

Seasalter Sailing Club



Newsletter

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SEASALTER SAILING
CLUB

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Editorial

by Phillip Hadaway (Webmaster & Editor)

There are only 6 official sailing days left this season, So I suggest to everyone who has not been sailing yet this year now is the time to get your kit on and go out and give it a try.

Recently we have seen a decline in the numbers of dinghies on the water on any weekend, so come on dinghy sailors now is your chance to shine though and get in the way of all those Cats.

The time since the last newsletter has seen a lot of action, we have had:- Sprint 15 TT, The Club Fowley, The

Open Fowley and to top it all off the AGM on the 9th September.

The social side has seen a lot of things happening as well: with the regular social night on the 3rd sat of each month.

The last being Salsa on the 15th September.

Following the AGM on the 9th September, we now have a new Commodore. (Chris Stafford) But we must thank Jeff Kiddle for all of his hard work over the past 3 years that he

had held that position.

Please, I'm still in desperate need of articles for the newsletter, Please send them to me: enquiries@seasaltersailing.org.uk

Or hand it to me when you see me around the club

December Newsletter Article Deadline:

26th November 2007

Sprint 15 TT

by Steve Willis (Rear Commodore, Sailing)

The weekend saw the return of the Sprint 15 catamaran fleet for a TT regatta meeting. This is the first time they have been to Seasalter for a few years and the since the Dart 15 was renamed. This is a summary of the event but for those who want more detail you can visit the Sprint 15 website at www.Sprint15.com for the full race report.

It is especially pleasing to have the Sprint 15s because it is such a popular class in our own club (with 18 out of our 70 odd boats in this class). The event enabled a number of our members to compete against some of the best national sailors on our own waters and 8 of our boats were joined by 12 travellers from as far apart as the Isle of Wight and Halifax. Unfortunately the event clashed with the Thorpe Bay regatta weekend and that reduced the number of visitors significantly.

Nick Dewhirst, the Sprint 15 Association Chairman and Whitstable sailor, was unable to attend but had lent one of his boats to Steve Tunnacliffe from Halifax so that his son Ben could sail their boat. They arrived to find that Kevin Dutch and Joan Willis had been

to Whitstable and carried Nick's boat over the sea wall in bits and returned to Seasalter with it. Our Vice Commodore Frank Avery had agreed to be Race Officer for the event and, with very changeable winds, set a trapezoid course for the first day's sailing with F4-F5 winds but threats of F7..

The first race was a close battle between 3 of the visitors with Kevin Dutch gaining ground all the time. 1st & 2nd places changed hands in the second lap and, by keeping offshore on the leg along the shore Kevin managed to pass two of the leaders to move into 2nd. There was close sailing going on in two other groups with places changing all the time, Joan Willis managed her first ever pitch pole on a Sprint 15 right in front of Eric Sales but both recovered composure and carried on.

With things close to the end Kevin Dutch managed to bear away enough on the beat leg into the finish line to pip Erling Holmberg at the post by a matter of just 15 seconds and with only 90 seconds separating the first four boats. The other Seasalter boats struggled to find the pace and Jeff Kiddle (11th) and Steve Willis (13th)

were our next two boats home.

A wind shift led to a re-positioning of the buoys for the second race and more boats chose a port start. They were mainly successful in getting enough speed to make their way across the starboard starting boats without mishap and this paved the way for the early lead. Kevin Dutch and Steve Willis mixed in with two of the visitors for the first mark with Ben Saunders fighting his way through in the following group of 5 boats. The groups changed amongst themselves throughout the first lap but with Steve Willis dropping out of the first group after trying to turn inside Pegum at the windward mark and being carried onto the buoy by the ebb tide – losing 3 places.

Erling Holmberg, from the Isle of Wight, broke his tiller extension on the windward leg whilst in close second to Kevin Dutch. He quickly came ashore, borrowed a replacement from



Sprint 15 TT cont.....



John Dutch and returned to the fray. He still managed a third place!!! Our own fleet was improving and Ben Saunders (9th) led Steve, Joan and John Holmes in successive places.

The happy campers enjoyed a peaceful evening in the club with a meal prepared by Lesley and her dedicated band in the galley and bar. However in the early hours of Sunday morning a thunderstorm swept the area and woke the campers. By sailing time there had been a 180 degree wind shift and winds dropped to F2. The course for the day was the same as for the Saturday but in the reverse direction.

