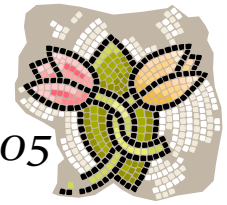
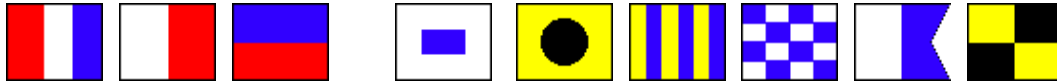


Spring 2005



T H E S I G N A L



Newsletter Of Swarkestone Sailing Club.

www.sailswarkestone.com

A signal from the Commodore.

Having spent last Sunday on a Committee Boat on Carsington Water for the 420 Winter Championships, with a Force 5 and wind chill factor giving a temperature of -4° , and looking out of the train window as I write this at falling snow, I find it difficult to focus on the sailing season ahead. But in truth, it's not that far off. The Dinghy Show at Ally Pally, the end of our winter work parties, then an early Easter, and we are into our new season.

There has been some great maintenance work over the winter. Thanks to Martin, we have been able to achieve some big outdoor tasks such as clearing the remains of the old pontoon, digging out a new path to the sailability pontoon, grading the beach, removing old fencing and stakes, and widening the car park. Inside the club, Harry has done an outstanding job on repainting the male changing room, and the main club room is being redecorated at present. We have also replaced the fence between the club house and the boat park gate.

Another change over the winter has been the completion of the new Club Website. There is more info elsewhere in the Signal, but please do send items of interest, news items, etc. to the webmaster for inclusion.

Besides the main club website, Charlotte has put much effort into creating a website specifically for youth

and junior members – this is primarily aimed at providing information about dates, changes, etc. to existing youth and juniors. This can be found at www.sscjuniors.bravehost.com.

Looking to the season ahead, could I make a couple of pleas. The first is about the trailer park. There are some trailers that are becoming a health and safety hazard because of their poor condition. The committee has agreed an “amnesty” period (see separate notice in the signal) – but at the end of this period we will be taking action to dispose of any trailer that appears to be abandoned.

And secondly, could I please repeat my comment from the last Signal about doing duties. Everything at Swarkestone as a club relies on self help, from maintenance through to safety. Club duties are part of this. If you have been allocated a duty, please do either do it, or arrange a substitute. It is your fellow members who suffer if you don't!

Turning to the immediate future, don't forget the “March Wednesdays” – evening social events with a theme, starting at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

I promise to try to have my yellow sail on (or in) the water more this year than last, and look forward to seeing you all on the water as well. Happy sailing,

Chris

The new club website.

Over the winter, the club website has been updated.

The website is there for two main purposes – to provide information to current club members, and to be a “marketing” tool for prospective new members. Plans for developing the site focus particularly on the first purpose. As a start we will be putting the club sailing programme on the site and from now on, all copies of the Signal will be on the website. Before too long we also aim to have some of the key club documents on the website for reference (the constitution, sailing instructions, etc.). We already have trophy winners for the past 4 years on the site, and intend to increase this until we have all the records available. We also want to build up a long term photo record of the club and its activities (see the New Year party section as a starter!). As a later enhancement, we would also like to have a password

protected members only area, hopefully with a discussion forum.

The previous website was our first attempt, and proved to be difficult to keep up to date. The new one has been designed specifically to make it easier to keep up to date. But keeping it up to date does mean having a steady flow of information, news, photos, advertisements, etc. so please do send ideas and material to the webmaster (webmaster@sailswarkestone.com)

With the new website we have a new URL (web address) which is

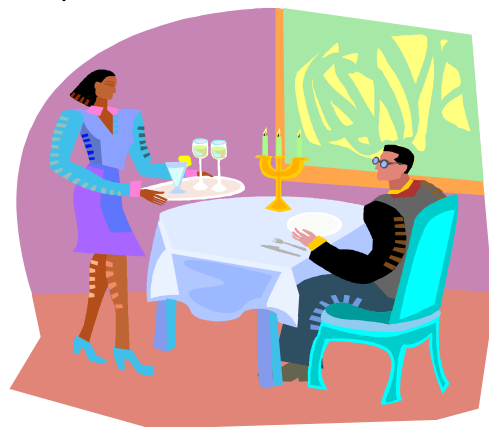
www.sailswarkestone.com (although the old one will continue to work). We have moved the website to a different hosting service that gives some extra features – one of these is that we can have individual email addresses in the format your.name@sailswarkestone.com. So if you fancy this as your email address, again, contact the webmaster.

Sportsman's Dinner

Derbyshire Youth Sailing (DYS) is the county organisation for promoting youth sailing – it is entirely volunteer based and gets no external funding of any sort. Basically, it relies on the efforts of the 10 individual sailing clubs in Derbyshire, and provides a range of training and racing events, as well as being the organiser for representative county teams – last year, for example, Derbyshire won the prestigious Mount Haes Trophy at a National competition. DYS is also the authority for awarding County Sailing Colours.

As a fund raising activity, it is holding a “Sportsman's Dinner” at Pride Park, on Thursday, March 17th, at which the guest speaker will be the former England Goalkeeper, Peter Shilton. Most of the tickets are being aimed at companies and corporate sponsors, but each of the

Derbyshire Sailing Clubs is being offered a table (10 places) at a discount rate of £25 per head.



It should be a really great evening, with an excellent speaker and an interesting venue with good food. Would you like to go as part of the Swarkestone table? If so, please contact Sally or Chris Hadden, as soon as possible.

