

2011 Starts with a good shine



Preparing the fleet for 2011

ON FRIDAY 8th April a group of volunteers gathered at the Rotary Boathouse, Colemans Dyke, Oulton Broad to prepare the fleet for the 2011 sailing season.

Over 20 members, helpers, Instructors, Rotarians and friends took the boats and equipment out of boathouse ready for each dinghy to be thoroughly cleaned, polished and rigged. Over the winter most of the repairs and maintenance had been completed and the helpers were soon able to polish the hulls, put the masts and sails and rigging in place and check the craft ready for another busy season.

The safety boat engines had been serviced and the RIB and the dory also received some TLC to make sure they could be on duty when sailing commenced on Tuesday 19th April. As the fleet gets older the maintenance costs will rise, since the start of the year we have spent over £2,200 on repairs. As repairs are likely to be necessary during the year we could spend more on repairs during 2011 than in 2010 when repairs were over £4,000.



Some modifications to the rigging were completed as part of the winter maintenance programme and it is hoped that the changes will make it easier for our sailors to sail the dinghies more effectively, particularly during the racing sessions that we will run each week.



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After the polish comes the sailing



OUR FIRST SAILING day for the current year was Tuesday 19th April when a large crowd of old and potential members were at the Wave-ney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club to make the most of one of the warmest days of the year so far.

We were very lucky to have perfect weather when we prepared the fleet for the 2011 season - see report and pictures on page 1 - however we could only hope that the summer like temperatures would stay with us as we planned the first sailing session.

The number who wanted to sail was far higher than usual and we had some technical problems with the boats and the equipment. Nothing that we could not fix and if the numbers on the first day had been at the usual level it would not have caused delays.

There was a problem fitting the hoists due to effects of the winter weather, now solved with the help of Bob Sabberton. We also discovered that all but one of our boats will take any dagger board. However one Access 303 must have its own dagger board that was supplied with the boat.

We are locating the necessary dagger board and it will be marked to make sure its only used in its dedicated boat.

Considering the amount of work that goes into preparing the fleet we are lucky to have been able to start sailing with only a few minor hiccups. However these little problems plus the unexpected numbers who wanted to sail but had not booked a time caused delays.

We are sorry if you had to wait to get out on the water but we did our best, all our Instructors and helpers are volunteers who give up many hours of their leisure time to keep us sailing. Please be understanding and remember we do operate a booking system that, on most sailing days, works like clockwork thanks to the hard work of Sally Green.



The hoist is soon in use while Bryan Riley takes the Squib for its first sail

During the winter our squib has had a refit and a supporter donated a second hand set of sails. They are in good condition and after being modified to fit the raised boom they are working well.

The hull has been painted, new rubbing beads have been fitted, the bow tank has been repaired, and some of the rigging has been replaced. The boat probably looks smarter than she has since we took her into the fleet - a donation from a generous supporter.

Our senior RYA Instructor Bryan Riley, a National Squib Champion, was pleased to be able to take our only keel boat out onto Oulton Broad and there were plenty of sailors who wanted to join him to see how much we had improved the appearance of number 364.

We need a new trailer for the squib and we are grateful to Trustee Vince Meadows who allowed us to use his trailer during the refit period.

The winter refit and repair programme was under the control of Trustee Chris Addison who also did some of the work assisted, as usual, by various helpers who are always on hand when we need to save funds by a bit of DIY.



The Trip of a lifetime for Kevin & Sonja

Sonja and I have just returned from a trip of our lifetime! We were invited by friends to visit them in the Caribbean. At first we visited the island of Saba, you will have a job the find it as it is a volcanic island of only 5 square kilometers. After a week there we went to visit Colin & Alison Bramble on the island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. They run the BVI Sailability Club and Alison has the RYA award from Princess Anne too. It is an amazing venue in paradise, but of course everywhere in the world there are disabled people. Alison was able to bring some of her members to Rutland last year; those who made the visit may remember them. This is a picture of their clubhouse



And here is Impossible Dream moored outside.



For those of you who followed Geoff Holt's epic journey across the Atlantic, this is where he landed and met up with his family.

We were fortunate enough to meet the owner who let Geoff borrow it for this crossing. A generous gesture with this huge expensive very technical catamaran.

