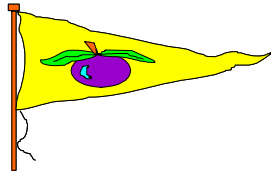


PLUMLINES SPRING 2011



DITTISHAM SAILING CLUB

Commodore's Message

Well, what an era that was! Two main pillars of the sailing club resigning at the same time. Fortunately they have both agreed to remain as committee members to provide continuity and their wisdom.

Jonathan Weeks as Commodore oversaw and drove the rebuilding of the clubhouse and what a fantastic clubhouse we have with all the necessary facilities. With his individual brand of mischievous political incorrectness he kept the members enthused and interested during the long build and saved the club a fortune in the process. He also resolved a number of longstanding ticklish problems, such as the running moorings; and made a start on the problem of the waiting list for the boat park.

Stephanie Ashton is a legend in her own lifetime. As Sailing Secretary for the last five years all the races have received the attention to detail one would expect of a retired anaesthetist. A colleague of mine once remarked that it was strange the amount of effort that patients put into choosing a surgeon, when it is the anaesthetist that usually determines whether the patient lives or dies.

So a big thank you to both of them and other members of the committee who resigned this year in particular, Anna Stillman who was past Treasurer and Jonathan Higgins who edited Plumlines.

So, what of the future? We now have a superb clubhouse and the task of the new committee is to make maximum use of it. In addition to the main racing calendar, we hope to have socials, dances, barbecues, fun sails, picnics, cricket matches, training, cruising and any other activity that can be legitimately offered. Mike Bennett as our new Sailing Secretary has done an excellent job. He is publishing the Racing Diary as the "Programme 2011". This will include all the activities available in addition

to the racing diary. We have challenged Stoke Gabriel Boating Association to a cricket match, to take place at Low Water Springs, possibly on Flat Owers, October 1st. We hope to be more closely involved with Dittisham Regatta, with the club races being set a mark near the quay at Dittisham to engage the crowd, and a DSC team competing in the skiff rowing race.

Together with Arthur Marshall we are very keen to see Junior Sailing more integrated with the rest of the club, so that the junior sailors compete in the Sunday Races and other events, such as picnics, cruises and further training. Equally we would love to see the parents of junior sailors joining other members for sailing and racing and helping with safety boats, start box and the whole range of social events. To this end we will be running improver courses for those members starting sailing or wishing to improve their skills.

The waiting list for boat park spaces remains an issue. We have a waiting list of members keen to get on the water for whom we cannot provide a boat space. I do ask members who have a space which is not being used or rarely used to be generous and consider forgoing their space until they are in a position to use it regularly. A number of proposals emerged from Jonathan Weeks' "Complex Cogitations" article. In response to these, we are improving the stock and range of Club boats and these are insured for members to use for an occasional sail or to take part in some of the races. Information about club boats has been improved and may be found on the website. Other proposals for consideration include:

1 To qualify for a boat space members must acquire points. These would be earned by attendance at working parties, contributing to social events, safety boat rota etc

2 Members must have used the boat in their boat space a specified number of times during the year to qualify for a boat space the following year

Your views would be helpful in arriving at a policy which could be proposed at the next AGM.

Please take a look at the new website www.dittishamsc.org. This has been constructed over the winter break, largely by Roy Pryor. Can I encourage all members to

contribute information of forthcoming events to Roy Pryor info@dittishamsc.org and he will ensure it is posted on the web site? I very much hope you will find the new programme offers an interesting and varied season of sailing for 2011.

David Thompson – Commodore

Boat Park

The demand for places in the dinghy park is outstripping availability, and it seems this is now a permanent problem. The previous Commodore addressed this problem in the autumn 2010 issue of *Plumlines*, and from that it seems that members generally agree that boat spaces should not be treated as purely long-term storage. So this could be a good moment to consider whether you will be using your boat often enough this year to justify occupying its space! The space you free up would be quickly occupied by a grateful member on the waiting list. In the past we have issued temporary boat park stickers to holidaymakers who bring their sailing dinghy to Dittisham for a week or two. Because there are now insufficient spaces for the existing membership, we have reluctantly decided not to continue the practice this year.

On a more positive note, we have constructed an additional Topper rack this winter. It is hoped that some members will transfer their Topper (or tender) from a standard berth to the rack, and thereby give us a few more boat spaces.

Congestion in the boat park causes difficulty in moving boats in and out of their spaces. Some members have therefore been allocated a different space this year, so that boats are better matched to the berth size. Please also make sure that your boat and trolley stay within your berth dimensions and don't spill over onto your neighbour or onto the gangway.

