



## Commodore's Comments



**As I put these words together one year is on its way out and another is coming in.** At this moment I am about as far away from the SSC on this planet as it is possible to get. It is very hot and as the Telly keeps reminding us, two people in Australia die each day from sun induced melanoma, so it is sun block by the bucketful. It would seem that being out doors is more dangerous than sailing in Suffolk! Slaughden, even with its rain and cold winds is not such a bad place after all.

This coming year will be critical for our Club. As far as the Clubhouse project is concerned we are now well past the point of no return. The old building has been demolished and the foundations are being prepared for its replacement. There is plenty of rough water ahead before the project reaches completion. Unfortunately we are running behind programme but with a special effort we should still be able to get the new building finished before the season gets fully underway.

I have no doubt that when all the work is over we will have a superb little club. We have good access to the water at virtually all states of the tide and a splendid location on the River. We will have some more dinghy park space and with it an opportunity for a modest in

crease in membership. This will, in turn, bring potential dangers. The old Club was created by members working together, giving to the sport as much as they took out of it. We must strive to keep it that way. My fear is that with our new facilities we may get too many "free riders". People who want to join for social and status reasons, or just so that they can have somewhere nice to keep their dinghy during the August holiday.

A lesson from last season is that there are a number of local people who want to learn to sail. Our training sessions have proved very popular and also brought in new members who have taken part in the Club activities with enthusiasm. We must continue with them. Along with this we must also seek to bring along the youngsters and also improve our standards. To this end we will be running sessions for race training, powerboat handling, and first aid. The RYA dinghy sailing courses are also open to members who want to brush up their sailing techniques as well as those starting from scratch. All this brings the need for help from the more experienced as well as the loan of equipment. Any offers to David Gifford, Graham Silsbury, Dick Batters or myself please.

Last season was not the best weatherwise, I am sure next will be a good one. Even if it isn't we will not let that spoil our sport based on our new Clubhouse.

Barrie Skelcher

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### BLIND SAILING

The East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST) is holding taster weekends for both blind sailors and skippers who wish to take part on June 6 to 8 and September 12 to 14, 2003.

The traditional weeklong cruise for blind sailors is from July 5 to July 11. For details contact Carol Bloyce on 01473 659221 or email her on [c.bloyce@btinternet.com](mailto:c.bloyce@btinternet.com)

### Your advert here...

Members, if you would like to place your sailing related FREE advert here then contact: [ads@slaughdensailingclub.co.uk](mailto:ads@slaughdensailingclub.co.uk) or phone newsletter

## For sale

251b CQR type anchor  
by Sowester. Good  
condition. Offers.  
Barrie Skelcher tel  
01728 830463

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Contributions please to:  
Editor home address  
Or via link on the web site  
[www.slaughdensailingclub.co.uk](http://www.slaughdensailingclub.co.uk)  
Or e-mail  
[news@slaughdensailingclub.co.uk](mailto:news@slaughdensailingclub.co.uk)

Thank you - ed.

## BRITAIN'S OLDEST BOAT RESCUED

Britain's oldest recorded boat, a 1200-year-old dugout canoe has been lifted from its saltmarsh hiding place and put into a special holding tank at the 'Deepsea Finds' Laboratory at Bentwaters, Suffolk, prior to restoration. A local fisherman trawled the boat, cut with axes and an adze out of an entire oak trunk, up from the sea off Dunwich in 1998. Since then the dugout has been kept under water in the ooze of a pond in Suffolk Wildlife Trust's reserve at Thorpeness.

Make sure you get the latest news by signing up to the RYA News Groups on the RYA website at:

[www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)

**Eastern Region  
Disability Awareness Training  
Course 5th – 6th April 2003  
East Anglian Sailing Trust**

**Course Objectives**  
To be aware and demonstrate knowledge of:  
Needs of disabled sailors- ashore and afloat  
Communication skills and disability terminology  
Specialist equipment and adaptations  
Moving and handling techniques

Course application form & details from:  
**Doug Connelley**  
7 Staniforth Road  
Thetford  
Norfolk, IP243DU  
Tel: (01842) 762 185  
Mob: 07939 476315  
E-mail: [dougsailthet@rya-online.net](mailto:dougsailthet@rya-online.net)

**Course details**  
The Course is FREE to all Sailors, Committee members, Instructors and Volunteers

## For sale

Waker  
Knotmaster Mk 11a log,  
complete with spinner  
and deck fitting. VGC.  
Offers.  
Barrie Skelcher tel 01728  
830463.

