



Commodore's message

As I write this short note the club is well into the New Year and the new clubhouse is almost finished (although we have been using it for some time 95% finished). Although the builders have almost done there is still much to do finishing off by the members.

At the AGM the proposal to have a small bar selling beer and wine was passed by the membership. The committee will get this up and running (subject to a licence being granted) for the start of the season. It is hoped that the bar will help to keep future membership fee increases down as well as encouraging members to stay around after sailing and events so don't be shy.

Last year's sailing and weather was brilliant even if like Leslie and me had no cruiser but so many invites on other people's boats. Leslie also raced her dinghy more than for many years.

Well, I think that's all. Study the programme in the yearbook as there has been a lot of thought and work

that has gone into it. We hope there is something in it for everyone.

Any questions don't hesitate to ask any of the club officers.

Alan Carr

Outreach programme

Jack Broom (teacher at the Middle school in Leiston) and Jill Ellis (former deputy Head there) will be approaching the Middle School some time in March.

This is with a view to encouraging our local young people to participate and enjoy sailing within a safe and structured environment through the Slaughter Sailing Outreach Programme (SSOP!!!!)

This will hopefully open up the wonderful world of sailing to youngsters who may otherwise never have the opportunity to experience it

Jack Saunders

From the Rear-Commodore

Happy New Year from your new Rear Commodore. You might like to know how things are going with the new Clubhouse, which has been taking shape over the past year.

Thanks to vast amounts of hard work by Barry, Rolfe, Billy and Grace, Maurice, Allen, Leslie, Peter, and all the other people who have turned out to build, demolish, clear, paint, sort, fix and set fire to things, you will all be able to get on the water this

season in the knowledge that you have a lovely, comfortable and stylish clubhouse to go back to.

In spite of some rather inclement weather, things are moving along steadily, and very soon all the details required to finish off the job will have been taken care of. When Leslie gets back, we will have the best galley ever!

By the time this information is circulated, the lock on the west door



Log of the year competition

You can enter this competition even if your log is an account of a trip in a dinghy.

The quality of the presentation and writing will be taken into account, as well as the voyage details, so you don't need to have been to France or weathered a gale to qualify.

The entries should be in before the Fitting Out event, so that the prize can be presented then

Pris Forrest

...From the Rear-Commodore

should have been dealt with - at present it is extremely difficult to operate. Eventually the same SSC code will operate both electronic locks on the clubhouse, and a combination padlock on the engine shed. It is hoped that this system will prevent the clubhouse or shed being left open, as happened with alarming regularity last year.

Both the static caravans have now been demolished, and a fence erected which returns the concrete standing to Brian Upson. The gate to the boatyard will be down ...near the rib shed. As soon as the debris is cleared from the dinghy park - very soon, I hope - the boat spaces will be

re-organised. Please note the following:

BESIDES A STICKER ON THE MAST, YOUR BOAT MUST HAVE ITS NAME AND THE LETTERS S S C CLEARLY ON THE STERN, AND ALSO ON THE COVER IF THIS OBSCURES THE LETTERING.

YOU MUST ALSO HAVE THIRD PARTY INSURANCE, AND YOUR BOAT MUST BE TIED DOWN - THESE ARE CLUB RULES.

To prevent theft, or be able to claim insurance, you should have your name and postcode on your trolley or trailer.

Pris Forrest

Duckling Diary

The ducklings have not gone into hibernation – the Christmas supper in December was enjoyed by over 40 members for sausage casserole and the most delicious desserts I have ever seen. Thanks to all those whole culinary expertise produced them. We were also entertained by Trish Silsbury and Mike Tindale-Biscoe with guitars and voice who also got us to join in some singing with carols and a few shanties.

New Years Day saw Rosa brewing her superb mulled wine in the galley – and what a joy to have room and equipment for this -which seemed to be going down very well with mince pies – especially for the crews of the 5 boats who braved the fairly stormy conditions to give the entertainment. We thank Morris for his OOD work and especially David Quilter for his extremely cold work in the support boat – at least one member gave him a job!

We are now planning this years activities which will be in the new Year Book, and on the website (<http://www.slaughdensailingclub.co.uk/sailing/programme2004.shtml>) . The first will be the fitting out supper after Easter – please look in your year book for the dates and also on the club notice board and the website for extra events which are often put in the program as weather and tide permit – or let us know if you have any ideas for events.

Happy sailing and we hope to see you at some of the social events as well as on the water

Leslie Downing and the flock

PS: I would like to explain to the newer members: the Duckling committee is the club social committee not the children's corner – ask me why when you see me!?!Aries
March 21-April 20

RYA Sail Training 2004: Adult Sail Practice

The ASP programme starts Monday 17th May and continues through until Monday 27th September with a start time of 1830hrs (we do not meet on the Bank Holiday Mondays).

