

Autumn 2011



DEBEN YACHT CLUB

This season's weather has been like the proverbial sandwich – great at the beginning and end and less great in the middle.

Slipway

You may be fed up with me thanking you for your generous contributions to the slipway fund, but nevertheless thank you once again!

The window for an autumn start has now gone and it's very disappointing that we haven't been able to make a start. Unfortunately labour costs for the project have risen exponentially in the last year but we're still determined to start building as soon as the winter bird over wintering ban on piling has finished in March. We have therefore embarked on two courses of action, one of which is much more palatable than the other.

The first is a £50,000 bid to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund. This has the aim of improving areas of the Club such as changing rooms to encourage '.... More adults participating in sport more often'. After some discussion it was agreed that our bid would do exactly that. Of course there is no certainty of success, but we are extremely hopeful our bid will be successful and a decision is promised before Christmas.

From as far back as the 2002 survey, the slipway has been identified by members, particularly inexperienced sailors, as a problem both for launching and recovery. The key element of our plan is to make the whole experience of launch and recovery less fraught and the additional width will enable boats and trolleys to pass each other more easily, but even more importantly, will provide a larger target when coming in.

The planned honeycomb surface will provide a much less slippery surface and the even and gentle slope will encourage less mobile or confident members to continue sailing, much as the ramp to the pontoons has done. We don't want to see any member stop sailing because of our facilities.

Incidentally as a rider to the bid we have also included our intention to improve our changing facilities with a bid to the same fund in a couple of year's time.

More People More Often

Sport England has recognised that good facilities are an important element in getting people to participate more frequently in sporting activities. I believe that at least as important is a variety of activities within the sport which suit different abilities and interests.

Integral to this is the feeling that even if you are unlikely to win there is some reward for performing and giving your best.

I have put forward a number of suggestions and would welcome feedback.

I am particularly interested in the thoughts of those of you who intend to sail more often but somehow don't quite get round to it. Space doesn't allow detailed explanations on how each of these will work and most are a gathering together of suggestions you have seen before.

But, let's start with the fleets during race series:
 Keep the slow and fast handicap designations but ensure that the slow fleet only sail the courses which are near the clubhouse and the choices are made apparent to race officers so that they are also clear about the restrictions. The idea is that the race lasts for the same time as it does now, but would include more laps, thus keeping competitors close to home and enabling them to retire if conditions became too much. The fast fleet would therefore be able to sail without compromise and in 2 race days have a cut off time for boats finishing slowly.

One-day events are an idea I am keen to try. This would be like an open meeting in that there would be 3 races throughout the day, culminating in a prize giving. The advantage of this could be that any class getting together, for example four boats could have their own competition. The same could apply for age groups (under 15 or over 55?)

The success of the 'Topper' evenings has indicated a place for social sailing in the calendar and so we are working hard to develop club evenings which would include some sailing when the tide allows. These evenings could include match racing or team racing for which the RYA has offered assistance.

There are so many other ideas we could take forward, for example, personal handicaps, but we have to recognise that for every innovation included in the calendar we will need to remove an existing event, as we cannot overload the safety boat team. So let's hear from you.

Your club needs you - says Mel Ringer

'I have been a member of the Club for many years, and during the last ten have assumed various roles at various times on the committee, including Commodore.

'It has been a privilege to be part of a strong and willing team who have only the best interests of its members at heart. There is no such thing as 'the committee'; only an ever changing group of members who wish to see the club thrive and who are happy to give of their time freely and (mostly) enthusiastically.

'Some sort of management structure is necessary in any organisation and in the case of the DYC it tries to support the extremely large proportion of the membership, who in a myriad of ways, give up their time to ensure the club's success. I enjoy the challenges (and sometimes frustrations) a committee role brings and would encourage members to go 'that extra mile' and offer their services as a committee member.

'The DYC is totally dependent on volunteers and any managing group should be representative of its membership, but the present age range of the group is rather high and so I would ask all those 'young at heart' sailors to consider if they are able to offer their time and expertise?

'As a starting point, why not come along to one of our meetings and find out what goes on – new thoughts and fresh ideas on how we can add value to to what the club offers are always welcome.

'The great thing about the DYC is we're all in it for two things – to sail and have fun. If you do decide to become a committee member we can't pay you, but we hope the feeling of doing a great job and taking the club forward will be sufficient recompense. Also, if you give it a try and it doesn't suit, you can say exactly that.

'In 2001 a survey was carried out of members to find out what they would like to see improved and I am pleased to say that many of the requirements have been or are being achieved. Since then the dinghy park has been enlarged, resurfaced and now offers better security. We have improved the safety of all members with new support boats and better trained crew; and we all benefit from the fantastic new deck and safer access to the water. Plans for the future include improving the changing and lounge facilities and the imminent new slipway.

'This list is a fantastic testament to the group of volunteers that have made it all happen, but there is still much to do. Being an active member of the club is fun and rewarding so please do consider putting your head above the parapet and giving the committee a go next year'.

Mel Ringer

Support Boats

At the end of the season Lawrence Metcalf is standing down as Bosun. Our thanks go to him for all his efforts and support that has ensured the smooth running of the support boats.

We are delighted to welcome three new members to the support boat team.

Tony Bence has kindly agreed to look after the club radios, Jill Wickson is to look after the first aid kits and going forward Lorna Scammell will be taking care of Nimbus and the club dinghy.

