1st March (Blakeney Dinghy Park Committee Regulation 2).

The Parish Council will not be charging for parking your boat on the Dinghy Park this year. The proposed charge has been postponed until after the first dredging of the cut, which is expected to take place in the Spring of 2017. Minutes from the Joint Dinghy Park Management Committee meeting of 25th November 2015 state:

“After careful consideration, it was proposed & agreed that following representations from a number of organisations and individuals, the Joint Management Group of The Dinghy Park have decided to defer the introduction of the proposed charge for boats using the Dinghy Park and to undertake a further consultation programme with the local community. Also that we produce a very simple questionnaire that goes out to the whole community (a page in the GVN which can be completed and returned), to those boat owners registered with us as users of the Dinghy Park, the Blakeney Sailing Club website, Blakeney Harbour Association Website and the Blakeney Parish Council website.”

Clubhouse Lease: After 21 years the lease will expire in July 2017. Your committee is in negotiation with the Parochial Church Council regarding the renewal of the lease for the Church Rooms. We are waiting to hear from the council if our proposed rent of £4500 per year would be acceptable. When we have heard from the Council, it is our intention to call an Extraordinary General Meeting when BSC members will be asked to decide if they wish to accept the terms of the new lease.

Youth Members / Less skilled sailors: The committee have updated the BSC Youth Policy, Annual Youth Consent Form, Sailing Instructions and Intention to Race Form. Last year the committee indicated that it was minded to be more inclusive of Youth Members. Parents or guardians still need to sign once a year for youths under 18 years showing that they accept responsibility for them. The committee has recognised that older sailors as well as younger sailors might be considered less skilled or less

experienced; as such these members will be encouraged to make themselves known to the organiser at the beginning of each event. They will be encouraged to sail within their capabilities.

Please see updated policies which are on the club's website, in the clubhouse and the race hut.

Winter work: Lapwing (AKA Alan Robinson) sent BSC warm greetings for the New Year; she is under her new cover moored at the west end of the quay (thanks Alan). You may need to study the positions of the racing buoys! There will be an additional one between the current buoys 2 and 3. You will find that the current buoy 4 has moved further east and another buoy placed between it and current buoy 3. Maps will be produced and will be included in the Yearbook.

The necessary maintenance of our patrol boats and their outboard engines has been completed. Other work being undertaken includes the maintenance of beacon poles, checking and replacing as necessary the sinkers and chains of the racing buoys and Lapwing's mooring ground tackle.

Before the season can get under way the racing hut will need to be back into position (once again thanks to Charlie Ward for looking after it).

And all the racing buoys will need to be back in place (thanks to Edward Allen for looking after them).

As I write, the crumbling paint due to rising damp and salt in the walls of the clubhouse is being treated.

Programme: Rear Commodore Séan Moore has produced an eventful calendar of races, regattas, flotilla sailing, pursuit races and picnics, social gatherings and more.

Rear Commodore of Flotilla Sailing Bill Glauert, hopes having official Flotilla Sailing days will

- encourage less confident sailors to make more use of the water,
- encourage all BSC members to sail together more and
- will promote the club.

There will be not only dedicated Flotilla Sailing days but also Best of Both days (racing and flotilla sailing)

Many thanks go to all who are helping the club as Race Officers and Assistants, Patrol Boat helms and crews.

Golf Tournament: Back by popular demand, BSC will be teeing off at West Runton Golf Club on Tuesday 9th August. If interested please contact the event organiser Alan Robinson using email alanrobinson477@btinternet.com

Winter lunch: Start the season as you mean to continue in a supportive friendly way by joining us on Sunday 13th March 2016 at 1pm, in The Moorings, Blakeney. Ann Cleall is the person to contact on ann@tignes.co.uk or 01263 710043. Numbers are limited so early application is advised.

Money matters: The club has decided once again to keep its membership fees at 2013 levels. These are now due, together with your 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.

Now is a very good time to make a donation to the club. Please note the club is a registered Community Amateur Sports Club (Registration number CASC 05631) and therefore able to increase the value your donations by 25%.

Lastly BSC is grateful to Ann Cleall for continuing to run the 100 Club raising money to support BSC, new members are always welcome. Please join; there will be prizes of £150, £75 and £50 drawn from the 100 Club at the Winter Lunch – see above.

VHF radios: If more sailors have in their boats a VHF radio that they are skilled to use, there will be more eyes and ears on the water. This will help the Race Officers, Event Organisers and the Patrol Boat helms, increasing safety in and around the harbour. BSC will make full use of all the club's radios. The present model of the hand held VHF radios used by BSC is the ICOM IC - M25; it can be purchased online for £129.95 from a number of retailers (Other makes are available)

RYA state: Use of channels M & M2 does not require the user to hold a Maritime Radio Operator's Certificate and Authority to Operate as these frequencies are not in the international maritime VHF band. However, regular users should be encouraged to obtain the certificate of competence in radiotelephony, e.g. the Short Range Certificate (SRC). If any other channels are available on the set the SRC is required.

Volunteering: The club could not enjoy the facilities offered at Blakeney without the enthusiastic commitment of its members and its volunteers. Thanks everyone.

The patrol boats continue to be helmed by the club's professionals, Chris Keys and Steve Banks; their enthusiasm is infectious. The patrol boats will also be operated by helms that meet the approval of the BSC committee (if you wish to help in this capacity please ask a committee member). Remember to be effective each patrol boat requires not only a helm but also another set of hands, a volunteer to act as crew.

Sylvia Levete has said how happy she has been with the support she has had in the Galley but in view of the Health and Safety regulations being followed, she would like more help; please step forward as I know you will.

The Race Officers will be trained again by Matt Boreham after sailing on Good Friday, 25th March 2016. Each Race Officer will need a volunteer to assist in 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.

Interested in volunteering contact Jane on armstrong.jane7@gmail.com

The club will be ready for the first race at 07:30 Friday 25th March. Will you and your boat be ready?

Alan Collett

Commodore