



COUNCIL

Commodore's Log – January 2018

December certainly went out with a bit of a bang! A full diary of events, culminating with the final race of the Frostbite Series and the Elton Cauldron, made it a busy and exciting month. The Cauldron marked the final day's racing of 2018 and what a final day! Hardly a boat was left upright when a squall of rarely matched ferocity left a trail of devastation across Elton Reservoir. Safety teams worked relentlessly to recover sailors and boats from water and wall and return them safely to shore. The rarely used 'Clear Water' signal was issued and additional safety crews had to be called into action. Despite all this, many were still keen to continue and further



racing took place once the wind had moderated. The eventual winner was Dave Gamble, reminding us that Lasers can be competitive when helmed by an exceptional sailor, Darren Nield was second and Andrew Moore third. Sorry, pictures not available.

In the Frostbite series honours went to Darren Nield with Dave Gamble 2nd and Dave Read 3rd. First lady was Joy Read and first junior was Megan Greaves followed by Alex Lowry, Kelly Walsh and Ava Scott Harris, Lauren Hoarty and Dylan Harris. Congratulations to all.

Children's Christmas Party

Father Christmas again made an appearance at our now legendary Children's Christmas Party. Appearing from the darkness of Elton Reservoir he captivated both young and old alike with what was a truly amazing spectacle. A light sprinkling of magic fairy dust and the assistance of a rather large elf helped him to maintain his faultless record of not falling off the jetty! He was also ably assisted by a team of little helpers, some not so little, and of course the chief elf Tina Mann, who masterminded the whole operation impeccably.

Thanks to all those who contributed to making this a memorable occasion once again.



Not lost his charm!

COUNCIL

AGM



The Club's Annual General Meeting was well attended despite the bad weather. Election of officers for the coming year took place and there were one or two notable changes. We now have a new President, Brian Taylor. Brian has made an outstanding contribution to life at Elton and he is a worthy successor to our outgoing President Carol Haines. Carol and Jon were presented with Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Elton Sailing Club.

It has been a privilege to have Carol as President, her and Jon have helped to steer and guide the Club over many decades and have always been free with their help, advice and friendship. Hopefully they will continue to be a force in sailing for many years to come and I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing them all the very

best in the future.

Junior Council

Elton Juniors have asked if they can form a Junior Council so that their views and opinions can have voice in the Club and I am very pleased to announce that we now just that. Their inaugural meeting took place on the 5th December with the election of the following officers:

Junior Commodore: Lauren Hoarty

Junior Vice Commodore: Robert Ramshaw

Junior Sailing Committee: Kelly Walsh and Alex Lowry

Junior Social Committee: Megan Ramsden and Conner Lord

Junior Council will be overseen by a 'responsible adult' otherwise known as Rochelle Responsible Broxap who will form the link between Junior and Full Council.

Think you'll all agree that it's a great idea and wish them the very best of luck.

Brass Band Night

This year's event was a little disappointing in terms of club members attending but the band were superb and those who did attend had a great time with mince pies and mulled wine flowing freely.

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.

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
peterjfinney@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 and also contacted by e-mail to organise payment of winnings
- 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 the last 2 months has been made (monthly from now on!)

Winners for November

1st Prize – Joanne Clark
2nd Prize – Dave Moore
3rd Prize – Andrew Yates

Winners for December

1st Prize – Steve Neibel
2nd Prize – Phil Dalby
3rd Prize – Peter Finney

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

Chris McClung
chrismcclung90@hotmail.com

Greetings from the President, Brian Taylor

I am honored both by the trust put into me by Council and also by you, to accept me as their President.

During the Saturday of December 9th the club was full of excited children together with parents and grandparents. It was the children's Christmas party with the club showing off its best that night and we hummed. My estimation was there were a dozen lady members welcoming and hosting the children and about 8 fellas outside preparing the lights, boats etc for our elderly grey haired visitor. This combined number of members, pulling together made a huge impression on the visitors. The magical approach of Father Christmas across the water will I feel be remembered by the children forever as I recall from my daughters who still remember it with affection.

On Sunday was the AGM when Carol resigned as President ahead of she and Jon's moving down to Plymouth and I was appointed to this exalted position. Much has been written of Carol's sailing prowess and her excellent company when not on the water but little about the parts she played in the fun of the club, namely the shows.

During my first year Margaret and I attended the show and we just didn't know what to expect. As far as I remember the actors all changed together in the green lounge which was covered by a curtain and we were close enough to hear all the giggling as they got ready for their turns and I thought then, ho ho ho that seems fun. In the following shows the performers came through a back entrance and then the office door.

Among the existing members of the club was a lovely couple, Harold and Jean Smith who already ran a folk group called the "Smithereen" and fortunately Harold agreed to run future shows and became the compare. Harold and Jeans son is of course Lawrie Smith. Normally the first spot of the show was Carol together with Gill and Lynn Boothman calling themselves the "Rudder Girls" a play on a national dancing group at the time called the Tiller girls.



Carols acerbic wit with digs at club members and the odd local dignitaries started the theme of the evening which was then followed by other singing and clowning turns.

