



The Viking

Daneshill Sailing Club Newsletter

June 2011

www.daneshillsailingclub.co.uk

For all the fair-weather sailors out there, it's nearly officially summer-time, so it's time to dust off the boats and get on the water. Despite the high winds we have had just lately, there have been a few cracking afternoons with the sun shining, warm breezy conditions and plenty of open water.

The weed is noticeable in places, but up to now it has had no detrimental effect on our activities. The official line from Notts County Council, is wait and see, as the budget cuts mean there is little monies available for weed clearing and barley straw seeding. However, on the plus side, this may not be a bad thing as last year the water was so clear it made ideal conditions for the weed to grow so fast it became unmanageable. It is hoped that we can strike a balance between slightly cloudy water, which will inhibit weed growth, but a minimal amount of blue-green algae which is potentially problematic. Time will tell if we have reached equilibrium..... If not then we will have to get our garden shears and rakes out as we have in the past.



We have just completed the first Adult Level 1/2 course of the summer, and it was held during the worst weather conditions anyone can remember, with extremely high winds and gusts of nearly 40knots. It is a credit to the candidates that they were not fazed in the least, which I would like to take as a comment on our outstanding teaching techniques and enthusiasm, however I know for a fact that it was because they were all as mad as a box of frogs, and were all keen to enjoy the experience to the full. We would like to welcome Steve,

Roger, Andrew and Vernon to the dizzy heights of qualified RYA sailing!! Yes, I know there are only three suspects, the official group photo was "lost at sea", but no doubt Tony will explain the circumstances if you ask diplomatically!! The bright side is that Steve will probably get his own personal mug shot at in the next edition. Seriously though, well done chaps for completing the course in exceptional circumstances.

The two Pico's acquired last year have been named after Gerry Waite and Peter Jackson. You will see their names on the side and a small plaque inside. For newer members who will not have known them, Pete was a founder member of the Club and an enthusiastic Laser sailor and Gerry was a long standing member and our Chairman for many years. Both contributed an enormous amount to the Club. On the right is Martin, sailing one of the Pico's during the high winds a couple of weeks ago.



If you have time to spare we need help now on Wednesdays with School Sailing. We have three schools starting at 12.30 finishing at 5.00 when all the "putting away" is done. The contribution from the schools is an important income stream for the Club which helps to keep the annual subscription to a low level. The number of members actively contributing on Wednesdays is barely enough to maintain the high safety factor with which we promote this activity with the Schools. Even if you can only spare an hour, especially at the beginning or end, when there is a lot of manual shifting to be done. This would make it so much easier, and dare I say it, actually pleasurable for those who give their time willingly week in week out during the season.

While on the subject of volunteers, another day which is important to the Club is the Rotary Sail Away Day when a Primary school not usually connected to the Club is brought to us by the Retford branch of

the Rotary Club and we give the Year 6 children a taster session. Following one session the school enjoyed it so much that they are now one of our regular Wednesday groups for the second year. The Rotary Club always make a generous contribution to Club funds and it is considered a feather in our collective caps when talking to Councillors and external bodies about funding. We are very fortunate to enjoy the support of a number of local charities and Councillors, which are a valuable source of donations, but it does require a lot of hard work which tends to devolve to the same people all the time. If you can only help out occasionally, then Thursday 23rd of June would be a good day to do so. Please let one of the Committee know if you can spare a little time either on a Wednesday, or for the Sail-away-day. I can assure you it would be very much appreciated.

In the summer we have the Junior Courses, the first one on 27/28/29 July. By the time this letter reaches you this could be filled but there is another course on 24/25/26 August so if you know any interested friends they should make their interest known early.



Talking of friends, please note that members can bring guests on up to five occasions during the season, and it has been especially gratifying to see that some of the junior members have brought along a number of pals, who have really enjoyed their day at our Club. If your children are a bit reticent about coming up with Dad or Mum, on their own, then a friend seems to make a world of difference. See Club Rules.

The rumour mill is working overtime at the moment, with whispers of a Junior Regatta being organised for a Sunday during the summer school holidays. A provisional date of 31st July looks to be a favourite. If you feel like getting involved, please get in touch with Maurice. There are various things to organise, from catering to format of games.... any ideas welcome.

Again the rumour mill has put it around that Wednesday evening sailing is to take place, strangely enough on a Wednesday evening, if and only if there is sufficient numbers interested. We are looking at sailing between 16.30 and 21.00, but this includes putting all the boats away at the end. For anyone interested there is a very good fish and chip shop at Ranskill cross roads, just up the road, to provide sustenance for all the little sailors who have badgered Mum or dad to bring them straight from school. If you would support such a venture, please let Maurice know so we can make suitable arrangements for safety boat cover. Provisionally this would be for a six week period over the summer holidays, but if there is enough support we could extend it dependant on the School sailing commitments. Remember there is a barbeque at the Club for the use of any members who want it, so make it a barbeque evening for the family.

We soon need to start to raise funds of a serious nature to replace the GP14s which have been marvellous workhorses for training purposes but which are reaching the end of their useful lives without a good deal of maintenance. There are a number of boats under consideration including Bahia and Wanderer.

We will keep you informed as matters progress.....just don't hold your breath. (that wasn't very subtle was it ? !!! - Maurice)

Contact information and sailing times, along with course dates are on the website at the top of the newsletter. Please be aware that times may be reduced, especially when the weather is inclement, and subject to the availability of qualified safety boat operatives and club officials.

Let us hope that we have a good summer sailing, with plenty of sun, not too much wind, and most of all, plenty of fun on the water.....

David