



## COMMODORE'S NOTES

Initially I would like to say that it is a great honour to have been elected as your commodore. I hope to be able to continue the tremendous work that previous commodores have put into developing our club and creating such a friendly and inclusive atmosphere where all sailors feel encouraged to sail and participate in all of the many tasks that need doing to keep us going.

I think we are unusual in our high levels of participation in work parties, our AGM and most importantly the sailing. I look forward to working with the GP committee, Sailing Committee and all members to maintain and develop this high level of participation.

I would also like to make the work of the two committees as open and transparent as possible and encourage all members to contribute to our work by suggesting ideas for our future improvements as a club. You will see that on our February GP agenda we discussed strategy and future planning and you should expect to see a report on our discussions on the club website and Facebook page. Do get involved and let us know what you think will make a difference to the club.

You can do this by posting a comment on the website or Facebook site or talk to any member of the GP or Sailing committees with a reaction to what we're doing or with an idea for consideration.

You will see that we have included the annual reports from both the GP and Sailing Committees for those members who were unable to attend the AGM last December; hopefully you will find them interesting.

The AGM was a good meeting with the usual high turnout of members. We had a good discussion on our handicapping system and have subsequently decided to implement a new system for this season. There is an article later that explains the changes. All members of the Sailing and GP committees gave this change their full support.

We also discussed the issues that we face with maintaining the club boats. You will see later that we have a boat maintenance work party planned before the training sessions start. At this point I would like to thank and praise the fantastic work provided by Neil Reid and John Galloway in keeping our boats working. However the current arrangement of one or two members taking on this task is unsustainable and we will need to find a better way of doing the work. Initially please make every effort to attend the maintenance work party and please do consider getting more involved throughout the season; particularly if you use a club boat.

Our annual dinner dance was as successful as ever and enclosed are a list of trophy and series winners; many thanks to Pete Gardner for his work in sorting out the trophies and applying the touch of silver polish when required. Many members talked to me and other GP committee members about considering an alternative venue for next year. We discussed this at our initial meeting and are proposing to use Chapel-en-le-Frith Golf Club this year. The proposed date is Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>; we will of course formally confirm this at a later date. I would like to thank Judy Gibbons for her thorough and professional work on generating a range of options for us to consider.

## WORK PARTIES

The first work party is almost upon us: Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> 10 am, quickly followed by the second a week later on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> at the same time.

Please make every effort to attend as we achieve so much on these pre-season days which has an enormous benefit for the sailing through the season. We'll provide you with cakes and warm drinks to keep you going and you provide us all with your charm, skill and effort...don't miss out!



## BOAT MAINTENANCE WORK PARTY

**Saturday April 1st 10 to 12**



We will rig and possibly sail all of our club boats to ensure that all are ready for use.

This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and, if you already have them, share with less experienced members so do make every effort to attend .

## RACING RULES EVENT

**Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> 18.45 at Errwood Sailing Club**

Derbyshire Youth Sailing is providing an introduction and insight into the Racing Rules. There will be a guest expert RYA speaker.

This event is open and relevant to sailors of all ages and experience so why not attend to brush-up on and learn this crucial element to our sport.

Bob Pyett recently attended a similar event and reported it was an excellent presentation that was very useful to him and has improved his performance in race conditions; so I hope to see you there.

## **Combs Calendar and Racing Series...all you ever wanted or needed(?) to know:**

The sailing club calendar will be on the club website very soon, just a few things to tweak, and will also be available as a Google calendar which can be viewed in the calendar on Android phones.

Some members who have recently joined the club – and some long standing ones too – are mystified by the encryption used in the calendar, so this is an attempt to explain what it all means.

Calendar events are in three broad groups, off the water events like work parties and social events which I don't think need any explanation, sailing without racing and races.

Sailing without races is usually training or family sailing. You don't have to take your relatives to family sailing – all it means is that there will be a patrol boat out so that inexperienced sailors can practice with the knowledge that there is someone to fish them out. It's called family sailing because it's a good time for parents who want to teach their children.

Sail training is self explanatory. The club aims to teach people to sail and to improve their sailing. It's less obvious that this is also like family sailing. There will be patrol boats out and any member can go sailing. The difference is that the training will have first call on the club boats.

The last and largest group of events on the calendar are the races. If the race will end up with a prize on one day it's a trophy event, if it takes several days it's a series event. Both types are spread out through the year so a series event might be punctuated by several trophy events.

