



THIS MONTH'S DIARY

Sunday 5th January
9.30am (or thereabouts)
Working parties begin!

Friday 10th January
7.30pm for 8.00pm
Wayfarers Skittles Match

Wednesday 5th February
7.30pm for 8.00pm
**Talk – Whales and
Dolphins**

FROM THE COMMODORE



Photo By Eric Barnes

At the speed of an out of control Fireball, (so it couldn't possibly be Barry's) the season of 2002 planes to its end. It has been a year of huge progress and commitment for the Club and those who were at the Punch Party on 22nd December will have seen the massive improvement to the main Clubroom since the AGM. We now have the basis of a superb Clubhouse for next season and my thanks again to all those who have worked so hard to achieve it.

This leads quite naturally to my main theme in this Newsletter. The facilities required to operate as a sailing club are falling behind schedule. By that I mean the pier extension and the boats. The pier extension has a plan, but insufficient manpower. Volunteers are needed now to help the team leaders Alan White and Malcolm Spicer. Please come forward now to get this element of the work back on track.

In the case of the boats, a team is still matching the overall requirement against the boats we have and those which we may need. This includes maintenance contracts and many other factors, but by the middle of January we will have a carefully thought through policy and budget estimate for the boats and the qualifications of their drivers. Whatever the outcome, there will be a need for people to work on the boats to get them up to standard for next season. Please make yourself available to Joel Wood to meet this vital task.

Turning to sailing for a moment, let us not forget that while we experience that Mid Winter feeling here, one of our members, Richard Butler, is hacking his way out of the West end of the Panama Canal en route to Hawaii in Bristol Clipper.

Richard and his crew are doing very well in this round the world race and I know that we all wish them the very best of luck for the rest of the circumnavigation.

Finally, let us remind ourselves that running a sailing club is a team game and every member is a player.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and good sailing in 2003.

Bob Turner

FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY

We are looking for a photo for the cover of the 2003 Handbook. If emailed it would need to be hi-resolution jpeg format. We would need it by 15th January. It might be fun to have a picture of the new location.

Diana Gill

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

June Clark; Thomas Davison; Katherine Sampson; Jane Taylor; Keith Wright; David Milner; Paul Wiley and family; Adrian Everitt and family.

Liz Grant - Honorary Membership Secretary

FROM THE HONORARY TREASURER

Please could you make sure if you have a Gift Aid Declaration Form that it is completed and returned to me.

Do you owe any money to the Club? If so, I would be very pleased to receive this as well.

Judy Kemmis-Betty

FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR 2003 DIARY

To Ireland and Cork Week: Friday 21st February - Talk with live music performed by Arish Mell crew members

Dinghy Dinner: Saturday 22nd February

Z Class Dinner: Saturday 15th March

80th Birthday Celebrations: Sunday 18th May... KEEP THIS DATE FREE

Roast Sunday Lunches will be available in the Clubhouse on 26th January and 2nd March. Two courses at £5.95 per adult, £4.50 per child - book early as these lunches are very popular and spaces are limited.

There will be a special Mothers Day Lunch 30th March £7.95 per adult, £6.50 per child.

To book e-mail or telephone me at: holvalcots@aol.com 01305 852817

Jane Davies

FROM THE SAILING SECRETARY

Winter Talks

Ed Harland

Everything you wanted to know about Whales and Dolphins

Wednesday 5th February

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Ed is a professional expert in marine mammals

Geoff Peters

National Coastwatch Institution

Wednesday 19th February

7.30pm for 8.00pm

National Coastwatch is the volunteer organisation that has reinstated the coastal lookout and are a valuable addition to small boat safety

Richard Moroney

Model Sailing Yachts

Wednesday 5th March

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Richard has built boats for world champions and will bring some examples

Boat Park

During the winter the potholes are going to be filled in and dinghy rails installed. ALL REMAINING DINGHIES SHOULD BE REMOVED SO THAT THIS WORK CAN GO AHEAD. The working parties will commence on Sunday 5th January. Members with pickaxes, etc will be very welcome; anyone who can help please contact Barry Grant (01305 785192).

