



What's New ?

Summers here, the winds have moderated and the season is in full swing. Membership is now reaching 100 at 85 confirmed, with 25 renewals awaited, and is at a level last seen in the reported heyday of the club in the 1970's.

Plans are afoot for improvements to club amenities and the membership have rallied around to deal with essential maintenance at working parties.

Creeksea Phantom Open Meeting (reproduced report from Yachts and Yachting)

Twenty two sailors battled it out at Creeksea Sailing Club on the River Crouch on the weekend of 9th / 10th July, with a strong contingent of visitors joining eight club boats.

The event was dominated by Allen Burrell from Thorpe Bay who won three of the five races sailed and secured a second place in the final race to win from Neil Fulcher from nearby Stone sailing club.

Saturday started with the traditional leisurely start to allow Fulcher the chance to rig and join the fun. An unseasonable northerly made setting a beat difficult and after flirting with the idea of a race down river to the River Roach, a less ambitious course was set to allow visitors to become acclimatised.

This race was won by Burrell who started in the tide and powered off to an early lead leaving the local boats that had started inshore wondering where they had been going wrong. Fulcher maintained pressure on Burrell but was unable to catch him. Local boy Argent took third ahead of Beasley.

Race 2 was the Round the Island race around Bridgemarsh Island, made possible by a favourable wind direction, a long lunch break and an afternoon high water. The fleet rushed into the creek chasing Burrell with much place changing on the offwind leg seeing Roberts pull through to second place behind Burrell who encountered weed on his rudder on the exit of the creek. Having cleared his rudder Burrell stormed up the river, taking the tide free track around the course in the style of a grand prix driver to finish ahead of Allan Bull and Paul Beasley.

Sunday brought bright sunshine and another northerly wind pattern which was to be occasionally bettered by a sea breeze. Uncharacteristically Burrell having lead from the start, headed downriver to the wrong mark, taking following boats including club mate Beasley with him. This opportunity was pounced upon by Rod Thorpe who battled with Simon Elliott to retain the lead to the finish.

Races four and five were held back to back after lunch and made use of the incoming sea breeze to allow a close tacking battle downriver, to be completed by a repetition of a triangular leg off the club. Race four was won by Burrell from Fulcher, whilst this order was reversed for the final race. Prizes were provided by sponsors Lamberts Chartered Surveyors.

1st	Allen Burrell	1184	Thorpe Bay YC
2nd	Neil Fulcher	1193	Stone SC
3rd	Simon Elliott	1186	Rotherham SC

Commodores Cruise

This forthcoming Saturday 23 July is the Commodores Cruise, which this year is being organised by Robin Law. High water is around midday giving the possibility of a cruise in company downriver toward Brandy Hole or Fambridge. After sailing it is hoped that the barbeque will be stoked up to allow you to prepare your own food.

This is a good opportunity to meet fellow cruising members and explore the river. For further details Robin Law can be contacted on 01621 782646 or 07732 117177.

As the clubs cruising representative on the committee Robin is keen to hear from fellow cruisers and discuss similar days for the future.

Dinghy Compound

As the membership of the club continues to grow it has become increasingly apparent that we are rapidly running out of dinghy park space.

The committee has discussed this and has decided to appoint two members to be responsible for allocating spaces and generally trying to keep the available space used in the best way.

Both Danny Maher and Bruce Mapes are preparing plans for the end of season working party to rearrange the compound area.

In addition the membership secretary is chasing up any lapsed members to get them to remove their boats as soon as possible. The club rules do give powers to the club to dispose of such abandoned boats but the committee is reluctant to have to resort to them. As a first step in this direction such boats may be removed from the main compound area.

Working party

The recent working party on 2 July was well attended by members armed with a variety of grass cutting implements. The buzz of strimmers, mowers and hedge trimmers was audible throughout the day, after which the club grounds were very presentable.

Racing start line transits were also realigned and painted for the forthcoming Phantom Open meeting as reported upon above.

Water and electricity

At the recent Phantom Open meeting offers of assistance were received from several friends of the club to help install water and electricity to the club hut.

This would allow better catering facilities and ensure that the club VHF radio was always available. The generous offer of help from local sailors will be carefully reviewed and it is hoped that this work can be done at the end of the current season.

Laser series

The start of season Laser series attracted four Laser sailors but was somewhat blighted by poor weather.

New member Richard Taylor beat Danny Maher to claim first place and a fist full of Mailspeed gift vouchers.

These were donated together with Flags and brochures by local chandlers Mailspeed and were much appreciated.

Over the course of the season further Laser sailors have joined the club and there are now regular starters in this class. It is hoped that this promising growth will continue.

Phantom class

The Phantom class continues to thrive at Creeksea and our reputation in the class as an active and competitive fleet has been enhanced through the start of the season.

Sailors from the club have competed at various events across the country, with Rod Thorpe winning the Bewl Valley Open meeting, with fellow member Alan Husk in third.

Chris Roberts was second at the classes inaugural invitation open meeting at Denver sailing club in Norfolk, being the club where he started sailing many years ago.

Other events attended by members of the fleet included Northampton, Grafham, Thorpe Bay, Stone, Haversham and Rutland Water.

Road maps are now being studied for the journey to North Wales to attend the National Championships at Llandudno. At least five boats will be representing the club and will hopefully further add to the clubs reputation for competitive but friendly racing.

Burnham Week 2005

This year Burnham week for dinghies will again follow the formula tried last year, with the start of the first race at Burnham Sailing Club and finish at Creeksea. This will be followed by the second race starting at Creeksea and finishing at BSC. This allows boats to launch and recover from Creeksea, which should attract competitors reluctant to use the Burnham slipway.

A good entry for this three day event is hoped for, and the club will again be hoping to field entries in both the fast and slow handicap fleets, as well as the Phantom fleet. Dates to remember are 27th to 3rd September, with the Dinghy Regatta being over the first weekend on 27th August to 29th over the Bank holiday weekend.

Visit the dedicated Burnham Week 2005 website at www.burnhamweek.org.uk for full details of the weeks events.

Ray Combes memorial bench

Ray's family has now installed a beautiful hardwood bench crafted by Rays son and incorporating a mosaic laid by his daughter. A very fitting tribute and one which has already become part of the Creeksea scene.

Website

Please do remember to visit the club website and the message board facility for keeping in touch with News, Events and Results.

The website also has downloads for membership forms and events calendars, so please remember to direct any potential members to the site to obtain further information about the club. Having said that, a stock of forms has also been left in the starting hut if needed.

www.creeksea.org.uk

Thank You

A regular crew in the rescue boat has very ably supported the racing fleet this season. This has consisted of in no particular order Mark Weaver, Steve Lawrence and Bruce Mapes, together with occasional volunteers.

A big thank you is well deserved for their contribution, without which it would not be possible for the club to hold races.

In addition to rescuing several capsized boats, they have on occasion dealt with several incidents where it is fair to say that they have saved lives. Not content with rescue duties Steve has also used his first aid skills to bandage up an injured Phantom sailor during the recent Open Meeting.

The club has bought a further VHF hand held radio and the club base station has been checked over to ensure that contact can be made from the shore as necessary.

If any member is able to offer assistance with either rescue boat or Race Officer duties this would be much appreciated. Please contact the Commodore for further details and to register interest.

Contacts

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