



CREEKSEA TIDELINES

Volume 1, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Creeksea Sailing Club

October 2004

What's New ?

Following a review of the Business Rates system it has been discovered that a rebate may be obtained on the rates currently being paid by the club. In order to qualify for this it is necessary for the club to show that it is available to membership to all without discrimination and this must be written into the club rules.

Graham Manning has done a splendid job of re writing the club rules to reflect this requirement and these changes will need to be adopted at an AGM. Naturally your committee is keen to hold this as soon as possible to ensure that the maximum benefit is obtained. Initially it was thought that the new rules would require careful study, but Graham assures us that the additional wording and explanations will not have any impact on the meaning or implementation of the club rules. Copies of the proposed rules will be available on the website and at the club for those interested. The **EGM** is being held at the club on **27th November at 10:00am** before the working party starts...

New Members

Membership secretary Paul Neve tells us that the current membership has increased again to a figure of 96. The Phantom fleet continues to grow (17 boats) and this season we welcome Alan Fether, Rod Thorpe, Martin Gunn, Neil Fitter, Ed Maggs and Andrew Hailstone to the fleet. Quite an increase which makes Creeksea one of the largest fleets of this growing class.

The Phantom class has not been alone in attracting new members though, with 8 Wayfarers in the club and 3 Fireballs now in the compound. Welcome to all new members, we hope you enjoy your sailing at Creeksea. Please do visit the club website at www.creeksea.org.uk for up to date information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 What's New? New members, New Numbers, Burnham Week
- 2 Boats for sale, Ray Coombes Obituary, Diary Dates

Burnham Week

Well, if you read the local papers and Yachts and Yachting you could have been forgiven for thinking that dinghy racing wasn't a part of Burnham Week this year! In fact the week attracted over 30 dinghies including twelve Phantoms. Visitors came from far afield including Wembley, Staffordshire, and Kent. The MRX team (GRP Merlin Rocket lookalikes) from Welsh Harp were persuaded to visit by Ken Daniels, a fairly frequent visitor to the Phantom fleet at Creeksea. This year Creeksea was used for launching and recovery, with the first race being finished at Creeksea and the second race starting there. This seemed to work well and the club also attracted new members who may not otherwise have tried our water. Of particular interest was the request from several "up river" clubs to have the chance to sail at Creeksea next season. Watch this space....

New numbers

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH EFFECT FROM 1st **NOVEMBER** the starting hut and the boat shed number will be changed to **8642**. A separate number is to be used for the compound with **1212** being selected. Please ensure that all padlocks are closed properly when leaving the club and give the tumblers a spin to ensure that would be thieves or miscreants can't work out the number!

We have it on good authority that the old number was common knowledge to some non-members. Please ensure that the number is not disclosed.

Abandoned boats

Please remember that if you do not renew your membership then your boat must be removed and any outstanding subscriptions paid. There is an approved procedure allowing the club to dispose of "abandoned boats" but the committee would of course much rather you stayed a member and sailed your boat.

We are getting close to capacity in the dinghy compound and any extra space that can be found is welcomed.

Ray Coombes Obituary

John Torrance wrote the following obituary which appeared in "Phanmail", the Phantom class magazine.

"It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Ray Coombes who died of cancer at the age of sixty nine on the 23rd June. Ray was born in 1934 and having finished his National Service worked in the electrical industry all of his life; he also kept bees, but it is as a sailor that I will remember him.

Ray joined Creeksea Sailing Club in 1977 and bought an Osprey called "Wicked Lady" which he raced with a number of different crew, both at the club and on the open circuit. It became increasingly difficult to find crew for the Osprey and so Ray, with Dave Unsworth, decided to start a single-handed class at Creeksea. They searched the country for cheap Phantoms, found and bought six boats and the Creeksea Phantom Fleet was born. Ray continued to race at Creeksea until recently when fancying a change he joined the growing Phantom fleet at Stone Sailing Club. He sailed his Phantom there last year at the age of 68, having been diagnosed as having cancer. Ray had a number of Phantoms and he always enjoyed competition but to my knowledge he never won anything sailing. He was always a gentleman, always first to offer help to a fellow sailor in need and he was always enthusiastic about everything he did".

He will be sorely missed by his friends and fellow sailors.

Boats for Sale

John Torrance must be clearing out his boatshed as he has a number of excellent Phantoms for sale to club members (oh, and I suppose I ought to mention a Laser!).

They include Ray's old boat and her sister ship "Smokey" which John sailed with great success. He is also selling his state of the art epoxy "plastic" boat, which is less than a year old. Contact John on **01621 783145** for more details.

If you are selling a boat (or know someone who is) the club website can be used for free adverts. Please contact Chris Roberts on 01621 784413 to place an advert.

Diary Notes

The club Laying Up Supper and Prizegiving will again take place at the Royal Burnham Yacht Club on **Friday 19th November**.

This is a popular event and not to be missed. The tickets are £15.95 for a three-course meal, coffee etc. and all members that went last year would confirm that this is excellent value.

The End of Season Working Party is on **27th November**, with the EGM immediately beforehand. As detailed earlier the EGM is needed to confirm the changes to the club rules.

Hurricanes and Tornado's

No, not the planes but strong winds. Please remember to ensure that your boat is well secured if it is being left at the club over winter. Make sure that it is tied down to the chain through the links and that the rope goes around the mast and shrouds. Check your cover is also secure and make sure water can drain out of the boat should it get in.

If you are unsure (or worried!) about the condition of an adjacent boat let a committee member know and we will try to advise the owner.

Why not take the opportunity to check your boat on the 27th November before the working party and EGM!

Next Season....

As winter moves in and sailing for most of us comes to a halt, why not think about your sailing for next season? The club is keen to encourage racing and has decided that next season the Laser class will be adopted as an additional class. This is partly as a result of some Phantom sailors feeling a little overpowered, and also to encourage new members to join the club.

Female members may also try their hand at racing with the Laser having a selection of rigs available to suit all sizes.

Handicap racing in any class is also possible so why not give racing a try next season?