DINGHIES SHOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN REMOVED BY NOW FROM THE OLD DINGHY PARK AT CASTLE COVE BEACH.

Winter Jobs

In addition to clearing out the cave, giving Silver Spray some attention and servicing the racing marks there is a little job that could be done at home. The flag system on Silver Spray has worked well for several years but now it needs a thorough overhaul, new flags etc, can anyone help? Volunteers, or better still, leaders, for any of the jobs gratefully accepted, please contact me.

Simon Vines (01300 320084)



BOXING DAY

Unfortunately the weather on Boxing Day was wet and very windy so Bob Turner wisely made the decision to cancel the Race. However a handful of members, some in fancy dress, turned up just in case. Bob duly opened the bar and judged the fancy dress entries. Nobody was quite sure what Martin Fielding was dressed as but Bob decided it was a Gary Glitter outfit; Robert Fielding was dressed as a robot/spaceman/computer 'thing' (perhaps he will let us know next month what it was); Michelle Ledger's outfit is self-explanatory and Andy Ledger couldn't be bothered to change out of his dressing gown and tied a tea-towel round his head. Bob decided this must be Andy bin Ledger, the well-known terrorist, and thus awarded him first prize for making the least effort and being the most politically incorrect. Martin was awarded second place for the tackiest outfit seen in many years.

Cathy Ledger

SAILABILITY DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

The RYA are putting on a free course, open to sailors, committee members, instructors and volunteers, on disability awareness. It aims to cover:-

- needs of disabled sailors ashore and afloat
- communication skills and disability terminology
- specialist equipment and adaptations
- moving and handling techniques

It will be held at:

Maritime Museum, Falmouth

On 15th – 16th February 2003

Contact:

Mark Pilgrim
South West Awareness Training Coordinator
Meudon
Mawnan Smith
Nr Falmouth
Cornwall TR11 5HT

Tel: 01326 250541

(Please let Hugh de longh know if you are going - deiongh@btinternet.com or 01305 251190)

This should be a good opportunity to find out more and see how we can improve and expand our Sailability group at the new site.

WINTER WORK PARTIES

It's that time of year again! The winter work parties will be starting on Sunday 5th January 2003. The aim is to start at 9.30am and work on into the afternoon.

A tremendous amount of work has already been done but there is still a great deal to do to be ready for the sailing season 2003. The main impetus will be towards improvements/renovations outside although there are some jobs still to be done in the Clubhouse.

Outdoor Jobs

Malcolm Spicer and Alan White are in charge of renovating the pier and pontoons; this is a priority area.

Nick Browning is looking after the major task of repairing the sea wall and general work to fill in potholes and level all areas.

Mike Gill is running the provision of electrical supplies around the site.

Diana Gill is responsible for creating a sitting out area and landscaping.

These are just some of the initial tasks. Your Vice Commodore (the one with the colourful hat) has the master work list for the whole Club site with Barry being responsible for the outside work and myself for the Clubhouse, so contact Paul (or the hat) if you find yourself at a loose end.

Barry Grant will have a list of tasks and will co-ordinate the outside work. Our effort will need to be spread across two to three months so we need lots of hands to help. Please make every effort to come on the first Sunday (5th January). We may be oversubscribed on this day but it will enable us to allocate effort for future weeks. Barry will put a resource list in the Clubhouse for each week. Write your name on the list or telephone Barry (01305 785192). If all members joined in, we would need two Sundays per person at thirty people per week.

Please bring a selection of tools (especially picks and shovels) and protective clothing with you.

BEST WISHES HUGH

Hugh de longh has recently undergone a substantial heart operation but we are pleased to hear that he is now recovering well. For those who were not fully aware, Hugh has been a tremendous driving force in the Move project and has recently taken over as Chairman of the Forward Planning Committee. Without his efforts, we would quite simply not have achieved all that was needed to relocate to the new site and we are all immensely grateful.

The whole of Castle Cove Sailing Club wishes Hugh a speedy recovery, and for him, Liz and the family a very happy Christmas and the best of good fortune in 2003.

Indoor Jobs

There are a variety of jobs to be done in the Clubhouse ranging from putting up shelves to clearing out the storerooms. Rather than trying to organise teams, it is envisaged that these jobs can be done by individuals. If you want to volunteer for indoors then contact Peter Davies (01305 852817). Again, it would be good if you could bring a selection of tools with you.

