



Combs Sailing Club Newsletter

No 219

January/February 2012

From the Commodore's Comfy Chair



Although there has been very little sailing at Combs (our editor has been out!) since the last newsletter there has been a lot going on behind the scenes to prepare for the coming season.

There's more about our exciting electricity project below.

Our sailing programme for the coming year is now on the website and this year there is more going on than ever. In conjunction with the RYA regional coach we are organising more training and there should be something suitable for many members – details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is a Racing Rules workshop on the 22 March and a First Aid course on the 17 March. There are also work parties to look forward to on the 4th and 11th of March. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am afraid that due to cost, we have not been able to arrange any karting.

In a fit of foolhardy optimism I am hoping that the mild winter will lead to a mild spring and warm summer that we can all make the most of. Let's hope so!

Russell Talbot

Electricity



Work on our project to install mains electricity to the clubhouse is on schedule, with the new meter box constructed in the carpark and underground cables laid, and we are currently seeing if we can stretch the budget to include heating in the clubhouse. I hope that this will be ready by the beginning of the season. When complete this will give us all the

While snow lies on the ground, Russell sheds tears of joy at the thought of a warm clubhouse

usual benefits of electricity without a generator as well as frost protection for the plumbing, hot showers even if the hot water hasn't been on, closed circuit TV coverage of the boat park, lighting in the wooden hut, patrol boat hut and toilets and a fridge. This will open the way to making more evening use of the clubhouse as well as using video for training and more winter use of the club.



New meter house in car park

Editorial

I've managed two sails so far this year, the first at the club on New Year's Day and the second at Glossop in the first of their winter handicap series. Unfortunately my boat broke on the trailer on the way home and is now waiting for some slightly better weather for me to glue it back together!

It's been a particular pleasure putting together this newsletter because of the amount of winter activity. Read on for all the news.

Andy Butler

2012 Season: Floating Ladies and the High Peak Regatta

Members will see we have made some quite significant changes and additions to this seasons sailing programme. We have only listed the duty allocations up to the end of April as some membership renewals are still outstanding. If your renewal is outstanding, it would be a tremendous help if you can forward it to Tony. We hope to have all the duties allocated by the end of February.

I have highlighted some of the season's new events below.

It's our turn to host the High Peak regatta this season. And it's vital we regain the Trophy after our blowout at Glossop last year. We will also be hosting the Derbyshire Youth Sailing Open Meeting and Open Meetings for the Supernova, Byte C11 and GP14 classes of dinghy.

You will not see a ladies series shown on the calendar as we are intending to instigate a "Floating Ladies Series". Alex Bowden will coordinate the racing to enable races to be held when it is convenient for the ladies taking part. We have also arranged for one of the UK's top RYA coaches to come along and hold a ladies only racing course at the club.

Norman and Paul have eight Saturdays booked for sail training. They will also be assisted by the Combs newly qualified RYA Level II racing coaches. We will also be holding a two day "Start to Race" weekend in June using both our Combs RYA coaches and external RYA coaches.

June will also see our first Family Sailing and Boat Handling evening. Aimed primarily at our non racing sailors, an external RYA coach will come along and offer guidance and instruction in all aspects of dinghy sailing.

During the cold and windy winter months eight of our members completed Power Boat and Rescue Boat courses. We will be structuring power boat instruction sessions for members during the season to improve the skills and competence of members called upon to drive the Patrol Boats.

Last year, we offered limited patrol Boat coverage during the school summer holidays. This year we are extending the coverage to six Wednesday afternoons. And if there is sufficient interest from club members-be they retired on holiday or just throwing a sickie, we will schedule racing in the afternoon.

We will be celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday 5th June with a special race in the afternoon followed by a meal in the soft evening sunshine served on the recently extended veranda.

Bob Pyett

Female Sailing and Racing Initiatives

As a club we would like to continue to support our female sailors in sailing and racing as much as we can. Therefore this year we are implementing two new initiatives aimed at encouraging and improving the sailing and racing skills of our female sailors.



