

Waldringfield Sailing Club Newsletter



March 2009

No 54

The Rearward View

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2009. I trust that Santa gave you all that you deserved.

Whilst you may have been busy admiring the new Club Calendar, studying a chart of the North Sea or brushing up with the revisions of the Racing Rules of Sailing there has been much activity at the Clubhouse, with various members busying themselves to make the Club ready for the forthcoming sailing season. Please come and do your bit by helping with the Working Parties on Saturday 21st and 28th February, and 7th March. The fun is from 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

In this newsletter you will find some information from the Commodore on the matter of a possible pontoon. Several members have expressed their views on the matter – some for, and some against. As you will read there will be ample time for further discussion should it be that further possible proposals come to light. Let us remember that even though we may have differing opinions with one another that our goal is the same – to enjoy boating on the beautiful River Deben and environs without spoiling its natural charm, and enjoy one another's company when we are on terra firma.

Hopefully we are now coming out of the grips of winter and can look forward to good wind and happy sailing in this year of the 60th Anniversary of the Dragonfly Class.

So forget about deflation and recession and come on down to the Club.

William Sudell
Rear Commodore

Boxing Day dip...brrr!



The ClickSargeant Boxing Day Nip & Dip at Waldringfield. 30 dippers, some in fancy dress, and almost 100 watchers braved the cold and raised almost £7000.



This photo was sent to the Club from Life Member Vivian Mason. She had found it among belongings of her late mother Dorothy Jones who died in November 2008 at 106. Vivian reminds the Club that her father Bob Jones made the weathervane and the clock was made by two other early members Ken Fish (John's father) and George Goddard (Jem's father). Both weathervane and clock are over 50 years.

Welcome to New Members

Steve & Chris Petts with Alex and Daniel. Steve usually sails a Catamaran but has bought his boys a Cadet for them to enjoy sailing for themselves.

Michael Richardson is a returning member. Previously he enjoyed Yacht sailing, but has renovated a Wayfarer, renamed it Avocet and raring to go cruising the River

Deaths

David Dufty a life member died in November 2008
Chris Goodhead sadly passed away 4th January 2009 after 2 years battling cancer. A member of only 3 years but he saw two of his four sons successfully sailing their Cadet

Peter Allen passed away in January 2009. He had been a member between 1981 & 2002 when he resigned through ill health

Peter James passed away 3rd February 2009. He was a past member and owned a Dragonfly, but lately was a familiar figure in his Electric buggy watching the river and the boats

Caption Competiton: (October Newsletter)



The winner was Graham Mills who suggested William saying "Something for the weekend madam?"

Email Addresses

An email has been sent to you this week telling you that the latest mailing is/was available on 21st February at the first working Party.

If you do have an email address and did not receive

this message please could you email the Hon Secretary on mgtlake@aol.com so that she can update her address book.

The Pontoon

Since the last newsletter there have been two meetings re this proposal, one with the Parish Council and the other with the Fairways Committee.

John Chaplin and I made a presentation to the Parish Council on 13 January, and whilst they thanked us for our time felt unable to make a comment on this occasion.

On Thursday 29 January myself, Vice Commodore Howard Ryan and Yacht class captain John Chaplin made a presentation to a special meeting of the Fairways Committee concerning the possibility of a pontoon to be sited on the beach starting near the harbourmaster's hut. We all answered questions from the committee and were then asked to leave whilst they deliberated and voted.

I have received from them a letter stating that 'the Waldringfield Fairway Committee feel that the current proposal is not acceptable.' This letter was read out at the General Committee meeting on Thursday 12 February whereupon the issues were discussed and options aired. The general feeling was

that we should not currently consider closing this proposal but should go back to the Pontoon Committee, and ask them to re consider and investigate a different site that would hopefully answer some of the critics and possibly be more acceptable. (This was voted on, with all in favour apart from 2 abstentions). We will aim to consult with village residents, the Parish Council and Fairway Committee during this process.

Once the matter has been further considered a plan will be drawn showing where the pontoon might go, and be sent to Sail Com, General Com and to all members.

It is my intention that once this is published and sent to all the members that I will call a Special General meeting where Mr. John Chaplin will put the proposal forward, and the subject can be debated, with a vote being taken.

