

Blakeney Sailing Club Mid Season Newsletter

Mid summer's day has passed. We have sailed on some very exciting winds/tides and some blissfully relaxing ones. I shall come back to these later but first, some words of thanks to the crews that prepared Lapwing for this year. It is always dangerous to mention some names and risk omitting others but special thanks must go to Edward Allen and Alan Robinson; also thanks to James Cowan for housing her over the winter and Jim Temple for helping us to launch her.

Yearbook

Many people have expressed their pleasure at seeing our 2015 yearbook. One of our advertisers emailed us to say, "I think the Blakeney Yearbook is by far the most professionally designed and printed local sailing magazine I have seen". Steve Soanes merits all the praise he gets for this.

Sailing so far

Our race results so far are now published on our website; from the home page <http://blakeney sailing.co.uk> ; click on the Sailing Programme button and this will bring up the 2015 Race Results button. You will now see a list of all the results that have been posted; please click where it says "continue reading". You can now click on which result you wish to see. More details and pictures can be found on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Blakeney-Sailing-Club/115657908546638>

So far this year we have had five social sailing events organised by the club. These include the fund raising RNLI weekend and the recruiting or advertising Push The Boat Out (PTBO) weekend. At each event some raced whilst others cruised, stopping to share picnics half way through the morning. Matt and Steve won the RNLI pennant with Hugh coming second raising £270 for the Sheringham Lifeboat. The club members rallied round to provide exactly what was required for our PTBO guests; some wanted to race and others to cruise; some had no previous experience whilst others were dinghy instructors, some came last year and others were new to the vagaries and delights of Blakeney. Thanks to BSC members, all had a good experience.

Seven members attended the two days Safety Boat Course at Morston run by James Cowan of Norfolk etc. Within 30 minutes on the water a Laser was seen to capsize, the throttle was opened and Page Buoy planed to the rescue, though we were ready and willing to help we were not needed. A wind surfer just happened to whizz by at precisely the same moment and fortunately for us was willing to let go his boom and capsize allowing us to practice a real time rescue; thank you so much Séan. Having completed the course, the following weekend we were able to offer additional assistance, enabling the club to launch two patrol boats; the winds picked up and nearly every boat capsized, the training came in very handy.

Some races have had to be cancelled due to lack of wind; on 20th June the Race Officer was on the point of cancelling, when it was decided that two patrol boats could tow the racers to the start line. The race started with enough wind to propel us forward but the patrol boats still kept their watchful eye on us. Drifting past Buoy 5, Vic in his Phantom appeared to have given up and was heading for home; nothing could have been further from the truth. Vic had drifted off to sleep, he now tacked and came back and crossed the finish line albeit some time after the others!

Sailing to come

Even though we have had such fun, fortunately we are not even half way through our season. Please see the year book, for we are going to have Pursuit Races with Picnics, Point Day, to encourage participation the Ladies Races are going to have separate starts, the Morston Regatta is on a FRIDAY, Edward has been persuaded to organise the Marsh Marathon again and of course there is the Blakeney Regatta!

There are too many other sailing events to mention them all here.

However, this is a heads up for 19th September: Following the success of last year we have been invited back to race the Cockles at Morston. I wonder if it will be followed by an equally successful bar-b-cue where it seemed nobody wanted it to end.

Non Sailing Social Events to come

The cricket match against Cockles and Oysters, cycling, the club walk, the tennis, the hog roast and of course the after sail craic in the clubhouse!

Is the **Annual General Meeting** a social event? I hope it is and you will come along on 30th August at 3:00pm at the Blakeney Hotel and show your support for the committee. The accounts will be posted in the clubhouse at least two weeks before the AGM. Nominations for election to the committee should be with Jane Armstrong, our Honorary Secretary, two weeks before the AGM. Some minor changes to the constitution to facilitate the review of our finances will be proposed; these changes will also be posted in the clubhouse two weeks before the AGM for general information prior to the meeting.

Dredging

This would not be a newsletter of the Blakeney Sailing Club if it did not include an update on dredging the Cut. This has been the main topic on the Dinghy Park committee agenda for some time. The committee is hopeful the dredging of the 200 meters from the slipway, north towards the pit, will take place during the autumn of 2016. This is dependent on costs, funding and the, all important, licences and consents from the MMO, Environment Agency, District and County Councils to name just a few. Although not yet agreed it may be possible to place the spoil from the dredging on National Trust land to the east of the bank.

Royal Norfolk Show

If you are thinking of going to the show 1st and 2nd July, the Royal Yachting Association will be in the Active Norfolk sports village and over the two days there will be opportunities to meet the Regional Development Officer Robbie Bell (Weds), Chair of the Regional Committee Richard Card (Thurs), High Performance Manager Paul Wren (Thurs), The Disability Development Officer Jane Leet (Thurs) and Sailing Development Officers Chris Hussey (Weds), Brian Stanbridge (Thurs) & Holly Hancock (Weds & Thurs). The RYA wants to promote Blakeney Sailing Club; they are keen for us to be there.

Blakeney Harbour Association

I started this briefing with thanks and I am ending with thanks; this time to the many volunteers who helped the BHA to source, paint and lay the Buoys marking the channel from the East end of the Scaupe Run to the entrance to Blakeney Cut. There is also a red can, which has been placed beside the wreck at the bottom of Blakeney Cut to supplement Blakeney Sailing Club's red can; the wreck there is quite dangerous with so much of it exposed. To avoid confusion, Blakeney Sailing Club channel markers will be removed in due course.

If you are not already a member of the BHA please consider joining. Application forms are available in the holder by their red and white buoy on the Carnser by their notice board.