



CREEKSEA TIDELINES

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Creeksea Sailing Club

August 2003

Welcome....

New members

This season has started very well with a record number of new members joining the club. Assuming that the 21 members who have yet to pay their subscriptions do so, the club will have seen a real reversal in membership trends.

With so many new members joining the club, the committee is eager to ensure members are made aware of forthcoming activities and the facilities that the club can provide. At the recent committee meeting it was agreed that a newsletter was an essential tool in ensuring that this goal was achieved. So here it is !!

As the committee mainly (but not exclusively) comprises members of the Phantom fleet, it was felt that a better representation of the membership would be a healthy move.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the club with a non-racing interest is most welcome to join the committee. Please make yourself known to any of the current committee whose details are set out overleaf.

For those who haven't found it yet, the club website at www.creeksea.org.uk has a messageboard facility and has regular updates.

Burnham Week approaches

Creeksea Phantoms to attend...More boats welcome !

Last year the Phantom fleet made a major effort to turn out for the three-day regatta at the start of Burnham week.

Apart from the aim of enjoying close racing and the social facilities of the Burnham Yacht Clubs, it was felt that this would be a useful way of raising the profile of the club in the town. Thanks to the efforts of Paul Neve some very smart tee shirts were acquired and the white phantom logo was subsequently to be seen on the back of over ten burly (and some not so burly) competitors.

A similar effort is proposed this year with the event again being held over the Bank Holiday weekend 23rd,24th and 25th August.

There will be fast and slow handicap fleets sailing from the Burnham Sailing club racing line and Creeksea members will be repeating last years routine of launching from Creeksea to join the racing.

We understand that a launch service may also be available to bring competitors back to Town.

Any other dinghies wishing to join the racing would be made most welcome. Full details are available on www.burnhamweek.org

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New Commodore

Following sterling work over the past few years and having masterminded the re-vitalization of the club, Brian Spurling has stepped down and been replaced by fellow Phantom racer Noel Sutcliffe.

Anyone who has taken on a similar role in a club will know that the privileges are few and the duties are many, but Noel has inherited an eager committee and it is hoped that he keeps up the tempo with which he has started his term of office.

Phantom Open meeting report

The following report was featured in Yachts and Yachting. "Light and variable winds greeted the eleven visitors joining eight club boats for a weekends racing on the River Crouch. The first race proved to be a testing time as the gradient breeze faded with the turning of the tide, leaving competitors battling to hold onto places and their nerve. Lawrence Crispin kept his cool and won from local helm John Torrance on a shortened course. Half the fleet were unable to finish as the tide strengthened and the wind weakened. The second race got under way in a better sea breeze and was a quicker two-lap race, more to the liking of Alan Burrell who kept Crispin back in second place. Neil Fulcher was a model of consistency with third places in both races.

Sundays racing started with some debate as to the seriousness of the proposed course. The first mark of Branklet spit marks the mouth of the River Roach, four and a half miles upwind and against the tide, requiring short tacking all the way, before a fast broad reach up the River Roach and back again. A strengthening sea breeze ensured that the tide could be bettered, and the fleet soon split up into a series of slogging tacking duels, with the leading boats again being Crispin and Burrell, with Fulcher and Argent in pursuit. This was the finishing order after several place changes on the off wind return leg to the club line.

After a break for lunch the class showed that its reputation for hard racing was not unfounded, with a taxing course requiring the rounding of a single mark being set, with the option of going round it which ever way looked best. Unfortunately for the competitors this mark was Bridgemarsh Island, which lies upriver from the club, and is accessed via a narrow and shallow creek with a small marina at the mid-way point.

The majority of the fleet elected to use the best of the strengthening breeze to take the downwind leg through the creek against the tide, and beat back down river upon returning to the Crouch below Fambridge. Alan Burrell made the best of the challenge to take a win from Phil Argent, with Crispin third.

At the end of the weekend Crispin and Burrell were tied on points, but after the application of the tie break rules the meeting went to Crispin.

The hand crafted Creeksea Classic trophy for the first wooden boat with a metal rig went to Colin Barrie, who had also traveled the furthest to attend the event. He also showed the class that a Carbon mast is not essential as he finished seventh overall.

1st Lawrence Crispin Stone SC 2nd Alan Burrell Thorpe Bay
3rd Neil Fulcher Stone SC 4th Phil Argent Stone SC 5th
John Torrance Creeksea SC



Commodore Noel Sutcliffe strikes a pose at the Open meeting.

Mirrors, Wayfarers and more

A quick look around the dinghy compound reveals that we have a good collection of boats including nine Mirrors, at least six Wayfarers, two Fireballs and several Enterprises.

The next working party will involve the reclamation of "lost" areas of boat parking space and attempt a general tidying up of the compound.

On a sailing front the committee are anxious to provide casual sailing and social opportunities for all non racing sailors and would welcome feedback regarding the type of events that members would like to see added to the club calendar.

Advance Diary Date

The annual Laying-Up Supper and Prizegiving is being planned for Saturday 15th November.

Venue and details are to be confirmed in due course but it is hoped to repeat last years event at the Royal Burnham Yacht Club. This is an event for all club members and is not to be missed

For those interested in less formal social activities in Burnham, several members gather at the Oyster Smack public house on the last Friday evening of the month when sailing tales are exchanged.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Burnham Cadet Week

10th August to 15th August

Burnham Week Dinghy Regatta

29th/30th/31st August

Phantom National Championship Saundersfoot

29th/28th/ 31st August

Stow Pole Race

26th October

Laying Up Supper and Prizegiving

15th November

On the Circuit

This season the club has been represented at a number of Phantom Open meetings including those at Bewl Valley, Stone and Thorpe Bay.