The Programme needs to start in a well organised way and therefore I will be starting by collecting all the details I need to administer the sessions and following the guidance that is set by the RYA in their Level 2 standard as well as the river craft necessary to enjoy our river.

Having said how I will set up the sessions it will be possible to pick up where each individual student is in terms of their experience once we have had time to refresh our skills in the first few evenings.

I'm therefore asking that all members who are interested in these activities let me know what their interest is and what their level of commitment would be to the ASP Programme. I

have again this year organised two assessment weekends and those that are already well advanced could expect their Level Two Certificate by mid July.

As most of you know we do not run these sessions as fund raising, concentrating rather on growing the club through bringing on competent members who enjoy their sailing and are active members of the club. For the first half of the season we will not be increasing fees. We make a change of £5.00 per evening session and a weekend course will be between £35.00 & £40.00 all in. Any member who wishes one on one tuition from an RYA Instructor should expect to pay around £10.00 per session. This represents tremendous value of money I'm sure you will agree

I quite expect we will have to limit numbers again although I'm pleased that more experienced club sailors have offered their services as Assistant Instructors as well as members loaning their boats to allow this activity to

happen. As you would expect those members who are already actively involved will be encouraged to continue if they wish and given priority.

Finally I'm making arrangements for a First Aid course to run on the 27th March 2004

All those who enjoy sailing need to be confident that they could deal with the situation were an accident involving personal injury or illness to occur. Contact me if you are interested.

It's really important I know that the demand is out there so please let me know in writing or email please your wishes.

Graham
Vice Commodore Dinghies

Contact on 01728 832850
fax and answer m/c also email
grahamsilsbury@hotmail.com

Horoscopes.

Aries March 21-April 20

This Month is a fantastic time to go sailing - don't worry about the family, they'll manage without you. You might also pick up new crew members

Taurus April 21-May 21

The new moon marked changes in your circle of friends, both on and off the water. It's time to start afresh - the sky's the limit - you deserve to win recognition from friends in high places.

Gemini May 22-June 21

You've been thinking of new dreams recently, which are pressing, Making steps to achieve these should be easy, now you've worked out how. This month allows you to take positive action.

Cancer June 22-July 23

Money's tight at the moment and might cramp your style. Try to talk it over with friends. Sailors may not always have the answer though.

Leo July 24-Aug 23

Things really are changing, and you seem to be able to talk with friends about your situation. Don't hedge your bets - go all out for what you really want.

Virgo Aug 24-Sept 23

Work's been going well for you - you've now got time to concentrate on your home life. This month is a good time to bring your partner sailing - the weather might be good enough to leave the shelter of the new clubhouse.

Obituary - Harry Molyneux

Harry was a founder member, the club's first Commodore, a Trustee, and an Honorary Life Member. He would never agree, but many of us acknowledge him as the father of our club. Many of us first met him when he took evening classes at Leiston High School. Some did boat building, and learned to sail, others brushed up on their sailing skills. From these classes a group lead by Harry and other teachers, decided to form their own sailing club. I was amongst this group. How well I remember that I could not be at the meeting where the first officers and committee were elected. I told Harry that I would do anything to help. He gave me one of his wry smiles. Soon after that I became club treasurer for the first twenty years. Thanks Harry.

Harry was very happy that his wife, Dor-

othy, and his sons David and Mike, enjoyed sailing, and joined in the club activities. Mike is still a club member.

I could not possibly list all that Harry did for the club. We started with nothing. The land we eventually leased had been the Council rubbish tip. He steered us through the problems of forming a new club. The legalities, the fund raising, the organisation, the interminable meetings, difficulties that had to be overcome. In his own quiet, friendly, professional way Harry navigated us through the problems, and through his endeavours we enjoy the wonderful facilities we have today.

Our thoughts are with Dorothy, David, Mike and the rest of Harry's family at this very sad time.

Official Open Day - Your Club needs You!

I feel very fortunate, flattered and frightened to help organise the Open Day on Saturday, 8th May.

Please mark this date in your diaries to make absolutely certain you show up.

I'm not asking you to actually do anything, although you can if you want to. But, should you have any ideas for jolly events on the day, be sure to let me know in plenty of time. Don't be shy. I will be happy to give serious consideration to the silliest ideas.

I will be asking a small number of carefully chosen people to assist me in some capacity or other. If you would rather avoid the embarrassment of saying no, you'd better hide.

The clubhouse is built, causing much sweat, many tears and very nearly a bit of blood. But it's time to rally round again and raise a fund or two. See you on May 8th.

David Quilter



Antiques and Collectables Fair Sunday 28th March

Later this year, we hope to have an Auction of promises – so far 5 promises have been received, but to make this work, many more are needed, so that we can hold our auction. Please Contact Val on 01728 833633 if you are able to offer a promise

Libra Sept 24- Oct 23

You're coming up for air after a long time feeling down. This month could bring you close to people you thought you had nothing in common with. You could be pleasantly surprised.

