



FROM THE COMMODORE

JUNE 2012

Well, we are half-way through the year and I am at a loss to know where it has gone to so quickly. I am however delighted to see that in mid-June we still have a full reservoir; full almost to the brim. That provides a lot of sailable area and the potential for some very good sailing. All that we need is the wind and the members on their boats. There are a lot of boats in the dinghy park and it is time that more of them took to the water. Hopefully a good performance by the British Olympic squad this summer will energise more people to take to the water and to get involved.

So what has happened since the last newsletter?

Open Meetings

SWSC has hosted two Open Meeting events for different classes.

The first was the Supernova Association Class event which took place on the 15th April and turned out to be a very successful day. It followed on from a training day and then an open meeting at Bolton Sailing Club finishing with our open meeting at SWSC. Three club members took part and they were Phil Davies, Sophie Yates and me. As none of us came last I feel that we upheld the honour of the Club and did our best. Full results are on the website.

The visitors were impressed with our Club and the general organisation of the event to the extent that before they had departed they had requested that they come again next year.

The second event was the Enterprise Association meeting which took place on the 27th May and I understand that it was again a successful meeting that was appreciated by all of the competitors who took part, with a strong contingent from our own club. Unfortunately I was away at the time and unable to watch and to cheer our sailors on as I had intended to do but well done to everyone who took part. As with the other meeting there are results and photos on the website for all to see. Look out for some interesting helming techniques by one our members!



Training

As previously mentioned we have now conducted two separate weekend courses for beginners to RYA Level 1 standard. A total of eleven people have attended and three have achieved their certification. The others were unfortunate to experience really strong winds during their course which prevented us from completing the syllabus however they are all coming back at dates to suit and we intend that all of them will complete the relevant course.

Our Saturday training continues through the Race Academy and we are regularly seeing young members come along to hone their skills and either learn to sail or to improve. Thanks to Ben Ratcliffe and also to John Horwood who are the main guys for this and also all other helpers who assist.



Sailing Duties

You will probably all have seen by now the Dutyman scheme in operation and I have only heard favourable comments about it. The Committee were sufficiently impressed with the initial trial period to extend that to a full year's trial.

Wednesday Evenings

We are now into the second Wednesday series of races and they are being well supported and providing mid-week sailing for all who wish to take part. At this time of the year racing starts at 7.30pm so come along and join in and enjoy a beer in the bar afterwards.

Southport 24Hr Race

The time has come to start preparing for this year's event. As last year we would like to enter two boats if there are sufficient numbers of members keen to take part. Last year it was a great weekend with very exciting sailing and very pleasant socialising. All are welcome so please give it a try and experience a real "event" on the sailing circuit! It takes place over the weekend of the 15th & 16th September.

Anyone wishing to take part please contact either Paul Cornish or Mike Goodwin.

Appeal for Help

As a club we can only operate with the voluntary assistance of club members in every aspect of the club activities. This varies from running the galley to maintenance of the building, upkeep of the club boats to sailing instruction etc. Quite frankly, we could do with some more help – there are too few people trying to fulfil too many tasks. If you have some spare time or have a skill that would be useful to the Club and a willingness to give a little help please let me know. It would be greatly appreciated.

And finally...

Year 2012 Dinner & Prizegiving

This will take place this year on Saturday 24th November at the Pennine Manor Hotel, Huddersfield.

The arrangement is to meet at 7.00pm onwards for dinner at 7.45pm followed by the prizegiving. There will be a disco afterwards for those who still have energy left to burn!

The Pennine Manor is probably the nearest location to the Club and so is central to everyone's sailing activity.

Please put this date in your diaries now and come along to enjoy a great evening with your fellow club members.

Further details will follow soon.

Stephen Yates

Commodore SWSC

Sailing Captain's report... by the Vice Captain

We are now almost halfway through 2012 and the weather so far has not been the best for sailing. There have, however, been a number of trophies already decided from the Caretaker's Cup to the three-day Spring Bank series completed on Jubilee weekend, despite a wash-out on one day and lack of wind on another.

So far we have had two open meetings take place at Scammonden - the Supernovas on April 15 with 14 boats taking to the water, which was great to see especially after they'd had a gruelling weekend at Bolton already. The first Scammonden Supernova boat was our very own Commodore Steve Yates who managed a second place in the first race, and finished fifth overall. Phil Davies and Sophie Yates also competed for us too.

On May 27 we held the Enterprise open and had 12 boats take part including four of our own boats. This was very hotly contested – and it's not just the weather I'm talking about either! It got so hot that one member literally had to dive out of his boat to cool down. It would be unkind to mention any names, however an action photograph is in the bar (best caption will win a prize). The best Scammonden boat at the Enterprise open was Mike Goodwin with his returning crew of Matt Bancroft. Well done to both of you for coming fifth place that day.

The Southport 24 hour race takes place on the weekend of September 15th and 16th at West Lancs Yacht Club in Southport. This is a great opportunity to get involved in an amazing team event which tests both your sailing skills and your resilience. It's rather exciting and slightly eerie to be sailing an Enterprise around a large lake in the moonlight. You have to try it!

The event is open to all club members, so if you are interested in taking part just sign up at the sailing club bar. Remember to indicate whether you would like to helm, crew or either. There is a modest fee of £10 per person, payable when you sign-up, which will go towards the boat entry fee. But if you want to be part of the team, we really need to know as soon as possible so we can decide how many boats to enter. So get up to the bar, or if you have any questions speak to either Mike Goodwin or Paul Cornish.

With the season now in full swing every member needs to make sure you have your 2012 stickers on your boats and to hand your completed blue buoyancy cards in to the OD hut. If you have not done this already then please ensure this is done as soon as possible. Please also get your buoyancy card out of the box before you go out on the water so that the OD knows which members are on the water at all times. If you do not have any of these or have any questions then please speak to Mike Goodwin.

As we head into the summer months we have a number of events that members will be travelling to including The Birkett, Ullswater week and Abersoch dinghy week. But we will continue to have a full calendar at Scammonden we'd like all members to join in with, including Captain Vs Commodore on July 15, Captain's day on August 5, The President's cup on August 12 and The Challenge trophy on August Bank holiday.

Saturdays see the continuation of the Saturday club which now has the next generation of sailors attending, having fun and learning to sail, and races continue to take place on Saturdays, Wednesdays and Sundays for all.

Oh and if you are wondering why the Vice Captain is writing this ask the Captain...

Paul Cornish

Vice Sailing Captain SWSC