A further request is that if you find your allocated berth occupied by another boat, please move it out to make room for yourself, rather than occupying another berth and exacerbating the problem! Finally, please apply your new boat sticker where it can be easily seen when the boat is in the berth.

If you have any comments or suggestions to improve the smooth running of the boat park, please contact me via the new web-site.

John Phillips – Boat Park officer

Junior Sailing - What next?

If you have done one of our courses, you or your parents may be wondering what comes next?

Beginners from last season who can solo in a Topper, can move on to the second year course starting in May.

Those completing the second year course, who can sail a Topper on all points of sailing, as well as clever manoeuvres and theory can either sign up for the third year training course or you can join in with our regular Topper series of race training and races which run every two weeks right through the season.

The Topper races and race training are open to all-comers provided they can manage to sail a triangle and are prepared to stick to the rules! If you want to develop your skills, you need to get lots of practice.

There are my races on Saturdays, also Club races on Sundays; this year we are introducing special Topper- friendly races when the club race will be adapted to make it more suitable.

For specific Topper race training, there are the Topper Association regional training and events. Contact me for details or look at the club web site.

The RYA recommends Toppers as a "Junior class". That is up to 16, beyond this and above 60 kg in weight, the obvious progression for single handed sailing is the Laser with the Radial rig. Dittisham has a few sailing Laser Radials, but again there is a programme of class training aimed at youth sailors in this class.

For 2- handed sailing the best option is the 420 (good class racing, very tactical, but not too exciting) or the 29'er (a real challenge, fast, unstable and with asymmetric set a scary boat to sail), there aren't any fleets of these locally, so you would need to be very keen, prepared to travel and have an equally committed crew.

You may prefer to learn to go to sea in a bigger cruising boat. You could crew for family and friends, or sail on a big traditional training boat, with the Trinity Sailing Trust from Brixham.

Do look out for our Junior programme and book early to ensure places on the courses. The race training and Topper race series is more flexible, but we would like to know if you are intending to take part.

Arthur Marshall - Junior Sailing

A better way to run the Handicap System at DSC

When the yawls arrived at DSC eight years ago the club had no procedures for dealing with unhandicapped boats. The ad hoc procedure that has been used to handicap this class since then has proved inadequate and under pressure from interference by a minority of yawl sailors has resulted in a handicap system so overwhelmingly biased towards the yawls that it has effectively run for their benefit. The yawl handicap is an epitome of a more general problem facing the club: responsibility for running the PY system has always been equally divided between the RYA and individual clubs, the RYA expects us to tell it what we think are suitable handicaps for unrated boats sailing in our races. DSC needs to rethink the way it makes difficult but necessary handicap decisions.

Stephanie Ashton has done a splendid job in reviving what was a moribund Sailing Sub Committee but this has proved quite unsuited to running a PY handicap system.

I believe that the club should consider setting up a handicap committee. This would take over responsibility for all handicap matters from the Sailing Sub Committee. Many other clubs run their handicap systems this way.

Advantages of a handicap committee:

It would be broadly representative of the classes in our handicap fleet. Its objective would be the wellbeing of the handicap fleet. Different viewpoints from within the handicap fleet would be represented but no one viewpoint would dominate; the handicap fleet would come first. The responsibilities of this committee would be very clearly defined; its agenda would be short! There are some handicap decisions that are entirely the responsibility of the club, a representative committee would be the fairest way to make them. The RYA expects us to play our part in the PY system. We cannot pass these decisions on to anyone else.

The present situation is unfair to those classes in the handicap fleet that have PY numbers published by the RYA. We are quite capable of implementing a workable handicap procedure based on the PY system; this would earn us deserved

seniority, based on respect, in the dinghy world.

There is a great deal more to be said about this. I very much hope that club members will want to comment on my suggestions and I shall be very happy to discuss any of the points I have raised.

Jonathan Higgins 01803 866131

Sailing Secretary's Report

As I write this we are half way through the experimental New Year series in January and February. Attendance understandably has varied depending on the wind strength but everyone has enjoyed the pasties and prizes. There are two more on February 13th and 27th, both at 1330 preceded by the free pasties!

The 2011 programme has just gone to the printers and this year includes activities other than just racing- keep it in a handy safe place! Your sailing committee members have endeavoured to plan some interesting series and races throughout the year which we hope will attract more sailors to the start line. You will see some of the usual but I would like to mention a few changes.

