



T H E S I G N A L



Newsletter of Swarkestone Sailing Club

www.swarkestonesc.co.uk

April 2011



IMPORTANT

Please ensure your email address is correctly when you complete your membership form



Laser Open - Sunday 1st May 2011

11.00 am first race then 1pm & 3pm
(2 races to count)

Lets get as many lasers on the water as possible ,we are on the midlands circuit so it would be great for a good turn out.

If any one feels they don't want to race but would like to see their boat being used on the day please contact me .



Ian Monk



Sign-up **Today**

WEAR THEM WITH PRIDE !!!

The Tea Bar



Needs YOU

Do a Duty PLEASE
Put your name on the list

A fantastic range of high quality apparel is available in a variety of styles and colours with the club name and logo embroidered on them.

www.swarkestonesc.co.uk



PLEASE NOTE

Orders are only placed when there are over £150 of orders.

THIS CAN RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE DELAY IN DELIVERY



Signal from the Commodore

PICNIC AND PLAY SATURDAYS.

Please come sailing and bring the family. If you haven't got a boat to take them all and have a RYA level 1 & 2 take out a club Comet.

If you have your own boat but are not very sure about your skills there will be people down on a picnic and play day who will help you get started.

THE COMET CLASS

This appears to be a growing class at the moment.

You will see single-handed Comets, the Extra, the Verso, the Duo and several Trios out sailing. The single handed class captain is Cynthia Harness with Russ McKay for Comet Trios and on a picnic and play day all types of Comets are invited out for a sail. We can practice general sailing skills and just have fun.

The summer is on its way at last and Saturday sailing is a great way to wind down.

The bar-b-que is available for use and there is tea and coffee in the clubhouse.

RESCUE BOATS AND RACE DAYS

Please ask Sally Hadden or Ian Bellamy if you can have a practice drive in the rescue boats under their supervision if you are unsure of their correct use.

Sally is organizing courses for members to do so that they can use the boats with some confidence.

We are always grateful for the help we get with race organisation and rescue work but it helps to have had some practice first.

Learn to do officer of the day by turning up for your assistant duties. You may think you are an assistant and therefore not very important but the help you give is **VITAL ON A SUNDAY.**

Please try to change with another member if you cannot do your duties – we all like to sail but it helps the committee considerably if they can rely on member turning up on a Sunday.

Sundays also need a tea bar. Please ladies and gentlemen, we like to have food after a race so when Lisa puts up her list requesting volunteers, put your name down for at least one Sunday. Cobs, cakes and cups of tea or coffee are all that are required.

Lisa will give you any advice you might need.

It only remains for me to say thank to everyone who has helped on the working parties. They have been organized by Carl Martin who has done a sterling job.

The clubhouse looks splendid and hopefully will be a source of pride to the members through the year. I expect there are still one or two jobs left if anyone would like to help Carl finish them.

I hope we all have a **marvellous** summer, both the sailing and the weather.

The club will be organizing a single-handed training day and a double-handed training day for anyone who wants to improve their boat handling.

There will also be one or two Lady's Saturday afternoon sailing events followed by tea.

PLEASE WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD AND E-MAILS FOR INFORMATION.

Have a really good year and I hope to see you on the water.

CYNTHIA HARNESS
COMMODORE.



Signal from the Rear Commodore

The sailing season is almost upon us and as the weather gets warmer and the nights longer, we will be returning to do what we all enjoy, sailing again.

I would like to thank all the members who kindly completed their racing duties forms for the 2011 race programme. All your requests for duties and dates were considered and in almost all cases accommodated. This is the first year this form has been included in the membership renewal pack. The allocation of duties has been much easier this year so this form will be included each year, so thanks again.

If you can't make a duty, the Swarkestone SC website will allow you to request for a duty swap. However, if despite all attempts, you still can't arrange for a swap, please contact myself. We have a great race programme set up for this season with something for everyone. This year the two day Marge Laurie Memorial Shield will be held on Saturday and Sunday, leaving the August bank holiday Monday for a great fun regatta day. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Also included for the first time this year is 'Novices Introduction to Racing' aimed at encouraging all you novice sailors to participate in a three race day, accompanied by a capable crew for guidance.

