

31 1/2

Issue 107

AUTUMN 2013



Wilsonian
Sailing Club
Magazine

Calendar

Date	Event	Notes	Tide
Sun 27 th Oct	Laying up Cup	First warning signal 12:55	11:57 low
Sun 3 rd Nov	Start of Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	12:18 6.1
Sun 10 th Nov	Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	10:47 low
Sun 17 th Nov	Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	12:11 6.1
Sun 24 th Nov	Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	10:37 low
Sun 1 st Dec	Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	11:01 5.8
Sun 8 th Dec	Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	10:10 low
Sun 15 th Dec	Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	11:03 5.8
Sun 22 nd Dec	Frostbite series	First warning signal 11:15	15:33 5.7
Wed 1 st Jan	Chilly Willies Open	First warning signal 10:55	12:17 5.8



Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of 31 Y!

This edition has been brought forwards from its usual publication date in November in order to promote the Dinner and Dance and other winter activities happening. As it happens it also coincided with me having to open a new exhibition at the Museum (not very good planning on my part!) so it has been edited in the evenings after rather long days, so please accept my apologies for any glaring errors!

It has, however been an enjoyable edition to edit as I had a flood of articles to squeeze into the pages and lots of photographs too. It has been great to have some more articles from the Juniors and there are plenty of articles to give an insight into many of the other activities happening at the club outside of Sunday racing.

Thank you to all the contributors and I hope the next edition brings just as many articles.

We go to print just before the laying up cup this weekend. Bad weather has hampered numbers on the last few Sundays but here is hoping for fair winds and a good turnout for the last race of the series and of course the laying up supper! (see page 14)

I hope you enjoy this edition.
Good sailing!

Amy

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Front page: Wilsonian Sailing Club is made an RYA Champion Club



From the Commodore

Bob and I decided take a short break and try a different style of sailing, which was on a Brittany Ferry to Santander, then onto Covadonga in the National Parc de los Picos of Europa (the National Park) of Northern Spain.

On one of the trips from our Hotel to the Coast we decided to stop at Ribadesella, an Old Port Straddling the mouth of the Sella River.

It is here on the first Saturday in August every year that a multicoloured flotilla of kayaks arrives for an International Regatta.

This took me swiftly back to WSC and our **Medway Regatta** held on the 13th/14th July. The regatta was yet another successful event thanks to Colin Treadwell and his team who organized it all and the dependable sponsorship of MTS services for their excellent quality polo shirts. Also thanks to Harken and Hyde Sails for Raffle prizes Hats and Sail Bags. Sadly, Colin has decided to step down as the lead for the organization, so an extra big thank you for all his hard work in the past to make the event successful.

We had 72 entries this year, which was a little down on last year's numbers, but not too bad given the current economic climate and general reduction in travelling to events. Having said all that, we did have 20 clubs participating. The furthest travelled competitor being Angus Winchester from Castle Semple in Renfrewshire, Angus was also the furthest travelled last year which must clearly mean he really does enjoy coming to the regatta.

Ben Grey, aged 13, was the youngest junior participant at the event. Ben completed all 4 races in a single hander and was thought deserving of the Bill Stewart Cup.

Cup Prize Winners

Ben Grey



From the Commodore Continued...

We were lucky enough to have warm sunny weather, but of course with good weather came light winds. The event was followed by a BBQ and a social time to catch up with friends, family and visitors.

The Medway River Festival, held at Gun Wharf Chatham, was held on the 6th July and I took my Hartley 12 and put in on the MSBA (Medway and Swale Boating Association formally MYA) stand to advertise WSC, our Junior On Board, Skimmers, Adult Improvers sessions and the Medway Regatta. MYC redirected their afternoon racing to be in front of main area on the river at Gun Wharf and prizes were awarded by the council for the winner of the race.

There were stands and organizations; such as the healthy eating diving club, MYC and multiple food caterers on the grassy area by the river. Next year I was hoping we could have stand for WSC and encourage the Junior Skimmers to do their racing by the wharf.