It is always a pleasure to enjoy some of the facilities provided by these larger clubs, but it is seldom that the racing is as challenging as it is on the waters of the Crouch.

The standard of the fleet is increasingly high and getting good results seems to become harder each year. Nonetheless the knowledge gained by racing against the best sailors in the class is invaluable.

By attending various events the profile of the club is raised and we have been able to attract new members in this way.

If the competitive nature of Open Meetings is off putting, then why not try some of the more family orientated Regatta weeks in the area.

West Mersea, Brightlingsea, Marconi and Stone weeks all offer the opportunity to have an easy introduction to racing and sailing on different waters.

Inland venues such as Rutland Water also offer excellent cruising areas and the chance to combine family holidays and sailing.

Opening up the club

Concerned that the club facilities may not be available to all members outside the periods when club events take place, a new digital lock system is to be installed to the boathouse. This should enable access to toilets and changing areas for all members.

It is also planned to fit similar style padlocks to the Car Park gates to use the same four digit sequence.

In order to start us off with a number we can all remember it is proposed to use **1958** the year of the clubs formation as the first security number.

Abandoned boats

If any member knows the owners of abandoned boats would they please either contact them and ask them to consider re-joining the club, or advise a committee member of their identity.

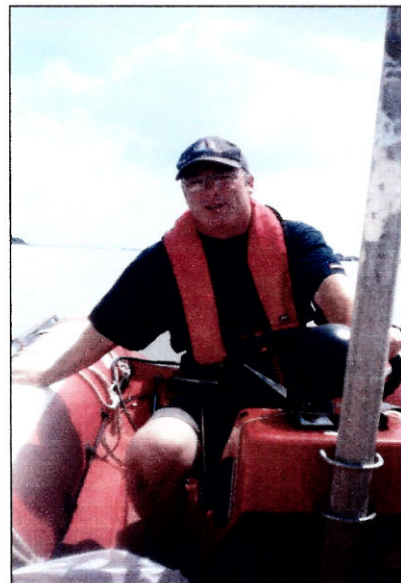
Boats believed to belong to lapsed members are being identified, and it is hoped that gentle persuasion can be used to encourage either renewal or removal !

Safety Boat hero

This is a great shot of our safety boat helm, Peter Vannuffel, taken at the recent Phantom Open meeting by his son James.

It shows Peter in action at the helm of our RIB.

Peter would welcome any offers of assistance and would be happy to give members training in the use of the boat.



YOUR COMMITTEE

Commodore

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Peter Vannuffel 01621 786136

Committee members

John Torrance

Danny Maher

Graham Manning

Nick Causton

Brian Spurling

Internet Warning

It has come to the Editors attention that several members appear to be suffering from that scourge of the twenty-first century --- Internet Addiction.

The sites in question appear to involve something called Ebay, which it has been discovered is a source of many strange and seldom seen dinghies offered for sale on a best bid basis. Apart from being addictive, it does look like a good place to buy or sell.

For those with a strong degree of self control the address to look for is apparently www.ebay.co.uk and I understand that searching for "dinghy" spelt with an optional "h" produces results !!

Other sites worth a look if searching for bargain dinghies include dinghyshop.co.uk, oceanblueone.com and yachtsandyachting.com

Creeksea Place History

The history of Creeksea Place reveals a fascinating story of fortunes gained and lost, intrigue and plotting and more recently murder (albeit of the dramatized variety courtesy of the BBC).

Believed to have been built around 1569 by Sir Arthur Harris, of the original four buildings only the North and West wings remain together with a courtyard enclosure. Creeksea Place is reputed to have been the home of Anne Boleyn, whose daughter was to become Queen Elizabeth I.

Film venue

In more recent times, Creeksea Place was used by the military during the Second World War, with the moorings for their craft still being very much in evidence at low water.

The house remains a fascinating building and is used as a film set and functions venue. Further details can be found on the owner's website www.creekseaplace.co.uk
The formation of Creeksea Sailing Club stems from the use of the Creeksea Place grounds as a Caravan Park, with the first club house being a caravan pulled down the lane by members who stayed at the site.

Today the club attracts a wide membership but still welcomes those enjoying a stay at Creeksea Place.

Is it a Balanced Lug ??

One of our members has received the very nice present of a boat for his birthday from his partner. According to the man Marks partner bought it from, the boat was ready to sail.

Unfortunately, Mark was having trouble rigging it. It seems it is a sort of copy of a Tideway dinghy but the mast is not stayed; it is stepped into the front thwart. It's a sort of gaff rig but very primitive. It has a hoop to hold the gaff into the mast and the boom is sort of tied to the mast so that about a foot of it protrudes in front of the mast.

It looks like the kind of rig you see in Arthur Ransome's book Swallows and Amazons. If anyone knows any more about these simple dinghy rigs, perhaps you let Mark know the finer points of rig set up and tuning.

Wanted

If you have a boat which is not getting any use, please let us know as we do receive enquiries from potential members seeking boats.

Advertisements on the club website are free too.

And finally...

Contact the Editor Chris Roberts on 01621 784413 or chris@12hornet.fsnet.co.uk.