The first series of the year is the H series – which apparently stands for Handicap series – confusing because most races at Combs are handicap races. The A series is the Spring series, the B series is the Summer series and the C series is the frostbite or winter series. There are also WH (Wednesday handicap) and WS (Wednesday Summer) series. So for example if you see B3 on the calendar it means it's the third day of the B series. Simple!

Trophy events each have their own requirements and I'm not going to explain them all here. Details are on the website if you want to know more. Often there will be more than one trophy event on the same day so that everyone will have a race they can enter.

Trophy events will normally start at noon or at 1pm. They start at noon if they are conventional races where all boats start together and the aim is to fit in four races and 1pm if they're pursuit races when there are generally only two races.

I haven't covered open meetings, Supernova series, open days and a few other bits but feel free to ask any member to find out how mystified they are.

### **POWER BOAT TRAINING**

We have been able to organise power boat training for all of our sailors who do a safety boat duty for our races and who provide safety cover for the family sailing days. and lead the instruction for the sail training course.

It is really important that all members who perform this role attend one of these training sessions. We will be contacting our safety boat drivers to invite them directly.

**The dates are: Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Instructor power boat training:** We are currently negotiating for a sailing instructors power boat course with a date to be confirmed, but obviously before the training commences, we'll let everyone know once details have been confirmed.

## 2017 CHANGES TO COMBS HANDICAPS

The Sailing Committee has decided to follow the RYA recommendation to set boat PYs to take account of individual performance on local water. The new PYs will take effect for all Series and Trophy races for the 2017 season.

The Pursuit races will continue to be based on personal performance recorded for the previous two years.

The sailing committee will review the impact throughout the season although we anticipate that racing will be keener and there could well be some surprising winners to many events.

Class	Configuration	Races	Appearances	Confidence	PN	Last PN
ALBACORE	2 S 0	98	98	0.11	1006	1045
BYTE CII	1 U 0	143	257	0.47	1129	1148
GP14	2 S C	55	72	0.06	1146	1131
GRADUATE	2 S 0	3	6	0	1115	1132
LASER	1 U 0	34	38	0	1122	1095
LASER RADIAL	1 U 0	22	31	0	1155	1136
LIGHTNING 368	1 U 0	32	41	0	1175	1164
PHANTOM	1 U 0	78	86	0.1	1026	995
RS 200	2 S A	23	23	0	1064	1047
RS 300	1 U 0	3	3	0	931	979
RS AERO 7	1 U 0	28	29	0	1067	1066
RS AERO 9	1 U 0	36	36	0	1026	1028
RS QUBA PRO	1 U 0	1	1	0	1283	1220
SOLO	1 U 0	1	1	0	1179	1140
SUPERNOVA - new rules	1 U 0	141	230	0.41	1068	1075
SUPERNOVA - old rules	1 U 0	125	215	0.43	1088	1075
TOPPER	1 U 0	7	8	0	1397	1341

### FIRST RACE OF THE SEASON

What a nice feeling this is!

## Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> H1 series

And as a small inducement there will be warm punch and nibbles to help your body recover after the shock of the cold water and the unusual exertion that it had forgotten all about through the dark winter months.



## Sail Training

The Combs Sail Training programme is a series of practical exercises designed to teach the basics of sailing and then progress individuals through to more advanced dinghy helming.

It's a ten week Saturday afternoon programme starting in April and completed before the schools break for the summer holidays. We will have three modules: Beginners, Improvers and Start to Race. And while students will initially be allocated to a module, they can be moved at any time to a more suitable module if they make progress or do not feel comfortable in the allocated module.

Combs have used this programme for a number of seasons. If you are prepared to commit to the course, as a beginner on completion of the course you will be able to sail a dinghy. As an Improver or on the Start to Race module you will make significant improvements to your dinghy sailing skills.

All tuition is given by qualified Dinghy Instructors or Race coaches. As the club maintains a fleet of dinghies to facilitate our training programme we do have to charge for the programme. The ten week course costs £80 for adults and £40 for juniors. If you have your own boat and wish to use it, that's not a problem.

We also will be running a five week junior sailing section for our younger members. This is more of a junior sailing based club than a training course. Whilst instructors will run the course, given the age of the children involved, we do expect the parents to take an active role in the activity. The cost will be £25 for this activity.

We'll send an email to all members very soon outlining the process for registration.