Junior week, at the end of August, was very well attended again with 40 children and endless parents and grandparents. The week culminated in a Regatta. Our thanks to Ann Heather who does the mammoth job of coordinating it all and to Peter Horner and all the Instructors and safety boat drivers who take their well earned annual leave to volunteer to help with this exhilarating week for the kids. Ann has kindly offered to coordinate next year and we swiftly took up her offer. Junior Week next year will be 19th - 23rd August 2014.

I would like to give you a bit of insight into some funding we have been awarded from the RYA. This funding was designed to give the opportunity for adult sailors and visitors to our Open Day to have another chance to sail with some coaching from an RYA coach.



The Adult Improvers has been running alongside the Junior Skimmers on Saturday morning between 9-1pm, but with separate volunteers and safety boat crew. Many thanks to Jeremy who has coordinated the group. My thanks also go to all others who helped with this project including using their own boats to take some of the adults and manning the safety boats especially Brian Richard and Martin. The response was amazing and we had any number of members, guardian members and new members each week, even 17 one week but on average about 10 participants.

We were lucky enough to have the services of Andy Kerr, RYA Coach, who came and gave us 3 full mornings of coaching. These courses with Andy followed on from our own adult course, run by Peter in June, so members could continue to improve. I think the course has been tremendously valuable to get members back on the water, perhaps we can endeavor to do it again next year.

We have also got partial funding for a Race Coaching course Level 2 for 6 participants with a possible date on the 7th/8th December 2013.

Saturday Skimmers have gone from strength to strength coordinated by a band of dedicated instructors from April to October.

From the Commodore continued...

The beginners group headed up by Lesley O'Rourke has also proved very popular, there have been 25 different participants during the season some of whom will be joining the racing group next year.

Skimmers will now require an intermediate group, which means more safety cover will be needed and the purchase of a second engine for Redstart. This is because, at present, there is only one suitable engine between Redstart and the Dory. Therefore, on the last Saturday of their season, the skimmers organized a Sponsored Endurance Sail to raise money for new out boards and sails. This was well attended and each junior raised money the most for one person being £100 quite something. Skimmers is a true benefit to the club bringing in more juniors and eventually into our Sunday racing -- these juniors are our club's future.

Last but not least, thankfully we had more funding -- EON, who usually gives us money for tee shirts for Junior Week, gave us half the money for a second hand FEVA if National Grid would fund the other half. This was all agreed and the FEVA purchased in time for Junior week. As were the 5 new Optimists Trolleys and 1 Topper Trolley, I asked if there was any money available from Cllr Vaughan Howett (now last Mayor of Medway) and he got us £825 funding from Chris Irvine of the Peninsula Ward.

Please don't forget to book yourself into the Annual Prize Giving Dinner and Dance at Medway Yacht Club on the 7th December or the Laying Cup Supper at the club on 27th October.

I hope you have enjoyed and enjoy the season and for those who continue into the Winter Series.

It's been an exciting and very enthusiastic year thank you everyone.

Christine Godber

Commodore WSC Hartley 12 1214



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Wilsonian Sailing Club

Annual Prize Giving, Dinner & Dance

Date : 7th December 2013

Time : 6:30 for 7:00, carriages midnight

Place : Medway Yacht Club

Cost : £25.00 per adult

£19.00 per child (under 12)

Three Course Meal with Coffee & Mints, Cheese Table and Music

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Medway Yacht Club

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Menu selection forms available
from Jane Treadwell, Carole Johnson or CDO.

Wilsonian Sailing Club

Annual Prize Giving, Dinner & Dance

7th December 2013, 6:30 for 7:00

£25.00 per adult

£19.00 per child (under 12)

Baked Camembert

with a Tower & Ouse Crab and Tomato Plate

or

Minted Soup

with Garden Cream

or

Baked Salmon with Parma Ham & Salsa Verde

Served with Omelette, Grilled Asparagus & Potato Gratin

or

Seared Beef Fillet with Pomme Rostie & Bearnaise Sauce

Served with Chateau Potato & Cauliflower Cheese

or

Mozzarella & Roasted Vegetable Lattice with Pesto Glaze

Served with Seasoned Vegetables

or

Chocolate Fondant with Blueberry Ice Cream

or

Lemon Posset with Ginger Snap Biscuit

or

Coffee and Mints

or

Cheese Table

All special dietary requirements will be forwarded to the Chef

Full payment & menu choice to:

Jane Treadwell or Carole Johnson

Medium Handicap Fleet Report

I am starting to write this shortly before the end of the main sailing season on a very wet and windy Sunday morning. I have decided to give sailing (or swimming!) a miss and go and buy some new ski boots.

