



SSC Newsletter December 2003



Commodore's Column

The end of the season is fast approaching, and I'm thinking that there are only two sailing weekends left this year and Sunday 14th December is our Working Party Laying Up day so please come along – we plan to have the traditional mulled wine and mince pies !

In February and apart from the usual tidying up, we plan to undertake a number of small projects so please bring your wellies and a fork and spade. The projects are :-

- a. replacing the underground rainwater pipe to the rear of the clubhouse.
- b. adding a ramp to the main jetty
- c. leveling-out the area to the left of the main jetty and old concrete launching ramp
- d. make up the gateway entrance into the club with granite chippings

More willing people means less work for everyone so please come along and lend your support

During the “close” season, I guess we will all need to do at least some work on our boats – when planning this can I ask you all to remember that we are all required, by our license, to remove our boats from the club by **31 December**.

For those who couldn't make the AGM, probably the key agreement was to plan the replacement of both lavatories and the gent's changing room with a new extension bolted onto and with access from the clubhouse. This will be the most challenging project undertaken since the club was founded in 1950 and will bring the club bang up to date. There is a lot of planning and quite a bit of pre-work to do before the structure goes up in Jan/Feb 2005 so if you have building, carpentry, electrical, plumbing or other construction skills then we will need your help. The more we can do ourselves, the less we will have to farm out to the building trade. ***Please make no mistake about this – a project of this nature is not financially feasible unless we undertake much of the work ourselves.***

Prize Giving Dinner

At last year's AGM, many people voted to try other venues for our annual dinner. We looked around (thanks Mary) and concluded that the best food was available at the Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury. It will be on Saturday 24 January from 7.30 p.m. and tickets are £18 (if you pay by 10 January or £20 thereafter). Thanks to all those who stumped-up a deposit at the AGM. All you need to do to reserve your place is send a cheque (payable to SSC) to our treasurer, Ian Roberts at Barsfield, Station Road, Overton-On-Dee, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL13 OEF.

Further details and a seating plan can be found on the club notice board. If you want to sit with a particular group then please choose a table. The seating plan will be removed when the club closes on 14 December – after that, please call me on 01691 657000 or Bryn Morton on 01743 873481.

Please make a note of the following dates for your diary: -

Working Party – End of season Laying Up	Sunday 14th December 2003
Prize Giving Dinner Dance	Saturday 24th January 2004
New Season Working Parties	Sundays 1st and 15th February 2004
Commodore's Evening	13th or 27th March 2004

A few well chosen words from the Sailing Secretary

With the end of the season approaching fast we need to be thinking of taking our boats away, hopefully not until after the last race though!! I've noticed that some boats have water in their covers which has ingressed into the hulls, these boats will require a good clean out and more importantly a **complete dry out** over the winter. I have tried where possible on these boats to position covers to shed the water but without additional cover ties, water



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collects again. When you berth again next year, it is worth making sure that your boat drains properly and that your cover is fitted so that it sheds water rather than collect on a loose cover.

By the time that you receive this, your Sailing Committee will have met and next years programme should be shaped into a draft format. In principle we have agreed to follow a similar pattern but with more novice racing on a Saturday. These seem to have been well received this year and members have asked for more next year.

It has been good to see both new and existing members joining in both the novice and club racing and this is certainly a good route to develop your sailing skills. Sailing a course makes you sail all points of sail under different conditions and not just sail back and forth across the Mere. OK so you might be at the back of the fleet for a while but you will be surprised how quickly you learn and how quickly you begin to catch up and compete with other boats.

Why don't you give it a try next year by joining in at least with the Novice racing?

SSC Membership is Growing !

2003 has been a very good year for new memberships. Not only have new people signed up but many have already become regular sailors.

Like all clubs we have a regular turn-over. People move away, children grow up and people have other commitments. The trick, of course, is to get more new members that we lose. In 2003, although 48 members (11 families, 4 adults , 1 student) did not renew, a total of 70 people (15 families and, 7 adults) joined us.

The earlybirds were the Cooper family with a Laser 2. They seem to have enjoyed their boat, although they probably wished for stronger winds to give the trapeze a proper test. Not long after came Brian, a competent and welcome addition to the Laser fleet. David, Martyn and Chrissie followed with their restored Wayfarer and there is little doubt of the fun they have on the water. The Errington family quickly became regular sailors on Wednesday evenings and as the days grew longer, William and Charles have already shown their skills. Also joining in the summer were the Nickless and Rowlands families adding a Laser, Topper and GP 14 between them.

The Club has its own Topper, Laser and GP 14. This means that new members, like the Heraghty family and Sue Walters, who are also new to sailing, can get on the water. In mid-summer came the Lewis and Morris families with their capable young Mirror helms, Daniel and Robert. Indeed it has been an exceptional season for new young helms. Jed rapidly graduated from Topper to FF and has been seen cruising his Dad around the lake in their FF until darkness overtook them. Just as we thought the FFs were fading out, not only do we have the Denhams taking up the FF flag, we have the James family, and Les and Aaron adding to the fleet.

New member Steve was persuaded to change his previous boat for a Solo and in his first race promptly showed his transom to the rest of the fleet. Late on in the season new members were still joining. Matthew and Kate, the Hodges and Tellis-James families, Alan, Ray, and Robert haven't had chance to sail much yet, but Fran has regularly braved the cooler waters of the late season.

We welcome all these members to the Club. Their enthusiasm on the water, and the commitment they have already shown in supporting Club events and sharing tasks is greatly valued and we look forward to seeing more of them next season.

Membership renewal invitations have been enclosed with this newsletter. Please remember that to get your 15% early payers discount, you must renew by January 31st. A family with a berth can save £20 - more than enough for a few new burgees !

And finally, best wishes and seasons greetings from the club officers and committees