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Commodore's report

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you are all ready to set sail and exercise some of your Christmas indulgence off.

We had a busy 2014: our training school ran successfully with RYA courses, the Saturday Club and members gaining their Powerboat Level 2, we hope to continue and improve on this for 2015 so keep an eye out for dates.

We saw some great sailing, with successful Open events and members sailing home and away. Some of our members have been out and about representing us at other venues. One of the most impressive accomplishments was Isaac Marsh and his friend Robin completing the whole 24 hour race at Southport in a Firefly by themselves, well done lads.

We also had our usual Scammonden team entry and welcomed some new team members, plus members and families were out and about at the regular events such as the Birkett.

Socially, we held the Scammonden Sleepover - the idea of one of our younger members - Katie Ratcliffe. We hope to run it again this year.

There was also the annual Dinner Dance and prize giving and we are booked in at The Pennine Manor again on the 14th November 2015. We finished the year with a refreshing walk around the water, followed by mulled wine and mince pies which went down a treat.

Now in 2015, the Snowball Series is underway and we hope there will be plenty of opportunity to sail.

Keep up to date with what's happening by registering for website updates. We're also on Facebook and Twitter, so do follow us.

We are coming up to the time to renew membership, don't forget to take advantage of the early bird price (please note fees remain the same this year), and members can now we make payments online – see the membership form in this edition of Telltales for details.

We will be holding a working party on Sunday 1st March, everyone is welcome to attend, wear your mucky clothes, bring your tools and we will get stuck in to tidying up the clubhouse and grounds. Last year's was very successful, and this year lunch will be provided.

Sophie Yates
Commodore

Sailing Captain's report

The new sailing season is now underway. Many sailing clubs close down for the winter, but we continue to sail - if and when we can - because there's usually some good wind, the reservoir is fuller and there's usually plenty of action-packed racing. Plus it helps get us out of the house in winter and stay active.

The weather is the only problem and the Freezer Open had to be delayed by a week - one of our club members was walking round Scammonden the afternoon before it was originally planned and reported that the club was inaccessible due to the ice on the top road. It did take place the week later and was won by Ian Jones, of Dovestone Sailing Club. In the coming weeks we'll try to sail when we can. Check the club's website before you set off - if we think it will be too difficult to get to the club we'll put it on the website to save you a journey.

As usual, no-one has been listed for any duties, with the rota resuming in March. For the Snowball Series we ask people to volunteer, there's a list in the Clubhouse to put your name against or email me to volunteer.

In the next few weeks we'll have all the duties for the forthcoming season live on Dutyman, so you can volunteer for dates you can and can't do before we allocate people.

For the Early Saturday and Easter Series we're testing a 1pm start time on Saturdays. This was something requested at the AGM. More details of this are later in this edition of Telltales.

Wednesday evenings will return at the beginning of April and those members who regularly attend will be able to gain a personal handicap.

The Saturday Club resumes on April 11 so if you know of any beginners - children or adults - wanting to learn to sail then speak to Ben Ratcliffe or me. Also, parents can promote it in their child's school too and among friends, please help us spread the word.

Paul Cornish
Sailing Captain

Coming up at SWSC...

On Sunday March 1 we will hold a Working Party to get the club ready for the season. There will be a jobs to do around the club and we need your help. Included will be a free lunch for all who attend and help out from 9.30am. We'll also run a Powerboat and OD box refresher for anyone wanting extra tuition, so bring your waterproofs along on the day.

Your Say on Scammonden Water Sailing Club...

We want to know what you think about SWSC. We're looking for views on how we run sailing, the club, ideas to improve it, things we should and shouldn't do.

We'll soon send out a survey which will be totally anonymous. The results will be considered by the Committee and will shape the direction of the club in the coming years.

It will only take a few minutes of your time - the link will be emailed out and put on the Club's website soon.

Training Centre update...

In 2014 we became a Powerboat accredited Club and 15 members completed the Powerboat Level 2 course, a two-day entry level course that provides the skills and background knowledge needed to drive a powerboat.

As part of our agreement with Yorkshire Water we need to run a safety boat during sailing times so it's vital members feel confident using the boats.

Some members already had the qualification, but last year the following members passed PL2: Derrick Jackson, Sophie Yates, Joanne Douglas, Alison Ratcliffe, Mick Meaker, Paul Barrett, Julian Taylor, Ailsa Burrows, Linda Merriman, John Hutchinson, Torin Glazer, Ruth Kelly Chris Lancaster, Ray Dawson & Chris Rice.

Further courses will take place in 2015 and if you haven't done it yet but wish to contact Steve Yates for more details.

FREEZER OPEN 2015:

Scammonden Water Sailing Club's Freezer Open took place on Sunday, January 4 and saw the Streaker sailors secure the top four places.

Well done to Ian Jones of Dovestone SC who won the Freezer trophy, followed by SWSC's Ian Lees 2nd, Ben Ratcliffe 3rd & Sally Ratcliffe 4th. There were 14 entries, including 4 Streakers, 2 Supernovas, 4 Lasers, 3 Toppers and one Escape Mango.

The Snowball Series continues on Sunday at 1pm.



To keep our Club and boats secure we're putting a lock on the gate at the side of the Activity Centre. All members will be given the code when they re-join as members for 2015 & we ask that if you visit the Club out of sailing times you lock the gate behind you.

Thank you to Jeremy Child who donated a mobile phone to the Club after our plea in the last edition of Telltales. It will be based in the OD box for emergency use only.

Thank you to Yvette Yates for making us a new Club pennant, which will fly proudly during sailing times & replace our old, tired pennant.

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU:
If you can volunteer to help at any of the Opens in 2015 please speak to Paul Cornish.

Saturday 1pm start for trial period & other changes for 2015...

For the Early Saturday and Easter Series on Saturdays we'll trial a 1pm start time. It was requested by members at the AGM as Saturday sailors only get two races, compared to the three on Sundays.

We appreciate not all members can sail both days & want to give members more opportunity to sail.

The Committee will look at how successful the 1pm start was in terms of attendance and feedback before we make a decision whether to do it all year round. We will notify all members by email and website.

Also new for 2015, all trophy days will now start at 1pm on Sundays.

SWSC people

Commodore Sophie Yates: My first boat was crewing with Dad in a Tasar, then we got a Scorpion when there was a few of them at the club. After Uni I crewed in an Enterprise a bit before venturing into a single-hander, first a Lightning and now my Streaker. I have sailed at the Birkett, Abersoch and Southport, as well as a few open meetings when I was younger.



Vice Commodore & Sailing Captain Paul Cornish: I learnt to sail in a Mirror crewing for my Dad. After a couple of years I got a Topper and sailed it until 16, competing in the Yorkshire and Humberside Schools travellers series, along with Paul Goodison. I stopped until the age of 33 when I came to Scammonden. I got the Laser and have sailed it ever since.

In forthcoming editions of Telltales we'll find out more about other club members.