

**COUNCIL****Commodore's Log – February 2018**

The January weather may have been cold and grim but that hasn't stopped members taking to the water for the Snowflake Series in near record numbers. Some Sundays saw ferocious winds, at times too strong for even the most experienced sailors, but it all gave great entertainment for those tucked up nice and warm in the Pendle Lounge and kept the safety crews busy practicing their skills. The Snowflake continues until the end of February so get yourself down and join in the fun!

Council

Most of you will by now have paid your berthing fees for 2018 and taken advantage of the generous discounted rate before 1st February. We have had to apply a modest increase to the berthing fees this year to help balance the books so that we can continue to offer first class facilities to members. Despite the increase in berthing fees, I'm pleased to tell you that membership fees will remain unchanged in 2018 for the third consecutive year. Your Council was fairly evenly split on whether or not an inflation increase should be applied but in the end a majority voted to hold fees at 2017 levels. Elton is not the cheapest sailing club in the region but we do offer first class training at minimal cost, great sailing and facilities which most clubs find hard to match. The Club has a very limited number of ways in which it can raise revenue, berthing fees and membership fees being the most significant, so I hope you all feel that the modest increase is justified and that on balance you think we offer good value for money.

The day to day running of the Club can be likened to running a small business except that we are all unpaid volunteers. Despite this we have great teams of people who give up lots of their time to work relentlessly behind the scenes and ensure that we deliver our main mission which is good sailing for all members. Council does not just ensure the day to day survival of your Club, it also tries to plan for the future and ensure a clear way ahead which will keep Elton as one of the Premier clubs in the region. A few of our on-going projects include:

- Negotiations with Little Britain Anglers to re-introduce supervised fishing to Elton Reservoir. This has provided the Club with a large income in the past, so it is hoped that it can do so again. Integrating fishing with sailing may present a few challenges but the rewards could be significant.
- Planning and scheduling of March maintenance month works
- Improvement to the lower dinghy park to free up more berthing space and possible expansion of parking facilities.
- Investigation of grant and funding opportunities for new equipment and facilities, improvements to the Club infrastructure, such as the boatsheds and repair of the lane.
- Development of our IT management and on-line presence both through website development but also by taking advantage of the promotional opportunities offered by social media.

Cygnets Hospital have upheld Council's complaint that their staff, visitors and patients are using the lane for their cigarette and food breaks and discarding litter both on the lane and down the embankment to the feeder stream. Additionally, they have been causing an obstruction on the lane and putting both themselves and motorists at risk.

Cygnets have agreed to take the following action and to quote from their reply:

"We have staff rooms on-site; staff have been advised to use the facilities provided."

"We are in the process of contracting to build a smoking area within the hospital perimeter and staff have been instructed not to use the lane for cigarette breaks."

"Bins have been placed at the top of the lane and on the bridge by the stables."

"A regular litter gathering schedule is in place to clean the lane."

Hopefully we will see a good improvement in the near future.



On a lighter note: Geoff Entwistle has very kindly donated to the Club a new Helly Hanson kit bag and a nearly new buoyancy aid. The buoyancy aid will be added to the Club's training equipment and the kit bag is being offered to the highest bidder with all monies raised going into Club funds. It has several zipped compartments and a wet kit section. So, here's a great opportunity to kick-off the coming season with some swanky new kit and you never know it might help you sail just a little faster!

If you are interested in snapping up a great bargain then please send your bids (in confidence) to peterjfinney@hotmail.co.uk. Suggested minimum bid is £15.

If you would like to view the bag before bidding then please contact me using the above email.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an absolutely vital part of Elton Sailing Club. Ensuring that the Club runs well relies almost entirely upon members volunteering their time and knowledge. Without these volunteers the Club will not function and many of the events which have become Elton traditions will not be possible. Although we do still have a loyal and faithful group of members who continue to support the Club, they will not continue forever and it is becoming increasingly important that new members are recruited to help. We have opportunities in all areas so please volunteer a little of your time and help build a better and stronger club.

COUNCIL

A complete calendar of Club events and results can be viewed on the website at <http://eltonsailingclub.co.uk>

Get a Club Key

The Club's new lock system makes it possible for members access the changing rooms, showers and toilet facilities out-of-hours. This does not include the main clubroom or other areas of the Club. If you would like to take advantage of this facility then keys can be ordered from the bar in exchange for a returnable deposit of £15.