The light winds and beating into the tide gave major problems. In the first race it took 30 minutes for Dutch and Saunders to pull out a lead at the end of the first lap with the following group of 4 visitors well ahead of the

rest. Kevin Dutch maintained his lead all the way to the finish but the second lap was no easier and John Long managed to pull away from the pack and come in and pip Ben Saunders, putting him back into 3rd – both a couple of minutes behind the leader. This time Martin Searle (10th) and the only boat sprinting – with a jib led the remaining SSC boats home in successive positions.

For the final race the buoys were moved closer in. The light winds continued to hinder progress and the majority of the fleet starting on starboard tack run head on into the port starters who had ended up in irons and were unable to turn away. The resulting melee led to a completely re-arranged order and by the windward mark 7 boats formed a clear group, including Kevin and Steve, well ahead of the rest. Choice of tack and watching out for the ebb tide played a big part in this race and

places changed frequently with visitors Gordon Goldstone and Ben Tunnacliffe prevailing to prevent Kevin Dutch from having a clean sweep. Kevin finished 3rd only 11 seconds behind the winner. Steve Willis was 5th home leading a group of visitors with Ben Saunders (12th) leading the now usual succession of home boats.

With one discard race Kevin Dutch won the end with 3 points followed by Erling Holmberg (9 points) and Frank Sandells (11 points).

The rest of the SSC fleet: Ben Saunders (9th), Steve Willis (11th), Martin Searle (13th), Joan Willis (14th), Jeff Kiddle (15th), John Holmes (16th), Eric Sales (17th).

The weekend was a tremendous success and gave a number of our members their first taste of high level class racing.

Sprint 15 TT 2008 by Steve Willis (Rear commodore, Sailing)

The good news is that the Sprint 15 Association has asked to return in 2008 - on May 17th & 18th - and we have made sure that we do not clash

with Thorpe bay's regatta again (they and local clubs have a large Sprint 15 following).

Duty Teams by Steve Willis (Rear commodore, Sailing)

Our club relies on those who do their duties and give up their own sailing to help. Big events like the Shearwater and Sprint 15 TT regattas need about 15 people each day to run. We would like to give a big thank you to all those who have turned up time and again to do their duties throughout the year. You not only enable racing to take place but provide support / comfort for those who want to free sail. Especially on the free sailing days that have proved very popular.

Several members have come for their duties even though they have not had time to sail themselves at all, they have said that they feel this is part of being in the club and we must applaud them.

Some members have, we know, been working abroad or at weekends and have apologised for not coming – the reason we have assistant ROs is to help provide cover for both race tower and patrol boat for those that cannot come.

Others we hear nothing from - such is life.

There have been some hard duties – like on the Open Fowley when the high seas and winds caused some major problems – me in the water nowhere near Joan and our boat being one of them. The red rib suffered what we thought was a loss of drive to the propeller. It turns out that it is a seized gear change cable –



our maintenance provider has recommended a more expensive but much more flexible and durable cable to be used and this will be fitted during the winter servicing.

We have a number of new members with PB2 qualifications and we also have some new helm/crew partnerships so there will be some changes to duty teams for 2008. We were hoping to increase the number of teams from 10 to 12 but we are now losing 2 members so we will have to see. In the meantime – THANK YOU!

Strong Winds... By Steve London (Member)

Sunday's Sailing...

was quite an experience. As we drove across the Medway bridge the sign said STRONG WINDS, SLOW DOWN, "Great" said Josh, "we're in for a good sail".

When we got to the club the wind was 20 mph, gusting 26mph, so we rigged up (mast raked back) and put the cat on the beach. By the time we got our wetsuits on it was more like 28mph gusting 34mph and there was no one else putting sails up. Feeling a bit nervous, I asked Geoff and John

whether they would put the patrol boat out just for me. This agreed, off we went.

It wasn't long before we were past the club pole, and I hadn't even pulled the mainsheet in, the rest was just a blur of waves and flying hulls.

Gybing was an interesting experience and twice we got away with it. The third time a gust pushed the bows into the water, slowed us down and over we went for a swim. That done, we called it a day. Still, no one was hurt and sailing in such extreme conditions



was the experience of a lifetime.

Thanks once again to Geoff and John for turning out the patrol boat just for me!

Open Fowley 2007 by Phillip Hadaway (Webmaster & Editor)

This Years Annual Open Fowley event was well attended, with approx. 10 boats coming over from Whitstable.

The Weather conditions were favourable for this race as it was a long distance race.

Wind was at a force 4/5, however the sea state in the channel could have been better!

