

Sailbase

The Newsletter from Hunstanton Sailing Club

Issue 9

From the Commodore



Hi there shipmates and yep that includes those who windsurf/ kite/ watch/ canoe/ swim/ or just sit on the veranda wiv Smithy and booze!!!! whilst

watching the world go by. And of course those of you who don't know a bowline from a sheeps shank, double salco (Salchow?), or a Prima donna from a kebab.

Its that time of the year again and with an AGM coming up you need to consider what your commitment to the club will be for 2006 in addition to your membership fees.

We have striven over the past year to show we are a truly inclusive club and most I think would agree we have in the main succeeded. For those of you who think we have not, put up or shut up (in the nicest possible way of course). Seriously friends its time to consider if you could contribute to the running of the club as a Committee member. Speak to Julia if you are not sure of the procedure but don't delay in coming forward.

I am standing down as Commodore for a number of personal reasons also Hazel and I will be Mayor and Mayoress of Downham Market. That's one hell of a demand on our time as is the Commodoreship so one has to go unfortunately.

I am looking forward to the AGM when we will have the opportunity to discuss

the proposed Harbour proposals in detail. That should be interesting!!! The club will have to decide what our response and recommendations will be, so don't miss this opportunity to hear the for's and against's and express your views cogently.

Just to give you one final laugh before the AGM. Who, with about two thousand others spent 7 hrs on the B---y M25 recently. We travelled all of two miles in that seven hours and took twelve hours to complete a journey that only normally takes two and a half hours. Only in Britain can one accident bring the entire network of M11 and M25 to a standstill. Much more pleasant sailing at Sunny Hunny eh.

See ya at the **AGM** don't forget the date **16th April 3pm** and YES THE BAR will be OPEN (Smithy will be there)

Mick Ford

Nominations for the 2006 Committee

With regret we've heard that not only Mick Ford, but also Paul Pearson, Phill Cook and John Robinson are standing down this year. Our thanks go to them for their contribution to the Club.

The nominations we've received are:

Commodore: Dave Wilby
Vice Commodore: Stuart Moore
Rear Commodore: Ian Holland
Treasurer: Warren Mitchell
Secretary: Julia Paul
Full/Family Member: John Matthews

This will leave several vacancies.

Meeting re harbour proposal

Report by Mick Ford

Julia, Andy and I met with Richard and William Searle on Monday 30th Jan 06.

At that meeting I made it perfectly clear that it would be unlikely that they would receive support from our membership for their current proposals for an enclosed harbour. Furthermore I pointed out that when Richard met with the Sailing Club Committee some 3-4 years ago to discuss 'his dream' we were looking at more a structure like the cob at Lyme Regis and working towards a Centre of Sailing Excellence for the club. The two projects were to be mutually supportive in principle. No decisions were made all those years ago but we had an 'in principle' agreement to work together.

Background history for new members

In the fullness of time we had Richard Townsley (new resort manager, now past resort manager!!!) scupper our plans that had been developed with his predecessor to take over the North Prom and develop the Centre of Sailing Excellence. It has therefore been in abeyance until now though remains a club aspiration until any AGM says otherwise. It was unanimously agreed by the club to pursue both the centre of sailing excellence and taking over of other hitherto local authority functions on the North Prom. Richard Searle was to support this aspiration too.

At the meeting it became clear that William is taking some convincing that his plans are a non starter yet he accepts that the environmentalists may well come out against any form of development.

Both Richard and William accept that to get any co-operation from the club requires plenty of modification and much debate with us. They were shifting ground with a number of possible scenarios and alterations but stuck with the idea of a feasibility study.

Richard agreed to come and talk to members at our AGM. We need to consider all possible options and although we may instinctively want to reject it out of hand we need to be mindful that if the environmentalists were to support such a scheme we as a club would need to

consider how we could benefit from any such development (if at all) and what our likely co-operation might be. Whilst we have a lease over the land they need access to, I am aware that we are a small cog in a much larger wheel and could be outmanoeuvred if we object outright at this stage.

In the end we need to be pragmatic at this stage I think, and whilst its perfectly acceptable for individuals to register their opposition we need to wait to the discussion at AGM and hold an EGM at a later date to agree a Club response.

I think the fact that Richard Searle is still prepared to come to what he knows will not be an easy meeting is positive and yet again I would remind colleagues that (a) he will be a guest of the club, (b) he has always been a firm supporter of the club.

One final point: Richard went out of his way to point out that Searles did not want to make money out of the project directly though acknowledging that to increase the potential for additional income generation for them and the town in the 'Shoulder period' of the year would be to their advantage. I take that at face value until proved otherwise.

NB Shoulder period is winter and spring.

Working parties

Please will **everyone** try to help out at one of the working parties: March 25th, 26th, and April 1st.and 2nd. It isn't just work for the dinghy sailors, there are also general maintenance jobs that need doing around the clubhouse. In the end, if we have to pay a handy-person, it will end up hitting membership fees.

And of course a number of members suggested last year that the garage could be freed up for members' storage. The Committee agreed but we can't do it on our own! We need help to move the With, and to decide what kit is worth keeping.

Oh, and the fridge has accumulated a lot of old foodstuffs. Please mark any you want to keep, and the rest will be cleared out.

