



Creeksea Sailing Club

www.creeksea.org.uk

Established 1957 and affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

Mr N.B. Sutcliffe
23, Bickerton Point,
South Woodham Ferrers
Essex
CM3 5YG

17th August 2006

Dear Noel

Summer Newsletter

Well, the summer has arrived with fantastic weather, although the winds have been a bit mixed of late. With the season at mid-point it seems appropriate to circulate a few items for members attention.

Security

Unfortunately the spell of warm weather seems to have made Creeksea all the more attractive to light fingered visitors. We have had a number of thefts from boats and instances of petty vandalism that cause some concern. Would all members please ensure that any valuable items, such as outboard motors, are removed from their boats. Oars should also be removed as these have been removed from one boat to allow the use of another. Removing rowlocks also prevents a boats use. Some of the thefts noted may appear to be trivial but the removal of buoyancy bungs could have far worse consequences than the loss of a days sailing whilst replacements are sought.

All boat trailers should be removed from the club unless the boat and combination trailer are kept together. Road base units are particularly sought after and readily saleable, with several having been lost over the years by members.

Any persons seen wandering around the dinghy park should be spoken to in order to ensure that they are members. It is sadly apparent that other sailors have stolen items, such as boat trailers, from the club. I am sure that most members will understand the need for vigilance and would not object to being approached. After all the worst that can happen is that you will introduce yourself to a fellow club member!

The Police have been notified of thefts and will respond to requests for visits to the club should your suspicions be aroused by activity. Contact the Community Police Team on 01621 774360 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Car Parking

Please ensure that cars are kept in the club car park, which should be kept locked at all times. Cars are not allowed to be kept in the compound under the terms of our lease and it is also likely that anyone stealing boats or equipment would welcome the chance to park close by.

Phantom Open meeting

The annual Open Meeting event took place over the weekend of 23rd 24th June and was well attended with eight Creeksea boats being outnumbered by twelve visitors from various clubs. The event was won by James Case from Blakeney Sailing Club, with Chris Roberts in second place being the first Creeksea boat. Competition was very close with positions throughout the fleet being hard fought for, usually with a single point separating places.

The Creeksea Bard Ed Maggs prepared an excellent event report, and this was published in local papers (but sadly not in the Burnham and Maldon?) and the Yachting Press. Free tee shirts were available for all competitors bearing Phantom logos and provided by the event sponsors. Photographs of visitors wearing their "logoed" shirts have already graced the class magazine and have been sighted at other Phantom Open events across the country.

Burnham Week

The Burnham Week Dinghy Regatta will be taking place over the Bank Holiday Weekend weekend of 26th / 27th and 28th August. Whilst the event is run by the Joint Combined Clubs, the dinghy racing will use Creeksea Sailing Club for launching and for the finish and start of some races. Class starts will be available for Phantoms and Fast / Slow Handicap fleets. Full details can be obtained from the excellent website at www.burnhamweek.org.uk.

Commodores Cruise

This years Commodores Cruise to Brandyhole YC will take place on Saturday 9th September, although I must offer my apologies as Commodore as I shall be sailing in the Phantom Nationals at Lyme Regis that weekend. The event is being organised by Robin Law and further details are enclosed.

Working Parties

The start of season working parties attended to a number of pressing repairs and were well attended by a good mix of regular and new faces. The slipway has been repaired where it had developed wheel-wrenching holes, and various minor splits and cracks have been filled. A fillet has been formed half way done the slip to ease launching on to concrete blocks that were also cleared of masses of seaweed. This has given us a much larger area to launch from at half tide and offers us scope for further future extension.

The club starting hut remains in need of re-roofing and this is a project that it is hoped can be dealt with at the end of the season. Similarly the main boatshed needs a rework of the toilet and shower facilities with the aim being to create separate Male and Female areas.

If you have never attending a working party please try to attend the next one. There is usually free hot food and drinks available and they are an excellent way to get to know fellow members. More than one boat has also changed hands as a consequence of a casual conversation at a working party!

The club is fortunate in being able to rely upon its committee and membership to deal with repairs without recourse to Rotas and official club duties.

Powerboat Level 2

Crouch Sailing kindly provided tuition to three club members operating the Safety Boat at the start of the season. Former commodore Noel Sutcliffe and Chris Henry joined regular helm, Mark Weaver, and all three passed the course with flying colours. Regular helm, Steve Lawrence, has previously attained this RYA standard.

Again, the club is very fortunate to have such dedicated members willing to turn out each weekend to ensure the safety of racing members. It should be added that other river users also benefit from their skills as the recent rescue of an RS Feva from the Royal Burnham shows. In fact I believe that the assistance offered to an RBOD last season would indicate that the RBYC has benefited more than our own club at times!

Any members interested in helping Mark and Steve should make themselves known on any Sunday morning at the club and I am sure that they would be made most welcome for a spin on the RIB.

Abandoned boats and lapsed members

As the club compound is almost full it is all the more important to ensure that members are able to find a space to keep their boat. Several spaces remain occupied by members who appear not to have rejoined. Abandoned boats may be disposed of by the club in accordance with the club rules and this process is being commenced to ensure that only paid up members boats are kept at the club.

The process of changing lock numbers will also continue to restrict access to club members.

Anniversary Year

Next year will see the club enter its fiftieth year since being founded in 1957. At the very least this should be celebrated by a Regatta open to all past members, and the Osprey fleet have already expressed interest in attending. A social event will also be organised. More details will follow in due course.

Chris Roberts
Commodore