Scorpio Oct 24-Nov 22

Try not to let a minor setback depress you. The turning point is just around the corner. This month could be the one to make new ground and compete seriously

Sagittarius Nov 22-Dec 21

You may not be seen at the club for a while as your home life is more important right now. You need to make clear decisions about what you want and let people know.

New Members

On behalf of the members the Committee welcome the following new members to the Club:-

Mark Wells
Charles Wells
Deborah & Bill Crow
Michael Hannen
Jayne & Barry Emmerson, Sophie & Shaun
John Simpson

A big thank you to all members who returned

their subscriptions on time.

If you intend to renew your subscription for 2004 and have not returned your membership form, you are respectfully reminded that **your membership will cease if subscriptions remain unpaid on the 1st March**. If you wish to remain a member after this date you will pay a joining fee,

Margaret Smith

RYA Courses for 2004

The Club now has five RYA qualified Club Racing Coaches to cater for those who want to race. Powerboat, Safety Boat and International Certificate of Competence courses will also be available. These will be organised on an "on demand" basis so would anyone interested please contact myself, Graham Silsbury or Ted Draper.

There is a need for more Instructors and Assistant Instructors for both dinghy sailing and powerboating. The former involves a six day course, the latter a three day course. The cost of these courses can be quite high but, by working with other Clubs in the area, may be contained to acceptable levels. Any member interested please contact Graham Silsbury or Barrie Skelcher.

Finally we could use more Support Boat skippers. Under Club rules the minimum requirement is an ICC or Powerboat Level 2 qualification with an added briefing on the use of Club boats. It is however advisable to have completed the Safety Boat course. Any member interested please contact myself and we will arrange the necessary training. These courses are run in house on a cost only basis.

Barrie Skelcher

Capricorn Dec 22-Jan 20

Hanging around chatting at the clubhouse just makes you depressed at the moment. Things could start to pick up though - don't spend too much on retail therapy at boat junk sails though!

Aquarius Jan 21-Feb 19th

You seem to be on the same wavelength as someone really close to you - if you follow your instincts, the relationship might get even closer. Be ambitious and decisive.

Pisces Feb 20-March 20

You seem to know how to deal with emotional issues really well this month. Trust your own judgment and ignore advice. It's time to put the past behind you and move ahead.

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Contributions for this issue from:

Jack Saunders; Pris Forrest; Val Tindale-Biscoe; Margaret Smith; Leslie Downing; Alan Carr; Graham Silsbury; Barrie Skelcher

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Log of Blue Streak - Holland 2003

Blue Streak is an Invicta 26 designed by Van de Stadt. She was built in England in 1967, one of the early fibre-glass boats. We bought her when we came to Aldeburgh in 1998, and from the first the ultimate objective was to get her to Holland.

Jill, my other half, does not like the North Sea, to put it mildly, but Mike Tyndale-Biscoe, for some odd reason, longed to cross it. So Jill and he were able to do a double coxing and boxing for the trip, thanks to the Harwich – Hook Ferry, and the immaculate Dutch trains. The crew-exchange would be at Middelburg, close to Flushing. It all worked perfectly.

On Monday, 21st July, a 5-6 SW at Slaughden was setting every rigging wire twanging. Professional opinion on the Quay said it would be 6–7 outside. Discretion overcame valour. Tuesday was much the same, but it was now or never. Fortune favoured the not very bold, and the wind obligingly eased in the evening. We dropped down to Butley.

Next morning there was no mention of gales or fog, so off we set, passing Orford Haven Buoy at 6am. We were on our way, in a 3-4 SW, perfect for Ostend, making 5 knots. S. Bawdsey and the Shipwash duly negotiated, we steered for S. Galloper. Soon we were aware of six ships on the same course all heading straight for us. Unlike Don Quixote we decided not to engage them in battle, but pass under their sterns, when Mike (who had the eyes) saw they were all anchored. Of course, all in line, they had to be. Fooled again!

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...suddenly the water level started dropping. There was just time to free the mooring warps. A moment later and we would have been suspended fore and aft from two cleats.

After this major trial we sped on our way in a good breeze, still making 5+ knots. Moaning mournfully in the middle of nowhere, S. Galloper finally hove into view. In less than five hours, we were already a third of the way across. Nobody can say the North Sea is a thrilling place, rather the opposite, but all the ships came and went, safely ahead or behind, and by 1400 we were more than half way across and going so well we decided to make for Zeebrugge rather than Ostend.

