

# Telltale

The official newsletter of Scammonden Water Sailing Club



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[www.scammondensailing.com](http://www.scammondensailing.com)

The season now seems to be properly underway with regular sailing on Saturdays and Sundays and also now on Wednesday evenings. At present Weds evening sailing starts at 7.00pm but it will soon be at 7.30pm (refer to your handbook for date/times) which allows others to come along and join in. For those members who haven't tried the evening series before I can assure you that it is a friendly and enjoyable way to take a break during the mid-week with some competitive sailing and some friendly banter in the bar afterwards. We even manage to lay on some supper on most occasions.

Unfortunately the Commodores Cup day had to be postponed due to an almost complete lack of wind. Those who did venture onto the water (very few) were rewarded with a slow drift around and a chance to get a tan. I am sure that Jamie will be notifying us soon of the new date for this event so get ready to make a note in your diary and come along to sail. There is a cup that needs to be won!

I am reliably informed by Max that the club continues to get numerous enquiries for courses through the Training School and this will be an important aspect of our activities during this coming year. The race Academy has already started and there seem to be some very keen types getting an awful lot of go-faster advice from Ben Ratcliffe on a Saturday afternoon. If you want to improve your race positions you might want to pay this a bit of attention!

To those members who responded to my request to tag their trailers and then discovered that there were no tags available – apologies. I am happy to report that the tags have now been found and they are now available from behind the bar.

Our friendly helpers with the grass cutting equipment have made a start this season and have already brought a new cared for appearance to the club grounds. With their efforts and a little self-help about the club it should start to take on a more welcoming aspect for current and potential members alike.

May I please remind you all about the Sail for Gold event to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> June and also for our need to be cultivating and inspiring our teams for Southport 24hr race. If you can take part in either or both please let it be known. The more the merrier.

This is a good opportunity to welcome some new members to Scammonden Water Sailing Club. Through the latter part of last year and so far this year we have been joined by the following:-

Andrew Ackroyd sailing a Blaze.

Ian Lees sailing a Laser 8.1 and already winning a major trophy – The Caretakers Cup.

Stephen and Douglas Read with Andrew Holland sailing a National 12.

Les Green sailing a Topper.

Welcome to you all and I hope that you thoroughly enjoy your membership in our Club.

**Steve Yates - Commodore**



## FROM THE SAILING CAPTAIN

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Spring is upon us and sailing is going well. The year seems to have started with a heatwave. In fact this year has started so warm that Simon Bottomley brought his boat up in MARCH. Anybody who knows Simon, knows he normally brings his boat up in May, this is a sure sign of Global warming!

Another sad day in the Team Belinda Camp has come and gone. The sacking of my old crew had to be done it was a hard decision but because of lack motivation and the fact they had not joined the club, this had to be done. BUT please do not feel sad as there is another. Owen Holdaway. My new crew weighs 3 stone and 5 pounds . The Man of steel loves sailing and also has a love of wood-work and textiles/ sail making. This is already a winning formula. I took Owen out for a sail which coincided with a race, stealthily I went for it. My crew was none the wiser. Not to take advantage I passed him his water pistol to keep him happy. Three laps of the dam later the race was ours. Hopefully we shall be putting in more appearances and maybe obtaining some silverware to go with it.

The Southport 24hr race takes place on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We are looking to see how many people are interested in making up a team or possibly 2 teams if there are enough dedicated and committed people. I will put up a list in the bar or contact me by e-mail.

The Caretakers Cup - The first prize was a bottle of whiskey kindly donated by the caretaker. It was a close and challenging race down the fleet. 19 boats, were cleaned and dusted off, in light and shifty winds. Simon Spencer and crew were up very early rigging and fine tuning there Laser 4000. Phil Osborne, Jackie Reaper Neil Mclean, and the Hobbs family were all looking eager and fast on the start line. Max Townsend was looking like captain and commander on board his new boat. (I think he has done a deal with the royal Navy and bought the "Ark Royal" off them.) The Super Nova fleet were out again in force but the highest place they could manage was the immortal 4<sup>th</sup> place with Steve Yates. Mike Goodwin came in third with his Laser. In an excellent and well deserved fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> place was ME in my Solo, but the whiskey was taken by Ian Lees with his Laser 8.1.

I personally have not seen him up at the club since so I presume the whiskey has been drunk.

The Commodores Cup This has been rescheduled to July 10<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Up and coming events at the club:

Challenge Pursuit Day Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

The Topper Open Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May

Fathers Day 12<sup>th</sup> June

21<sup>st</sup> June Steve Please can you bring your fireball up to club so I can officially announce summer.