The Social Committee will be providing Sunday lunches. Each week there will be reasonably priced hot light meals available as well as a roast dinner once a month (approx.).

The work parties are a great opportunity to get to meet lots of other Club members. If you are new to the Club, please don't think that you are not involved - we need everybody! We will all benefit from the improvements being attempted so please get involved and don't leave it to others. If you cannot manage Sundays then perhaps there are jobs you could do midweek - contact Barry or Peter. If you just don't have the time then you could always contribute financially towards the costs of the materials. Send a cheque to the Treasurer with a note to say what it is for - speak to Judy about making any donation 'Gift Aid'.

Hope you had a great Christmas and have an even better New Year - and if you want to get any late presents or are wondering what to get in the sales - for him, how about a nice stainless steel shovel? For her, you couldn't do better than a stylish lightweight wheelbarrow.

Peter Davies

Z CLASS REPORT

Happy New Year to all Z Class Members. I hope you are all recovered from the festivities and are now actively engaged in ensuring your boats are in tip top condition for the 2003 season. The Sailing Committee have been working hard over the past few weeks to ensure a good programme and there will be plenty of activity for the Z Class, both racing and cruising.

On the social side you will find enclosed with this Newsletter an "invitation" to an informal supper evening on 8th February which I hope you will be able to attend. The more formal Z Class Dinner will be on 15th March and the application form for that will be in the February Newsletter. Our speaker this year will be Rear Admiral Mike Burgoyne who I know will have some fascinating stories with which to entertain us.

As well as the Z Class socials Simon has organised a number of talks during the winter so please support these and any other Club socials. New members - if you are unsure about launching yourselves into Club activities or are concerned about any aspect of boat ownership or Club procedures, please give me a call and I will try and help or point you in the direction of someone who can.

Sara Lloyd

End of an Era

Spurred by the rumble of heavy machinery and realising the demise of our old Clubhouse was close at hand, Club member Eric Barnes grabbed his camera to capture these pictures...



Going!



Going!



Gone!

LASER CLASS CAPTAIN APPOINTED

Hello to all the Laser class, many thanks for electing myself as your new Class Captain.

I will find it difficult to fill Diana's shoes but will do my best. Diana had already made a start on next year's programme, so hopefully we will be able to publish dates by the next Newsletter.

If any of you have suggestions for improving Laser racing next year please get in touch, either by phone or e-mail.

There are several issues live at the moment, what are the Laser class members' views?

For example:-

Are we happy to use racks similar to those at the old Club?

How many rows high?

How should the two Club Lasers be maintained?

Should we upgrade the controls?

If so, how much?

Lastly can I officially announce that I have actually won a prize from the Laser Class Association. I have the oldest boat still raced regularly in the country, not the best claim to fame ever but the best I've had.

All the best and a Happy New Year.

Mark Wildman (Wildthing 3921) 01305 771050 mark.wildman@virgin.net

UNDERCOVER WINTER STORAGE

If you would like to store your dinghy or small keelboat (up to about 28ft loa dependent on height) under cover at a farm near Milborne St Andrew, please contact Bob Turner on 01305 786863 for details.

SCORPION NEWS

The year's nearly over and I thought it time that we produce some 'copy' for the Newsletter - and remind everybody that Scorpions do still exist and are preparing to 'nick' all the trophies next year. We may not win them but we certainly are capable of 'nicking' anything which is not screwed down, named or painted khaki, or in Joe Isaacs' case, battleship grey.