### Dates for your diary

Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>

Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>

Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>

Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>

Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>

Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>

Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>

Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>

Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Your GP Committee    Who we are and what we do:**

2017 membership	Elected at the AGM December 2016
Keith Muncey	Commodore
Bob Pyett	Rear Commodore
Mike Craddock	Treasurer
Judy Gibbons	Secretary
Robert Rawlinson	member
Chris Woolley	member
Russell Talbot	member
Louis Saunders	Sailing Committee Chair
Mark Hesketh	member co-opted on to the committee at our February 15th meeting
Andy Butler	Membership secretary; he attends when membership matters are on the agenda

**What we do:**

We meet mostly monthly from January to October but without a meeting in August.

Essentially the committee addresses all issues to do with the practical functioning of the club; we try to make sure that everything is in place so that we can all do what we joined the club to do...which is sail.

The committee members work as a team to achieve the many and varied tasks that need sorting; picking up individual matters so all doesn't fall at the feet of the Commodore.

A typical agenda is included below to give you a flavour of our discussions; the minutes of our meetings will be posted on the website once they have been confirmed as a true record at the subsequent meetings

The agenda is set by committee members but we do need an input from members if you believe that there is a matter that you believe should be considered to improve and develop our club. Please talk to any of us and let us know.

If anyone would like to get involved or come along to a meeting to see what we get up to please ask and we would be delighted to see you.

A typical agenda CSC GP Committee; for our meeting in February 2017

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of previous meetings      2016 11 14 and 2017 01 11
3. Matters arising from each minute
4. Sail training
5. Work parties, including boat maintenance, and pre-season
6. Calendar
7. Newsletter
8. Commodore's report
9. Treasurer's report
10. Reports from committee task leads
11. Strategy and forward planning
12. AOB

### Combs Sailing Club Trophies – Season 2016

Trophy	Event	Helm	Crew	silver
High Peak Trophy	High Peak Regatta	Combs S C		-
406 Trophy	Traveller	J Bennett		
Fothergill Trophy	Most Improved Helm	K Muncey		
Crown Quart	Menagerie Summer Trophy	R Talbot		
Philip Sainter Trophy	Menagerie Autumn Trophy	E Haselden	J Haselden	C Woolley
Rags Smith Memorial TR (Hailer)	Menagerie Spring Points (A)	E Haselden	J Haselden	K Belford
	Bart's Bash Day	R Pyett		C Woolley
Winter Series Goblet	Winter Series	C Woolley		
Hong Kong Trophy	Most Successful Crew		J Haselden	
Combs Selling Plate	No Previous Trophy	J Galloway		
Junior Points	Junior Series	R Reid		
Copper Pot	Single Handed Trophy	R Talbot		C Woolley
Dennis Troop Trophy	Handicap Trophy	A Pyett		C Woolley
Davison Pursuit Trophy	2 x 1 Hour	T Gibbons		
Jack Beattie Pursuit Trophy	1 x 2 Hour	A Sant		
Ron Wearing Pursuit Trophy	2 x 1 Hour	D Staley		
Wilson Memorial Plate	Laser Trophy.	K Fox-Davies		
Firefly Challenge Cup	G.P.14 Summer Trophy	P Gardner	S Woolley	
Tiller Trophy	Ladies Series	A Wake	-	
Firefly Flush Bowl	Single Handed in 2 Man Boat	P Gardner		
Leslie Smythe Trophy	Handicap Series (H)	E Haselden	J Haselden	K Belford
	New Year's Day	E Haselden	J Haselden	A Butler
Russell Challenge Cup	G.P.14 Autumn Trophy	N Whiteley	M Hesketh	
	Sprint Series 1	S Reid		C Woolley
	Sprint Series 2	R Talbot		K Muncey
	Sprint Series 3	R Whitehouse		R Rawlinson

Quayles Tail Ender	Last Wednesday Race	T Burscough		
-	Menagerie Summer Points (B)	E Haselden	J Haselden	K Belford
Anniversary Trophy	Anniversary Regatta	K Muncey		
-	Wednesday Handicap Series	L Saunders		J Bennett
OM Smith Salver	Over 50's	R Pyett		T Burscough
-	Wednesday Single Handed in 1 Man Boat	L Saunders	-	J Bennett
Bobrykowski (Thompson) Trophy	First Wednesday Race	A Sant	-	
	Wednesday August Series	P Quayle		T Burscough
Lifeboat Pennant 1		A Wake		
Lifeboat Pennant 3	-	A Wake		
Tiger Trophy	Supernova Series	K Belford	-	
	Spring Pursuit	N Reid	R Reid	



### Club Clothing

Ready for the start of the new sailing season, club clothing samples will be on display in the clubhouse during both work parties.