Commodores Cup 10<sup>th</sup> July

Captain V commodore 17<sup>th</sup> July

Laser open 31<sup>st</sup> July

See you up at the club Jamie (Sailing Captain.)

Welcome to the new training season and we are planning a very busy year. For starters, our adult beginners courses are rapidly selling out and already we have had to reserve a date for a third Level 1 course in July to cope with demand (more on that later).

We are totally committed to developing our young sailors and will be working hard to grow our Saturday afternoon RYA Junior Sailing Scheme stage awards. These courses will run in short sessions every Saturday afternoon for six to eight weeks and will be operated under the 'SWSC Saturday Club' banner. We are formalising these sessions with a registration and signing in procedure, so please speak to Ben or Mike beforehand and fill out the registration form if you want to be part of our Saturday youth training scheme – SWSC junior membership is a prerequisite for all Saturday Club activities. Ben and Mike will be organising these sessions, and will be organising a youth recruitment drive. If you have friends or family who might like to try sailing please get in touch with us

Scammonden Race Academy will also operate on Saturday afternoons, but in a more informal manner, and will focus on helping club members of all ages progress and to improve their racing and sailing skills. Ben and Mike cannot hope to do this alone and we really need help from regular sailing members who can spare one afternoon (or more) to help out on shore or on rescue. Please sign up if you can and many thanks to those who have already offered help.

We are delighted to be able to offer career progression for our top youth sailors and are currently running an RYA Assistant Instructor (AI) course. This will be of great value to the Training School and will hopefully encourage other young members to follow in their footsteps. Our trainee AI's are Isaac Marsh, Sally Ratcliffe and Kieran Dawson – and John Horwood (who we suspect might have fibbed about his age!). The course runs for about three months with continuous assessment and a final qualification day. If you would like to become an AI (and you are aged between 14 and 143), please see Max for more details.

I am hoping to organise a volunteer duty rota for additional rescue cover when we run our Adult training courses. To make this easier for everyone, I would like to divide the cover between mornings and afternoons on the Saturday and Sunday of each course. The morning session is from 9.30am until 1.00pm, with the afternoon running from 2pm to 5pm. Please get in touch with me if you can help on any of the weekends (14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> June and 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> July). These courses bring in significant revenue to the club and we also benefit from an influx of new members – we need the help of the membership to make this happen, so please do offer your help if you can, before I send out the Press Gangs.

You may have noticed that the SWSC Training Centre has now taken over the old HSS fenced compound in an agreement that has seen HSS move all their watersports operations to Green Withins reservoir. This gives us a more permanent and secure base of operations and opens up a wider waterfront area for our members. We will be making significant use of the top slipway near the compound for our training fleet, which will ease congestion on the second and third slipways on Saturday afternoons, and also give more room for racing members on the waterfront below the dinghy park.

You are welcome to use the top slipway to launch your boat during our training activities, but we would ask all members to **please remove their launching trolleys from the slipway and the immediate waterfront after launching** – we are handling large and heavy boats, and people with little experience and only basic boat handling skills will be coming ashore close to the slip – we don't want any accidents caused by carelessly abandoned trolleys. Trolleys causing a safety hazard or an obstruction will be removed to a safe area, so please be considerate and don't be surprised to find it gone if you abandon it at the water edge!

Please pass the word about our RYA Level 2 (Better Sailing) course, which is running over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> June. This course is open to members and non-members, and brings together all the basic elements learned in Level 1. It introduces more advanced boat handling skills, both in single handed and two man dinghies. As a treat you might get to play with my new Laser Stratos, so long as at least five of you help me get it back up the slipway! Level 2 is the gateway to the more advanced modules in the RYA syllabus and is recommended for anyone wanting to get more out of their boat.

And finally (and about time I hear you say), I will be running FREE taster sessions on selected Saturday afternoons for anyone (members or non-members) who might want to try sailing but are not yet sure about committing to a formal training course. These are very much 'family' sessions which are suitable for adults and children (from around age 7). The sessions are very much weather dependant and I will confirm the sessions about two days before, after checking the conditions and predicted windspeed. Sessions last about 30 minutes and will be pre-booked. Please contact me by phone (07885 451774) or email ([george.townend@btinternet.com](mailto:george.townend@btinternet.com)) if you know someone who might be interested.

Max Townend

RYA Training Centre Principal