

Blakeney Sailing Club Spring Briefing 2017

Social Events: We are more than just a sailing club though sailing is what binds us all together. The number of social events organised by your committee continues to grow. The Winter Series, much talked about, has started; the inaugural meeting will be held in the Kings Arms on Thursday 2nd February (- and no, Vic, there will not be a Safety Boat in attendance!) The Winter Lunch will be at The Moorings on Sunday 5th March; to make your reservation please contact Ann Cleall (01263 710043 or ann@tignes.co.uk). Building on the success of the Fish and Chips Supper at Bayfield Hall last year, we are delighted that Caroline and Roger Coombe have agreed for BSC to hold another event at their beautiful home on Friday 5th May. There will be a talk on Racing Rules given by Trevor Lewis of the RYA, so we will feel more confident shouting at each other, as if we would do such a despicable thing!

Winter work: So much happens behind the scenes, off the water and between seasons, thanks to many volunteers – too numerous to name check with a few essential exceptions. The race marker buoys have to be cleaned and stored (special thanks here to Edward for the storage), the race hut moved between the Carnser and Charlie Ward's yard (special thanks to Charlie for storing this), Lapwing moved to the quay and overseen from time to time, such as during storm surges (thanks here again go to many). After the surge on Friday 13th January, John Seymour wrote, *"East side of dinghy park (and Carnser) is full of weed. Probably need a digger to remove it. Amazing how well Lapwing is sitting, fenders and ropes all in place as if she hadn't had anything to contend with."* Thanks go to the Dinghy Park Management Committee, the National Trust and Blakeney Parish Council for removing the seaweed. It should also be noted that the DPMC is arranging for 0.5m³ of mud to be removed from the slipway as well as new signposts, tightening of the chains, path clearance etc.

Other organisations preparing for the new season include the Blakeney Harbour Association (<http://blakeneyharbourassociation.co.uk/thinking-of-joining/>). Many of us have noted and needed to be cautious around the wooden wreck obstructing the North end of the Cut and the post sticking out from the base of the Western bank of the Cut, NW of the Freshes outfall. Early in the new season, BHA is planning to have a go at removing some or all of these. Two years ago the Cley and Blakeney channels were marked with temporary buoyage and these have needed constant and expensive maintenance. The BHA is replacing all of them with new permanent buoys and ground tackle. BSC has sponsored one of these buoys, which will be placed near Lapwing and marked "BLAKENEY SAILING CLUB"

Dredging Project: The debate about dredging the Cut continues though now the DPMC is no longer responsible. Blakeney Parish Council has formed a new group of stakeholders for this purpose. Rod Jeffreys will be representing BSC on this new group (thanks to Rod).

Programmes: The BSC committee has been preparing for your delight a whole new events programme for 2017. Please take a while to look over the programmes, which are packed full of information. So much has been put into this that it might take some dissecting. For a start you will notice that there are two programmes, one entitled Racing and one Flotilla sailing, but these are for one club. It is hoped that

members will move easily between the two groups as the feeling takes them, sometimes enjoying what Bill Glauert calls “best of both” on the same day.

Flotilla Sailing: It is intended to coordinate the arrangements to go and just enjoy a pleasant sail in company, using Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Blakeney-Sailing-Club-115657908546638/>. The Wednesday sail is a fairly consistent event. You will notice that Eleanor Sidgwick and Bill Glauert are listed as the prime movers on the Flotilla events programme, but this does not mean that they intend organising and running every event listed, please contact them and offer your help and ideas.

Racing: The racing programme will seem familiar with the Club’s various trophy races, the NWNSA, the International 14s, NN16s and Vintage boats. The committee is pleased to announce the return of the Seafly National Championship and the return of the Streakers event which is now part of the class's Southern Paddle Travellers’ Series. What will not be familiar is the Evening Cut Series, taking place on a Wednesday, two Thursdays and a Friday. This year it has been decided to present the trophies at three distinct events, The Seafly National Championship (May), the Hog Roast (August) and the Carnser Clear up (December). Race Officers, patrol boat helms and crews please liaise with each other and the members of the club if for any reason you are unable to undertake your listed duty. Members willing to step forward and help in any way at any time are always welcomed.

Push The Boat Out: At Blakeney, this is on the weekend of 13th and 14th May. Of course we always intend to be ready to receive new members but this is our opportunity to plan to put that into action. We need to be organised to welcome those who might be ready to find out about and share in the fun and thrills of sailing at Blakeney. Who do you know that might like to try or come back to sailing?

Money: If you have not yet paid your membership fees please do so before the Special General Meeting to be held on Saturday 11th February at 3pm in the Blakeney Harbour Rooms. Donations at the time of paying dues are always welcome and are tax efficient. Remember the 100 Club brings in useful funds for the club (if you want more information, please ask)

Special General Meeting: This is being held on Saturday 11th February at 3pm for members to advise the committee what facilities the Club should have. The 21 years lease on the clubhouse expires on 7th July 2017. Various options are open to the Club, including having no clubhouse or possibly negotiating a new and up to date lease. The committee wants to share with the members the concept of a new clubhouse; this is in its infancy and your opinions are necessary to explore or drop this idea.

Dinghy Park: Boats may be brought back to the dinghy park from Wednesday 1st March (Blakeney Dinghy Park Committee Regulation 2). I am looking forward to seeing you on the water then or soon after if not before. The first event is racing on Friday 14th April at 08:30.

Alan Collett
Commodore