The rest of the sail was uneventful, with one moment of beauty, when we saw one of the Round Britain racers, bedecked with corporate logos, passing ahead of us and off into the distance. By then visibility was down to 2-3 miles, but the shipping lanes were behind us and Blue Streak was still making splendid progress. At 1800 hours the wind was dropping and we needed a bit of help from the engine, before eventually making it to the Royal Belgian YC in Zeebrugge at 2100 hours. A beautiful girl in brand-new pyjamas, and a brand-new boat, and with, we guessed, a brand-new boyfriend, welcomed us alongside, and there we were.

The next morning we left early and made a quick passage up the coast to the Westerschelde and Vliessingen (Flushing). The canal lock and entrance was straight-forward, once one had begun to learn a new art (for me) of going nowhere in a cross wind with four or five other boats doing the same thing. Before long we were negotiating bridges on the five mile stretch to Middelburg. There was just time for a wander in the charming town before meeting Jill at the station, bang on time.

SLAUGHDEN SAILS

Mike made his way back to England next day, while Jill and I set off for Veere. We had one scare in a lock when I put a hitch on the mooring ropes to go and do something else, when suddenly the water level started dropping. There was just time to free the mooring warps. A moment later and we would have been suspended fore and aft from two cleats. Not for long!

In Veere we rafted up as no. six and eventually had another English boat outside us. For some reason our boats both seemed about half the size of the continental juggernauts surrounding us. Twice Dutchmen looked down on us and asked if we had really come across the North Sea in a boat "so small". When I had first learnt my sailing on the Lymington river I had looked longingly at "real" cabin boats and thought anything over 20 feet was a real cruiser, while 26 feet would do to cross the Atlantic.

Times change. For the Dutch their canals and lakes are for family holidays, and boats have to be bountiful in size and barge-like in shape.

We explored historic Veere and the next morning went down to the west end of Veerse Meer to see the great breakwater built by the Dutch to keep the North Sea at bay. Then on via most beautiful inland water ways and lakes to the Oosterschelde, under the noble Zeelandbrugge where 4 m. clearance felt like 4 inches, and on to charming Zierickzee. After dining on the local mussels we were invited on board our neighbouring Dutch yacht for coffee and made new friends. We would be seeing them later in Aldeburgh, on our return, for they followed us back, via a short sojourn on the Cork Sands.

Sunday was grey and windy and gave us a welcome day ashore. On the Monday we sailed round to the Grevelingenmeer and Brouwershaven. Tuesday was another great sailing day, with hundreds of boats out on the Meer, as we made our way back to Veere, this time mooring out by an island in the middle of the lake.

On the Wednesday it was back to Middelburg again, where Mike rejoined us. On Thursday Jill left by train and the North Sea crew took Blue Streak down the coast again to Zeebrugge. The weather seemed volatile, but nothing was threatening on the shipping forecast the following morning, so at 5.40am we made course for Harwich from outside the breakwaters.

As on the outward trip the wind was favourable from the SW, and we maintained a good speed. It built up all day to a reasonably challenging 5-6 through the afternoon, when the weather closed in. Visibility in the Harwich approaches was poor, the sky overcast and murky, and the sea lumpy. We found breaking seas over the Shipwash and lost some time striking south to get round the barrier. The last ten miles seemed to take forever, but eventually we made it into our river against too strong a

tide, so had a second night in the Butley river before returning on the Friday morning with nothing less to worry about than getting a visitor to move off the mooring.

All told, a trip hundreds have had made many times before, but when it's your first one as skipper, while for Mike too it was new, we both felt quietly chuffed. As to whether one could ever grow to love the North Sea itself, well, that's a different matter.

John Giles and Mike Tyndale-Biscoe



Slaughden Sailing Club: Programme March - June 2004

DATE	DAY	EVENT	START
MARCH			
27-Mar	Sat	First Aid Course	
28-Mar	Sun	BST starts	
APRIL			
03-Apr	Sat	Thaw 1 (Open)	1100
10-Apr	Sat	O.O.D. Training	1000
17-Apr	Sat	Thaw 2 (Open)	1100
24-Apr	Sat	Support Boat Training	1000
		Fitting Out Supper	1830
28-Apr	Wed	Series 1	1900
MAY			
03-May	Mon	Handicap Race	1100
05-May	Wed	Series 1	1900
08-May	Sat	S.S.C. Open Day	TBA
10-May	Mon	Newsletter Deadline	
12-May	Wed	Series 1	1900
15/16	Sat/Sun	Butley Cruise	TBA
17-May	Mon	Adult Sailing Practice	1830
19-May	Wed	Series 1	1900
20-May	Thurs	YOTAS (current group only)	1600
24-May	Mon	Adult Sailing Practice	1830
26-May	Wed	Series 1	1900
27-May	Thurs	YOTAS (current group only)	1600
29/30/31	Sat/Mon	Orwell Cruise	TBA
31-May	Mon	Handicap Race	1100

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Please call 01394 382084 for further details.