

Rescue boat? That was the rescue boat!

31 1/2

SUMMER 2018

Welcome to the summer edition of 31½

It has been and continues to be a long hot summer but there has been plenty of opportunity for some good sailing even if there have been a few light wind days. I thought it might be interesting to have a photo of WSC in the heatwave of summer 1976 for comparison but have discovered the club magazine did not come into existence until November 1976. Interestingly there is no mention of the summer weather but there is a lengthy article on the demise of the Mirror dinghy fleet which reflects similar discussions as other fleets have come and gone over the years. Meanwhile I have included the November 1976 cartoon, if we have any artists or budding cartoonists in our membership I would welcome contributions for future editions – 1976 seems a long time to wait for a new cartoon.

David Wraight

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From the Commodore

To say that time flies is an understatement. We are now in July in the midst our season and already looking towards the end of the year. But never the less, I hope that you have all enjoyed your sailing so far and will continue to be out on the water, for as long as possible this season. We have most certainly had a mixed bag of weather, ranging from very light airs to the heat that we have been experiencing in the last few months.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new members and hope that you enjoy your sailing from our club, on the Medway. Please ask me or any of the committee members if you need any information about the club or who to contact about something you need.

Ray Craddock who until recently has been our Site Services Manager, looking after things that have broken or do not work, along with keeping a watchful eye on the cesspool, gas and diesel making sure that they are either emptied or refilled as necessary. Unfortunately, he has had to give up this roll due to family commitments and I would welcome Alan Simpson in his place, who has taken on this very important task in the operation of the Club. Welcome Alan and thank you Ray for all your help and support to the club over the years.

We have recently had a very successful KSSA annual Regatta. Great thanks to Phil Cope who ran and organised the event, assisted by too many to name. The feed- back from KSSA and the RYA has been very positive, that all those taking part had a great time.

The Medway Regatta, held at our club last weekend, was visited by competitors from 13 clubs who had travelled from Norfolk, Essex, Hampshire and Sussex to come to our event. Despite there being no wind on Sunday morning, three races were held and prizes awarded. I would personally thank all those who helped before and during the Regatta for the incredible amount of hard work in making it the success that it was. Thank you all.

Very soon the House Committee will be putting out details of venue and date for the Prize Giving. Please try and support them in this and other social functions which take a lot of organising, both for our enjoyment and the good of the club.

We have recently had an incident on the river involving other river users and I would remind everyone that we all have a duty of care, to all on the water, to prevent an accident even if the other person is in the wrong. A boat with a hole in it awaiting repairs will prevent us from enjoying our sailing, let alone any injuries that may have resulted. Please be mindful of others when racing as they may not be as conversant with racing rules as we are or know what is expected of them in the situation. Keep a watchful eye as to what is under the sail.

Enjoy your sailing for the remainder of the year.

Bernard Smith

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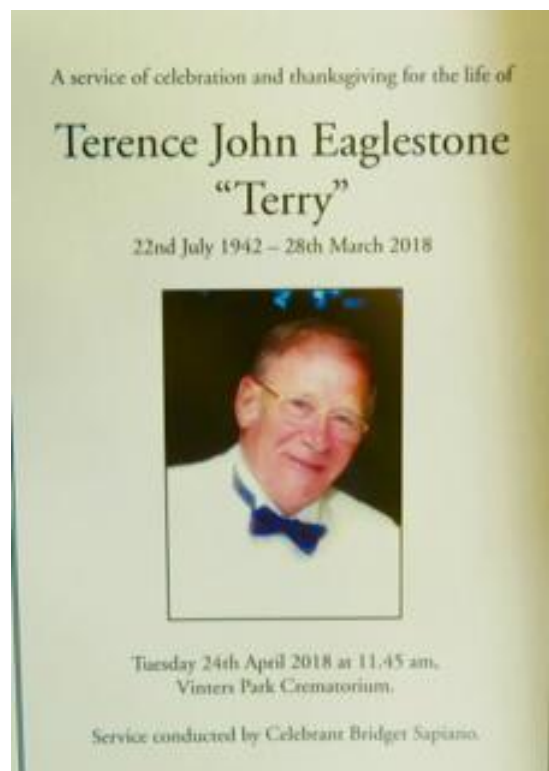


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Terry Eaglestone

In the Spring 2018 issue of 31 1/2 the sad death of Terry, a regular supporter of the club and long-term safety boat helm, was announced. Many members of the club were able to attend the funeral and pay their respects to a sadly missed member and friend.



**Silas & Seb's
100 mile sailing
challenge**



One hundred years ago, the explorer Sir Earnest Shackleton took two Scouts on his 'Quest' expedition to Antarctica; his last expedition. To commemorate the anniversary, Kent Scouts are planning to take a group of Network Scouts and Leaders to Antarctica, on board a 100 year old ship, to conduct research and promote scouting.

We are too young to go, but we want to help make this adventure of a lifetime possible, for those that can.

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2000 Fleet Captain Report

Spring finally arrived with a real mix of sunshine and April showers plus either no wind or too much wind; the *Spring Series* was affected with Races 2, 3 and 4 abandoned. Congratulations to 2000 fleet winners David & Janice (2643), with second place Nina & Chris (21914) and a new edition to our fleet, third place to Kevin Downard & Harry in club boat (2586).

April 2018 also saw the start of Adult Skimmer on Saturdays from 1.30pm and our Open Day on Saturday 12 May 2018. Our club 2000's are proving very popular with the Adult Skimmers and repairs have now been completed on the club Wayfarer.

