

BSC Winter Briefing 2018



Dear Members,

As the 2018 sailing season draws to a close it is a joy to reflect on the wonderful summer we have had.

Some of us are long enough in the tooth to recall 1975/6 which was the last time I can remember such fine weather. If this is global warming then bring it on!

Our first season without the benefit of a clubhouse has not seen any reduction in the number of sailors enjoying Blakeney Harbour and the good weather has allowed many of us to enjoy post race refreshments at Carl and Trish's van on the Carnser. The Blakeney Hotel has provided an excellent venue for our committee meetings and prize givings. These arrangements will remain in place for next season.

The racing buoys and Lapwing have been returned to their winter quarters while the patrol boats have been towed to Langham and the engines taken for their annual service. Thanks to Edward Allen, Rod Jeffreys, John Seymour et al for making these things happen.

Some of you will recall a lovely man called Neville Murcott who was a member for many years and a regular patrol boat crew/helm. Sadly, he died a couple of years ago but there was a collection made at his funeral and his family have donated this to the club for the purchase of a further racing buoy, which will be numbered and will bear his name

Looking forward I am pleased to report that your committee has decided to further reduce subscriptions by 10% for next year and to offer free membership to those under 30 years of age.

Our membership secretary, Fren Ewing, has adopted the Membership Mojo system to process renewals and applications which we hope will reduce the workload and improve efficiency.

Simon Hibberd, our Rear Commodore Racing, has been hard at work devising a comprehensive programme for us to enjoy in 2019. This is now available on the Blakeney Dutyman website and I ask that you help to populate it as soon as possible, by volunteering for duties where appropriate.

Simon tells me he will allocate those not covered by volunteers after the 1st February.

Eleanor Sidgwick, our Rear Commodore Flotilla, will be informing the members of Flotilla Sailing dates one month at a time and so to kick this off, you will be hearing about April Flotilla Sailing in March. We are hoping that depending on the tides, we will have weekly Flotilla opportunities and during Fun Week there will be a week of morning Flotilla Sailing. We are also hoping that a patrol boat will be provided as often as possible.

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Having recently attended the RYA Eastern Region Club Conference at Ipswich, along with Trish and Alan Collett, I have been reminded how important it is to encourage newcomers to the sailing scene in order to maintain a healthy, vibrant club which we can all enjoy.

I had the pleasure of sharing a boat with a variety of people, with different levels of experience, last year. Our old Wayfarer is an ideal boat for such adventures so it, and I, will be available throughout next season, to sail with anyone who would like to crew or helm, be it racing or flotilla sailing. Alternatively, I am happy to sail in your boat. Just give me a call (01263 710644) and we can arrange it. I want to help and encourage new and maybe less confident members (or prospective members), to enjoy the delights of sailing at Blakeney. I promise to be on my best behaviour and not to shout too much!

Our secretary, Jane Armstrong, has once again organised an excellent winter series which should be untroubled by weather or tides. She has circulated the starting times and venues. I do commend these events to all those able to attend as they have proved to be very convivial and provide a nice way of keeping in touch with friends during the winter months.

The new season kicks off on the Saturday the 6th April with sailing over Easter to follow so I look forward to seeing you on the water then (or later in the season).

May I wish you a very Merry Christmas and fair winds in 2019.

Séan Moore
Commodore BSC