We attempted for the first time this year to organise a Topper Traveller Open Meeting at Swarkestone SC. Unfortunately due to the late organisation of the RYA Topper Nationals and conflicting dates, we have had to cancel the Topper Traveller event. However all is not lost. We still intend to hold our own Topper Open event for all our members on 15th October.

Again 'Picnic and Play' days are on the programme to provide the opportunity for members to practice and experiment on the water with rescue boat support. Sailing and a picnic, what could be better!

To ensure all runs smoothly, please arrive for your duties an hour before the first race starts and make sure you arrange a swap as early as possible for any duties that you are unable to do. Good luck for the new season both on and off the water.

Joe Levy



Free Internet Access !! Please see a Committee Member for access details



Correct Radio Operating Procedure. The club radios are all licensed for use on 157.850 mhz (also known as 37A on Icom radios or channel M). Swarkestone SC are NOT the sole user of this frequency so it is vital we use our assigned prefix (SIERRA) followed by a number; ie **Sierra 4** 'racebox' to **sierra 5** 'teabar' at the beginning of every transmission to ensure we do not interfere with neighbouring clubs or them with us. PLEASE USE THE CALL SIGN ON THE RADIO.



Signal from the Vice Commodore

Hi, everyone. I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took helped on our list of work parties. This year the clubhouse looks great, there was no shortage of people willing to pick up a brush or roller, even those who never decorate at home.

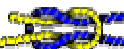
We are still looking for items of a nautical theme for the clubroom if anyone can help. Thank you to the members who worked tirelessly cutting trees on the islands and behind the race box. This work was done to bring more wind onto the lake and on the Pete Wheatley Trophy day we noticed a great improvement, thanks again.

New shallow water markers are now laid and a start on the boat rails has been made but further volunteers will be needed to finish the them.

Also a big thank you to Sue and Cynthia who have cooked every Saturday and Sunday for 10 weeks. This has helped keep all the workers going.

There have been many other small jobs completed so thank you for all your support, all the help this year has made my role as Vice Commodore easy and enjoyable. That's all folks! **Lets get sailing.**

Carl Martin



Signal from the Training Principial

Although we haven't being instructing much over the winter, quite a lot of the back office work continues a pace, Swarkestone are an RYA Training Centre and OnBoard club and have recently successfully bid for funding for a 1st aid course for our volunteers , 2 places on an RYA Dinghy Instructor course and set up our sailing courses for the spring and autumn. The next level 1 and 2 course starts at the end of April and hopefully we'll completed overhauling the fleet by then. We have held part of the regional Instructor course at Swarkestone earlier this month and have had a weekend of sailiability training form a national coach. Both groups are really impressed with our facilities and the warm welcome that they get, which is a credit to all in our club.

Trent College will start sailing with us this year and Chellaston Academy are sailing with us in June and July, this brings in some revenue but also helps build links with other interested parties and helps us to attract grants to improve our fleet and get funding to pay for courses for our volunteers.

We have a couple of places left on the April level 1 and 2 course so if any one is interested in trying sailing this is an excellent introduction, and great value for money. Don't forget that picnic and play days are also a good way to introduce some one to a boat !

Mike Parker



Signal from the Boson

It got to that time of the year again when people start venturing out in boats and start needing safety boats. I thought it would be good just to run through the basics – obviously you will need the keys out of the black box to be able to collect the boats in the first place
Ignition keys for the 2 40hp boats and kill cords can be found in the blue box (and should be returned there on completion). Boat locks should be hung out of the water on the garage netting and left open.

Having returned to the pontoon with the boats, check should be done with the kill cords, oil level and fuel together with first aid kit, tow rope, knife, oars, anchor and boat hook, all of which should be in the boat and should remain with the boat – any defaults should be reported to any of the bosons.

Should you require fuel it is stored in the blue box however if your boat requires oil then you need to speak to one of the bosons listed on the blue box door.