Let's start with the highlight of the year - the Nationals - a really great week, enhanced by excellent food, entertainment and first class 'on the water organisation'. The whole week was a credit to the Club, YCW and all the known and lesser known souls who had a big or just a little big part to play in making it so enjoyable. A big thanks also to those Northerners (other side of the Ridgeway folks!) who spent so much of their 'brass' over the bar and kept Michael smiling. All our boats were in the top 30 with 2 in the top 10, with a special mention of Mike Robbins who won the trophy for first under 18 crew (9th overall) and then 'tearing up the form book' by winning the 'crews race'..... (He was of course coached by Gavin, Paul, Alex, Jock..... or so they all claim)

Gavin would have been in the top five, or so he told me, if his crew didn't keep creeping back to Norwich to see his 'newly met' beloved. Only the love sick can drive all that way after racing to see somebody and then drive back to race the next day. Our two lovely ladies once again 'hosted' their now famous Pimm's party but suffered the next day with their worst result. I won't name them as I believe some of the party goers finished up so hung-over and ill that they would love to get even. So in order to save 'Popsy' from a T-bone collision they shall remain anonymous.

Jock and Andrea had a spell crewing/helming for others at various 'opens' both with great success, although I thought it a bit much, after her 'top placing' at Sidmouth, for Andrea to say, 'you can see now who is holding me back'. What Jock said after his even better result at Netley is not recorded.

New boats at the Club include one for Christian, a Jolly built Scorpion which looks if it could be a fast boat. Jock and Andrea's newly built Gosling and the new Specialized Marine foam sandwich boat sailed by Alex. John and Stephen B. have been consistent Club racers and 2003 looks very promising for them - a new spinnaker in very pretty colours!

Discussion among those who did the Winter Series highlighted our need to do as many Club races as we can in 2003, involve ourselves with the Cadets more and arrange at least two Scorpion coaching sessions. We do not need to look outside the class or the Club for 'good coaches' - we already have them. Food for thought!

Bob Green

FROM BRISTOL CLIPPER

E-mail – Merry Christmas to Castle Cove Sailing Club - sent Friday 20th December

Merry Christmas and great sailing in the New Year to all at Castle Cove Sailing Club.

Congratulations to Bob on becoming Commodore, particularly at such an exciting time, with the new Clubhouse.

I'm sorry I haven't been able to make any of the working parties but I am really pleased to hear that the Clubhouse is going well. Looking forward to seeing it and you all when we return to the UK next year. I'll come and tell you all about this amazing adventure.

Have a good party on Sunday.

Richard Butler

And Now the Monthly Report

A month ago, we were part way across the Atlantic on the leg from Cascais, Portugal to Havana, Cuba and were in 2nd place. A week from the end of the race, we had a bad 36 hours when we were going nowhere and all the others kept moving. At this time, we briefly lost 2nd place to London Clipper. However, as our courses converged, we were able to get ahead of them. Over the final week, we gradually ate in to New York Clipper's lead and extended our advantage on London and Hong Kong close behind, so we finished in 2nd place. Collecting our 2nd place pennant at the prize giving was a great moment.

Old Havana has a mix of colonial buildings, some of which have been renovated and look splendid whilst others are falling down but still inhabited.

On the Wednesday, Bristol Clipper took a mix of English and Cuban staff from the British embassy out for a sail, whilst in the evening, all the crews were invited to a reception at the British Ambassador's residence; a rare insight in to a different world!

On the Thursday, we re-enacted the 1762 invasion of Havana by taking 7 of the Clippers in to Havana itself; since the rest of the time we were based at Marina Hemingway, 8 miles to the West. The entrance to Havana harbour is quite narrow, but then opens out once inside. The entrance is guarded by an old fort, Castillo Del Morro. We motored in, in formation, and moored up for a while, before heading back out and home. Since it was downwind through the entrance channel, a couple of the Clippers, Bristol and London, broke away from the formation to fly spinnakers out through the entrance, Bristol in front and London at the rear. Apparently it was splendid sight and it was great fun to do.

The start of Race 3 wasn't a good day for me since I had a seafood pizza on the Friday night and all the unpleasant symptoms of food poisoning on the Saturday (start) morning. However, the doctor came up with some wacky drugs and I was able to rejoin Bristol Clipper just before leaving Immigration for the start. We had a brilliant start along with Jersey and Liverpool and passed the first mark in 2nd place overtaking Liverpool on the mark rounding. Sadly, after that, it went downhill, at least partly because I was dying in my bunk. At the 0400 sched, we were in 5th place with Glasgow close behind. During the night, the wind came round and we were able to fly a spinnaker for a while, before just as we passed the western end of Cuba, the wind came round and we were close hauled again, with a fairly light breeze.