I have had a look through the winners of our series and recorded them below.

	Spring	Early Summer	Late Summer	Autumn To come	Overall To come
1st	Gordon Belcher - Laser	Stewart - Robertson - Blaze	Chris Saunders - Blaze		
2nd	Stewart - Robertson - Blaze	Stuart Bailey - Blaze	Stewart - Robertson - Blaze		
3rd	Graham - Jenkinson - Laser	Martin Jessop - Streaker	Bob Dutton & Stan Spout - Wavfarer		

Also, as Matt Love is currently leading the Autumn Series after 4 races, it looks as if we may have different winners for the 4 series. So the season's winner to get their name on our new trophy is not yet clear.

We have had more people sailing this year perhaps helped by the better weather this summer – yes we really had a summer this year. Two factors do lie behind this however. First is that we have a lot more Blaze sailors this year with several people moving from other boats. Second has been the increase in Laser sailors with, in particular, a number of teenagers starting to sail regularly. This is down to the efforts of Al Cooke who has been encouraging the juniors and pressing everyone to sail their Lasers more. It also reflects the success of the Skimmers scheme giving people the confidence to sail more. So thanks go to Al and to all those who support the Skimmer schemes. (Al himself would have better results if he launched on time and signed on!)

The Sailing Committee will shortly be discussing the organisation of the sailing in 2014. Even if it is too soon to give the Blazes and Lasers separate starts their results can be separated out to recognise the best class sailors.

Hope to see many of you on the water in what is left of the main season. I will be pressing a few people to take over as Class Captain – volunteers welcome if you want to give me a call. I will also welcome any ideas for the Fleet evening this year – are you happy with Hoo Ness Yacht Club and would you like a change. My number is in the handbook!

Graham Jenkinson

Laser 191856

Right: The duty crew hoped to get away early!



Below: Wilsonian Grand Prix 2013



News from Saturday Sailing

Adult Skimmers 2013

If you have not been down to the club on a recent Saturday then you may be amazed by all the activity. Yes the Junior Skimmers team having been doing a fantastic job and this is becoming more and more popular. This year they have been joined from June to October by Adults keen to improve their sailing. When the scouts were around as well the club was a heave of activity.

The Adult Skimmers is designed to help those who have just learnt to sail to get the next level and be happy to sail in a range of conditions. After the Open Day Peter had run an RYA adult training course and after that Caroline, Steve, Russell, Clive became enthusiastic 'Skimmers'. They had the benefit of the new club boats, a Wayfarer and Laser 2000 which have been used every week.

But Adult Skimmers was not just for them! A number of Junior Skimmer parents were seeing how much fun their kids were having and fancied they might like sailing too. So it started with WSC members taking them out for rides often in their own boats. By the end of the season the likes of Simon, Steve, Chris and Mark were starting to see what great fun it could be and Neil and Vlad were getting their first taste of sail power.

But Adult Skimmers was not just for them! A number of folks who had sailed previously wanted to join the club and found the Saturday sailing much less intimidating than the full on Sunday sailing. So Faye, Terri and Fiona started to reawaken their enthusiasm.

But Adult Skimmers was not just for them! Several established WSC members wanted to improve their sailing skills and rebuild their confidence in different conditions. The Saturday morning format was ideal for Jane, Viva and Amanda to practice in a safe environment often in their own boat. They also got to try out new ones.

This would not have been possible without the regular participation of regular volunteers. Special thanks goes to Brian Lamb, Richard Seabrooke, Graham Jenkinson, Brian Warwick, Peter Horner, Andy Hockey and Nina Wallis who often lent their own boats for Skimmers to crew or helm.

