

Combs Sailing Club Newsletter

No 210

April 2011

From the Commodore's Couch



Since the last newsletter we have had two work parties to wake the club from its winter hibernation and the sailing season has begun.

At the work parties the clubhouse cladding details were finished off, we started work on building up more of the bank and buildings were cleaned and tidied. Thank you everyone who came and helped.

Sail training has begun with a sunny afternoon and the race days have been very mild – even if one was a little less windy than we would like. The weather is often a limiting factor in sailing at Combs so I would encourage you all to take advantage of the mild weather. The earlier you can get out on the water the more sailing you'll be able to fit in!

Next week (10th April) is the Annual GP Open when GP14 sailors from around the North West will be competing for the Combs Cup. Please come down and help – or just come down to see what's going on.

I'm also delighted to welcome some new members, Chris Stillo, Mike Tyldesley and Julia Kay and to welcome back Andy Pyett. Please look out for them at the club and say hello.

I hope to see you on the water soon.

Happy Easter

Russell Talbot

Editorial

I've had this comment from Nigel Carson in response to my question about the Rags Smith Trophy last month:

"I'm not sure how this actually came into our possession but here it is and in my view here it should stay. Are the Elgin marbles going back to Athens? No. And these are items of major cultural significance. The Rags Smith has some minor historical interest but can it be said to be really significant? Personally I don't think so. The trophy now belongs to the club where it has its place in our own history. There is nothing to stop its location being mentioned over in Ireland and even the trophy being loaned to them for any one off occasion that they thought was special enough over there. But as to repatriation – I would be very firmly against it."

I've not heard any other suggestions. My view is that given its history, it should be in a museum on loan where it can be seen by many people rather than on someone's mantelpiece. A replica could take the place of the original amongst the Club's trophies. What does everyone else think?

I'm afraid we have a couple of obituaries this month. Thanks to Norman Higgins for writing them.

A bit of variety as well - to show that Paul Thompson and Chris Fletcher's talents go beyond sailing there is a report on their performances in the Wilmslow Half Marathon.

Andy Butler



Ideas for a
caption to Andy

Around The Marks

The racing season started on Sunday 20th March with three races in the H Series. The weather conditions for a “Combs Season Opener” were very good; we had weak sunshine giving a comfortable 9C. Winds started as a very fickle south-westerly making the first race very difficult for the OOD Mike Craddock to set a course.

Six boats came to the line, I suspect Harry Mayo had intended to start the race but having had the best part of four months to get himself ready, was five minutes late. Paul Thompson sailing his Supernova got the best of the conditions and carved out a significant lead. Edward Caunt was also showing some very impressive early season form with a very creditable fourth in his Lightning.

The wind for the second and third races became less fluky giving some excellent early season dinghy racing. Andy Pyett sailing his RS 300 had spent the first race capsizing. As the afternoon progressed he spent more time in, rather than under the boat and recorded an excellent second in the last race. Alex Bowden sailed very well in the Laser Radial and also managed a first for Combs sporting a very topical snood. I know FIFA intend to ban snoods from next season onwards, the Sailing Committee will monitor the situation.

Spare a thought for Mike Craddock. Having been OOD on the first Sunday and having recently purchased a brand new main sail he was no doubt looking forward to the second Sunday. On the 27th Mike and a fair number of sailors turned up, rigged dinghies and watched the wind fizzle out like a dud banger. Racing abandoned, that’s sailing.

Bob Pyett

Obituaries

JOHN HOLDING 1931 -2011

Commodore 1984-1985.

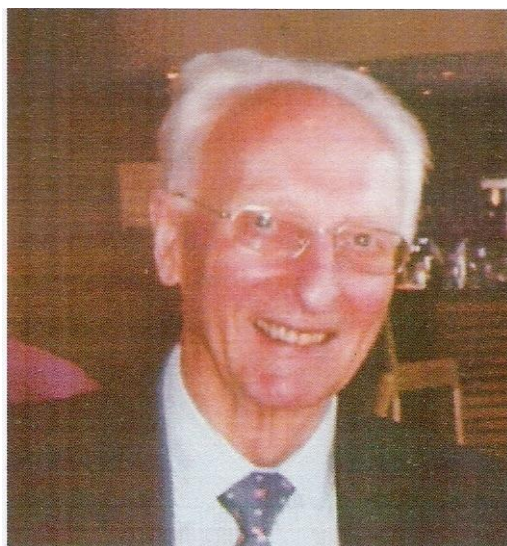
John suffered a severe stroke on Tuesday 1st March from which he died on Friday 4th March in Lancaster. He was 79 years old.