Then, it all turned in to a bit of a lottery, as the weather was very squally and often, two boats only a mile apart would come out of a squall completely differently; sometimes gaining or losing up to 5 miles! Glasgow found their way ahead of us, so we were then in 6th place for a few days.

Towards the end of the race, the fleet had all bunched up so that the distance from front to back of the whole fleet was only 31 miles. Bristol had taken 5th place by a whisker from Hong Kong. The wind held up for the last 24 hours of the race, so it was bit of a procession in. No opportunities for big position changes, though by the 0400 sched Hong Kong at 94 miles from the finish was about 1 mile ahead of us and about 6 miles away on the beam, with their tricolour in view.

The closer we got to the finish, the closer we came to Hong Kong so that 10 miles from the finish, they were a few hundred yards, slightly ahead on our windward side; not a good place to overtake from. However, about 5 miles from the finish, we worked our way to their windward side a few boat lengths away and after a short luffing match, where they tried to head us upwind, we were just about through to windward. Sadly, at this point, we got a riding turn on the spinnaker winch (where the tail of the sheet is caught under the active part and it can't be trimmed or eased). The spinnaker collapsed while we were sorting it and Hong Kong escaped our clutches. However, they then sailed deeper downwind whilst we headed straight for the nearest end of the line, going faster towards the line and we were soon ahead. Realising their error, they tried to get upwind of us in the last few minutes, but were unable to catch us and crossed the line 1 minute 8 seconds behind.

This was an awesome end to what to us has been a disappointing race. Regaining 5th place like this really was a fantastic way to end. Also, this wasn't just a fight for this race. It was also a fight for 3rd place, so far, in Clipper 2002 overall. Jersey are in the lead with 20 points, London have 16 and we have 15 points.

We are now waiting for a passage through the Panama Canal, which should be in the morning, Christmas Eve, so that we are in Panama for Christmas. It's very much a waiting game, since the large ships take priority.

What an amazing year 2002 has been. I first sailed on Bristol Clipper, just out of refit, in early April, when the log read 1.8 nautical miles. It now reads 12359.5 miles and I have been aboard for all except about 500 miles of it! We've sailed from an autumnal UK, across the Atlantic to the heat of the Caribbean. Apparently, it's Christmas in two days time and there are decorations about, but Christmas in this heat seems totally incongruous!

That's it for this month.

Richard Butler

WHY SAIL THE WINTER SERIES?



We were all wondering why we bother when the sky was grey and the wind bitter. We were very reluctant to set out on 8th December, but the OD was there bright and early and the race started before some of the boats reached the line. The course looked rather long - a beat out to 8 and a bit one-sided at that. I was seriously debating whether to bother after a particularly bad start. Then, part-way to M, I saw a bit of a shadow over my shoulder. I thought "Oh no, someone's coming up to overtake", but it wasn't Mike Clarke, it was a dolphin! Estimates vary as to how many there were. Robin said he thought there were 25, they kept leaping in and out so much but I think 6 or 7 was nearer the mark. They played with each boat as it reached down to 1, in and out of the bow wave. It brought back memories of summer flotillas in Greece and immediately made it all seem worthwhile. As we went past the committee boat Brian's instructions to his AOD were interrupted by each helm in turn shouting at him about the dolphins. I don't think anyone cared too much about the results, you can't shout starboard on a dolphin. It was amazing how close they came and we were worried about hurting them. They look very big when they leap out just beside you when you're sitting on a Laser. When there is a dolphin either side of the bow we discovered a curious effect on the hydrodynamics which I'm sure some technical guru could explain but basically when you're on a screaming plane, the bow goes not up, but down, and you quickly submarine and fill with water. In a Laser this slams the self-bailer shut and it took most of the next beat to dry out. But who cares! It was one of the best races I have ever had.

Sally Fielding

WAYFARER SKITTLES V WEYMOUTH S.C.

The annual Wayfarers' skittles match will be held at the Kings Arms, Portesham, on Friday 10th January, 7.30 for 8.00pm. The buffet will cost not more than £7.00 per head. As well as the skittles, there will be a very brief discussion of events local Wayfarers could support next summer and any ideas will be welcome.