We also had the support of the RYA who sponsored three mornings of RYA professional coaching in the form of Andy Kerr. Andy was fantastic in helping everyone improve no matter what their ability and that included the volunteer/instructors. His third session saw Adult Skimmers attendance peak at 18 sailors.

When you saw the keenest of the Adult Skimmers to join the Junior sponsored sail last Saturday you knew the extra volunteer effort was well worthwhile.

And this is just the start. If we can build on this we have a clear route to taking adult into regular club sailing. This will benefit all members by creating more activity and more volunteers. Please think what you can contribute next year to support this programme.

New Feva on the block!

The story starts with Jayne Lambert saying at the end of the 2012 season that the Juniors could do with another Feva. That was clear from the popularity of these boats on Skimmers days and at Junior week. One obvious idea was to ask Eon who had been generous sponsors of previous Junior weeks. Many of you still have the T shirts to show for it.

Eon were very positive and the £3200 we needed for a good quality Feva (we didn't want to give Geoff and Andy yet more work) was still more than they could offer. They recommended National Grid who run the Liquid Gas Terminal in Grain. National Grid kindly came up with half the money so Eon could contribute the other half.

We had agreed that we would add their logos to the sail and National Grid personnel selected the same Innovator for the new boat.

We found a suitable boat near Birmingham and Tom Lambert was on hand to tow it to WSC. It arrived just before Junior week and has been in constant use ever since. We now have 3 Feva regularly competing in Skimmers races. Watch out for the boat on the water.

Best regards,

Jeremy



Sailfest 2013

We always go to Barnham for the August Bank Holiday ... until everything changed at the last minute and we signed up for the first ever SailFest at the Weymouth Olympic venue instead.

Arriving Friday evening after a hideous journey in exactly the sort of traffic you'd expect at that time, we actually wondered if we'd got the right weekend. I'd expected the venue to be buzzing with sailing enthusiasts, yet there was barely anyone about. We spotted a trio of Phantoms displaying their distinctive class flag, but all neatly packed up for the night. Apparently about thirty boats had been out earlier in the day taking advantage of the coaching on offer.

Saturday dawned far windier than anticipated and gradually people arrived. Most had been staying offsite in the Olympic sailor accommodation or at the numerous B&Bs in Weymouth and Portland. There were in excess of 50 entries, but the venue certainly was not crowded. The morning briefing set the tone for the weekend – a relaxed atmosphere with the prospect of good racing, supported by post-racing video debriefs, informal boat tuning sessions and evening food and entertainment. Everyone was issued with a GPS tracker, so all the lifts and headers, tactical gains and errors of the races could be re-lived evermore!

Racing was underway by noon with five separate fleets. We were soon experiencing challenging conditions in Portland Harbour with winds averaging 20 knots. The three Altos sailed in the Spinnaker Fleet that comprised a number of similarly PY-rated classes making for some interesting inter-class racing.

In Race 1, Jon & Cameron (Alto 115) had a spinnaker rigging issue that necessitated a return to shore. Tim and Jo (Alto 119) had a close battle with a Laser 4000, ISO and Javelin, finishing the two lap race just behind the 4K. The bottom reach felt fast at the time – the GPS tracker recorded a max speed for 119 in excess of 17 knots.

Jon & Cameron were back on the water for Races 2 and 3 and stormed round the course in both. Even a capsize barely held them up and two solid results were achieved.

Sunday, well that was going to be lighter conditions... Can't say that was particularly obvious, seemed just as windy, if not worse! A useful bit of feedback from John in the ISO on the way out to the start line about the state of the jib luff tension and slot on 119 led to some minor adjustment that transformed the performance of the Alto. This time 115 and 119 were in close competition for the first two races with 109 also joining the action.

Shortly after the end of RS, the wind moved up another gear, and more than half the Spinnaker Fleet voted with their feet and returned to shore. Jon and Cameron once again showed their mettle whilst Tim and Jo wasted the chance of a good result with two swims on consecutive laps. [Note to crew – gybing practice required].



And then the Pursuit Race on Monday... By the time of the Alto, ISO and Javelin start, the wind was noticeably decreasing. On the second beat, it disappeared altogether for what seemed about 45 minutes. Everyone was stuck, wallowing in the residual chop of the previous two days. Then the sea breeze filled in with almost a 180 degree change of direction. Jon and Cameron were best-placed Alto in that race, finishing 17th, with Tim and Jo 25th and Chris and Sue 29th.

