



What's New ?

Well, firstly a change of format and font for the New Year! As the new season looms the events calendar has been produced and introduces the Laser fleet to the club. A short Open series has been planned for the weekends of 3rd, 10th and 17th April.

Invitations have been sent to all Crouch and Blackwater clubs, and temporary membership is available for the duration of the series. If you have a Laser that has not been raced for a while this is an excellent excuse to get going. Sponsorship of the series has been obtained from Mailspeed in Burnham. Many thanks to them.

AGM

The club AGM is being held on 2nd April at 3:00pm at the Burnham Sailing Club. Do come along and support your committee.

Working Party

The first working party of the season is on Saturday 19th March and will concentrate on tidying up the grounds and repair of the slipway. In addition it is hoped that the weather will allow some minor redecoration to the starting hut. All helpers are most welcome and it is hoped that hot food will be available.

Handicap Racing

Whilst the Phantom Class has continued to grow, it is hoped that the coming season will see more boats on the water for handicap racing.

With this in mind a manual is being prepared for Race Officers outlining the procedure (and the method of starting races at Creeksea with our Autohoot system).

Handicap racing uses the Portsmouth Yardstick numbers, which are published by the RYA. These are based upon annual returns from clubs and reflect race results on a variety of waters. The 2005 PY's have just been published.

The method of correction requires the start and finish times of the individual boats to be recorded and an **elapsed** time is then calculated in terms of seconds. We hope to install a solar powered calculator for that bit!

A formula based upon the elapsed time and the yardstick number applicable to that class of boat is then used to give a **corrected time**.

Below is an illustration of how the system works. Naturally, it is necessary for a race officer to be present to record the elapsed time as each boat crosses the line, although this could be done by the first boat back or rely upon the honesty of the helm. (I think it's obvious that an independent race officer is the preferred option!).

When all the boats have finished, complete the results should be recorded on a sheet and results calculated by working out the corrected time in seconds and calculating the **corrected time**. The boat with the least corrected time wins!

Overleaf is an illustration of the calculation.

The formula is as follows:

$$= \text{ELAPSED TIME IN SECONDS X 1000 / PORTSMOUTH YARDSTICK NUMBER}$$

For example:

A Laser 1 with a PY of 1078 starts a race at 14.36.00 and finishes at 16.07.33
Elapsed time is 16.07.33 less 14.36.00 = 1 hr 31 min 33 secs
Which equals 3600 secs + 1860 secs + 33 secs = 5,493 secs

Now put this into the formula:

$$\frac{5,493 \times 1000}{1078} = 5,095.55 \text{ rounded to } 5,096$$

I know this looks complicated but it isn't really. The beauty of handicap racing is that the results on the water are not always mirrored in the final result. The system can also be applied to boats of the same class, which could be a good way forward for the Phantom fleet.

If you are interested in joining the handicap fleet and starting racing please let the editor know. You might also be interested in attending the onshore tuning day proposed for Sunday 20th March when our resident experts will look over boats to give tuning tips and advise, together with some basic race training.

Race Courses

To simplify the setting of courses a system of standard marks (or sequence of marks) denoted by letters is proposed. A course card is being prepared and the former system of displaying the course on the start hut is being reintroduced.

Laying Up supper

The final social event of the year was well attended with over 30 guests enjoying the hospitality of the Royal Burnham Yacht Club. Prizes for the season were awarded, together with further awards to club stalwarts who make it all happen behind the scenes.

Special prizes were also awarded by the committee for a range of achievements, including Fishing and Catering!!

Cruising

In order to promote cruising committee member Robin Law has agreed to act as class captain to generally promote the art of pottering and exploring the River Crouch.

A number of members (no names mentioned) have also acquired small yachts and it is suspected that this hardy bunch will plan passages further than Cliff Reach. I say "hardy" as they have been seen refurbishing their boats in sub arctic conditions, which must be testimony to their enthusiasm.

The knowledge that GP's sets are also being acquired gives further credence to this idea.

Social events will be arranged as the season progresses, but all members are reminded that we have several barbeque sets available for the summer months.

Fireballs

The club has several Fireball owners amongst its numbers, and they have now been joined by the editor, who has bought an early glassfibre example. These boats are widely available and usually represent good value for money due to the advent of many new classes of high performance dinghies in recent years.

If you are interested in racing your Fireball then don't forget that you are welcome to join the handicap fleet. If you would like to try out a Fireball give me a call.

New members

The club continues to grow and this year we welcome the following members (and their boats). We hope you enjoy your time at the club.

Nick Robson, Danielle Jones	Wayfarer
Mark Kerridge	Laser
Peter & Vivien Knowles	Wayfarer
Richard & Joy Taylor	Laser (s)
Tim Nutting	Shearwater
Roy Meadway	Phantom

Abandoned Boats

At the last working party of the season, a lot of work was done on the starting hut and a number of abandoned boats were moved to the small compound near the car park. Please note that this compound also contains a number of member's boats that prefer to keep their boats there.

If you are interested in restoring a Mirror 14, unknown French dinghy or Skipper 14 please let the committee know!!

Dinghy Show

This year was more of an individual effort with several members making the trip to Alexandra Palace in North London. John Torrance was seen on the Phantom stand explaining the joys of sailing these boats, whilst the writer made a brief appearance to catch up on the latest scandal. Several other members were present over the weekend although I can't report on any new purchases or changes of allegiance.

Apparently, attendance was 3% up on last year, and given that Sunday was Mothers Day that must reflect well on the increasing interest again being shown in dinghy sailing. When you also factor in the loss of the windsurfing element of the show it is all the more impressive.

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.

The address for the site is www.creeksea.org.uk.

Since we started the website in December 2003 we have had over 1,000 hits and several new members found their way to us via the web.

Finally...

A big thank you to Paul Neve our membership secretary who nags me to get this produced and then prints and packs the newsletter.

The committee looks forward to seeing you at the club in the coming season and hope you enjoy the club. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commodore Noel Sutcliffe if you would like to assist in the running of the club. Volunteers are always welcome.

Contacts

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