The owner Mike Brown was on board taking his family around the islands. We were sailing a smaller boat and joined them on part of the trip. Near the end of our journey we meet up for a barbeque at Colin & Alison's house in Brewers Bay. A difficult spot because of reefs and power cables, and we had to get special permission from the charter company because of the danger. Thanks to Colin for arranging this

Trip of a lifetime - continued



Colin and Alison's house as we approached, the only day it rained!

Colin will be visiting us on 28th June whilst Alison takes a team to The Special Olympics Summer World Games in Athens, Greece. With a 6 young sailors between the ages of 16 and 19.

Racing gets off to a good start



THE RACE SESSIONS made a good start and our members took advantage of the warm weather to reuse some of the skills learned last season.

On the 3rd May a visitor, the National President of Rotary Jim Moulson who lives near Glasgow was in Lowestoft to visit the East Point Club; the President, and our editor, David Collins invited him to visit the WOBYC to meet members and enjoy a sail. Sue Grief and Jim took part in one of the races and were well placed but due to a dinner commitment could not finish the race.



The race leaders head for the mark (left) while the Rotary National President (above) has a practice before joining in the next race.

Racing results are available at www.waveneyailability.co.uk

Keeping you safe

Practice and a scenario

WE NEED TO BE ABLE to deal with any unexpected problems that may arise and as the following photographs show we seem to be ready !!



A FIRST AID COURSE was well attended and as you can see from the photographs reproduced above our helpers were very happy to play the part of the patient. All part of our aim to keep the helpers up to date, not only with the best sailing practice, but also with the safety of our sailors when they are out on the water or getting into or out of one of the boats. Each year we spend a substantial amount on courses for our volunteers.

On the water or before you start

OUR HELPERS TRY to cover all possibilities as they prepare for the 2011 season.



ALTHOUGH WE NEED to train our helpers how to deal with any accidents our main aim is to prevent them.

You can help us by taking care when ever you are sailing, getting ready to sail, leaving one of the boats or just enjoying some refreshments at WOBYC.

Sailing can be dangerous, especially if you fail to follow some simple precautions. Please take care when you are near the water and always follow our rules **LIFE JACKETS MUST BE WORN WHENEVER YOU ARE SAILING OR GOING ONTO THE PONTOONS.**

Tea Service as usual



OUR WEEKLY SAILING sessions would not be the same without the excellent canteen services provided by Barbara Hood, Joyce Smith and the team.

Each week our members provide a tempting selection of cakes and pastries that equal those that can be found in any local cafe or tea rooms. We have been fortunate to have such a dedicated team who turn up week after week to provide a welcome cup of tea or coffee and a cake to our sailors and helpers.

We don't make any charge but those who enjoy the service make a donation. Each year Barbara and her team produce well over £1,000 for our funds. On behalf of all those who enjoy the excellent cakes and drinks, and our editor is a good customer, we say a big thank you to all those who contribute to this first class facility !!!!!

NEWSABILITY IDEAS.

We have been keeping a journal of all our activities over the last few years and it makes very interesting reading. Any newspaper articles, photographs and memorabilia have been carefully sorted and stored. This year Allen Pettitt has kindly agreed to take this on but he needs your help and 'eagle eyes'! if you spot Waveney Sailability news in any paper or magazine, please bring it with you on Tuesday afternoons and we will pass it onto Allen. Also, if you take photographs of an event, please bring along some hard copies for us to keep. The journal makes interesting reading and reminds us how involved we are in the local sailing community.

* Garden Party *
* **Sunday 24th July 2011** *
* at *
* **77 Cotmer Road,** *
* **Oulton Broad,** *
* **Lowestoft** *
* Courtesy of *
* **Mr & Mrs Barrie Hunt** *
* **Details later** *

Postage paid by a sponsor

WE ARE GRATEFUL to Avril Soards who has paid the postage for the distribution of this Newsletter. As usual all our disabled sailors will receive a hard copy.



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Advice from Sally

I am sure that everyone was looking forward to the first sail and all the volunteers were rearing to go after their winter rest!

If you have not returned your membership form, please bring it with you as soon as possible as you will not be allowed onto the water until you have completed the paper work.

Remember:

- Bring some warm clothes as it is often very chilly on the water.
- Cover any cuts or grazes with plaster.
- Bring your sailing card so that your instructor can help you learn new skills.

Booking Secretary
Sally Green

Newsability

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