One year Harold induced Terry Foster and myself to make loud noises in the foyer during a quiet moment in the performance (Did I say quiet?) and

then we came on dressed as cleaners as if we had been interrupted while working. Terry was Elsie and I was Doris. Our song began :-

**We are the scrubbers of the club, my boys and we are here to keep the lounges clean.
We clear up things and toys but are rarely heard or seen. Etc**

All good clean stuff.

OUR PRESIDENT

My Mum who was in the audience thought she recognized the cardigan on that strange woman. The family still chuckle at this photo as the whole apparel had been borrowed from her wardrobe.

The last turn was always "If we did not sail at Elton" which was a line of muscular young men considering trying another sport. Because I was the daftest I was delegated to be a ballet dancer. On one side of me was a boxer and on the other side a cricketer also trying to knock my head off. I cannot remember where Jon was but although it was highly coordinated, it looked chaos. It brought the house down.

Carol's legacy will be Sailing, Fun, Total commitment and lots of happy memories..

A Happy New Year to you all.

Brian Taylor

TRAINING

VHF Marine Radio

Our next SRC Radio course will be on Saturday 10th February 2018. Go to <http://www.eltonmarineservices.com/index.php/training-courses/rya-specialist-short-courses/vhf-short-range-course> or email paul@eltonmarineservices.com for more details.

RYA First Aid

Our next First Aid course will be on Saturday 17th February 2018. Go to <http://www.eltonmarineservices.com/index.php/training-courses/rya-specialist-short-courses/first-aid-courses> or contact adam@eltonmarineservices.com if you wish to take part.

OFFSHORE

Guillemot Trust

I have recently become involved with the above trust who provide sailing opportunities to disadvantaged groups. They are desperate for crew to man these events. If you have any yachting experience and are interested in joining them they would be happy to hear from you. The trust is named after their yacht and is berthed in Liverpool Marina.

If you fancy helping out and like the idea of some free day sailing on the Mersey then go to <http://www.guillemot-trust.org.uk/> or email coordinator@guillemot-trust.org.uk

Paul Savage p.savage@savagehome.plus.com

WORKS

Tuesday Gang

I must tell you about the activities of a little known group of tenacious club members who meet regularly on Tuesdays from 10 to 10.30 onwards and which I am privileged to be a member.

1. They spend a lot of time on the exhausting and impossible task of repairing holes in the road.
2. Their work takes place over the grounds and buildings and reduces the amount the club would have to pay for sub contractors. Among work in the past has been the septic tank, the electric gates, car park lighting, the BBQ coverings in the garden etc. Our last Tuesday before Christmas as an example, we cleaned up the boat park and removed five wrecked and derelict hulls.
3. We also advertise over a wide area for cormorants to join us mainly to keep Tony Crompton present and happy in the committee boat.
4. And talking of chuggers, don't forget Father Christmas who whenever he comes always grumbles about the safety boat and its driver. Would you want to stand on the boats engine cover on a dark night and choppy water?. We have to make sure he is in good health and that he avoids falling in.
5. Dave Moore, the works secretary is already planning a maintenance program for next year so we will be kept busy.

But the present Tuesday gang are getting older and slower and we hope members who are approaching retirement with professional skills to come and help. I appeal also to those with a free day and energy to become involved. Why not have a cup of tea, a little banter, use your skills to maintain the club and join us for pleasant day out. We start again after the Christmas break.

Brian Taylor

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.

SAILING

ELTON RETAIN THEIR UNBEATEN RECORD AT HALIFAX

TTEAM racing, with Halifax Sailing Club's water Fly Flats Reservoir, the highest sailing water in England, the venue, was the order of the day for Elton members on Saturday. And a happy day it was!

Four teams all sailing Enterprises, took part in a series of races. Elton lost only one race and finished the day with 150 points to Halifax's 131. So again they kept intact the Enterprise's unbeaten team racing record.

Not all the teams were Enterprise sailors. The Graduate first team sailed, and did extremely well. Norman Atkinson won all his races, while George Horrocks sailed his usual tactical race and spoiled more than a few Halifax hopes.

Of the Enterprise regulars Squire Kay and Ron Jackson shone, while

newcomers Harold Smith and Phil Bond proved more than a match for their opponents.

THREE HOUR RACE

On Sunday the clubs Autumn Trophy was raced for. This is also called the "Endurance Race" for it is over three hours and was originally planned as a test of endurance in high autumn winds. Oddly the race has been run, ever since its conception four years ago, in extremely light winds!

Thirty-nine boats of all classes crossed the line, not all at the same time as the stars were staggered, being worked out on the boats handicap figure. The race finished at 5-15 p.m. and if the handicapper had been right there could have been one big dead heat. This was not to be, and Ron Jackson, crewed by his wife Eunice won handsomely. His was the only Enterprise to figure in the top placings, the next nearest one being seventh.

John Mamwell, crewed Alec Mamwell, came in second, while George Horrocks, crewed Betty Atkinson, took third place.

PROMISING COMPETITOR

The prize list went down to fourth and another Graduate sailed by Peter Collins and crewed Ann Butterfield, gave everybody a fright by settling for this position after being in the lead for quite a while. Peter was moving his boat through the water faster than most, but due to this being his first season was losing to the more experienced on tactics.

Next season should see another new face at the top of the lists in the Graduate class.

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