On Easter Sunday there are two pursuit races for the Blackawton Brewery Mug and Easter Points. Many of you have said that you like the excitement of the Pursuit so here is something a bit different. On Monday we will race up to Stoke Gabriel in the first BJMC race. The Commodore's picnic will be on Sunday July 3rd which as always will be a fun day with all welcome. This year the plan is to go down river but it will all depend on the weather.

Dittisham Regatta is on Saturday 6th August and this year every effort is being made to integrate the sailing with the rowing and the other events which take place around the quay. The tides help this year and you should be able to race in the morning and perhaps row or take part in the Tug of War and stalls in the afternoon.

The Prize Giving for the sailing will be at about 4pm at the pier. There is even talk of a whaler rowing race between DSC and the Regatta committee from the Club to the pier!

Another enjoyable open event is the Stoke Gabriel Regatta which is on Sunday

September 4th. The racing will be followed by rowing and BBQ. It will also count for the first two Autumn Points.

Frank Seear has worked very hard to organize the safety teams for the racing. This year for the first time DSC is being connected to Dutyman and it is important that you look at the team sheet to find out which team you are in then look at the programme to find when your duty date is. If you cannot do your duty it is your responsibility to find a replacement using Dutyman to be found by going to the DSC website.

Susi Stockbridge is the Starting Box Representative. She will be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in helping with the running of the races.

I wish you an enjoyable sailing season and if you have any queries or suggestions let me have them or any of the sailing committee.

Mike Bennett - Hon Sailing Secretary

Proposed Training Programme for Club members

We are hoping to organise a training programme for adults during 2011. These courses will be subject to sufficient interest being shown. Please let me know if you are interested in any of them, so I can arrange a programme.

Courses Afloat

RYA Level 1, 2 for Adults 4 days cost to be decided

RYA Assistant Instructor 4 days cost to be decided

Learning to Race 6 hrs cost to be decided

Improving boat handling skills 6hrs cost to be decided

RYA Powerboat 1, 2 8 +8 hrs cost £40 L1, £80 L2 inclusive

PB1 is for 10 – 15 yr olds or very nervous adults and is 1 day is the minimum required to safely drive a safety boat and is 2 days

RYA Safety Boat 2 days cost £80 inclusive, pre-requisite PB2

Shore Based Courses

RYA First Aid 8hrs cost £35 + manual (about £20)

RYA VHF 9hrs (inc. exam) cost £35 + licence fee £30 + manual (about £15)

Introduction to navigation 6hrs cost £10, this will introduce you to coastal pilotage, using charts, a compass, keeping a log and basic use of a GPS.

The course fees will cover club expenses (fuel, boat maintenance, insurance, electricity etc.) refreshments, books and certificates (except where noted) and instructor fees where appropriate.

Chris Taylor cataylor@rya-online.net or 01364 643569

New Club Website

If you have visited the club website recently you will have noticed that it has a completely new look. Here you will find information about all aspects of the club whether it be racing or cruising, training courses or social events. You can read about the history of the club, find out how to book a club boat, consult the racing programme, check the tides, see who is on the committee and lots more.

The Home Page will give you information about forthcoming events on or off the water and I hope that the website will increasingly become your first port of call if you want to find out anything about the club.

Of course, the website is only as good as the information it contains. I will be doing my best to ensure that this is kept up to date but to help me with this it is very important that you let me have any items that need to be posted. You can email me at info@dittishamsc.org or speak to me at the club. I would also be very pleased to hear from you if there are other areas that you would like to see included.

Roy Pryor – Web Site

Dittsum Belles

Dittsum Belles is a group formed to provide lady members with the opportunity to become competent to helm a sailing dinghy or to improve sailing skills. We use Toppers, Lasers, a Laser 13 and other dinghies when available. We also have various social events including BBQ's, brunches in the summer and the occasional coffee morning or an evening out during the winter months. This season starts out in cracking fashion with a full weekend of training run by Bones on 26th and 27th March. All lady members are welcome to join.

Contact Anne Ely on 01803 845695 or Catherine Johns on 01803 862400.

A Date for Your Social Diary

Sunday Lunch 8 May 2011

After the morning racing on 8 May we plan to provide a proper Sunday lunch in the top room of the clubhouse. ALL members are invited to reserve their place. The limit will be approximately 36 people. The lunch will consist of a main course and dessert - price £7.50 per head. Bring your own bottle.