If you are at all unsure of how to start the boats or what to do in any situation please speak to Ian or his team

Training

If you would like to gain a proper RYA recognised powerboat certificate then please can you send your name and a contact number or email to Sally.hadden@yahoo.co.uk or call 07905974266 or speak to Ian at lbellamy@talktalk.net or call 07775557317

We will be running training sessions throughout the year. There are folders available in the office which shows in a pictorial guide how to start each of the engines we have and hopefully soon this will also be available on the member's website.

Safety is obviously paramount and drivers need to consider not only their crew when driving but also themselves and both should be seated properly before manoeuvres are undertaken and the kill cord must be worn at all times when on the boat. The engines should be stopped using the key not the kill cord unless in an emergency and both must be left on the boat during the day when boats may be required by other people or in an emergency

Future developments – Harvey is in the process of building new garages so all 3 of the safety boats will be undercover.

Any problems, questions or queries please don't hesitate to ask – better a question than doing something wrong.

Thanks

Ian Bellamy



Signal from the Social Committee

After the changes made last year I am pleased to be here in my second year as your social secretary. I would like to thank all the members for their support last year, whether it was covering the tea bar or helping out at the social events.

Special thank you to Richard Dance who puts in so much time and effort with regards the entertainment, with the disco and the karaoke.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Joyce and Sue for all their hard work behind the bar , without them we would have a lot of thirsty members!!

On Saturday 26th March we held a FAB Genie family information day, There was approx 60 people who attended and we put on a hot buffet and made endless cups of tea and coffee!! Thank you to Cynthia and Sally for your help.

We have also had our health and hygiene inspection and I am pleased to say we have gone from a 2 star rating to a 5 star rating which is the top mark!!

Big thank you to the members who put in the time and effort into making the clubhouse and tea bar so lovely and clean.

The tea bar rota is now up on the board at the clubhouse so please put your name down everyone likes to have a meal and drinks when they come off the water so we all need to take a turn in all the duties.

We now have a social committee.:

Lisa Dance - Social secretary.

Sue Hayward, Sally Hadden, Jo Beech and Helen Edwards.

We are also hoping to hold a dinner/dance at the same time of the presentation evening. More details and dates to follow!!

Sailing Club Social Calendar 2011

Saturday 7th may --Fitting out supper.

Saturday 18th June--Longest day sail and social.

Saturday 27th August --Marge Laurie Social and camp over.

Saturday 10th September --- Moonlight trophy social and camp over.

Saturday 5th November---Bonfire night and fireworks.

Monday 26th December -- boxing day bash.

If you have any ideas on any Social events , please contact me on.

Social.swarkestonesc@gmail.com

Many Thanks

Lisa Dance



From S/Y Elison

2010 was an interesting and exciting time for us: we began the year with Elyson on the hard standing at Puerto Lucia YC, Ecuador. It was a very pleasant facility, more an up market sport and leisure club with tennis, 2 swimming pools, Jacuzzi, gym, private beach, table tennis, restaurant and for the first time in a few years, decent showers! Optimist and Laser racing and training took place every couple of days, it was part of the national training squad base, and we had a great time, although there were not many cruisers. However, we met some great yachties, as usual!

So, in between checking the boat over ready for some long legs, sewing new bimini and cockpit surround, installing a pactor modem (Steve gave in at last and it was an absolutely brilliant piece of kit for the mileage we were to do) installing new engine mountings, we still had time to enjoy the facilities. And.... probably best of all, we went off to see the sights, Cuenca, Ecuador, up in the Andes, where traditional Panama hats are made. What a wonderful city.

Steve had been hankering after a day horse riding, which J reluctantly arranged and participated in! The Andes mountains as a backdrop to the 6 hours on horseback were stunningly beautiful I admit, and (my) horse was very kind and kept me on its back, but the following two days were, well, best erased from memory, as I could not sit down in comfort.... as usual, S thought this hilariously funny!

Machu Pichu in Peru, was fascinating, stunning, even the trip to get there was an exciting experience, through the mountain ranges; a few weeks after it was closed due to too much rainfall, the beginning of the weather that followed us all year! All in all we land travelled for 4 weeks, the whole trip was amazing.