Please let me know, at least a week in advance, if you can come.

Nick Browning (01305 268298)

HAVING ESCAPED TO THE SUN!!!

The following message was sent to the Club by Peter and Margaret Yelland

Margaret and I are away from tomorrow so unfortunately will be unable to be at the grand opening on Sunday. However I went down today to have a look at the finished product and feel I must just say how really great the Club looks and how fortunate we all are for belonging to such a grand and auspicious sailing club with those having the foresight and determination to look to the future.

I visualised Margaret and I when we are really in our cups (maybe year after next), wending our way down on our zimmers and spending hours and hours on the verandah, (all our friends hopefully sending out drinks to the old dears), and remembering when.

So through your auspices please convey to all our friends our best wishes for Christmas and a good 2003.

Best wishes Peter and Margaret (somewhere where it's 75 plus).



*Congratulations to
Zoe Lloyd and Stephen Wright
On their engagement on Christmas Eve*

SECURITY

With the move to the new site complete the question of security is now of paramount importance. It is impossible to stop a determined thief but simple precautions will certainly make things very difficult for them. Every step has been taken to ensure security with our alarm system and cameras but members can also help further in the safety of the Clubhouse and the site.

LOCKING THE GATES AND CLUBHOUSE DOORS

Always ensure that you **lock the Clubhouse doors and windows when you are the last person to leave**. A quick look round and a hearty shout please to ensure you are the last person before closing and securely locking the doors.

All gates should be locked if there is nobody else on site even if the gates are open when you arrive. It is important that the lock to the hardstanding is put through two links of the chain and not through the copper shackle which secures the padlock to the chain. If there is another Club member or members still on site tell them you are leaving and a reminder to them to lock up when they leave.

The changing rooms are vulnerable so once again keep them locked and do not leave valuables in the changing room.

DINGHY AND KEEL BOATS

If you do not need equipment on your boat take it home where it will be safe.

If you have a cover ensure that is secure and tied. The same with your boat, it should always be securely tied to 'tie downs'. More damage is caused to boats on a hardstanding than on the water!

Ensure you have your boat number clearly visible and that your trolley and trailer is clearly marked with your name and boat number. This will enable contact to be made with you should it become necessary.

NON-MEMBERS ON SITE

Remember that the site is private and should we find non-members on site we should always speak to them and determine their reason for being there. A large number of our neighbours have used the site for years and although supportive of ourselves still feel a little grieved that they have lost access. Treat everybody with civility when pointing out that it is private property and if you consider that their presence is not detrimental to security then allow a little leeway to the 'trespass'.

This is also an opportunity to push the Club hard and to recruit new members, especially with the younger group who could be told of what we can offer and how we can teach them to sail. Please get them on 'our side'.

INCIDENT BOOK

If an incident occurs that you consider should be brought to notice please make an entry in the Incident Book which can be found just inside the main door.

KEYS

Keys are extremely important and every member should have a key. This might mean purchasing others but it is important that everybody should be able to lock up after them. Too often doors are left unlocked because members have forgotten their keys or another member of the family has them. Keys are inexpensive when you consider what we (you) might lose because you were unable to lock up!

FINALLY

Don't get into an argument if somebody is 'lippy' or causing you grief - it is an unfortunate fact of life that if you get involved you may not get the support from the law which you might expect. However if the incident is such that you feel that it is necessary to call the Police then do so right way. Do not put yourself at risk in any way whatsoever.

Buy your extra keys - lock up and enjoy yourselves

Bob Green

FEBRUARY Newsletter

The deadline for the February 2003 Newsletter will be 26th January 2003.

Thanks for the kind comments on the December Newsletter. Please keep giving me your comments, suggestions and contributions. Sorry if you have received this Newsletter a few days later than usual but the Christmas festivities introduced a little delay.

The Committee are looking at the best ways to get information out to members so could you please let me know if you would prefer your Newsletter e-mailed or if you think you are more likely to read it if it is posted to you.

Cathy Ledger – 51 Whitecross Drive Weymouth DT4 9PA – Cathy@ledger01.fsnet.co.uk – (01305) 777568