Firstly, we have decided that the ladies racing series (normally held over 8 Wednesday nights) will become a 'floating series' in that the ladies races will not be fixed into the calendar on specific days. Instead the races will be scheduled on either Sundays or Wednesdays that suit the interested ladies best- we are hoping this will enable more females to participate in the ladies racing series. The floating series will be arranged primarily through myself and I will, before the beginning of the

season, email out to female sailors a list of available Wednesdays and Sundays for you to indicate your interest and availability.

Secondly, the Sailing Committee have managed to secure two days of training, specifically for us ladies, with an RYA coach! The two days will consist of coaching in general sailing techniques in the morning sessions through to utilising these techniques in a racing situation in the afternoon sessions. The training is aimed at females who can sail a triangular course, launch and recover themselves and are looking to improve their basic sailing skills and confidence. The training will be especially beneficial to those ladies who are keen to begin participating in club racing this season. The sessions will be held at the club on: Sunday 20th May and Sunday 17th June, roughly between 9am and 6pm. There is availability for up to 8 boats, so if you are interested or want more information please get in touch with me.

I am, along with the rest of the sailing committee, really keen to increase the number of females racing and I think these two new initiatives will be a brilliant way to help achieve this. So ladies if you've considered trying club racing but haven't quite taken the plunge yet this is the year to do it!

If anyone has any questions about the ladies initiatives or beginning to race in general feel free to contact me or you'll most likely find me at the club on racing days.

This all looks to make it an exciting year of sailing and improvement for us female sailors...the men will have to watch their backs!

Alex Bowden

RYA : ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing Workshop

We have arranged a rules workshop for Thursday 22nd March at the Railway Pub in Whaley Bridge. Starting at 7:15 the workshop will be presented by Mr Peter Johnson the RYA North West Region rules expert.

It would also be helpful to if we had some ideas of the numbers intending to attend. A little closer to the event will put a thread on the website forum; if you wish to attend can you please add your name to the thread.

To cover the various expenses involved we would like members attending to contribute £2

Bob Pyett

Sailracer

If you're not subscribed to Sailracer, follow this link to their latest news.



<http://www.sailracer.org/link.asp?news=125&id=.1402472>

2012 Dinghy Show

There are still a few places available in the minibus going down to the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show on Saturday 3rd March at Alexandra Palace in North London.

It's a great opportunity to see all the latest boats and gear and to have a close look at a good selection of some of the equipment and clothing on offer – something you can't do locally.

A reminder that the cost will be about £10 plus entry to the show.

Contact Russell asap if you want to go.

First Aid Training

An RYA First Aid course is being planned for 17th March for our forthcoming Level II Racing Coaches – a first aid qualification is a mandatory requirement for any RYA instructor/coach. We're still finalising the details, but there should be places available to other club members on a first come, first served basis at a modest cost.

Please contact Andy to express your interest.

Caption Competition

Here's the entry from Russell for last month's competition:

"Don't just stand there, hike harder!"



I couldn't resist including this image (below) in the caption competition as soon as I received it from Alex Bowden (thanks also to James Lucas). It's the sleeve cover from John Saunders' new rap album, but what is he really thinking? Suggestions to Andy.



Mystery Object



So what is it? Found on a beach in Devon where Merlin Rockets had been parked – is it part of one of them?
Its overall length is 175mm and the diameter is 7mm. Any idea? Contact Andy

Forthcoming Events

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

Date	Time	Event	Duties
Saturday 3 rd March		Club visit to Dinghy Show in London	Contact Russell
Sunday 4 th March	10:00- 12:00	Work Party	
Sunday 11 th March	10:00- 12:00	Work Party	
Saturday 17 th March		First Aid Course Trinity Church Hall, Buxton Road, Whaley Bridge	Contact Andy
Sunday 18 th March	13:00	H1 Handicap	OOD - E Caunt AOD - N Whiteley PB - K Belford
Thurs 22 nd March	19:15	RYA/ISAF Racing Rules Workshop Railway pub, Whaley Bridge, £2	
Sunday 25 th March	10:00	H2 Handicap	OOD - W Lomas AOD - N Whiteley PB - A Brown
Sunday 1 st April	12:00	H3 Handicap SN1 Supernova Points	OOD - S Sloan AOD - N Whiteley PB - D Staley