The travel lift placed us nicely into the Pacific waters in March, and we were off to the Galapagos islands. We had both been looking forward to seeing the islands for so long. It is one of the most interesting and fascinating island groups we have visited so far. The 4 day sail was wonderful, aided by the Humbolt current. The wildlife / sea life around the islands was unbelievable, and because they have protection, never been hunted, one can get so close to see the turtles, sea lions, penguins, blue footed boobies etc that the whole experience was dramatic. Yachts get a 3 week allowance as routine, the time flew by and although it would have been great to apply for an extension, we were very aware that this year we had to sail quite a few nms!

Off to the Marquesas islands, French Polynesia. Visions of beautiful ladies with flowers in their hair, wonderful rhythms to music, Tahitian dancing, and 3 weeks of sailing to get there!!



The time flew by again, and the landfall of the Bay of Virgins was unbelievable, stunning, green and mountainous. The locals spoke Marquesan, so it was sign language and a little French to communicate. There was only 1 shop, no way to get money, it was time to trade items of clothing, different food stocks, tools, anything could be traded for fruit taken off the owners trees. We visited most of the islands, but the constant swell of the Pacific made landing a tricky experience!

The Tuamotan islands were next, still part of French Polynesia, and 4 days away. We had for the first time more wind than we wanted or was predicted! We escaped with a torn headsail. The Tuamotos are very similar to the San Blas islands of Panama, coral reefs, very deep water outside, shallow inside with numerous coral heads, we certainly got used to coral heads in 2010! Most of the islands were entered by a narrow entrance, quite often the current would be weather driven not tidal.

All had the beautiful turquoise clear waters of picture postcard beauty, were sparsely populated, with very friendly and welcoming people. On the island of Ahe, very small, we were invited to a wedding, the celebrations took place over Saturday and Sunday, relatives arrived from some 10 other islands, and 5 yacht crews were invited! 2 Dutch, 1 Norwegian, and our selves! It was the most exuberant wedding we have ever been to! Strangely, the bride groom was an Englishman, he worked on a cruise ship, as did his new wife!

Windy weather seemed to be the norm, the El Nina was beginning to show its colours! Another 2 days of sailing took us to Tahiti, the first place to stock up, eat out, get on a bus, see traffic! We hired a car, and explored the island, which isn't very big at all! But, we could get all of the first world fix we wanted, albeit at a price!! Our 1st set of visitors, friends from our sailing club at home, departed, and our second set including 1 year old grandson arrived for the summer holidays, it was great fun seeing them all. Moorea is a honeymoon destination, stunning mountain formations and yet more picture postcard / calendar anchorages, only half a day sail from Tahiti. We just loved it all!

Again, time pressed us onwards, but the weather keep us waiting! It was an estimated 6 day trip to Suvarrow, where Tom Neale lived alone for years, or 10 days to Tonga, or 6 days to Nuie, either a little north, straight or a little south, the question was which way to go! We saw a window, took it, and arrived in Tonga after 10 days. The culture there was quite different from the Polynesian islands. The church singing was even more melodious, the dress code fascinating, and the cruising wonderful. It is the only island group never to have been ruled by anyone other than themselves. I forgot to say that Captains Cook and Bligh have been present in all of the Pacific islands!

New Caladonia next, another French island, so great food! After visiting so many remote, sparsely populated picturesque islands it was a real treat to be able to Shop!! For the first time we were the only boat traveling that way, were we spending so much time exploring that most boats had moved on. It was another 10 day trip, and 30 hours of it was Spooky! We had 20-25 kts of wind, comfortable seas, but we could,nt see a thing! There was a thick mist which made visibility about 50 yards! There were plenty of SSB nets, long standing, chatty ones, and we were also talking to some friends every day, otherwise we felt we were being suspended in time!

Next stop Australia! This time there were so many boats bunched up waiting for the weather, that we were having 4 meetings a week discussing when to jump the final 7 day leg of the year! In the end, 30 boats left within 30 hours, Australia bound!