The afternoon *Commodores Series* started on Sunday 6 May 2018 with the choice of races in the morning for Ladies, Novices, Masters and Juniors plus a Scratch Race. Results so far are: Ladies – 2nd Rachel & various crew (22321) and 5th Nina (21914); Bosun's Race 5th place David & Janice (2643), 8th place Rachel & various crew (22321) after a terrific battle with the Streakers on 3rd June; Commodores Race 16th place John Hewat & Rachelle in Andy's boat (21914), 17th place Lesley (22115), 19th place Nina & Chris (21405), 22nd place Rachel & various crew (22321) and 26th place Pat (22258). The various series continue throughout the WSC season with the next races on Commodores 3 on 1 July 2018.

It's now July 2018 and summer is finally here but alas the wind is not!! We've had a couple of very light wind Sunday sailing races, but the weather gods have been kind to Saturday Adult Skimmers with a few amazing sails.

The *Early Summer Points* are now underway and results so far 1st place Rachel & various crew (22321), 2nd place David & Janice (2643), 3rd place Pat (22258) – so still everything to play for as the series ends on 17 June 2018. *Late Summer Points series* started on 24 June 2018.

The extremely long and slightly confusing course for the *Pursuit Race* was held on Sunday 17 June 2018, with Nina and I (21405) finishing overall 4th place from a personalised starting time of 13.50.49. I say slight confusing course for us as we wrote it on 4 pieces of tape, in a pen which almost ran out, and then couldn't read our writing, so needed a slight correction on the water!!

Wednesday 20 June 2018 saw the start of Evening Sailing Series with first warning signal at 18.55.

Away from the club, the new sailing series launched in response to the survey by 2000 Class Association <https://www.2000class.org/index.asp> got underway with the *Southern Traveller one day series* at Chichester on 19 May 2018 – the briefing was at 1pm so there was just enough time in-between rigging boats to pop in to the club house and spend an obligatory 10 minutes watching the Royal Wedding and see 'The Dress'. The series continued on 9 June 2018 at Bough Beech and well done to Phil & Gavin (21314) entering their first event 2000 Open event, once again the weather gods played tricks and we had very light conditions but still some good racing and turnout of 18

boats. Southern Travellers Series continues on 16 June at Weir Wood and 7 July at Bewl Water. The *Millennium Series* of 2 day racing started MS1 at Rutland SC on 22 April and continues MS2 at Parkstone SC 23/24 June 2018 in their new multimillion pound clubhouse, then on to my favourite venue for MS3 at Lee-on-The-Solent on 21/22 July 2018. The *2000 National Championship* will start with a briefing and registration Saturday 4 August 2018 to Friday 10 August 2018 at Royal Torbay YC.

I attend the *Sailing Committee meetings* as your 2000 Fleet Captain and please let me know if you have anything you would like me to raise on your behalf, Andy usually sends an agenda the day before the meeting. I will send the minutes of the Sailing Committee meetings as available. The meetings are always on Wednesday evenings at the Best Western Hotel in Gravesend and the dates for the rest of the year are as follows 20 June, 18 July, no August meeting, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November and 19 December 2018. A point to note is that usually in September/ October we start to plan the following years sailing programme so if you have any requests, now is the time to do this.

Enjoy the Weather, enjoy the water, enjoy the summer.

Happy sailing
Rachel
Lazy Grey 2000 22321
2000 Fleet Captain



Phil & Gavin Cope (21314)

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Fundraising updates

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Interesting Facts About the Medway

Do you know Horatio Nelson started his sailing career on the Medway?..... As 12 year old Horatio Nelson arrived in Chatham to join his uncles ship Raisonable as a newly appointed midshipman. Nelson spent about a year based on the Medway learning the basics of seamanship, sailing and navigation. Following a voyage to the West Indies in Triumph in 1772, he returned to Kentish waters to assume his first command aged 13, sailing the Triumph's tender up and down the River Thames.

Do you know why the island south of the South Kent buoy is called Deadmans Island?..... During the Napoleonic Wars the French prisoners of war were housed in hulks on the Medway. In such confined quarters cholera, smallpox and typhoid were rife. Those who succumbed were buried on Deadmans Island. The hulks were scrapped after the building of St. Marys prison at Chatham in 1856. Many of the hulk timbers were used in houses built in that era at Gillingham and Chatham.

Closer to Home..... On the 5th May this year, the clubhouse was 34 years old

Bernard smith

Looking for Help with The Club Cleaning

If you can help with the club cleaning for 3 - 4 hours on a Thursday morning it would be greatly appreciated. The more that are able to help, then it becomes less of a weekly event for the current four. It also means that we can go on holiday knowing that the club remains clean and tidy. Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided.

Cruising news

Following on from the successful cruise to and picnic on Darnett Island last year we are looking at running a similar cruise on Sunday 23rd September and we hope that many of the Saturday Skimmers and Adult skimmers will take the opportunity to join us.

All participants and craft should be ready by the 10.00hrs briefing on the beach by the downstream slipway.

All boats on the water for a 10.30hrs start, approximate landing at Darnet Island (beach on the far side) 11.30hrs.

Leave Darnet Island 13.00hrs.

Return WSC by 14.00hrs.

Weather clothing suitable to the weather and personal buoyancy.

Boats must be fitted with a reasonable length painter and carry a bailer, mooring line, mooring pin or anchor and an oar.

Smaller craft such as Toppers can be carried ashore for lunch and will not require anchors or oars.

Bring a hot drink in a flask and a packed lunch.

As an aspiration for the future, here is how the 38th&40th Strood Explorer Sea Scout Unit picnic on Darnet.