I am sure you can all appreciate this is all going to take time, but regular up dates will be sent out.

*Tony Carter
Commodore*

Marine Watch

A Marine Watch Scheme has been set up in this area.

The scheme asks for as many boating people as possible to provide their mobile phone numbers so that details of suspicious activity can be sent out by text message, with a Police phone number to call if you see anything else worth reporting.

It is the immediacy of the information being passed to and from the Police that they believe is vital.

The assistance local boating people can give the police via MarineWatch potentially goes far beyond preventing outboards being stolen e.g. counter terrorism, drug and people trafficking. The Police Direct Service is available on

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/Crime+Reduction/Watch+Schemes/Marine+Watch>.

You can register online, by telephone or by downloading the form and returning to Suffolk Police Headquarters.

Messages can be passed on as texts, email or phone or any combination and you can register up to three postcodes.

WSC Regatta 2009

The Regatta will be held on Friday 24 – Sunday 26th July, with the usual mix of sailing, shore-events, and social activities. Planning is still in the early stages but apart from the sailing we intend to build on the success of previous years with social events on the

Friday and Saturday nights, and the weekend will close with the traditional Yachtsmen Service. Further details will follow, but please make a note of the dates so you can enjoy all the fun on, in and off the water.

Ex Cadets

A polite request



Tim Linsell has been selected for the new sports sponsorship scheme Team Jazz. Tim has moved onto the '29er' Class and is enjoying competition in the Waldringfield Lark fleet alongside his 29er campaign. Having won several awards within the UK, Tim is now looking to soon make the transition in to the 49er class and continue improving with the hope of one day reaching the Olympics and winning gold.

We are also aware that James Hayward and Tim Carter have made the transition to the 420 Class. Maybe they too will become Olympic contestants in due course, in the 470s, following the role model of the guest speaker at the Laying Up Supper, ex-Cadet Joe Glanfield.

We wish them, and all recent ex-Cadets, well in their future sailing careers.

Keep us posted with all the great things that you achieve

Photographs

The display of historical photographs in the Mossman Room at the Club is scheduled to be replaced this spring.

We are looking for high quality photographs of the Club, sailing or related Waldringfield topics to display. Also we would like submissions for next year's Club Calendar – hopefully some photographs will be suitable for both.

If you feel you may be able to help please either e-mail, send them to, or contact the Vice Commodore before the end of February.

500 Club

December – John Shambrook
No. 64

January – George Rolls No.
36

Interested in finding out more? £12.00 per number to be included in 12 monthly draws. You can have as many numbers as you like please send a cheque, made out to WSC 500 Club, to Norman Glen 12 Windermere Close, Ipswich IP3 0RU Any questions? then ring Norman on 01473 720744

The Cadet sailors have asked me to make this polite request in relation to sailing at WSC. There have been a few times recently when the Cadets feel they have not been treated in fair manner on the water. They would like, and justify, the same respect as other sailors. Please remember that a Cadet travels at a slower speed than most other classes and can, without meaning to, get in the way. However they have the same rights and would like to be able to sail without being told what to do. The problem areas seem to be at marks, port/starboard and keeping a fair distance away when overtaking, especially when it is windy.

There were a couple of reports last year of larger and seemingly out of control boats being too close for comfort!

Also a boat with large sails stops a Cadet in its tracks if it comes too close, this can have an unfair effect on places and racing.

While a majority of the Cadet fleet are experienced and very confident with their rights and the rules, we thankfully have a large number of new and novice helms this year so please also be aware of their needs.

If you have any concerns on or off the water about any of the Cadet sailors please do not hesitate to come and have a chat with me or any of the Cadet committee (Clare Gosling, Maggie Harris, Jez Linsell, Kevin Knott, Matt White, Richard Hayward) and we will do our best to sort it out.

*Geoff Harris -
Cadet Squadron Leader*

How well do you know your club?

1. Who makes sure that there are always toilet rolls in place?
2. Who takes the rubbish away?
3. Who organises the OOD rota?
4. Who audits the accounts?
5. Who pays the council tax? (is there any?)
6. Who cleans the slipway?
7. Who collects up the mugs left around?
8. Who refuels the safety boats?
9. Who mends the things that get broken?
10. Who set up the wireless network?
11. Who organises/does the cleaning?
12. Who gets the Beer etc., down to the Club?
13. Who edits the newsletter?