The support team is crucial to the running of the club, so please come and join us.

We'd love to hear from someone who could:

- Keep the fuel supplies stocked up for the support boats. This requires someone to fill the green cans every couple of weeks – we have a fuel card.

If you can offer help with the above please contact Emma Barton on 01394 383965 or email: emmaparton@gmail.com



Above: Tony Bence and Martin James

Yacht Racing



Above: *Bloo Hoolit* sailing in the Terminal Race

Yacht Racing

Hi Yotties.

As I am writing this ramble it is 21 degrees outside in September, but overall this year's racing has seen unprecedented highs and lows of weather and achievements.

Three races were cancelled due to poor weather; two early in the season having winds too strong and then no wind at all for the Autumn Points race (although the wind filled in as soon as we had packed our boats away). It was possible to sail the Weekend race later in the season, but sadly two cups will not be awarded this year (a first for the NYC).

An amazing Regatta Week made up for earlier disappointments with 12 yachts in all entering for the week and 10 boats sailing every day. The superb winds and sunshine for four out of the five days made it one of the best Regatta Weeks ever and I would like to thank everybody for turning out and making it a week to remember.

Competition was close, with Jeff Sinton from Everson's Boatyard being the dark horse, sailing his boat for the first time to ever better results. Sadly, or luckily for the rest of us, he did not helm the last race but still gained third place overall.

Congratulations go to Kevin and Angela Connolly for gaining first place overall, but commiserations to John Adams whose keel bolt failed the day before the week began so could not race *Bloo Hoolit* for the whole week.

The final 'fun day' was anything but, with lashing rain and strong winds, but 'The Entertainer' and 'Concerto' made a race of the rescheduled Weekend Cup, even if the course was only to buoys 7, 9 and 14 twice. (It was enough).

Turnouts during the year have been steady at about four on average and cups to-date have been shared among the fleet.

Every year I say that I will sail more 'next year' but as with the rest of you it is increasingly difficult to find the time to do so. In the meantime I hope to see you all at the prize giving evening and perhaps competing in the final Terminal Race. (We really will have to change the name of that one).

So long for now. Mel



Left: Zulu
Below: Sapphire



Yacht Racing

Web Site – reporters needed

To ensure our website works best on all fronts – to update members and provide a real flavour of life at the DYC, it requires regular updating.

Unfortunately I have not been able to do this properly as I have been away cruising a lot this year, and as plans are afoot to be doing similar in 2012, I may need some help to keep the site current and interesting

Recent changes to the technical side of the site have made it a lot easier to add articles and links (although I need to make some changes to make it easy to add pictures) and so you no longer need to be a computer whizz-kid to post new stories and updates – I can easily show you how to do it.

So, if you're a regular sailor, or your family is often at the DYC, and taking on the role of a DYC website reporter appeals, please do get in touch for an informal chat.

Pat Morgan. DYC Webmaster. 01473 831252 or email via the website

Below: Regatta week trophy winners



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday September 30th was a memorable day for many reasons. Firstly thanks to the generosity of the club, the annual Biggest Coffee Morning in the World was held to raise vital funds for Macmillan Nurses. Our club, the views of the river and Woodbridge sparkled in the glorious sunshine, a fitting accompaniment to the coffee and delicious home-made cakes.

Secondly this year for the first time in the 15 years I have been organising this event we raised over £1000, a fantastic achievement.

My thanks to those local businesses who supported us with raffle prizes, the cake makers, the sturdy souls who served and washed up and everyone who came and made this event such a fantastic success.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Laying Up Supper

With this mailing is the Laying up Supper and Prize Giving booking form. It should also have reached you via e-mail if we have it. Please book as early as you possibly can it helps us enormously.

Looking forward

2012 sees the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics and we now need to be planning how best we should celebrate. There has been some discussion of our own Olympics perhaps shared with the other clubs on the river with gold, silver and bronze medals on offer. Woodbridge Town Council is planning the Jubilee celebrations and we are looking for someone to liaise with their committee. Volunteer(s) needed PLEASE!



Thanks

As we're nearing the end of the season it is an opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to all of you who have volunteered this year: - the working party, race officers, galley slaves, safety boat team, training team, the committee members without whom the others would not be able to operate and those members who just see a job that needs doing and just do it.



'Thanks to the NYC'

I would like to particularly thank Christine Holding who has just stood down from leading the galley team with great skill, dedication and enthusiasm for many years. The high standards of the galley team are a tribute to her. Di Cobb has taken up the baton or is it pinny? We wish her every culinary success.

'Thanks to the NYC'

Mike Adams wrote to thank the club for its support for his canoeing challenge to raise money for cancer charities. He decided to canoe four rivers in two days after his recovery from his operation for cancer of the throat.

He writes '.... What an amazing weekend! The challenge proved to be just that with strong headwinds on two of the four estuaries. The support I got on both shore and on the water kept me going. What is truly humbling is the kindness and unquestioning support given by so many people.... The last half mile flew by and suddenly we were at the end of the challenge at NYC with a large welcoming party enjoying the sunshine on the terrace. The NYC made us very welcome as always...'

The challenge raised £10,000. Sadly Mike died very suddenly in September. Angela and I and everyone who knew him remember him as a gentleman and one of life's 'givers'. It is typical that he spent his last days thinking of others.

Cover photo - A slow start to the Terminal Series.

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