Hopefully, we plan to place an order of club clothing on the 30th April 2017. To order clothing please complete an order form and give to either Eric or Julie Haselden with a cheque made payable to Combs Sailing Club.

Eric & Jules

## **General Purpose Committee Report 2016**

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and commitment during the year. The committee met on a monthly basis with the exception of an August break. Andy Brown is standing down at the end of this season and on behalf of all the CSC members I would like to thank him for his work and excellent advice over a number of seasons. Andy's expertise in the grant application process and advice on child protection issues has been a real benefit to the club.

### **Membership.**

Our overall membership is stable at 129; this is despite the loss of a single family group of seven in 2016. The number of memberships (count a family as one member) is up slightly. Of concern is our churn (number who don't renew over total membership) which remains high at 16% compared with the RYA data for England of 8%. This maybe a reflection of the members we recruit at Open Days but don't manage to keep. We need to consider what more we can do to retain new members. We have 28 children amongst our membership. And our male/female ratio is 70% / 30% compared with the RYA England ratio of 65% / 35%. Thanks to our membership secretary Andy Butler for all the hard work he does behind the scenes. Andy has developed an online membership renewal form, which we will be rolling out for the 2017 season. A written renewal form will also be available for members who do not wish to use the online facility. Now that we have accurate records of the boats in the boat park it has been decided that we no longer need the annual boat stickers.

### **Online Banking.**

Thanks to our excellent Hon Treasurer Mike Craddock we are now linked to the world of online banking via our Unity Bank account. Members will be able to pay their 2017 season subscriptions electronically. We will retain cheque deposits for members who do not wish to use this facility.

### **Canal & River Trust Fees.**

The review carried during the season resulted in an increase of £669.60 giving an annual sum of £3788, agreed until March 2019.

### **Community Amateur Sports Clubs.**

In 2016 the government introduced new rules for clubs such as ourselves that wish to remain CASC's must now comply with. Apart from various financial restrictions we must demonstrate that at least 50% of our membership participate on "ten" occasions per year. Initially we will be asking members to tick a box on the renewal form stating they have met the participation threshold or not.

### **Boat Park.**

As the boat park is nearing capacity the club has made an offer to purchase a triangle of land adjacent to the lower end of the boat park. We have also taken steps to utilise more effectively the section of land owned by the CRT which we have been using to store road trailers. Whilst researching the acquisition of the adjacent land we found that the club has not registered the land we own with the Land Registry. The land deeds have now been recovered and steps will be taken to carry out the registration process. Thanks to Robert Rawlinson, Stephen Shuff and Judy Gibbons for their professional guidance with these issues.

### **RYA Regional Changes.**

We were advised that Combs along with Toddbrook and Glossop Sailing Clubs would be moved out of the RYA North West region and into a new Midlands super region. We were not happy about this proposal as several seasons ago we requested a transfer from the West Midlands region to the North West region. The club vigorously opposed the RYA proposal to the extent we hosted a meeting at the club attended by the RYA Chairman and an RYA National executive. Unfortunately, whilst we received some short term assurances we were unable to stop the move going ahead. Time will tell if the change proves detrimental to the development of the club and its members.

### **HMRC Corporation Tax.**

The club have an outstanding HMRC penalty of £200 for non-submission of Corporation Tax returns. We have restructured the CSC management representative's and engaged a firm of accountants so that HMRC now recognises submissions made on behalf of CSC. The outstanding returns have now been submitted and the fine appealed.

### **Work Parties and Facilities Maintenance.**

Thanks to an intrepid group of members working through the winter months we have been able to erect a bespoke racking system in the new hut. Thanks to Russell Talbot for sorting out the design and engineering and to the members who helped put it all together. We have been concerned for a number of years that the clubhouse is showing some signs of settlement. This was particularly evident alongside the main entrance door. Thanks to a procedure devised and implemented by Russell we were able to locally jack the building and introduce replacement support members. Thanks to all members who attended the work parties. The attendance for the pre-season dates was encouraging but a little disappointing on the post season dates. The erosion wall built in 2015 is holding up well but will need to be supplemented with stone ballast on the adjacent grass to enable efficient surface water run-off. The continuing high water levels means other erosion sites will have to be addressed if we don't want to lose more valuable boat park land. Personal effects lockers were purchased but found to be unsuitable, we still intend to fit them if suitable lockers can be sourced. We were able to replace the chairs in the clubhouse and retain a number of the old chairs should they ever be needed. Whilst we did purchase a second hand Solo dinghy the size of the clubs fleet of boats remains static. The club boats enable us to run the sail training programme and were also used regularly throughout the season. Thanks go to our hard working bosuns Neil Reid and John Galloway.