Peter Finney
peterifinney@hotmail.co.uk

100 CLUB

Thank you to all who are currently members of the 100 club.
Your support helps us to raise much needed funds for the club.

If you are not currently a member and would like to know how it works, a brief explanation follows:

- The entry fee is just £5 per month
- A draw is made at the end of every month with the following prizes:
1st Prize = £70; 2nd Prize = £15; 3rd Prize = £10
- Winners are posted in the Newsletter
- Subscriptions are made using the WebCollect subscription facility

It's a bit of fun every month, much better odds than the National Lottery and all proceeds go straight back into club funds! Please consider taking part.

The draw for January has been made. The winners are:

1st Prize £70 – Muriel Wallace

2nd Prize £15 – Jane Hannabuss

3rd Prize £10 – Geoff Mclardy

If anyone would like more information or has any questions please email me at the address below.

Chris McClung
chrismcclung90@hotmail.com

SAILING

Duty Man Update February 2018.

Dear members the rota for the remaining Sundays in February is displayed below.

Duty Date	Duty Time	Duty Type	Event	Reminders	Confirmed	First Name	Last Name
4/2/2018	12:00	OD	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Clive	Roberts
4/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Paul	Salmon
4/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Elizabeth	Lord
4/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Peter	Carpenter
4/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	No	Kim	Scott
11/2/2018	12:00	OD	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Paul	Savage
11/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	No	Yes	Christopher	McClung
11/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	No	Andy	Hoarty
11/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Chris	Cox
11/2/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	No	Vol.	Reqd.
18/02/2018	12:00	OD	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Ray	Cumley
18/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	No	Peter	Glynn
18/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	No	Michael	Livesey
18/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Nigel	Greaves
18/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Chris	McClung
25/02/2018	12:00	OD	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	J.M.	Seger
25/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	No	Yes	Sharon	Cleary
25/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	Tim	Craig
25/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	No	Yes	Brian	Taylor
25/02/2018	12:00	Safety Crew	Club Racing	Yes	Yes	David S.	Smith

Please can members who have not confirmed please contact Dave Smith or Steve Restall to confirm.

In Mid-February the new duty list for 2018 will go live with a list of duties for each event. This year we are putting six people on safety duty each racing day, an OD, a PB2 driver and four safety crew, one of whom will help in the office.

Members will be asked to sign up for at least five duties on duty man over the year at times to suit them.

After this, in early March, Steve Restall and Dave Smith your Duty man administrators will allocate members to the remaining duties.

Exact dates for these events will be notified to members by Broadcast.

Dave Smith and Steve Restall.

Club boat policy

The club now has a multitude of boats available to members which have proved invaluable in training new members and beginners. It is however proving increasingly more onerous to keep these boats in working order and insure them.

In order to provide some funds to help with this, from 1st April 2018, a policy will come into effect for club owned boats, a summary of which is below.

Use of club boats will be free to new members during their first membership cycle i.e. any time between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019. Preference for their use will be given to organized courses run by the club. Members should pay a fee for the use of club boats after the 31st March following initial membership.

Club boats should not normally be used at venues other than Elton Sailing Club unless for an event that they are being used to specifically represent the club eg WLYC 24 hour race.

Fees will be set at £5 for two and a half hours or less (half day) and £10 for a full day. These fees should be placed in an envelope provided with the date, time and person's name in the suggestion box in the foyer.

The objectives of this policy are to have boats available for new members and training, encourage existing members to purchase their own boat and provide some funds to help with running costs of club boats. The full policy will be found on the notice board and this will be reviewed before April 2019 to see if it these objectives are being met.

Dave Read
Vice Commodore

Sailing Programme March to December 2018.

Your Sailing Committee has produced the Sailing and Training programme for the forthcoming sailing season starting in March 2018 and running through to December.

Thanks go to Adam Savage and your committee for producing this key plan for the exciting year ahead. The Sponsors names for each Series will be added once they are confirmed.

A pdf version is available on the website and is now displayed around the club.

Yours in fun and excitement,

Sailing Committee.

RYA North West Senior Travellers 2018 Competitive, friendly racing at local venues.



- | | | |
|----|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Delph | 24 th April |
| 2. | Burwain | 15 th May |
| 3. | Bolton | 12 th June |
| 4. | Hollingworth | 3 rd July |
| 5. | Southport | 17 th July |
| 6. | Leigh and Lowton | 11 th September |
| 7. | Elton | 2 nd October |

Briefing 10.30am, start time 11.00 am. 3 races, 2 to count on the day.

