

Seasalter Sailing Club

Newsletter



WWW.SEASALTERSAILING.ORG.UK

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SEASALTER SAILING CLUB

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **WORK PARTY** 5th March 10.00am
- **Fitting Out Supper** 12th March 19.00
- **Shearwater TT** 7th & 8th May, Volunteers please?
- **Club open from 19.00 on Friday** Evenings for Drinks, games and other entertainments.

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Editorial

by Martin Searle

Welcome to the new season!

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy start to the new year.

The club has been a hive of activity over the winter months with the regular Friday night social club running and a 10k hike at Christmas. There will be more social events this year than ever before keep an eye on the notice board for information

The club website has been revamped in preparation for next year and I promise I'll try my

best to keep it up-to-date with the latest racing results and points positions. I'm even going to buy a laptop so that A) I have a modern pc at home and B) I can edit the pages at the club and then push them to the site the same day (or on the next Monday)

As part of the new programme



the club logo has been re-done by Steve Sobey and this is being used to create a completely new 'corporate' image for the club.

A version of the logo has been rendered so that it can be embroidered onto clothing by World Leisurewear, who do the America's cup Team and RYA clothing as well! So we are in good company. More details on the backpage of this newsletter.

WORK PARTY 5th MARCH AT 10.00

Fitting Out Supper 12th March at 19.00

Food for Thought

by Chris Stafford

Dart !5 /Sprint 15
Well a new season is upon us ready or not.

For the hardy or is it foolhardy the battle for the pots starts on the 12th March a week earlier than 2004.

This season with the increase in dinghy's the Real boats will be sailing larger courses or more laps more time on the water racing and not waiting for the dinghy's to finish.

So come down for the work party 5th March do a bit for your club and put your boat

together for the start of the sailing, you never know summer might start early.

Do we really have to dash of after sailing. Why not finish the day with a cup tea or maybe something stronger (Coffee) and have a post mortem of the races (usually goes something like " I was doing alright until#####"
You never know what goodies might emerge from the Galley.
AFTER ALL WE ARE THE FRIENDLY CLUB.

May the 7th -8th we have the Shearwater weekend. So no club racing that weekend, but come along and help to run the weekend it is a good fund raiser. See me or a committee member I am sure we can find you something to do.

See you all on the water to make the POT HUNTERS work hard, remember to be in the running for trophies you need to be on the water. It is also rumoured that Steve and Joan will be out more often on their little boats.
(Don't know who these Pot Hunters are? - Ed.)

The Sailing Programme 2005 by Steve Willis



Boats on the beach

The sailing season approaches and much has been going through the winter months to both get ready and to update some of our facilities. Hopefully the new Club Programme will provide both information and food for thought that will help us all enjoy the season to the full. When you get your copy please take the time to read it through as it contains some key guidance points. In any case – Happy Sailing!!!

With the re-arrangement of the committee Steve Willis has handed over his role as Dart 18 Fleet Captain to Bob Walker and he joins Chris Stafford (Dart 15 Fleet Captain), Jeff Kiddle (Commodore/General Handicap Fleet Captain) and Dave Lincoln (Bosun) on the sailing committee. As Rear Commodore-Sailing, Steve will concentrate on the overall Sailing Management.

This year we are going to try and run separate courses for catamarans and dinghies but have a common start. Hopefully this will give all boats the opportunity to sail for about 1 hour per race and prevent long delays for some between races. The Race declaration signing on sheets will now be divided into Catamaran and Dinghy sections on the same page - please help the RO by entering in the right section.

In mentioning courses and starts please note the changes to the RYA Rules of Racing introduced for this season – see the separate article on that subject elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to racing, on a few mornings or late afternoons, we are arranging ‘organised cruises’ rather than racing. These are aimed at giving people the opportunity to spend some time improving their techniques or getting some tuition from the more experienced among the members outside the pressures of racing.

At the request of some members we have included a separate summary of those dates, mainly Wednesday afternoons, on which members have indicated that they may go out sailing, as individuals, for cruising. It must be stressed that these are not club organised events and will not include any duty team, either in the tower or out on Patrol Boats but evidently they can be good fun.