### **Group Membership.**

Whilst we feel we have developed an excellent working relationship with all our group members. We are conscious that at least one of our group members have approached other local sailing clubs and enquired about facilities and prices etc. Open Water swimming continues to be a problem during the summer months, for both sailors and our friends from Prince Albert Angling Association.

Bob Pyett Commodore 12.12.2016

# Sailing Committee Report 2016

## **1. Social Media**

This year headed up by Jenn Bennett we have seen the introduction of a Combs Facebook group which has turned out to be a great success. The benefits of social media has not only helped with image of the club but has filled a key gap with regards to re-organising duty swaps and posting updates. The Sailing Committee is looking to continue to add and support this feature into 2017.

## **2. Club Clothing**

We have wanted to update our clothing range for a couple of years now, and this year with the help of Julie and Eric Haselden we have successfully done so. Jenn and Ian Bennett helped redesign the clothing with a new logo the results have been better than expected. Orders will be taken over 2-3 months depending on demand throughout the sailing season.

## **3. Personal Handicapping System**

The personal handicapping system has been in place for some time now and continues to provide the intended outcome when applied to pursuit racing. Towards the end of the season Russell Talbot proposed a new type of system that the RYA encourage so clubs can set their own handicaps based on the conditions on their water. This will provide individual handicaps tailored to Combs based on our results to be used in club racing. Its early days for this, but the Sailing Committee will be looking to discuss this in full in the coming months.

## **4. Sail Training**

The sail training based on the RYA 10 week format and continues to go from strength to strength. This year especially we have seen the some of our pupil's transition into club racing to further develop their skills. For the training team this is taken as a huge success! It should be noted that the training team are all volunteers and I would like to offer a big thank you for all their efforts.

## **5. RYA Push the Boat Out**

Held on 21<sup>st</sup> May the Combs Open day or Push the boat out was held, hoping to entice new blood into the sport. This year wasn't to live up to previous years as we were met with a dull gusty day which resulted in a lower turnout than expected.

## **6. Bart's Bash**

This year saw 23 sailors race in support of the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation which is the largest sailing event in the world. The participation from Combs was down a little from the previous year; however a few of our regular sailors were unable to attend. Next year the event will be held over the weekend of 16-17<sup>th</sup> September.

## **7. Supernova & Byte Open's**

The Supernova's had a great entry of 20 this year which was a marked improvement over last year due to cancellation. And I am pleased to say that 10 of which were Combs members. The highest club member was Stuart Reid placing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. The Byte's had an entry of 13, unfortunately missing a few regular sailors, but still managing to put 4 Combs boats on the water thanks to Chris Woolley and Stuart Reid. The highest club member was Louis Saunders placing 1<sup>st</sup> overall.

## **8. High Peak Regatta Trophy**

The High Peak Regatta was held at Combs this year with an oval turnout of 29 sailors, 13 of which from Combs. All clubs provided a strong showing, however it was the Byte fleet that took the top 3 spots overall backed by a very strong Combs team slowing down the remaining competition. This important win brings the club only a 3 wins away from over taking Glossop with the most wins. Next year the event will be held at Toddbrook.

## **9. Club National Results**

2016 saw over a dozen sailors venture outside the comforts of their home water to represent Combs and compete across the country. There are far too many accomplishments to list however a few of the highlights are: Stuart Reid placing 12<sup>th</sup> and Rob Rawlinson placing 75<sup>th</sup> in the Supernova Nationals; Rick Whitehouse winning both the Byte Inlands and 2016 Traveller Series; Louis Saunders winning the Byte Nationals; Jenn Bennett placing 28<sup>th</sup> in the Firefly Nationals overall after leading the championship only to succumb to gear failure and Eric & Julie Haselden placing 19<sup>th</sup> in the Albacore Nationals.