We will need to know numbers in advance. A menu will be posted in the clubhouse for members to sign up – or email me

. The lunch will probably be meat or fish based, but let us know of any food intolerance or allergies.

Stephanie Bromley and I have volunteered to prepare the meal for you. If it proves a success, others may wish to volunteer a similar event at weekends or midweek evenings.

We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Patrick Bromley 01364 72352

Custom Made Dry Suits from Ravenspring Ltd

To Wear or Not to Wear?

Dinghy drysuits have now been with us for over 30yrs. Initially they resembled human plastic bags and so you could be very damp

inside but as the fabric technology evolved, breathability became the key word. The molecules of cold water were blocked from entering from the outside, but any dampness on the inside of the suit (very common with energetic laser sailors) would miraculously pass out through the breathable membrane of the drysuit fabric. A 21st century drysuit is well fitted, lightweight and with a variety of features (e.g. trouser zip, knee pads, reflective tapes, neoprene or latex seals etc) to enable you to do your chosen sport comfortably and safely. A frequent question is 'what to wear underneath?' If you want to stay dry, warm and comfortable the one thing to avoid wearing next to your skin is cotton, as the fibres are like sponges and they will absorb any moisture, preventing the suit fabric from 'breathing'. There are now many technical polyester and viscose fibres used in t-shirts and thermal base layers which wick moisture away from the skin, keeping you dry and comfortable. But with the advent of nano technology there is also a new breed of 'intelligent' underwear which is designed to enhance your sporting performance and keep your body at a constant 37 degrees. There is the 'old sailors tale' that drysuits are only suitable for winter use, but by altering your layers under the suit, i.e. base layer only, or base layer plus mid (fleece) layer, it has at least a three seasons use making for a very cost effective garment that only needs to be complimented with a cheap summer wet suit or hikers. Also for the nervous amongst you being warm, dry and comfortable means that you sail when perhaps you wouldn't, it's a great confidence booster when you realise that getting dumped in the water is no big deal.

As the suits are made to order and to the customer's specification you are assured of a fitted garment that will increase your enjoyment for seasons to come.

Dittisham Club Embroidery

Ravenspring have three logos for Dittisham Sailing Club which can be used on any of the items on their online catalogue at www.ravenspring.co.uk or via the link on the club web site. For every order that is placed with the club logo on it, the club receives 5% in royalties. There is a huge variety of garments available from t-shirts and fleeces to the latest soft shells and much more. The traditional Dittisham Plum adds £5.00 to the cost of the garment, the Dittisham Name £7.00, the large dinghy £10.00 and there is

also a small dinghy to fit on the front at £7.00. These can be embroidered in any combination and other names or numbers can also be added.

Either see all the garments on line or call in and see them at their premises Roger Morley, Ford Rd, Totnes Industrial Estate, Totnes TQ9 5AG. Or ring 01803 867092

Scorpion for sale

Performance two man racing dinghy, built by Westerly Boats in wood. Good trolley & cover, two suits of sails, one nearly new, spinnaker. Working order but could do with paint & varnish. £200
Chris Taylor 01364 643569

Wayfarer for sale

Wayfarer Mk2, very good condition, good cruising sails, combination trailer, cover, new floorboards, £2600.
Bones on 07980436451

Editor for Plumlines

If you harbour ambitions to edit a national newspaper, you may have to wait. If you seek a similar position at Dittisham Sailing Club, the job can be yours with immediate effect.

Contact David Thompson – Commodore for further details.

Trophy Winners 2010

Easter Mug	J Weeks	F Seear
Dolphin Cup	J Weeks	B Kenyon
Haarer Cup	M Bennett	P Symons
Dangar Cup	B Kenyon	J Weeks
Typhoon Cup	B Kenyon	F Seear
Adie Trophy	J Weeks	P Honey
Davis Cup	B Wright	J Weeks
Winter Warmer	P Honey	R Thomas
Booth Cup	J Weeks	
BJMC	R Symons	
Ladies Cup	J Richardson	
Ton Up	J Phillips & S Ashton	M & F Wark
Half Ton	R Thomas	P Bromley
Blackawton Brewery	Bones Black & A Stillman	P Bromley = S Mogridge
Leatt Cup	S Beeby	Bones & A Stillman
Castle Ledge	M Bennett & J Wynn	R Symons
Deverall Mug	J Honey	J O'Brien
Woolacott Trophy	J O'Brien	
River Dart Salver	A Johns	J Weeks
Iceberg Trophy	J Weeks	J O'Brien
Stoyle Cup	R Morley	
Primrose Salver	R Thomas	