

## Spring Newsletter 2007

So another sailing season is upon us – I wonder if this summer will be as hot as last year's!

The first thing to do is a little house keeping: -

After 8 years sterling work as our secretary Charlie Harris has decided to step down to concentrate on improving his sailing – I didn't think it was that bad Charles, winner of the Early Bird last year! Sincere thanks from us all.

As the new secretary I can be contacted on: -

01443 440164

07970 216538

[randr@arfryn41.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:randr@arfryn41.fsnet.co.uk)

Or you can write to me at "Arfryn", Penrhys Road, Ystrad, Pentre, CF41 7SW.  
(Rhian still gets excited when the postman delivers mail!!)

Other club officers are: -

Commodore – Patrick Mather

Vice Commodore – Eddy Hooper

Treasurer – Malcolm Staddon

Sailing Secretary – Eddy Hooper

Membership Secretary – Bob Lang

Compound Master – Peter Havard

Minutes of meetings and Race Results – Steve Marshall

Other committee members – Mike Fuller, Sam Fellows, Viv Coles, Rex

Hendrickson, Colin Stevenson, Charlie Harris

### Important Announcement

The Annual Dinner and Prize Giving evening will be held on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May** in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor room at the Sully Inn. Cost is £15 per person and a menu is attached. Can you please fill in the confirmation and choice form as soon as possible and return to me – post it, put it in the mail box inside the entrance to the club house, email me or online on the website.

We had a good turnout last year – also good to see some juniors, so lets see if we can do even better this year.

Any of you who have trophies, can you return them urgently to me or Eddy so that we can get them engraved (for 2 years – OK I know!)

Now back to the regular stuff

**Club Website**

Eddy is helping Brian with the administration of the web site. Having created our great little site, Brian at Bloobird does not have a lot of time to keep on top of it now. We appreciate all that he can do for us. Thanks to Brian for his efforts. Don't forget that there is a "Gossip" section for informal chats - about the club and sailing of course! We are still looking for any archive material about the growth of the club over the years – if you have anything at all contact Peter Havard.

### **Club Development Plan**

We are still looking for any ideas about future development of the club. Contact any committee member if you have any thoughts.

### **Club Safety Boat**

Can I reiterate Charlie's comments about the rope/winch in the Autumn newsletter. As he said, the rope is provided to prevent any injury from the flailing winch handle when launching. However it is important **not** to untie the rope until the boat is afloat. The trailer has rollers and the boat will fall off the back of the trailer even when it is on level ground, let alone on the slope of the slipway, with the risk of damage to the engine. The rope is permanently attached to the trailer and passed through the eye on the stem of the boat and then tied off on the trailer with a "one pull" slip knot. To release the boat simply pull the rope to release the knot and let the rope run through the eye as the boat reverses away – **but only once the boat is afloat.**

Please check the Sailing Programme for your safety boat roster – it is normally twice a year. It is your responsibility to find someone to swap with you if you are not available. Also let your OOD know so that he/she is aware of the change. If you need a copy of the contact data base let me know.

### **Club House**

The "Wednesday Club" has continued through the winter with some improvements in the club house. The hot water cylinder is now enclosed in a cupboard, there is a sink unit in the WC for washing cups etc after use and we now have a wind direction and speed station fixed above the balcony with the readout to the left of the balcony doors. We also fitted new steering cables to the inflatable safety boat. It is not entirely true that the "Wednesday Club" is just an excuse for a visit to the pub, but the time spent at the club house did seem to get shorter as the winter went on – I blame the weather, Wednesday evenings did seem to attract the wettest and windiest of some pretty poor weather! One particular member (who shall remain nameless of course – just look for the RS700 at the front of the fleet) got later as the weeks went by so that we only had to mention it was time for the pub and he would turn up. Eventually he gave up coming to the club and went straight to the pub instead – his excuse was that we were leaving the club earlier!!

### **Boat Jumble**

Once again we had a very successful Boat Jumble - the weather was kind and despite a small reduction in the number of traders (due to online trading probably) we have been able to boost the club funds again so that we have recovered from the cost of buying the new safety boat. As always a huge vote of thanks to Bob for organising it all. Thanks also to the members who turned up to help on the day(s).

### **Sailing Programme**

You should all have received a printed copy of the programme and it is also on the website. You may have noticed that in addition to the now normal **Junior Training in June**, we are offering **Adult Training in May**.

### **Adult Training**

This will not in fact be a formal training programme as we do not have the qualified members to offer any sort of certification at the end. What we are offering is the opportunity for adults to come and try sailing as a new (to them) recreation, so if you have any friends or colleagues who might be interested in sailing tell them about what we can do at Sully Sailing Club. Anyone interested should contact me.

Can I put out a request to those of you who have juniors at the club? Do you have wet suits etc that they have grown out of and that could be used by new (and probably smaller) juniors? If so let me know and I will be happy to be the “no fee” broker.

We are also looking for members with “sit in” boats – Enterprise, GP, Wanderer, Wayfarer –who are willing to take out the adult “trainees” on Thursday evenings in May. If you are not available, would you be willing to let someone else sail your boat for this purpose? We will of course check insurance cover if someone else sails your boat. Safety boat cover will be provided. If you can help with this let me know.

### **Junior Training**

Please let me have the names of any juniors who wish to participate in the training scheme in June.

If racing is not your thing, there are several members who cruise while the racing is on. This gives the advantage of safety boat cover. If you go out cruising, please let the race officer (usually Sam and/or Viv) know that you will be out and which way you intend to go – they can keep an eye out for you from the “command centre” and notify the safety boat of any problems via the VHF radios.

We have already had some interesting sailing this season. Those who gloated at getting the time right on 18<sup>th</sup> March (clocks changed!) were greeted by a spiteful gusty offshore wind. This enabled a close inspection of the bottom of my new boat (and several others) which revealed a large piece missing from the trailing edge of the centreboard. The whole idea of buying a fibreglass boat was to get away from all these repairs!!

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April was a blow out – far too stormy – but Easter Sunday was just perfect. Nice steady force 3 from the SW, flat water and sunshine – we'll have some more of that please.

**and finally,**

Don't forget that if you pay your subs before the 1<sup>st</sup> May you are entitled to a £10 discount.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the water. If you have not got fully formed webbed feet yet, it would be good to see you at the club anyway.

Up spinnaker!!

***Roger Dykes***

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