

WINDWARD - December 2008

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year from Saundersfoot Sailing Club!

Now that boats are tucked away for the winter activities move away from sailing and towards some serious socialising in the Clubhouse (see Social Calendar below).

Whether it be on or off the water, I hope you have made the most of your membership this year. Next year, the club has ambitious plans to celebrate what will be its 60th Anniversary year!

Furthermore, the recently held AGM voted unanimously to keep fees at the same level for the forthcoming year. So with Social Membership at a recession-busting £5 per year, tell a few friends! I look forward to sharing with you another wonderful year of



Some of this year's graduating Sail Trainees posing for the camera!

Sail Training

Want to learn to sail? Ring Tina on 01834 812383

The sail training season will start with the improvers in April & will be held on Saturdays as usual.

These sessions will be focused on introducing trainees to club racing.

For the first six Sundays of club racing instructors/helpers will be on hand to help trainees to get on the water.

Can all last year's trainees please note that letters will be sent out in January in respect of the training fees.

This year we are trying to keep the training fees and membership fee's separate.

Beginners will start in June please spread the word.

For further information please phone Tina on (01834) 812383

Have you renewed your Membership?

Your club needs you! I hope you need your club! Download an application form at www.saundersfootclub.org.uk

SOCIAL CALENDAR -

XMAS DINNER Saturday 13 December 18:30
(booking required tel. May on 01834 813 595)

CAROLS & MINCE PIES Friday 19 December 20:00

GAMES NIGHT Saturday 20 December 19:30

The Committee for 2009

Commodore Paul Johnson 01834 814 145

Past Commodore &

Press Officer John Hollies 01994 427767

Treasurer Rolfe John 01834 813792

Secretary Alyson Horton 01834 811841

Membership Sec Trevor Smith 01834 811235

Sailing Captain Tina Osborne 01834 812383

Bosun /Club Steward Graham Wellman 01994 448346

Social Secretary Kate Lewis 01834 812473

Sail Training Principal Malcolm Williams 01994 448383

Trustees: John Griffiths 01834 811129
Rolfe John Trevor Smith

All email addresses at website: www.saundersfootsailingclub.org.uk

Saundersfoot Sailing Club

Racing & Events

Important Dinghy Racing Dates 2009

Coppet Week: Sunday 24th May to Friday 29th May.

Saundersfoot SC Dinghy Regatta: 22nd and 23rd August

Laugharne Regatta – 30–31 May – a handy follow-on from Coppet Week

STOP PRESS !!! In 2009 we are hosting the 'International Moth' Nationals for four days starting on 11th July.

Note that the club racing programme for the year will be published early in 2009.

If you would like to volunteer for safety, OOD or OOD assistant duties for any of the above events please contact Tina (Sailing Captain) on 01834 812 383

If you would like to help but need some training (for example Powerboat or Race Officer) then the club can provide training for you.

Tina and Trevor will be running Powerboat courses at the start of the season so make sure you get your name down early if interested.

Some of our junior Sail Trainees have been taking on some mighty challenges of late!

We thank Tom Horton for sparing the time on 6 December to recount, along with some nifty camera work, his recent Tall Ships experience to St. Malo and Cherbourg on the training ship 'Stavros R Niarchos'.

Also, Mark Dwyer recently secured a crew place on a Challenger racing yacht which he recounts below.

In both cases our thanks go to the local branch of the Tall Ships Youth Trust for providing these superb opportunities.

Challenger Race Week

I sailed on Challenger 3, one of four, 75 foot long round the world racing yachts. I was anxious at first but found that settling in and getting to know everyone was easy. There were ten of us, along with two volunteer watch leaders, the first mate and the skipper. Everyone was very friendly, we became quite close over the course of the week, and we all felt that we were a close-knit team, giving us an advantage when it came to the races. Unfortunately, due to a less than appealing weather forecast we had to spend the first two days in Portsmouth, without any sailing at all. But, on day 3 we got our first taste of yacht sailing. None of us had done anything like this before and there were only a couple of people other than myself who had even done dinghy sailing. I was relieved to find that I was not at all out of my depth. It was the same as dinghy sailing, just on a much bigger scale, and we soon got the hang of working together to sail the yacht properly. It took the strength of several people to haul the mainsail up and set the sails correctly. The wind was strong out in the Solent on the way to Poole and the sea was rough, causing seasickness among most of the crew. Going below deck while at sea just made the sickness worse because everything was tilted and it was a struggle to remain balanced. After a day of hard work, our bunks seemed more comfortable than they had the previous nights and we were looking forward to the next day.

However, once again the weather did not permit us to sail, as the wind was too strong. We still had to get up early though and participate in the so-called "happy hour", an hour of cleaning and maintaining the boat. The worst job was cleaning the heads, for which rock, paper, scissors was used to decide the person unlucky enough to have to do it. We spent the rest of the day practicing sail changing and doing theory work.

By day 5 the weather had improved and we got our last chance to practice sailing before the races the following day. The sun finally came out and sailing from Poole to Cowes was immensely enjoyable. We were confident that we had the best crew and had a chance of winning a race.

We woke to another early start for the last day, had a quick breakfast and prepared for the races. Three races were held, as well as a competition to see who could set their mainsail the fastest. In the morning we won the mainsail competition and were in high spirits. It was by far the most exciting day of the week and it felt good to be racing properly. Our yacht finished second in two races and third in one, giving us a final position of second out of four.

It was a great week spent with some great people and I would recommend it to anyone. Mark Dwyer



Paul Griffiths, 2008 Club Champion, pictured accepting one of his less prestigious prizes in the spirit in which it was intended, at the recent Laying Up Supper presentations



Ben Dancer, receiving the highly sought after and picturesque Junior Regatta Trophy from the Commodore, following his very successful season.

STOP PRESS - Ben has recently been admitted to hospital in a critical condition but after a week was discharged; we all wish Ben a full and speedy recovery