So what made Sailfest so good?

- 1) The relaxed and friendly atmosphere. It was great to meet up with friends and to make new acquaintances and talk boats!
- 2) Racing in Portland Harbour was ideal. If you had any gear issues there was time to get back ashore, sort out the problem and return for the next race. Some sailors had initially been disappointed that the racing wasn't held on the sea. As it happened the Coastguard took that decision away from the Race Committee given the wind and sea state. And managing the wind and waves in the harbour on Saturday and Sunday was plenty challenging enough for the majority.
- 3) The informal boat tuning sessions. We listened in on the ISO session and it was very interesting. Whilst there was class-specific feedback, there was useful general information as well.

So will we go back next year? That is the plan – with the Alto nationals to be incorporated in the Spinnaker Fleet racing. This year we were the sole WSC representative. If you don't mind travelling to events, consider making Sailfest 2014 one of them, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Jo Wicken



43rd Hoo Freezer 2014

15th & 16th February

Practice race on Saturday with the main Hoo Freezer on Sunday with an I am start on both days



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Keep an eye on our websites & sailracer.co.uk for details, entry forms, NOR and SI's

Laser 2000 Fleet Report

Another season fast approaching its conclusion, for me at least. Congratulations to Dave and Janice on winning both the Early Summer and Late Summer Points series.

I always thought I worked Lauren quite hard in the boat (though never hard enough), but clearly not as hard as Dave must have worked poor Janice in achieving his two series victories. He literally wore her out to the point where she now needs surgery on the hip. By the time you get to read this, Janice will have had her operation, and on behalf of the Fleet I wish her a full and speedy recovery.

I would also like to make special mention of Andy Hockey and Louise, who have travelled the country representing the club at a number of 2K Millennium Series events this season. At the time of writing they were competing at Rutland. I do hope they enjoyed their travels, and gained valuable experience and knowledge in the process.

We saw a lower turnout of 2Ks at this year's Regatta, but we still managed to get 8 of our own club boats out on the water. Our only visitors were Chris and Gill Jordan from Burghfield Sailing Club, who showed us all how to sail a 2K effectively, even on our own waters. Well done to them on their four straight race wins. Very well done also to Paul and Jayne, having briefly resurrected the old pairing for the event, on their second place overall.

The club was also very well represented at this year's Nationals, with 5 boats travelling to Pwllheli for a most enjoyable week. The host club's facilities were excellent, the members very friendly and the sailing waters in Cardigan Bay were just second to none. Even the weather was kind to us, for North Wales. We all had a great holiday week away.

Having been a solid and regular member of the 2K Fleet for some-time now, and a seasoned 2K Nationals campaigner, it is with some regret that I have to report the loss of John Hewat from the Fleet, but I'm sure we all hope John gets to enjoy sailing his new Blaze (aptly named considering the name of his company!). On behalf of the Fleet, I wish John every success with his single-handed sailing.

At the time of writing, I haven't decided on a date for our annual Fleet gathering, but it would most likely be a Sunday afternoon in February next year. I will contact you within the next month or so by e-mail to advise the date and format.

Finally, I feel the time has now come for me to hand over the reins of Fleet captaincy at the club, and will be seeking a volunteer to take over for next season. Without doubt, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time organising Fleet affairs, and generally representing the club, over the last few years, but I feel that I can add no further value to the Fleet. I would also like to do a lot more Opens next year, with the aim of not only developing and improving my racing skills but also enjoying my sailing at various different venues.

Thank you all for your support over the last few years, and I hope you continue to enjoy your 2K sailing at the club and beyond.

Please let me know if you would be interested in taking over the Fleet captaincy next season. If it would help at all, I would be most happy to spend any amount of time chatting to you about the role and giving any guidance I feel I can.

