



The Viking

Daneshill Sailing Club Newsletter

February 2011



Welcome to this edition of *The Viking*, containing the latest news and updates for the various projects going on behind the scenes. The latter end of last season saw a number of additions and improvements to the Club, with two new Laser Bugs and two new Laser Pico's, which will augment the Topper fleet. Interestingly, the Bugs have two sets of sails, one a smaller training sail, for those new to the centre-main concept, and a larger Blaze race sail, for a more challenging experience.

These boats are specifically aimed at our younger sailors, but a nimble adult can manage to sail them without too much embarrassment!



The main topic of conversation last year was the sailing quality of the lake. Thus having beaten the Blue-green algae we were almost beaten by the weed, but hard work by a small number of intrepid outdoor types allowed the small area in front of the jetty to be kept clear and meant the training courses could take place. This problem was country wide during the 2010 season, and both the RYA and NCC are investigating the most effective ecologically sound method of weed control. Unfortunately the recent budget cuts by the County Council will have some impact on the weed control, but we will have to wait to see how it affects us. In the mean time, we have a number of ideas that may offer a short term solution which will allow us to use the greater part of the lake. Any suggestions for the control of the weed are welcome, as are offers of manual help.

The forthcoming season presents a number of challenges to us, both to enable us to continue the Club, and also build on a number of new and exciting developments within the sport and the RYA. Obviously our sport is very high profile at the moment, with the 2012 Olympics just around the corner. The Committee is endeavouring to promote both the junior element of the Club, with possibly a dedicated junior time slot during Sunday sailing, for games or coaching, and also opening up the senior side, attracting more potential members from the retired and semi-retired members of the community.



There is also the possibility of a more socially active element, with barbeques and other things taking place. One suggestion is a Facebook page for members to communicate more easily, and decide when is appropriate for barbeques with a view to weather and timing. Last year we approached the largest membership ever, but sadly we had fewer activities socially than ever, possibly due to the weather and the weed. Anyone willing to help with one-off events would be welcome.

As ever, we need urgently more committed volunteers for Wednesday School Sailing days, as there is a minimum cover needed before the children will be allowed onto the water. Occasionally during this season a couple more volunteers would have made the running of School Sailing very much easier. Even if you can only manage the occasional day, your help would be very much appreciated. David Hall has been nominated as Schools Liaison Officer, with responsibility for organising the staffing of these sailing days. Put a smile on his face and volunteer for a day !!

As ever, in an effort to continually improve our Health and Safety procedures, a Register will now be kept, updated as necessary, containing a list of all those Members deemed competent to operate the power boats for general purposes only. A separate list of members with RYA Safety Boat qualifications will also be posted. ONLY those on this list are allowed to undertake RESCUE / SAFETY work with these boats. Please help by putting your name forward for inclusion on this list as early as possible. This is for use at Daneshill only, and does not incur any costs. Inclusion is at the discretion of the Club Principal.

The position of Duty Officer has been proposed, with responsibility for the safe and efficient running of the Club waterside activities for that duty day. It is envisaged that it will be a Committee member on each occasion, and all decisions must be referred to that person during the day's activities. This is so that there is a single responsible person and will remove any miscommunication or ambiguity.

The dates for your diary are as follows:

Tuesday	1st March	First day of sailing
Monday	2nd May	Charter day
Sat 21st & Sun 22nd	May	Senior Course
Sat 28th & Sun 29th	May	Senior Course
June (TBA)		Sail Away Day
Wed 27th to Fri 29th	July	Junior Course
July (TBA)		Junior Regatta
Wed 24th to Fri 26th	Aug	Junior Course
Sat 10th & Sun 11th	Sept	Senior Course
Sat 17th & Sun 18th	Sept	Senior Course
Sun	30th October	AGM
Mon	31 October	Last day of sailing
November (TBA)		Annual dinner

Fees for the coming year have increased to reflect the improvements in facilities, however, the fees are still the best in the region. Please note, the definition of Family Member - Parent and partner plus all dependant children up to the age of 18 (or whilst in full-time education).

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	£60.00
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	£55.00
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP	£40.00



The Social evening at the end of last season was well attended as usual, the meal was up to the usual standard, and everyone enjoyed the evening.

As the Chairman mentioned, the usual presentation of cups was unfortunately curtailed as there was limited racing during the year.

However, in recognition of his unwavering dedication and improvement throughout the season, Martin was presented with the junior cup on this occasion by the Chairman. Well done Martin.

Brian, the Secretary, was presented with a certificate as a mark of appreciation for his unstinting hard work throughout the last few years, which almost moved him to tears, but not enough to volunteer to finance the next round!!



The enrolment evening has been arranged for Friday 25th February at The Birches, 7.30 till 9.00 for those wishing to sign on prior to the start of the season, and to catch up with other club members in a warm and convivial atmosphere, warm being the important part here, as it's still decidedly chilly outdoors !!

It would be helpful if all members would allow the Committee to compile an e-mail list of members for the dissemination of information during the course of the season, and to allow the sending of the newsletter electronically. This would save the cost of mailing all communications which is very expensive, and would allow the newsletter to be in colour and more informative as it is not restricted to two side of A4 paper. We have had complaints from the Monks who scribe our newsletter, that the inclusion of some colour graphics last time caused a riot in the refectory as their quills would only do black!!!. Please forward your e-mail and anything for the newsletter, to David at halldavid42@hotmail.com