21 races, 12 to count for the series. Entry fee £5 per event, payable on the day.

Handicap racing, any class may compete. No catering, competitors to bring packed lunches, drinks available. Prizes for achievement and under achievement

All sailors must be 50 or over. (Crews in a double hander may be allowed below age)

Overall series trophies for 1st Overall, 1st Double hander, 1st over 70 and top club.

Series coordinator – Dave Woodhead email quicksail@btinternet.com

Information and results available on the RYA North West Web Site

OFFSHORE

Largs Long Weekend

Elton SC is once again off to Largs on a long weekend from Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th April 2018. The cost is now £160 per person for the boat. Please be aware that, once you have signed up, you owe Elton SC the above amount. The signup sheet is on the club notice board. Please contact me on 07979366952 if you have any questions.

Paul Savage
Offshore Secretary

p.savage@savagehome.plus.com

JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

The juniors have recently participated in a junior training squad with Adam Savage, who is agreeably a very good sailor. He has been teaching us many new techniques that have helped us vastly improve our overall sailing, to represent the club better in junior events.

Just before the Christmas holidays the junior had a Christmas bowling party organized by Lauren Hoarty. It was a great success bring laughs, cheer and merriment. This was a great social event that was thrilling and exiting and competitive. The overall winner Connor was very pleased with his victory and the younger juniors also had a great time.

In the winter series, many of the juniors have raced. Including: Megan greaves, Alex Lowery, Lauren Hoarty, Kelly Walsh, Robert Ramshaw, Niamh Fuller, Dylan Harris and Ava Harris-Scott.

If there are any juniors who are interested in doing some fitness sessions with the older juniors on a Tuesday night, then please can they contact either Robert Ramshaw or Connor Lord who will be happy to arrange this.

For any juniors who are interested in competitive sailing throughout the north-west then the North-West junior travellers is for you. The website will give details of dates and other info. This is good for beginners.

For the winter series prizes Megan came first in the juniors, then Alex and then Kelly and Ava in third.

If anyone wants to get involved into the junior council then please contact Lauren Hoarty for any ideas to give.

Written by Alex Lowery and Megan Greaves.



Nowhere to sail. Anyone remember this? Neville Grindey grindey.nev@hotmail.co.uk

Free to anyone interested

Canal charts from 1992-ish of

South Yorkshire
 North Yorkshire
 Calder & Hebble
 Pennine Waters (East)
 Pennine Waters (West)
 Nottinghamshire

BW Leeds Liverpool Canal Guide (1966)

Ordnance Survey Guide to Waterways (North) (1995)

Slow Boat through Pennine Waters (paperback book by F Doerflinger)

Also Clyde Cruising Club Sailing Directions ((West Coast of Scotland) (1972 – but the rocks haven't moved)

Cruising Association Almanac 2002-4 comprising chartlets & info on ports and harbours from the Baltic to Gibraltar

Several decent lifejackets

Regards Carol Haines

chains@tinyworld.co.uk

TRANSATLANTIC CROSSING

Any one fancy a transatlantic crossing?

Peter Lansdale and a few fellow members of Delph SC took part in the ARC to take Peter's yacht to Antigua. Peter is now looking for a crew to help him bring Christine back to the UK.

In Peter's last email he's going to be back in the UK around March time and is looking for a crew to bring his boat back end May/June.



Peter's email addresses are pwlansdale@mailasail.com (boat email) or pwlansdale@btconnect.com (home email).

The yacht is a Southerly 42 RST, which is currently up for sale at https://www.theyachtmarket.com/boats_for_sale/1516533/ and is exceptionally well kitted out.

If you are interested in this trip then either contact Peter directly or myself on p.savage@savagehome.plus.com

Our Newsletter

If anyone would like to include something for future newsletters I would be happy to oblige. Please send your contribution by email to p.savage@savagehome.plus.com as a word document attachment with Newsletter in the subject heading of the email, preferably in 12 point Ariel font. If you are unable to send an attachment, just paste it in as part of your email. I would be grateful if you would ensure that your PC is set up with English (UK) and not (US), it plays havoc with my spellchecker! It would be helpful if this were received by the 27th of the month so that I have time to publish the newsletter on the 1st of each month. I cannot guarantee that it will be in the newsletter if it is received after the 29th. Please ensure that you include your name in your report, I can't always decipher this from your email.