

BSC Spring Briefing 2019



Dear Blakeney Sailing Club Member,

Having emerged, as I hope you have, intact from the Festive Season and entered a period of colder weather I find it encouraging to look ahead to the 2019 sailing season.

Simon Hibberd (our rear commodore sailing) and friends have spent many hours developing an exciting programme of events which, I hope, will tempt even more of you out on the water than the excellent numbers we saw last year.

Eleanor Sidgwick, our new rear commodore for Flotilla sailing, has undertaken to produce a rolling series of events, throughout the season, taking into account weather and tidal conditions. The club will provide patrol boat cover wherever possible and provide VHF radios. Trish and I now have one each (thank you Santa!) and they have saved our bacon on two occasions when the wind has dropped and the outgoing tide has taken charge.

You should, by now, have received an invitation to renew your membership for 2019 via the excellent new electronic system identified and activated by Fren Ewing, our membership secretary. I am pleased to report that your committee has felt it proper to reduce fees for a further year in light of our reduced costs following the loss of the clubhouse. I think it is prudent, given that there can always be unexpected costs in relation to our safety boats and Lapwing, to maintain a healthy reserve alongside increasing our expenditure on paid helms and crews for the patrol boats.

Last summer Trish and I had a day out in Orford and visited the sailing club. We decided to spend a few days there, camping and sailing our Wayfarer, this Spring so took a look at their website in order to see if it was possible to launch there. Whilst perusing this site I read the excellent guides, which you will find attached, covering Smarter Sailing and Upwind Sailing. I was so impressed I contacted their secretary, Jill Robinson, who kindly agreed that we could circulate them to our members. I have copied this Briefing to Jill by way of thanks.

Some of you will remember a lovely gentleman called Neville Murcott who frequently crewed the rescue boat some years ago. His family have kindly made a donation to the Club, in his memory, which has enabled us to buy an additional racing buoy which will bear the legend "10 Neville Murcott" thereby adding to the race officer's options when course setting. John Seymour has co-ordinated the purchase of an additional buoy with the Cockle Club and agreed a small rearrangement of buoy positioning.

Whilst the programme for 2019 will be displayed in all its customary glory in the magnificent Year Book, which Steve Soanes has once again kindly offered to produce, I have attached the current proposed programme so that you may note significant dates in your diaries. This publication is partly funded by the advertisements you will see in it and I am indebted to Alan Collett for procuring so many of these contributions. Should you wish to advertise, in the Year Book, or know anyone who might, please contact Alan.

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On the subject of dates, the usual "Gold Rush" for places on the dinghy park will commence on the 1st March. Can I ask all members to ensure their craft are registered with the Parish Council as this is so helpful if there are any problems with boat security.

Our next Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday 10th March followed by lunch at the Moorings which Ann Cleall is organising. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible so please let Ann know how many seats you want.

In the meantime I wish you and yours all the best for 2019.

Séan Moore
Commodore BSC.