



COUNCIL

Commodore's Log – March 2018

The weather has not yet realised that spring has arrived and that the landscape shouldn't look quite so white but hopefully it'll get the message soon and warm up in time for the start of the new season. It all kicks off in only a few weeks with a Club Trophy day on Sunday 25th March and the Albacore and Enterprise Open on Saturday 31st March followed on Sunday 1st April with the start of the Spring Handicap Series. Those of you who have taken it easy over the winter need to get your gear dusted down and check you can still fit under the boom. Sailing Committee has excelled again with an exciting and innovative sailing programme and Social Committee promises equally exciting off the water events.

Works Parties

However, before all of that starts we have three weekends of Club maintenance and all members, both young, old and in between, are encouraged to give up just a few hours of their time to help get the Club in good shape and ready for the new season. There are many jobs of varying size and complexity available so please sign up and don't just leave it for others to do. Remember that many hands make light work. A schedule of jobs is posted on the foyer notice board or you can get more information by visiting the Club website. Start time is around 10 am on each Saturday and Sunday and you will be kept fed and watered by our gourmet chefs. It will also be helpful if you can bring down tools and materials which suit a particular job

Please note that the water is closed for all three of the works weekends and that this means boats will not be permitted on the water during these times.

Membership Fees

I'm pleased to tell you that membership fees will remain unchanged 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.

Membership fees can now be paid through WebCollect. Don't forget to pay before the 1st April and take advantage of the generous discounts. WebCollect is the Club's preferred way of payment since it is much easier to administer than cash or cheque so please use it if at all possible.

Snowflake Series

Our popular and well attended Snowflake series reached its conclusion on 25th February. Some extreme conditions made it a challenging few weeks of sailing and provided some great



spectator sport from the warmth of the Pendle Lounge. 20 plus boats could be seen on the water some weeks but the eventual winner, for the third consecutive year, was Phil Worth from Delph SC sailing a Phantom, congratulations Phil. 2nd was Elton's Dave Read also sailing a Phantom and 3rd was Paul Salmon in a Solo. 1st Lady was Tina Morris and first junior was Alex Lowery. Thanks and congratulations to all who took part in this great series. Thanks are also due to the race officers and not forgetting the safety crews who had to endure some pretty bad conditions and had their work cut out at times.

Any room for a little one?

Dinghy Park



You may have noticed that the bottom of the Lower Dinghy Park had become very overgrown and untidy over recent years. You may now have noticed that the wilderness has been reclaimed and transformed by the relentless efforts of 'The Tuesday Gang'. The intention is that it will now be brought back into use for berthing or possibly as an overspill car park. The area has become home to many road trailers and some launching trolleys and many of these carry no identification. It would therefore be very helpful if the owners of these trailers and trolleys could ensure that they are clearly labelled with a name and where appropriate boat and sail numbers. Trailers or trolleys which remain unidentified may be offered for sale by auction or disposed of as appropriate. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Sometimes you need all the help you can get!

Club Trailer

Our master carpenter Peter Glynn has done it again! Asked to put a new floor in the Club trailer he has gone the extra 10 miles and completely refurbished the whole trailer – now looks like new. You can view this exquisite piece of work in the car park but better hurry before the works parties get hold of it.

Suggestions

Council takes members views very seriously and we're always interested in hearing what you think and understanding your likes, dislikes and concerns. By doing so we hope to improve the Club for all members. To help us do this please take advantage of the 'Suggestions Box' located in the entrance foyer.

Radio System

For the last few weeks the Club has been evaluating a new radio system based on the license exempt PMR446 standard. PMR446 is significantly cheaper to install and maintain than our traditional marine radio system and also has much lower ongoing costs. Although the range of PMR446 is limited compared with the marine standard it still provides good reception over the whole of the reservoir. A Race Office base station is now installed and two mobile handheld radios are available for on-water use. Further handhelds will be added before the start of the sailing season. Operation is similar to the marine system and the radios are quite simple and straight forward to use. Further information can be found in the operators manuals, copies of which will be available in the Race Office

Events

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

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Hi! It is coming to that time of year when we renew our club membership.