Antiques Rivershow comes to Suffolk!



This year marks the 60th Anniversary of a very special sailing dinghy designed and built for the Waldringfield Sailing Club on the beautiful River Deben in Suffolk.

The Waldringfield Dragonfly as it is known, is a 14 foot traditional, wooden clinker-built, sailing dinghy with a Bermudan Rig and exudes an extra special character which attracts a loyal following who take up the challenges of maintaining, sailing and racing or generally enjoy "messaging about" on the stretch of river from Woodbridge to Felixstowe

Although now sailing mainly in the waters of Suffolk there are a few boats afloat further afield to this day and anyone who wishes to help celebrate 2009 as 60 years of Dragonfly is welcome to join in the events.

As part of these celebrations being planned to mark the occasion, the Dragonfly Class members (who currently own, sail and crew these boats) are looking to contact all owners past and present, or anyone who has sailed in, or has tales to tell about, this lovely piece of nautical furniture.

In fact, the boat was first featured in the *East Anglian Daily Times* at its inception way back in August 1949. This article stated that "...The design of the boat has already

proved most successful in Ireland..." and went on to add that "...the object of this boat is to provide a stable sailing dinghy which the owner can race and also use as a comfortable day boat"

People were keen to take up racing, with one female correspondent to the Club stating:

"Please may I have one of your new Waldringfield boats? I have not eaten any bread or potatoes for two days, so hope to have more of a 14 footer figure"

A figure which remains extremely variable to this day!

At the end of November 60 years ago, the first working drawings arrived and during the winter of 1948/1949 a partially constructed Dragonfly was taken into Ipswich and hoisted upstairs to a room on the first floor of the White Horse Hotel, where the club was holding its annual dinner dance.

The first race in which Dragonflies took part as a Class was on the 11th June 1949 when four boats sailed with Number 5 being recorded as making a late start - another tradition which appears to be honoured to this day!

Dragonfly Class captain Derek Jacobs comments "Over 40 boats were built

locally between 1949 and the early sixties and more than 12 boats are still serviceable, racing regularly on summer Wednesday evenings and Saturdays. However, we've totally lost contact with a number of boats such as Dragonfly 17, which we believe may currently be under restoration, and would be delighted to hear from the owner or anyone who knows anything about it"

Are you, or do you know anyone with a sailing background or connections or who may be interested in contributing to the history of the unique Waldringfield Dragonfly?

Do you have any memorabilia?

Please contact Derek Jacobs at derek.jacobs@btinternet.com

Valentine's breakfast

Valentine's breakfast in aid of Alzheimer's

Valentines Day this year was anything but the ordinary at WSC as it was turned into "Dan Watson's greasy spoon breakfast café". Five pounds of bacon, 80 sausages, 14 loaves of bread and over 60 eggs were skilfully transformed into full English breakfasts, happily being polished off by fifty-six hungry guests and WSC members. There was also a tempting bottle of rosé champagne and a dozen roses on offer through the prize draw that was very gratefully won by Hazel Johnson.

The event was organised in support of Dan's campaign to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. This is his choice of charity for this year's London marathon which he is taking part in. He is currently immersed in a vigorous training regime, on top of which he has pledged to raise £2,500.

With the help from the club members who attended, and donations made, a total of £583 was raised on the day. A fantastic achievement and something the club can be proud of.

Dan continues with his quest to reach his pledged sponsorship target. If you wish to follow his footsteps (not literally!), why not follow his blog at

<http://danisrunning2009londonmarathon.blogspot.com>

Dates for your diaries

Blow away the Credit Crunch Blues and make sure you avail yourselves of one of the great benefits of Club membership, and join in with the social programme during 2009.

We believe that we have concocted a fun packed programme for all to enjoy. In particular in the next few weeks we have the Dragonfly Dinner on 7th March, to which all club members are invited (subject to payment, of course!). There will be Mothers Day Luncheon at the Club on Sunday 22nd March - what better way is there to entertain the ladies at a price that won't break the bank? And Mike and Jenny Tuckwood are willing to consider arranging more impromptu events during the season, maybe on a Saturday evening, should there be sufficient demand - please lobby a Flag officer if this is something you would like to see happen.