Signal from the Rear Commodore.

This has been my first opportunity to introduce myself as the new rear commodore. For those of you who don't get all these titles I look after the sailing activities at the club. In light of this my aims for the coming year are to increase involvement by members in on the water

club activities. Being a keen racer doesn't mean that racing is the only priority as you will see there has been a noticeable increase in picnic and play days as well as the usually full race programme.

Sailing Programme/Duty Roster

As you may already have found attached to this signal is the club programme and duty roster. I hope you find the new format easy to use and any feedback on the layout and formatting would be much appreciated. Duties are a necessary evil I am afraid and wherever possible I have tried to be fair to all members on the number of duties they are expected to do. In the past years people not turning up for duties has been a real problem at the club, and a small number of people have repeatedly covered duties to keep club activities running. To this end as a committee we will be reviewing the situation. Turning up for duties is not as much fun as sailing I understand that, but

if we are to enjoy the club we ALL have to put the effort in; it is a club for the members run by the members. If I have made mistakes on the programme i.e. put down your 10-year-old child to do duties please contact myself. If you cannot make a duty i.e. you are on holiday then please arrange a swap, this is normally easy to do by asking people at the club.

A number of events ran at the club will rely on volunteers to do additional duties to cover these events, wherever you see volunteers required this is the case.

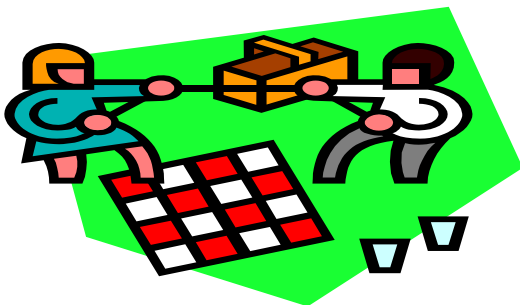
Nearer each date a sheet will go up in the clubhouse to volunteer for these events.

Picnic and Play Days

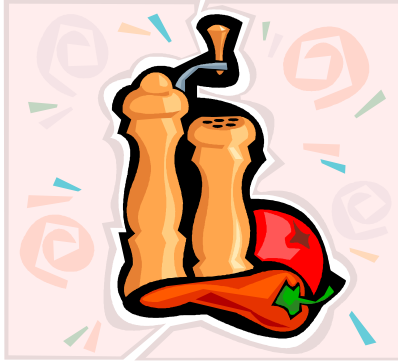
After the success of the picnic and play days last year this year we have decided to formally introduce them to the sailing calendar and increase the number. These are fun days when the club rescue

boats will be put on the water so that people can enjoy a day on the water cruising.

With the season fast approaching I hope you all enjoy a full year of sailing and hope to see you on the water soon.



Alex Davies
Rear Commodore
alexldavies@aol.com



***A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY* FITTING-OUT SUPPER**

SATURDAY 21ST MAY

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS IN THE
CLUB HOUSE CLOSER TO THE DATE.

Admire the handiwork

For those of you who have not been down to the club since Christmas, the gents changing rooms now sports a new colour scheme and the bag-rack has been repaired. The clubhouse bar and lounge has similarly had a makeover that is now almost complete. New fencing has been erected, the gate has been painted and lots of less visible

maintenance jobs have been completed. New doors will be installed in the clubhouse lounge during March.

So it's a thanks to all those who have helped and a reminder to all those who haven't that there are still some jobs to be done!

DON'T FORGET: THERE ARE NOW ONLY TWO WORK PARTY DAYS BEFORE EASTER.

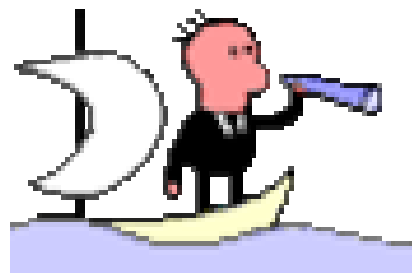
Date and time	Dinghy class
6 th March, 9.30–13.00	Any of you
13 th March, 9.30-13.00	Any of you

Useful items to bring: old clothes/overalls, gloves, tools/paintbrushes and sailing kit (in case you need to mess about in rescue boats for any job).

Malcolm Reeve, Vice commodore

The Mystery of the missing sail - Part 2

In the last Signal it was reported that Ted's sail for his wineglass had gone missing. Since publication it has now miraculously re-appeared in his boat. He would like to say thank you to the mystery returnee who missed out on a beer because they did not tell Ted who they were?



March Wednesday Evenings Lecture/Social evenings.

Wed 9th March Alex Davies : Race Seminar.

Wed 16th March: Kevan Bloor (Alverbank Sails): Boat Rigging.

Wed 23rd March: Ed Collar : Quiz Night.

Wed 30th March: Ted Bowles : Round Britain Sailing Expedition.

Do you still have an unmarked road trailer at the club?

There are still some road trailers (by the start box) that have not been identified. If you have a trailer here and have not put your identification on time is running out. All those not identified by the summer will be considered abandoned and will be sold off or destroyed- you have been warned!



RYA Level 1 and 2 Sailing.



The next RYA level 1 and 2 sailing course begins Thursday 21st April and last for 5 weeks. Theory is on the Thursday and Practical on Saturday. Application forms are at the sailing club now. So if you or a friend or work colleague wants to get their level 1 and 2 get there soon as places are limited.

Any Items for the Summer Signal can be sent to :

thesignal@sailswarkestone.com