The club offers a discount for membership that is paid before the end of March.

All payments, as we all know, go through webcollect. The Elton club site shows a link to webcollect, click on and you're on your way.

Club membership is now offered as a monthly payment which has become very popular, but when you set up your payments make sure it's for every month and not for just one, as some members have.

Junior members have been having a ball at the club and when they travel. Training has been an ongoing thing for juniors and adults with lots of members taking up the places on the courses run.

It should be said that a junior member must have an adult member, part of family membership or a social member.

Social members can take part in rigging boats and be part of the safety crews on the water.

Some non sailing social members have now become part of the safety boat crews and have even done their powerboat level one and two.

We have our big open day PUSH THE BOAT OUT when the club is open to non members to have a try at sailing. Last year was a great success with a lot of new members and their families joining the club, and I must say having a whale of a time. It would be good if a few new members came down to help out on the open day PUSH THE BOAT OUT even if you just engage the people in conversation, telling them about your first time on the water and how your sailing is going on. It would help enormously and would help the club attract some new members.

There will be bulletins coming out about various things going on at the club in the coming months please check your emails, Facebook and newsletter.

Don't forget the works party in march, every little helps your club and it is your club.

Many regards

Kevin Lyons

SPONSORSHIP

We have sponsorship opportunities this year for members or non-members. Sponsorships basically help provide prizes throughout the season to race and series winners, the opportunities consist of Trophy Days, Sunday Sailing Series' and the Wednesday night series throughout the year.

Sponsors will have the opportunity to put signage at the club, complementary membership for the sponsored event, inclusion in the sailing programme, publicity at each race over the PA system, inclusion on the club website and social media.

For further details please contact Gary Cleary 07815024904

Many thanks

Gary

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.

For members who pay yearly could you please renew your subscription using WebCollect

The winners for the February draw are:

1st Prize £70 – Paul Savage
2nd Prize £15 – Andrew Yates
3rd Prize £10 – Kevin Lyons

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

Chris McClung
chrismcclung90@hotmail.com

Sailing Calendar

With the season starting in a few weeks, here's a preview of the 2018 season sailing calendar.

Saturday's will once again focus on beginners, juniors, new members and skill development. We have a range of courses and initiatives to offer everyone from those who started sailing recently and are looking for more time on the water to complete beginners. Junior training sessions will run in 5 week blocks following on from 'Onboard' and our 'Push The Boat Out' open days. We have some structured start racing courses planned to push those who feel ready for the next step. The water will be open to all levels of sailing on a Saturday, with safety covered provided for those who want to come down for a cruise around.

Along with lots of training, Saturday's will host all the years open meetings and most of the trophy days (for club members). A full list of the dates are below:

25th March- Season Opening Trophy Day
 31st March- Albacore & Enterprise Open
 7th April- Junior & Topper Traveller
 14th & 15th April- Re-run of the 2017 Club Championship (postponed last year)
 28th April- Onboard open day
 10th May- Trophy Evening
 12th May- 'Push The Boat Out' open day
 16th June- Match Racing Day
 20th June- Trophy Evening
 25th July- Trophy Evening
 4th August- Streaker Open Meeting
 11th August- Trophy Day
 26th August- Trophy Day (1 Day 2018 Club Championship)
 29th September- Laser Open
 2nd October- Senior Travellers Open
 6th October- Trophy Day for Ladies Who Launch & Juniors
 30th December- Cauldron Trophy Day

Sunday afternoon's and Wednesday evening's will be primarily for club racing, with a full weekly racing program. Junior and beginners starts will once again be incorporated into the Sunday racing. The Sunday racing calendar is roughly set out in 10 week series, where you need to half +1 of the races will count towards your net result. Wednesday evening follows the traditional format of 6 weeks pursuit (18.40 Optimist Start), 9 weeks of handicap racing (19.30 start) and 6 weeks pursuit racing (18.40 Optimist Start), again half+ 1 of the races count towards the chocolates. The series blocks will be broken up by one off trophy nights.

