

Blakeney Sailing Club newsletter October 2012

Sailing: Although we have had some poor weather this season, unlike last year, we have had a number of very successful events including the International 14's weekend, the NWNSA day, the inaugural rowing events, the Jubilee pageant, the Streaker open, the Morston regatta, with 50 entrants, the Blakeney regatta as well as nearly all the scheduled racing events. The re-introduction of the Marsh Marathon, which has not been held for 45 years, proved to be great fun. The final sailing weekend in the middle of October saw a good turnout with very good conditions.

Fun week/social activities: We had memorable picnics at Pinchen's Creek, Stiffkey Creek and a full day out beyond the Point on sunny (some of the time) West Sands. Through social sailing we have introduced some newcomers to sailing and strengthened confidence and skills of rusty sailors who brushed the cobwebs off their boats and took to the water with us. It is especially good to see how our Club has nurtured such sailors and to hear how they look forward to the 2013 season. The fun week had a number of non sailing events, these included Bike rides, Walks, Tennis with Croquet and tea at the Sedgwick's as well as the Cricket match. The annual Hog Roast filled the Cley Village Hall to capacity and the raffle, which had some very generous prizes provided by local businesses, raised useful funds for the club.

Rowing: A successful inaugural rowing season finished in August. The season closed with 7 committed rowers and several more interested. Ian Duffill and Victoria bought the kit to build the St Ayles Skiff, a 22ft 4 man rowing skiff, and we are all ready to proceed with this pending Ian's recovery. Next year we plan a similar schedule of racing and expeditions with the possibility of a rowing camp based around the Watch house and expanding the membership to include kayaks and canoes. Anyone interested in helping with the St Ayles skiff project or kayaking, please do get in touch. v.holliday@uea.ac.uk

Blakeney School: In order to get more people interested in sailing the club funded 17 children from class 3 of the Blakeney primary school for an introductory days sailing with James Cowan at Norfolk ect. The children greatly enjoyed their day out and wrote an enthusiastic report on it in the Glaven Valley News.

Sailing programme for 2013: Following John Seymour's brilliant idea of buying the tide table from the National Hydrographic office (members should all have received an electronic copy of this) we can now put together the sailing schedule for 2013. As you know the schedule needs to take into account the times and heights of the tides but we also need to ensure that we get a good balance between the need to man the rescue boat, the committee boat and to provide sufficient racing and social sailing for all members. This, as you might imagine, is not easy but Sean Moore, who is already busy on this, is keen to get your input. sremoore@hotmail.com

For social sailors we will be planning, when winds and tides allow, continuing to explore more of the harbour. We will also be holding some fun contests on the water such as Mission Mark (when each boat has numbered pegs which have to be deposited at marks in the harbour) and the Marsh Marathon. If you know of people who would like to try sailing on club social sailing days then do encourage them to join us.

We are always looking for help with the rescue boats or helping the Officer of the Day. Please get in touch with me if you would like a ride in the rescue boats or want to view the racing from Lapwing Joejarr@hotmail.com

Marketing: The marketing group we set up earlier this year is focussing on improving some of the basics first. You may have noticed that our noticeboards have been updated and we plan to keep doing this. Their primary focus over the winter is to improve the website to keep all our members up to date and help them make the best of what Blakeney Sailing Club has to offer. Watch this space.... If anyone has any ideas or views on this, any aspect of marketing the club or just wants to share some pictures and videos, then they would love to hear from you. Just drop Bill Glauert an email on billglauert@gmail.com.

Carnser clear up: Boats, stakes and trailers need to be removed from the Dinghy Park by the end of November unless you notify Tracey Bayfield at the Parish Council. The Carnser clear-up is at 9:30am on the 2th of December. All helpers are welcome – mulled wine and mince pies will be on offer. I have made a preliminary booking of 20 places at the Moorings for 1.30pm (after the committee meeting) Please let me know if you would like to come so that we can make sure there are enough places joejcarr@hotmail.com. I look forward to seeing you on the Carnser nice and early.

Items of interest.

Chandlery. The recent closure of the Maritime has provided Neil Thompson with the opportunity to open a chandlery on his premises in Glandford.

Dredging: As you know the Dinghy Park is managed by a sub committee of the Parish Council, with the Club having 3 representatives, and it is Chaired by David Woodcock. In turn that committee is concerned about the silting of the cut, has been investigating the feasibility of a dredging scheme.

The first step was to try and gain finance and an application to the Sheringham Shoal Fund resulted in a grant of £10,000 towards a feasibility study to be undertaken by Royal Haskonning, an initial plan was prepared. Now that the project has a life of its own a separate Project Committee has been formed reporting to the Parish Council and including others with extensive involvement in boating including the Boatmen's Association, National Trust as well as the club all under the auspices of the Parish Council. At the present time a more detailed proposal is awaited from Royal Haskonning which is due to be discussed in mid November. Once their proposals are approved the project will be formally launched with, hopefully, a detailed plan for improving the Cut from the Quay to the pit and a first, small, phase of work to be implemented over the winter.

The big issue will be funding the major dredging operation in Phase 2. We have some thoughts but cannot take any action until we know the approximate total cost. Negotiating with all the advisory bodies will be a massive task in itself but there is a general recognition that the lifeblood of Blakeney is associated with boats and keeping navigable access important. More details will be reported as they arise.

Blakeney Harbour Boatman's Association BHBA: Blakeney sailing club is a member of the BHBA which looks after moorings and bouyage in the harbour. Please find attached a copy of the minutes of their recent meeting which includes an update on the MCZ.

Lost: I have just had an email from mchesterman@chase-security.net who has lost a sail bag with two sails which was washed overboard from his day boat. Please contact him if you have any information.

Hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas

Joe Carr - Commodore