



April 2012 - scammondensailing.com

FROM THE COMMODORE

The Snowball Series is now a distant memory – notable for the fact that the Yorkshire weather almost prevented it happening but not quite! Enough races were completed to get a result and very well done to all who took part and braved the winter weather.

The sailing season proper is now with us and we start with a reservoir full to the brim which is a great way to begin the season. There is a lot of sailable area and with the flexibility afforded by the various courses that can be set it makes Scammonden a great place to be at the weekends. Time to get your boat and your gear out of mothballs and head for the start-line!

Getting Going.

Thanks to all those who have put in some effort to ensure that the club kept functioning through the winter and into the start of the main season. There are so many activities that come together to make it happen from replacing marks to putting stock in the bar and into the choccy machines and even replacing the defunct dishwasher with one that actually works. Thanks to everyone who has done something to help – we can't function without member's help and involvement.

Under Power.

In February we hosted a training course for club members to enable them to acquire their RYA Powerboat Level 2 qualifications. This course was run, using club resources, by two instructors from Pugneys, so a big **thank you** to **Andy & Adam** for their help. SWSC is not yet accredited as a powerboat training establishment but given the growing need for formal training and certification and the importance of handling the rescue craft properly it is something that we aspire to in the future.

Well done to John Horwood, Isaac Marsh & Eddy Marsh, Sally Ratcliffe, Malcolm Gardner and Paul Cornish. I would urge all members to consider getting this qualification as the opportunity arises.

Sailing Duties.

That thorny old issue!! Well this year we have a newer, more modern approach to managing the need for OD & Rescue duties – thanks to the efforts of Paul Cornish who has introduced the DutyMan package into our armoury for dealing with the OD List.

If anyone has been exploring the website (lots of wonderful stuff there at www.scammondensailing.com) you will have seen a link to the DutyMan package which is a very effective tool for maintaining a dynamic duty list. Please take a look at it and involve yourselves as we must have effective rescue and OD cover to operate as a club.

Volvo Champions Club.

Recently we have been in discussion with the RYA experts regarding the opportunity to establish our club as a Volvo Champions Club. This is all about focussing on the teaching and development of sailing skills in young people. As a club we have many aspirations in common with the RYA Youth Training teams so it seems that this is an achievable goal for the club over a period of time. There are real benefits to be had for the club if we can gradually meet their criteria and if it attracts and persuades youngsters to get into our sport that can only be a good thing, for the club and the sport in general.

Race Academy.

This is our existing and very successful route for training young people to sail and to introduce them to sailing in a friendly and fun-filled manner. Run primarily by Ben Ratcliffe & Mike Goodwin, together with their willing volunteers, the Race Academy re-commences its activities on Saturday 21st April 2012 so if you know a youngster who would like to get started please contact Ben directly.

Willing volunteers are always very very welcome so if you can spare an hour or two on some Saturdays please get in touch with Ben. There is always stuff to do.

Training Centre.

As previously mentioned we are conducting two training courses during May 2012. Both courses are RYA Level 1 courses for beginners to sailing and each course takes a full weekend. We are fully booked (8 people) for the first course and we have already taken some bookings for the second course to be run over the 19th & 20th May, although there are still some places available at the time of writing. If anyone is interested in taking part or indeed helping with the general running of the course please get in touch with me.

Photo Gallery.

Recently we have identified a need to establish and maintain an up-to-date collection of digital images to do with Scammonden and the activities at the club and by its members. I often see members and visitors indulging in their passion for photography around and about the water but what happens to all the photos that have been taken?

From time to time the management team at the club need to have access to a selection of current or relevant photos for use in publicity, year-books, telltales, advertisements etc or even to populate the website. There must be many photos in existence but there is no procedure to collate and manage them for effective use by the club, even assuming that the owners are happy to allow access to the photos by the club committee.

In an attempt to organise this I have asked a member who is keenly interested in photography to take this idea on as a project and I am delighted to say that Linda Merriman has agreed to do this and will be starting very soon. Thank you Linda.

To the members (and this is aimed primarily at our snap-happy-chappies rather than professional photographers) I have a simple request. If you have taken or are taking digital photos that you are willing to allow the club to use please will you somehow convey a copy to Linda so that she can collate and organise? This project is in its embryonic stages at present so there is some fine-tuning to do but you now have the general idea.

Wednesday Evenings.

Dont forget that our Wednesday Series starts very soon – on 4th April – and it is usually a very well attended and popular series giving members an opportunity for that mid-week sailing fix. Come along and join in.

Newsome High School & Sports College

We are informed by NHS that they intend to commence this year's activities directly after the Easter break so don't be surprised to see the school staff and pupils at the water engaging in water-borne tuition during the week. Please make them welcome.

Open Meetings

Our first open meeting of the season takes place on Sunday 15th April 2012 when we will be hosting our very first Supernova Open Meeting. We have a growing number of Supernovas at the club and the Association have been looking for new venues to explore with a particular wish to hold more events in the north of the country. There will be a training day at Bolton on the Friday and the Bolton Open takes place on Saturday 14th April followed by a trip across the Pennines to Scammonden for Sunday 15th. Please take part if you are able or come along to help on the day or be there to watch and to cheer on your fellow club members.

Thats all for now. I have probably forgotten something as there seems to be a lot going on at present but until the next Telltales I wish you all good sailing and look forward to seeing you all at the Club

Stephen Yates Commodore SWSC

FROM THE VICE SAILING CAPTAIN

Interactive duty roster

As most of you will now be aware from this season we have been using the new interactive duty roster and many members have been taking full advantage of this already. For those of you who so far haven't accessed the duty roster it is on the front page of the clubs website.

If you have not received a welcome email or would like to register your email address to be able to access this then email myself at pcpasti@hotmail.com.

This facility allows you to swap duties, volunteer for duties and also notify us of duties you are not available for so that you are not given a duty on a day you would not be able to complete.

We are also looking for members to volunteer their time on a Saturday afternoon from week commencing 21st April to help with the Saturday club. You can also volunteer via the duty roster by clicking the blue volunteer required tab. If you have any issues with this then also email me.

Paul Cornish Vice Sailing Captain