I got my Miracle out and rigged very early, wanting to make sure I had everything, and also to rig the spinnaker as it had not been out since last season.

Just before the race start 10, or so , boats arrived from Whitstable Yacht club, one of which was crewed by our very own Kevin Dutch.

The Race got started on time, the first leg of the race, (up to Fowley island) was Testing for many boats, and subsequently some dropped out, how ever my crew and I carried on regardless of the others. We were ploughing our bows into every other wave, even when we where not in the channel it was hard going.

The only other boat in the slow handicap class had to pull out when they got to the sand end buoy.

Dave Lincoln and his crew Ben Saunders in their Fireball, Had managed to loose there rudder pintail. This was practically mirroring there efforts in the club Fowley race, as they lost the

rudder gudgon!

Just as we passed Harty Ferry, we had not only all the cruisers and the heavy sea to contend with but also the returning boats from the island. We eventually arrived at the Fowley Spit Buoy at High Water. On our way up the inside of the island to the race mark at the far end, we had some close encounters with some 30ft Cruisers also trying to make way against the now strongly ebbing tide.

45 minutes later we rounded the orange mark, and were reaching back out into the rough channel.

When we turned onto the run and put our spinnaker up, the channel did not seem so rough.

After 2 hrs 20 min it was nice to be able to surf the waves rather then plough straight into them!

As soon as the spinnaker was up we accelerated away on a dead run aiming roughly for the club house.

After another hour we crossed the finish line (that shows how windy it was) to a roaring cheer from the rest of the fleets who finished along time in front of us.

The Patrol Boats were kept busy, Steve Willis went over board and that was quickly followed by Joan Capsiz-

ing their Dart 18 while trying to pick Steve up (while in the channel).

Also the other patrol Boat was asked to tow The Red Rib back after the Engine/prop shaft appeared to have snapped, now known to be the cable that connects the engine to the controls

The results are as follows:

Fast Handicap Fleet

1st -Wayne & Trish Dixon in their B14

2nd -David Figgis & Richard Lamb in their Tornado

3rd -Huw Reynolds & S. France in their F18

Slow Handicap Fleet

1st - P.Hadaway & T. Leonard in Miracle 2992

Thanks Have been well earned by all the Patrol Boat Crews and The race officer. Not forgetting Lesley and Her Helpers Serving Food from the Galley



Where is Everybody?

By Steve Willis (Rear Commodore Sailing)

The number of people out on the water is steadily increasing and even now in October we have been seeing in the order of 12-15 boats out each sailing day. Some members choose just to free sail while others come to race. Whatever you choose this does help give a lift when doing a duty – there is not much worse than watching a few boats out when you could have been sailing yourself.

However there are still quite a few boats that never venture out on the water, mainly the dinghy fleets. If you are in this category let us know if

there is something that is discouraging you or conversely may encourage you out on the water.

We are considering dedicating some sailing days to sail training next year – i.e. not free sailing or racing but an opportunity to put out some buoys and sail a course with a tutor either onboard or alongside. Interested?

We now have small ‘fleets’ of the Enterprise, Mirror and Laser classes, would you like designated fleet race days in the programme for the classes so you can sail with like boats?

Whatever you think might encourage you to sail let me know by the end of November so I can try and finalise the programme. However there is nothing stopping us organising events at any time. Ring me or e-mail me (contact details on the first page of the club programme) or come and have a chat.



WELCOME TO ...

by Joan Willis (Sec)

The October sunshine is finally bringing out the dinghy sailors. Hooray! We are pleased to welcome to our club a number of new members since the last newsletter went to press

– Ben and Sam Skull, Ian & Jane Mills, David Jibb (Alex’s father), Chris Bartington and Mark Kempson. This brings our total membership to 73 (including 9 honorary Life mem-

bers), the highest for several years and adds a number of new dinghies and catamarans to our growing fleets.

Vote of Thanks

by Joan Willis (Sec)

This year has seen several changes to our committee for 2008 following the AGM in September. We are always interested in new ideas and different views so changes are always welcome and very good for the Club.

The election of Chris Stafford as Commodore at the AGM has come after Jeff Kiddle’s four years in this role. Some of you may not have known that Jeff has been on the committee since 1995, when he was first involved on the sailing side, setting up the annual sailing timetable amongst other tasks. Later he undertook calculation of the race results and awarding trophies at the end of season Laying Up supper. During his time as Commodore he was involved in many changes in the Club as its membership increased, his leadership and guidance has been much appreciated by the committee. It was during this period, two years ago that there was an unfilled vacancy for Treasurer which he volunteered to take on in addition to duties as Commodore. The committee thanks him especially for undertaking this vital role. Now Jeff has

more time to enjoy sailing with less hassle!

