

Seasalter News

The season has come and gone, all prizes awarded and all boats put to bed. If you missed the laying up supper, shame – it was a good evening thanks to Lesley and her merry band of helpers. We changed the format of the raffle and the prize giving to cut down on the time taken out from socialising and thanks to those of you who commented favourably on the changes.

During the year Martin Searle relinquished his position as communications manager and so I apologise for the lack of style in this Newsletter. Chris Stafford and Phillip Hadaway are getting underway with the communications side of things with the able help of Chris and Lesley's son Michael. In the meantime we thought it best to give an update on things with the membership renewal letters.

We now look forward to the start of the new season in March 2006.

But all is not finished for the year. On December 27th at 11:00 am there is a 'Footpath Walk' from the club around the local area followed by a jacket potato and chilli lunch (£3) in the club – come and blow away the cobwebs, bring granny and let her sit in the club looking out over the sea. Don't be late – or you could run !!

Stop Press – Double Glazing By the time you get this the new double glazing will have been installed in all the upstairs windows of the club building. Together with the loft insulation, installed earlier in 2005, the club room should now be much warmer and less full of condensation.

Sailing

The format of having separate races for slow and fast handicap boats has been judged a success with much less time lost waiting for boats to finish one race before we can start the next. In addition it has introduced a new set of prizes to aim for. The programme for 2006 has now been set following on with this format.

We have visiting TT fleets of Shearwater and Catapult catamarans and we have invited Brighton Sailing Club to join us over the August Bank Holiday weekend for a camping weekend and separate series of races.

Sprint 15 Training Weekend

The main event of the year will be over the weekend of May 13/14 when the Sprint 15 Association (Dart 15 new name) are holding their annual Training Weekend at our club. This means that everyone who wants to get some top tips and have their rig checked over by experts can come along. If you aren't a member of the association and sail a Sprint 15 how about joining – its only about £10 a year.

Dinghy Show – Alexandra Palace 4/5 March

You will find a leaflet for this event enclosed. It is one of the best venues for getting new bits and clothing (or even a new boat!) and show prices can be quite phenomenal. It is worth a visit even if you don't want to buy.

Maintenance

Following problems with the red rib and the radios things are being sorted out. The rib engine is having some new components fitted to make steering and gear changing normal and we are going to purchase a new set of VHF radios to replace our ancient ones.

In the programme we have set aside March 12 for helping each other rig boats and check equipment. The aim is to do all this without the pressure of actually trying to get ready for sailing in a rush and therefore to give everyone the chance to check all their gear and replace anything suspect.

Got any money left over from presents? Think about carrying a small waterproof compass on your buoyancy aid. We had a couple of close calls with sudden mist/fog coming down and the wind dropping – how do you know which way to paddle? There are some nice little ones on the internet for about £7.

Boat Parking - We now have more than 50 boats and we needed to sort out the boat field as some boats were blocked in. More than 20 people turned up to help move things around and Ben Saunders has now done a boat parking plan of allocated spaces that we will send out with the 2006 programme. Please keep to the allocated spaces and if you change or add boats contact Steve Willis.

Boat 'Registration' – Please give us details of your boats when you renew as we will provide you with a numbered adhesive sticker for each boat. We will keep a record of boat numbers as part of our agreement to work with the Coastguard to improve safety.

Lastly Thanks to everyone who helped to make 2005 a success for us. The sailing and the social events have been well attended and so many people have been helping out. Let's look forward to an even better year in 2006, with your help we can do it. ***Until then best wishes of the season to you and yours.***

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from the SSC Committee