Please don't think that the role of Fleet Captain is particularly onerous, it really isn't. The key tasks are as follows:

- 1) setting a course for Fleet racing (which can, of course, be delegated to other Fleet members)

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- 2) helping to integrate new members into the Fleet
- 3) giving help to Fleet members where possible
- 4) encouraging attendance at events
- 5) attending one Sailing Committee meeting per month to represent the Fleet
- 6) arranging an annual Fleet evening to discuss Fleet affairs and hand out prizes.
- 7) writing a brief report for the club magazine three times per year.

Beyond the above, the role is whatever you want it to be, and you are free to spend as much or as little time at it as you so wish.

Your Fleet needs you, so do give it some thought, and let me know if you may be interested, or if you would like to have a chat about taking on the role, or about what it involves.

My season is now done, being the true fair weather sailor that I am, so I am now off for a short break in the sun. For those of you continuing with your racing into the frostbite series, I hope you have some good breezes and mild weather, and get to enjoy the remainder of your season.

If I don't see you beforehand, I wish you all a great Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

See you at the Fleet evening next year, once I have decided on the date!!

Colin Treadwell



News from the Lasers!

"lot of Lasers in the club again these days"

One of the old hands was overheard remarking to his sailing buddy in the dinghy park..

With the potential to field up to nineteen and several more in the pipeline showing more than a passing interest in the indomitable little boat, next season looks promising for the class.

Thanks must surely go to the people behind the Skimmers, without this program the juniors would not only sail less but quite possibly lose interest if they could only get to crew for parents etc once a week in a pressured race scenario. The emerging talent feeding from the skimmers currently constitutes almost half the regular Lasers, would be fantastic if they sailed on Sundays too!

It's hoped that through regular attendance in abundance the Lasers may regain the official 'fleet' status earning their own courses and starts, but it will take time and commitment and a whole bunch of hiking (it's good for you).

There is some structured planning looming!

With some fun games and actual prizes, guest lectures, theory and video coaching, mild entertainment and the odd feast on offer, all geared up to better boat handling, camaraderie and most importantly enjoying sailing.

In talking to our regional neighbours it seems they are all too willing to see us visit, to experience, to race, to socialise...with some support we hope to encourage some travelling next season - so beneficial both for the club and personally.

Can we all wish Gordon Belcher a speedy recovery? "get well soon Gordon"...

We also say goodbye to Ray Craddock who is retiring from the class, selling his boat and focusing on other commitments." Bye Ray, thank you".

If anyone (members or friends) would like to try a blast in a Laser, contact Al - warethes@me.com - to organize a demo/fun session.

If any shore-side parents /friends want to get involved in the fun - be it timing the fun games, videoing for coaching, the very important photo finish pics' or even willing to tow a trailer to an event? Again let Al know, the guys will be very grateful.

AL

— INTRODUCING A NEW EVENT —

***** THE LASER KATANA *****

A tea mark slalom set between the two slipways, tack one way, gybing back, timed, touch a mark add seconds, have as many tries as you wish, fastest time at years end gets their name etched onto the trophy to be hung above the bar in the clubhouse.

Open to all members at the club but must be sailed in a Laser, boat provided, you bring the smiles & we'll bring the waterbombs!

Saturday Skimmers

Now in its fourth season, Saturday Skimmers has gone from strength to strength. We resumed activity straight after Easter and have hardly missed a Saturday all season. Turnouts have been good all year – with average entries of 25 sailors for each of the four race series held. Congratulations to Andrew Coward - 1st Spring Series, Miles Eason - 1st Early Summer Series & Richard Tutt - 1st Summer and September Series and winner of the 2013 Skimmers Championship.

It has been so good to see the improvement in the standard of racing among the junior fleet, noted by other Club members too! Some Juniors who were complete beginners last year are now vying for the top positions each week. A few are also beginning to take part in Sunday racing as well and we are looking forward to an active junior group joining our existing Laser sailors next season.

In 2012, we started a group for beginners and this has again proved popular. We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to buy three ex-RYA Oppies in May, increasing the number of available boats to six. Thank goodness! Most have been in use every Saturday. We also received sponsorship from Eon and National Grid that enabled us to buy another Feva.