Last year we only managed to race on about 50% of the Club days available, mainly due to weather conditions but in some part through the failure of Patrol Boat crews to turn up. We must thank those who gave up their sailing to fulfil some of those duties. We can only hope that we will get more opportunity to get on the water this year.

There are a few key changes to the way we operate on racing days and the principal one is the need for us to demonstrate that we are focussed on safety. To this end the committee has been drafting some key guidelines for both the duty team and those sailing, together with some ‘check lists’ for both the Race Officer and the Patrol Boat crews to go through when getting ready for sailing. These are aimed at ensuring that we have the right equipment on board the Patrol Boats and can run events smoothly and safely. Those who carry out each of these duty roles will be sent copies of the guidelines and checklists before their first duty to have time to familiarise themselves with them.

This year we will be equipping each Patrol Boat with a dedicated ‘heaving line’ for helping in ‘man overboard’ situations and each will also carry an air horn for helping provide race instructions on the water.

We do all need to have a clear understanding of how to deal with sudden severe changes in the weather – global warming! Our sport came in for heavy criticism after the Dart 18 nationals in the south west a few years ago led to an apparent failure, in press terms, with regard to both recovery of crews and information management. The RYA has since produced a number of papers on a variety of elements of both sailing and race management. The key area we need to all be aware of is what we, both duty teams and those sailing, are going to do if we get caught in sudden bad weather that leads to abandonment of racing.

Part of our Club response to the RYA initiatives has been to draft a guideline ‘Emergency Plan’ that gives some basic guidance of what we will expect each other to do to help to minimise risk to anyone out on the water in unexpected trouble. We have also had discussions with HM Coastguard to seek their advice on how we should deal with medical emergencies on the water. These guidelines will be drafted out to everyone, once approved by the Committee, and will also be sent to the RYA for comment. We will continue to work with the RYA to improve or change these guidelines as appropriate to our activities.

So, now is the time to get the boat checked over and replace or re-splice those sheets, shrouds and hal-yards. We had several close calls last year – mainly through wear and tear going unnoticed. A really good time to rig the boat will be on the work party day on 5th March (from 10.00) ready for sailing on 12th!!! – We hope to see you there.



Racing Rules of Sailing

By Steve Willis

The RYA has recently published the new version of the RRS for 2005–2008 and they contain some changes that will affect our club racing. Some changes affect rules for starts, rounding of marks and ‘overlap’ as well as changing the penalty turn definition, amongst other items. In general they add clarity to common sense but everyone racing must make themselves familiar with them. New Club Sailing Instructions, incorporating the changes, will be posted at the Club and sent to members before the first sailing on 12th March.

There are two versions of the RRS information available, the full version (YR1) and the ‘Handy Guide’ (YR7). If anyone wants a copy they can order direct from the RYA by telephone or on-line at www.rya.org.uk. However if you want copies of these or the RYA Safety Boat Handbook (G16) then Steve Willis is prepared to order copies if you let him know before 6th March – he is trying to get a discount for a small bulk order to reduce your costs. Ring Steve or Joan on 01227 750415.

Normal prices are (RYA members get 10% off these prices):

Racing Rules of Sailing	£6.00	
Handy Guide to RRS		£2.80
Safety Boat Handbook	£4.50	

Your First Time Out Racing

by Martin Searle

For those new members and existing members who don’t take part in the racing it can seem quite intimidating to come along and go out racing for that very first time but let me assure you its not that intimidating and the regular racers don’t bite (well.... Not much anyway) and they are only too happy to help you out.

My advice would be to read the General Information section of the programme, allow oodles of time and above all just enjoy it and don’t worry about where you finish. You need to know 3 basic rules: Port and Starboard, Water at the Mark and Windward boat, the rule book can be downloaded from <http://www.isaf.org/rrs2005> or ask someone about the rules when you come down to race. The membership booklet explains the lights used for the starting sequence.

When I first started racing at Seasalter in 1993 (I had previously spent my time dinghy cruising at Westbere FSA and Sheppy YC) I used to finish 5-10 minutes or worse behind everyone else and it was not unknown for the course to be packed up before I finished!, so keep at it and set yourself realistic goals, for example my goal for that first season was to finish in the top 3 in a single race (I achieved it just the once).