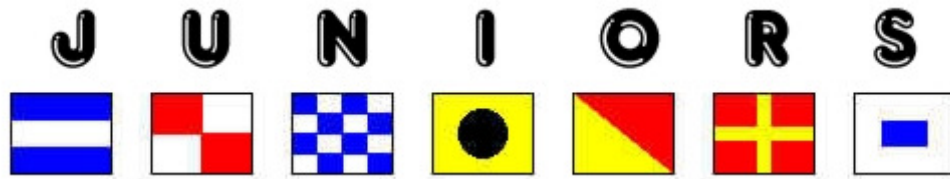
Now Elyision is on the hard standing again, at Bundaberg, Queensland, Aus! At the moment, we have heard she has not been affected by the weather, which, as we crossed the Pacific, was graded an El Nina, then mild E N, Then Moderate E N, then Strong E N, which is the reason Aus has been getting the record rainfall. Hopefully the Cyclone season will pass without too many effects!

We know we are taking rather a long time to do our little circumnavigation, but it would have been great if the Pacific could be explored in a more leisurely fashion! The island groups have been stunningly beautiful, and geologically so different, even the pacific fish are all different, they have long snouts! The fish are too big to catch, Steve lost more lures this season than the last 12 years put together!! The largest fish caught was a Dorado, 1.5 mtrs long!! 32 lbs weight!!

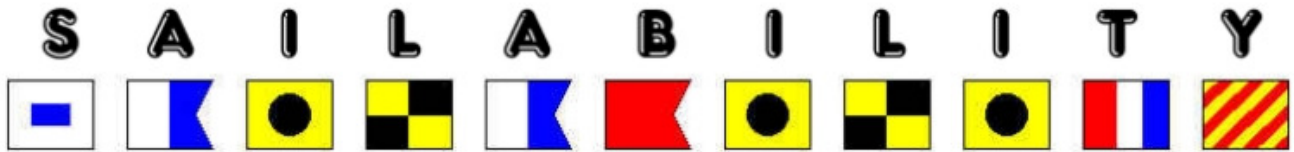
The anchorages have been numerous, and have been the most consistently beautiful we have seen, and the cruising community more international than we have experienced for quite a few years, many more Europeans than we thought we would meet. But, we Are rather slow compared to most!

Never mind, not far now to get back to the Mediterranean Sea!!

Josie & Steve



Please see the junior newsletter at www.swarkestonesc-juniors.co.uk



Here we are again, the start of a new sailing season. I have been to two national conferences this winter just to keep our name in the frame and to find out what level of support there is for disabled sailing. I am pleased to report that all is well and forthcoming Olympic games means that great efforts and some money is being expended to ensure a good chance of success for our handicapped sailors.

We at Swarkestone were awarded £10,000 last year by the RYA and Sport England to improve our fleet of boats which we did by buying three new boats and spending a lot of time and money bringing the existing boats up to date. It is difficult to believe that six of our fleet are over 10 years old.

Derbyshire Community Foundation also funded the purchase of two radio controlled laser dinghies which we intend to race on a regular basis to give people some idea what racing is all about.



So we start the season with the hope that it will be as successful or better than previous years. The only bad news is that the boat hire fee will be increased from £2.50 to £3.00 to cover the ever increasing costs of maintenance.

Happy Sailing

Harvey Harrison



President



Harvey Harrison

The Committee 2010-2011

Commodore



Cynthia Harness

Fleet Captains

Comet Trio	Russ McKay
Comet Solo	Cynthia Harness
Laser	Ian Monk
Menagerie	Charlotte Hadden
Sailability	Ken Butterfield
Wineglass	Dave Gascoyne

Vice Commodore



Carl Martin

Rear Commodore



Joe Levy

Treasurer



John Wormald

Secretary



Ted Bowles

Estate Manager



John Roberts

Assistant Treasurer



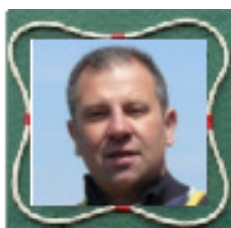
Paul Beresford

Dinghy Park Officer



Martin McKay

Training Principal



Mike Parker

Communications Officer



Ken Butterfield

Bowson



Ian Bellamy

Juniors



Charlotte Hadden

Social Sec.



Lisa Dance

Child Protection Officer



Sally Hadden

Also on your Committee

Ian Monk	Sue Haywood
Steve Beach	Helen Edwards
Jo Beach	Richard Dance