No smoking proposal

You'll see on the AGM Agenda we have a proposal to make the Clubhouse a no smoking zone. There is legislation coming our way that will force this on us anyway, but the Committee decided it was desirable to bring it in sooner rather than later. We have to think of the increasing number of children we see in the clubhouse, and also the health of those who help behind the bar. Indeed one helper asked for some polite notices asking people not to smoke at the bar; these were provided but soon disappeared.

Can we also remind everyone that DOGS are not allowed in the Clubhouse?

Thanks

Membership renewals

About half of all members have renewed so far. Please remember, if you haven't renewed, the "grace" period expires on 31st March; from 1st April you won't be entitled to use the Club's facilities or vote at the AGM. Renewal forms are enclosed if we haven't had your payment yet.

Some people have asked what a "Social" member is; on the form it says a "non-sailing" member. This is a term that's stayed in because we are still a sailing club. Basically, a social member is one who does not use watersports and so won't be using facilities such as showers. Anyone who uses the water is expected to be a Full or Family member.

Lost kit?

A new website has been launched with the aim of helping people in sports and leisure activities find their lost property; the website is www.lostkit.co.uk.

Report any property you've lost at any event, race or meeting across the UK and they'll try to track it down, or if you've found something, report it and they'll hopefully find the owner.

Please use the service - it's free!!

<http://www.lostkit.co.uk>

Events

RS700 Fat Face sponsored Open Meeting on the 22nd/23rd April...

With support from Audi Kings Lynn, The Rose & Crown in Snettisham and Premier Racquets & Fitness in Sedgeford this promises to be an exciting weekend for the speed freaks, with possibly 25 boats competing. The event is being widely promoted, and we are hoping to have TV cameras to cover the event.

We'll be providing bacon rolls before sailing and sandwiches after; the bar will be open afternoon until early evening, when **ALL** club members are welcome to come for a meal at the Rose and Crown - £15 per person for a 2-course meal, with entertainment too. (I'm not allowed to say what the entertainment will be).

We do still need more volunteers to help with breakfasts, some admin, car-parking and safety boat duties on the Sunday. Main contact for this event is Andy Holland, or talk to any committee member.

In recognition of their contribution in sponsoring the event, we've enclosed some info about the Premier Racquets & Fitness centre in Sedgeford – much more than just a tennis club.

Lifestyles Weekend 2006 Saturday/Sunday May 20th/21st.

We have agreed to lend our support to this event, similar to last year's Skateboard and BMX event. The organisers have promised that we will have access for our normal activities including racing on Sunday.

We would like to help by having lots of people on the water; and if possible, offering some joy-rides or tasters.

There will be a band and PA; with the band on an artie parked opposite the clubhouse. We have agreed to open the bar for the evening, closing at around 11pm. Public toilets will be open so we won't need to let public into our toilet/changing areas.

Skateboard and BMX will be on public area of North prom.

The Council will provide some fencing to protect boats, which we will move away from the Clubhouse.

OK & Challenger Open Meeting 3rd and 4th June

This year we will have a fleet of OK dinghies joining us with the Challenger trimarans, sailed mainly by people with disabilities. We can always use some extra help, especially with getting the wide trimarans up and down the ramp. Details about any social extras later.

Team Races against Snettisham Beach S.C. - Sunday 2nd July

This has been planned to be a fun/social event with team racing between the Clubs. More info later.

North West Norfolk Week Starts at Hunstanton on Saturday and Sunday 22nd/23rd July

As usual, this will be our biggest event of the year with 50-60 dinghies taking part, and a great social event. Plans haven't been finalised yet but expect some food and drink to be laid on!

With an event this size, there will have to be some parking restrictions; competitors and helpers need top priority. We are sorry for the inconvenience this causes but it is an important and prestigious event on our calendar. And of course it's valuable extra income.

RNLI Fundraisers:

Sunday 27th and Monday 28th August Races for RNLI Cup & Pennant

Bank holiday weekend will have 4 races over 2 days with profits being donated to RNLI.

There is also some discussion of a race between a RIB and some windsurfers across the Wash, as a fundraiser for RNLI. With the right sea conditions, it'll be a close-run thing. Plans are still in the early stages, and it'll probably take place towards the end of the season.

AGM

You will find the Agenda for the AGM enclosed and we hope many members will come to hear about the harbour proposal.

Minutes of the 2005 AGM and EGM can be found on the website (see opposite), or can be found in the Clubhouse.

Financial information will shortly be published in the Clubhouse but will not appear on the website as we believe it should be available to members only.

Training

We've arranged safety boat training for April 1st and 15th, and May 6th. By spreading out the training, we hope more people will find they can make it. The training will also cover handling the dumper to launch/recover the RIB. Please let Ian Holland or Julia Paul know if you are interested.

The Website

The new website address is www.hunstantonsc.co.uk. It's a great clean design, let's keep it fresh by submitting any news and good photos which we can publish there. Keep checking out the website, as the content will be updated and your suggestions are welcome.

Protect what you pay for!

Please would you think about whether the Club's front door should be left open. If there is a group of you, but you're all going on the water, please make sure the front door is left locked so we don't get strangers wandering in and out.

It's been suggested we need a key cabinet outside so you don't have to take electronic keys out on the water; the Committee's progressing this (amongst other things).

Hope to see you all at the AGM. If you have any questions, you can contact Julia on 01485 541031 or by email on juliapaulhsc@aol.com