In response to an identified need to offer something for adults new to sailing or for those who were relatively inexperienced, an Adult Skimmers group was started mid-season. Participants have used either their own boats, the Club 2000 and Wayfarer, or have sailed with other members. A few of these sessions were run by Andy Kerr, an RYA coach, funded by the RYA to support this part of our programme.

Our last Skimmers session of the year was held on 12th October and took the format of a sponsored sail. We had nineteen boats out and twenty-seven sailors, all of whom set off down river to Buoy 22 and back. For many it was their first experience of the water beyond Gillingham! The aim of the sponsored sail was to raise funds towards a second 9.9hp engine to enable us to use both the Dory and Redstart next season. We hope to have raised around £500.

In 2014 we plan to run a new racers group as well. This is to help those who need to move on from the beginners but do not have the confidence to go straight in to the main racing group.

The Skimmers Team is very grateful for the volunteer support from members received during the year, from race coaches, instructors, and others. To run Skimmers week in week out for the main season is a big commitment in terms of personnel resources and safety boats. A number of parents/guardian members have taken the PB2 and safety boat courses recently with a view to supporting Skimmers in the future.

Above all, for the end of the 2013 season, a big thank you to all those who have helped on and in the water, on the beach, in the race box and in the kitchen!



Do you have a notice for the rest of the club?

Need a crew for an upcoming race?

Need to swap a duty?

Or have recently competed at an open event?

Include it in the next 31 ½ by emailing editor@wilsoniansc.org.uk

Or post it up on the members section of the website.

Notice Board

Laying Up Cup Supper - Oct 27th

Our end of season supper this year is Roast Beef and all the trimmings or a vegetarian option
Glass of wine or a Soft Drink
Dessert

£7.50

Contact to Book: Carole Johnson

Phone or Text 07415 358703

Annual Prize Giving - Dec 7th

Annual Prize Giving and Dinner Dance to be held on the 7th December 2013 at the Medway Yacht Club.

A signing on board will be in the clubhouse to reserve a place

Notice from our Landlord

Notice to all members that leave after 7pm on any day that the gate leading to the main road by closed (and locked if you have a key).

43rd Hoo Freezer 2014

15th & 16th February 2014

Practice race on Saturday with the main Hoo Freezer on Sunday with an 11am start on both days

Organised by Wilsonian SC and supported by Hoo Ness YC & MSBA
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SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP

Dear Member

In the last few seasons, it has become increasingly difficult to cover all the duties for our Sunday racing, partly because our membership profile has changed.

The Committee has agreed to redefine the Support Member category and to actively seek volunteers to consider applying for this new type of membership. In exchange for agreeing to do a minimum of 10 Sunday duties, the membership fees will be reduced by 50%. If we get enough volunteers, we will then be able to cover all the Sunday duties throughout our sailing season.

Please note that this offer is not for just one type of duty, but can apply to any of the various duties or indeed for a mixture of different duties. The Committee will also assist Support members in training where necessary.

The following is a list of the conditions to which the Committee has agreed:

- A Support Member will be expected to cover a minimum of **10 Sunday duties** during the sailing season (spring, summer, autumn and Winter Series, **but not including the Pre-Season or Wednesday evening Series**). These duties will be arranged by the Duty Secretary in consultation with the Support Member.
- His/Her **duties will not necessarily all be of the same type**, but could include CDO, Race Management, Safety Cover and/or Canteen, or a combination of all four.
- The Club will offer suitable training as and when it is considered necessary.
- Not more than **8 Members** shall be offered Support Membership at any one time.
- When not covering his/her allotted duties, a Support Member will be entitled to **enjoy the facilities of the Club as any Full Member, including voting rights, keeping a boat in the dinghy park and the right to sail.**
- The Committee will review such Memberships annually and will then decide whether or not to continue this membership category.
- The Committee will seek applicants amongst current members initially and, if necessary, may then extend its search to people from the local community.

If you are interested/willing to help out the club by becoming a Support Member, or if you know of anyone else who might be interested, please let me know (either by phone **01622 741123**, or by email on blamb2410@talktalk.net) – I will then contact you to discuss things further. We are hoping to finalise things by the end of November in plenty of time for the 2014 sailing season.

Cheers

Brian Lamb

Gillingham Marina Chandlery

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