Golden Rule: The more you race the better you get.



Racing News

by Martin Searle

To be honest we haven't done much racing this season but here are the results for last season:

2004 SAILING RESULTS.				
Race series	Class	First	Second	Third
Sally Forth Trophy	(0-4) Handicap	Not Sailed due to high winds		
Spring Series	(4-6) Handicap	Martin Searle	John Dutch	S. London / Jos. Humphrey
Cedric Wren Cup	(1-5) Handicap	John Dutch	Martin Searle	Bob Walker
Lady Helm Cup	(1-1) Handicap	Lesley Stafford	= Joan Willis	= Wendy Dalton
Novices Cup	(1-1) Handicap	Billy Tipple	James D-Wilkinson	Judith D-Wilkinson
Koreela Cup	(1-1) Pursuit	Martin Searle	Judith D-Wilkinson	James / Mark D-W
Ace Cup	(1-6) Handicap	Martin Searle	Chris Stafford	Joan and Steve Willis
Jubilee Cup	(1-3) Handicap	C Stafford / B Tipple	Jeff Kiddle	Martin Searle
Saturday Series	(6-10) Handicap	Martin Searle	Chris / Lesley Stafford	Billy Tipple
Summer Series	(5-8) Dart 18	Chris Stafford / Dave Lincoln	Joan / Steve Willis	Steve / Jess Sobey
	Dart 15	Martin Searle	John Dutch	Eric Sales
	General Handicap	Billy Tipple	Judith / Mark Wilkinson	-
Club Fowley for Sea-fire Trophy	(1-1) Handicap	Billy Tipple	Chris Stafford / Derek Bluer	Judith / James Wilkinson
Handicap Cup	(6-6) Handicap	Joan / Steve Willis	John Dutch	Eric Sales
Vice President's Cup	(4-5) Handicap	Martin Searle	John Dutch	Chris / Lesley Stafford
Dickie Wren Cup	(5-7) Handicap	Martin Searle	Chris / Lesley Stafford	John Dutch
Seasalter Quarter Cup	(2-4) Pursuit	John Dutch	Chris / Lesley Stafford	Pat Fulcher
Storm Petrel Trophy	(9-10) Handicap	Chris / Lesley Stafford	Joan / Steve Willis	Martin Searle
November Frostbite Trophy	(4-5) Handicap	Martin Searle	Chris Stafford	Graham Hadaway
	(46-83)=55%	2004	2003	
Helm of the Year		Martin Searle	Martin Searle	
Most Improved Helm		James Wilkinson	Mike Lennon	
Crew of the Year		Lesley Stafford	Jos Humphrey	
Saturday Shield		Martin Searle	Martin Searle	
Dart 18 Summer Series Trophy		Chris Stafford	Chris Stafford	
Duck Trophy		Bob Walker/Jeff Kiddle	Jeff Kiddle	
Legends Trophy		Billy Tipple/ Mark Wilkinson	Joan and Steve Willis	



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The Seasalter Club is on the North Kent Coast just to the west of Whitstable.

The sea is shallow and we can only sail +/- 2.5 hrs of high water but the swell is quite interesting (great to surf down on the leeward leg). The courses are always spot on.

Club Clothing

The clothing will be available via World Leisurewear and will have the logo to the right embroidered onto it. They have an extensive range so please look at the following webpage <http://www.oceanworld.co.uk/seasaltersc> for what is available and how to order.

Order forms will be made available in the club house along with a printout of the catalogue. It is also available on the above website and our own.

A few of the items available include:

T-Shirts, Casual Shirts, Children's wear, Rugby Shirts and Bags etc



Stop Press...

Over the weekend of February 19th & 20th Bob Walker and Martin Searle attended an RYA Regional Race Officer course and they were both successful in passing the Examination, and quite a difficult one it was too!. Martin received a Regional Race Officer certificate and Bob was awarded a Club Race Officer+ one, he will now need to gain some experience at the club in order to get the Regional Certificate.

What the awards mean is that Bob and Martin are qualified to run Open Meetings and National Championships for small classes. They join other members of the club who are RRO qualified.