Another committee member, Graham Hadaway has chosen to step down after three years service. His help has also been very valuable, as it came at a time when our membership was expanding quite quickly. In fact it was due to his encouragement that many youngsters have joined the Club, through young Sarah and Phill’s dinghy sailing enthusiasm and his whole family’s fantastic support on the Social development side. We are also grateful for his advice and guidance during our ongoing negotiations with Canterbury City Council regarding our land and property. Lastly his assistance on the work parties (including the dreaded drains!) has been supportive and unstinting. Graham has an active role with the Faversham Cub Scout Group to keep him busy but we hope that we will still see the whole family continuing to enjoy many more years here at the Club.

We now have three more club members who have joined the committee for the first time. This is excellent

news since they cover a wide spectrum of talents.

Firstly John Dutch who has been a loyal member since the late 70’s! He will bring a “mature” experienced view of sailing at the club, having introduced his sons to sailing in the 80’s, culminating in Kevin Dutch now winning nearly every trophy in sight, inside and outside the Club! He will prevent us “re-inventing the wheel” with our ideas. We are also very fortunate to have Lynn Reynolds’ invaluable expertise as our Child Protection Officer. This is as a consequence of her teaching role in primary education. Lynn will also provide a lively young person’s view on the Social side, lest we all become too boring and serious! The youngest member to join the committee is Phillip Hadaway, General Handicap captain who is a keen Miracle dinghy sailor. He has been our Webmaster, running our website and issuing our Newsletters for almost two years now, and has come onto the committee to cover our marketing and publicity.



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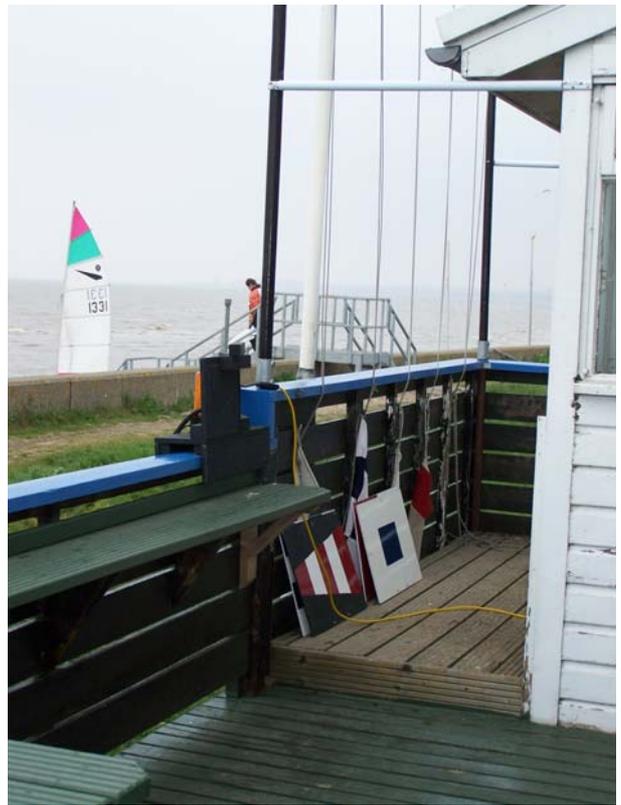
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Social Scene (Salsa Night)... by Lesley Stafford (Rear Commodore, Social)

A Salsa Night Was held on the 15th September.

Approximately 40 People attended this event which made it one of the most successful social events for this season so far.

Thanks Need to go to Mike Lennon Who provided the teaching, also to All who helped within the Galley.



On Oct 20th there is a Trafalgar night down at the club house.

In previous Years this has consisted of a roast dinner followed by as few drinks.

Also on the there is a bonfire night with chilli and on the 24th November there is the Laying up Supper (not to be missed)

Please let Lesley know if you thinking of attending any of these events, as she needs to know numbers for catering.

Club News by Steve Willis (Rear commodore Sailing)

Over the weekend of 22nd September, a small group of members have dismantled the step at the front of the club house and replaced it with a concrete ramp.

This should make moving the patrol boats easier. And also allows easier access for disabled people into the ground floor of the clubhouse.



Rib Protection

We have purchased Plasimo cushions for both new ribs and initial trials have shown they do what it says on the tin - posterior protection as well!!!