Ladies Who Launch will once again be run weekly on Thursday Evenings from the 17th May to 30th August and lastly (but not least) following on from last years successful trial event the junior racing nights will be taking place on Friday evenings from 1st June to 20th July.

Enterprise Sailing

I know it is a bit chilly at the moment but hopefully some spring weather and the new sailing season will be upon us soon! As you will have seen on the Elton Sailing Programme we have an early date for the Elton Enterprise Open, Saturday 31st March, which is Easter Saturday. This will be in combination with the Albacore Open as last year. I know this is only 1 week after the winter storage in the boat house ends, but I hope we can get a number of Elton boats out to challenge the visitors. If you are not able to sail yourself would you be able to lend your boat to another club member? Looking forward to seeing all those blue sails on the water,

All the best,

Geoff

gmclardy@doctors.org.uk

Southport 24 hour race 8th/9th September

Elton will be going to the Southport 24 hour race again this year. We have entered one boat already and depending on numbers of Elton sailors interested, we hope to enter a second boat too. So we will probably have an Elton Enterprise and a GP14 team. To get an idea of numbers, please let me know if you are interested in coming and whether as helm, crew or shore support. We plan to have some double hander training before the event. Geoff McLardy
gmclardy@doctors.org.uk

Elton Enterprise/Albacore Open Event Saturday 31st March

Make an early start to the new sailing season and let us have a good representation of Elton Albacores and Enterprises to compete with the visitors. The Enterprise event is part of the NW Top Helm series. 11am start 31st March, which is the Saturday of the Easter weekend.

Start Racing Course 21st/22nd April

This is a full weekend course for club members able to sail at RYA adult level 2 or Youth stage 3, who would like to start racing or have recently started racing. You do not need to have your own boat. Fee £20. For further details and to enrol on the course contact Geoff McLardy
gmclardy@doctors.org.uk mobile 07931756367.

JUNIOR

Junior Newsletter

Some of us attended Junior training on the 6th February with Gareth– we discussed how to turn, tack gybe, speed up and some other tactics. We all went out to sail for a short time but the wind was too light so came back in.

Mega and Alex were at the zones training in Wet Kirby, it was very light wind to start with but it picked up later on. We practiced mark rounding. It was very enjoyable.

We did try to get out on the water during the beginning of February Lauren and Kelly rigged their boats a few times but it was too cold and too windy. Some of the other juniors came down to watch the racing.

Megan and Alex went out on the 11th on Sunday and practiced (did some reaching but was it was too windy). Alex went out on the 3rd race and did OK but it was really very windy and cold Megan and Alex attended the NW training for Toppers on Saturday 7th February (see next newsletter for the full article).

Alex came first Junior in the Frostbite Series which ended on 25th February, and was a challenging series.

Please keep in touch with the Junior Sailing Committee – let us know if you want anything mentioning in the junior section of the Newsletter or want to get involved with us.

Thank you, hope to see you on the water in April.

Lauren Hoarty, Robert Ramshaw, Megan Greaves, Alex Lowery, Kelly Walsh and Connor Lord.

WORKS

MARCH 2018 –WORKING PARTIES.

All club members are invited to attend working parties on the first three weekends of March 2018. This is your chance to smarten up the club and carry out maintenance, in readiness for the coming season.

Works parties will take place on Saturday and Sunday of the first three weekends in March namely Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th.

Work will commence at 10.00am and finish at 4.00pm on each day.

A couple of hours from each club member on any day or days would be appreciated. It is great fun and ensures we are ready to go at Easter. Please sign up on the job list displayed on the club Notice board in the Foyer. It would be very helpful if members could bring suitable tools and materials for the job they wish to help with. Lunch will be provided to ensure energy levels are kept high.

Please note there will be no sailing on these working days.

Dave Moore - Rear commodore Works.

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.