John was an active member of the club during the late seventies, eighties and early nineties until he bought a holiday home in Sandside, Cumbria. In 2003 he moved permanently to Storth in Cumbria where he and Audrey have been very actively involved with Beetham Parish Church.

At Combs he served on the sailing committee and the GP committee and was commodore in the 1984 and 1985 seasons at a time when the club was very active raising funds through social and other events. These were very busy times for the club following the repair of the dam wall and the restoration of the water level which prompted the building of the new clubhouse in 1982-83.

A regular GP14 sailor John was crewed by members of his family and particularly by Ruth his youngest daughter. Although he didn't win many trophies he was a very competitive sailor as were most of the GP fleet at that time.

John leaves his wife Audrey, his children Richard, Rachael and Ruth, and five grandchildren. His funeral was held at Beetham Parish Church on 12th March where he is buried in the churchyard.



JOAN SMITH 1920 -2011

Joan Smith was a familiar figure on Sunday afternoons at Combs during the sixties, seventies and early eighties, either sailing with husband Derrick or behind the galley counter doing her stint with the ladies committee. Derrick was commodore in 1979 and 1980. Joan and Derrick moved to Plockton in Scotland in 1981 and Joan continued to live there until recently when she moved closer to Robin, her younger son, in Aberdour.

Her funeral was held in Plockton where she is buried with Derrick.

Dinner Dance and Presentation Evening

Old Hall Hotel, Buxton

26th November 2011

We've only just started the sailing season and already I am asking you to note your diaries for this season's dinner and presentation evening. Holding the dinner in November should also mean that we can fit in a couple of other meetings during the winter months. Watch this space!

Derbyshire Youth Sailing Regatta



Combs will host a Derbyshire Youth Sailing (DYS) Regatta on Saturday 7th May. [DYS](#) is an organisation committed to developing sailing skills in young people. The series consists of ten events held at sailing clubs throughout Derbyshire. The competition is divided into three age groups below 18 years:

- Junior - children in school year six and below
- Intermediate - children in school years seven to nine
- Senior - children in year ten and above

Over the years Combs have had an enviable record of competition in DYS events. It's encouraging to see a new group of Combs juniors competing and enjoying sailing against members of other clubs.

If you would like to take part please contact Matthew Caunt. Also, if you are able to help on the day your contribution will be most welcome - please contact Louis Saunders, OOD.

Wilmslow Half Marathon.

On Sunday 27th March our two intrepid athletes Paul "Apollo" Thompson and Chris "Silver heels" Fletcher took to the gold paved streets of Wilmslow where they metaphorically flew the ram emblazoned banner high! Watched by an enthusiastic band of supporters, including myself and cub reporter Alex Bowden, they strode off into a cold but clear Cheshire morning. Eagerly we waited their appearance beside that chilly lane our excited eyes straining into the distance. Soon the tangerine shirted form of Thompson strode into view, his lithe figure and lengthy stride eating the polished tarmac. Now we waited, searching for the elegant form of Fletcher, was this he? Yes! Bounding towards us skimming the macadam, elegant of form, fleet of foot, he passed us and accelerated into the distance.

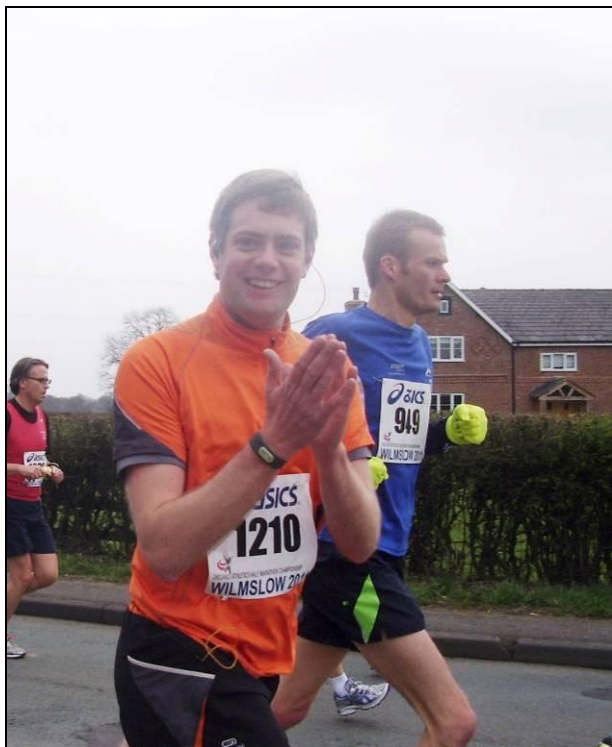
Now we changed our position and assumed a new vantage point in order to once more glimpse our heroes. And, here was Paul, his stride undiminished, his smile retained, his speed maintained. We waited for Chris, "There cried Miss Bowden!" and into view came his thunderous form, no sweat broken, no enthusiasm dulled. He swept past and off towards the finish.

4000 runners passed us that day, 570 before we saw Paul and 1765 before Chris. To put this into context, Paul beat 3429 competitors and Chris in turn beat 2234! What a fantastic result, what an amazing testimony to the training powers of Guinness and Kentucky Fried Chicken. I may joke but Alex and I were lost in admiration for what our boys achieved and we forced to repair to Mc Donalds for effective sustenance.

Oh! Thompson on his winged heel,
And Fletcher man of solid steel,
They took the streets with noble pounding,
All around the cheers were sounding.

To the end they came at last,
A run as brave as it was fast,
Midst crowds of runners thronging onward,
On their shoes a time transponded.

John Saunders



You're not going to put that back in your mouth are you Chris??????

GP14 Open Meeting – Sunday 10th April



Once again we will be hosting the opening event of GP 14 Northern Bell series. Always a friendly and enjoyable open meeting, if you are a GP 14 Sailor it's an ideal opportunity to enjoy sailing against some of the Northwest's leading dinghies. The first race starts at 11am followed by lunch and further racing in the afternoon. The flags, hooters and helms will be ably controlled by OOD Rick Whitehouse.

As always the success of the event depends on the members putting together a regatta which is welcoming and enjoyable to our guests and home sailors. If you are able to help on the day your contribution will be most welcome – just turn up.

Forthcoming Events

Have a look at the [Calendar](#) and [Sailing Instructions](#) on the club website for more information about these events.

Date	Time	
Saturday 2 nd April	13:00	Sail Training 1
Sunday 3 rd April	13:00	H3 Handicap SN1 Supernova
Saturday 9 th April	13:00	Sail Training 2
Sunday 10 th April	10:00	GP Open Meeting. Arrive 10am, first race 11am
Saturday 16 th April	14:00	Family Sailing
Sunday 17 th April	13:00	H4 Handicap
Weds 20 th April	19:00	Bobrykowski Trophy
Saturday 23 rd April	14:00	Family Sailing
Sunday 24 th April	13:00	A1 Spring Points J1 Junior Points SN2 Supernova
Weds 27 th April	19:00	WH1 Wednesday Handicap
Saturday 30 th April	11:00 14:00	High Peak Regatta, Glossop Sailing Club Family Sailing
Sunday 1 st May	13:00	Dennis Troop Trophy
Weds 4 th May	19:00	WH2 Wednesday Handicap
Saturday 7 th May	10:00	Derbyshire Youth Sailing
Saturday 26th Nov		Dinner Dance & Presentation Evening. Old Hall Hotel, Buxton

For Sale/Wanted & Lost/Found

This is a section for boats or sailing paraphernalia. Please send me details and I'll include them (space permitting) in the next newsletter. email Andy Butler

Club Clothing. Louis Saunders is the custodian of the club clothing – hats, fleeces etc.. Contact him for details of what's available.