Course application form contact:  
Doug Connelly  
7 Staniforth Road Thetford, Norfolk  
IP24 3DU  
01842 762 185  
[dougsailthet@rya-online.net](mailto:dougsailthet@rya-online.net)

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## Caption Competition



'one day I will find the shanty song they are singing'.

Don't forget that the best caption printed in the newsletter wins a special prize at the Fitting out supper.

*Entries and photos please to [Caption@the usual address—thanks—Ed](mailto:Caption@theusualaddress-thanks-Ed).*

### *Wanted:*

#### *Photos for the Caption Competition*

*Please send your pictures to the Editor in complete confidence - if necessary!*

*Either email or post photos to Nick - address in Year book. All pictures returned eventually. Ed.*

## RETURN TO HOLLAND ~ THE WADDEN

**ISLANDS** A story of one man's endeavours against the elements, a sea faring roller coaster of a ride' - 'you could taste the salt of the sea spray against your face ... there were times I felt physically sick' - these are just a few of the reviews received for last years 'Best newsletter contribution'. Now, how about your story? It does not have to be funny, it does not have to be exciting, it may be just a trip up river, or even a picnic, whatever.

Yes, there is still time! Get your story to the editor now.

Entries will be judged by the editor and last years winner, **Steve Fennel**. The award will be presented at the Fitting out Supper.. So get writing, come on, be honest there's not much else to do these cold dark nights. e-mail to: [comp@the usual address](mailto:comp@theusualaddress) -Thanks Ed.



A smiling Mr Steve Fennel, just before being awarded the Best Newsletter contribution. 2002

Have you hit the site yet?

[www.](http://www.slaughdensailingclub.co.uk)

[slaughdensailingclub.co.uk](http://www.slaughdensailingclub.co.uk)

SSC has gained its' "Recognised Training Establishment (RTE) status with the "Royal Yachting Association" (RYA) now read our new members' views on the RYA Training

The summer of 2002 saw new members join Slaughden, many of whom were attracted to the Club's Open Day in May or to subsequent events by the promotion of the Club's Recognised Training Establishment status with the RYA.

Several of those new members now take this opportunity to recount their experiences throughout the year. Lessons were held on Monday evenings to enable members to work towards Basic Sailing (level 1 and 2) qualifications. Wayfarers were used for the majority of the training, with Toppers being used for the capsizing drill. Club members were only too happy for their own boats to be used for the training events, and we would like to extend our thanks to those members who did so.

All the members of the Monday evening sessions had little or no sailing experience and were a mixed group of men and ladies of all ages. Items of clothing and equipment such as buoyancy aids were lent by the Club until such time as new members were certain that they wanted to continue sailing and then clothing shops and catalogues were recommended for best buys. No one was pressured into buying expensive equipment.

All members and their partners (whether they were also learning to sail, or were non-sailors who wanted to join in the social events) were made to feel very welcome. Disabled members in particular were never left out, being taken out on the river in the support boat to give them a feel of what the others were learning.

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Three instructors took the bulk of the lessons, Graham, Pippa and Hugh, ably assisted in the support boat by Jack and on occasions Paul. Each instructor brought something different to the course and were calm and friendly throughout despite our constant attempts to test their patience!

The course very much followed the main ethics of the Club as being a "hands on" experience. All the trainees were shown how to rig and then encouraged to help get the boats ready beforehand and put away afterwards.

The weather was good and only one evening session on the river was cancelled due to high winds. The high turn out of new members wishing to take lessons, together with the unfortunate unavailability of other instructors, meant that on the water training had to be limited to alternate Mondays. The other weeks were spent in the Clubhouse with the RYA handbook learning sailing theory, or out in the support boat watching others being put through their paces. There was also homework for those who wanted it, learning knots and nautical terms, etc.

Evenings always ended with a winding down in the Clubhouse, with hot drinks and cakes/biscuits being provided by Trish, although talk would always be of the evening's sailing and adrenaline was usually still high even after going home.

The Monday night trainees were also invited to attend on Wednesday race nights, and on most Wednesdays could get to crew for the experienced helm thereby gaining valuable experience without being in a "lesson" situation. For those who couldn't get a sail as crew there was always

**Each instructor brought something different to the course and were calm and friendly throughout despite our constant attempts to test their patience!**

the option of helping out in the support boat, a useful way of gaining knowledge about the river and having a bit more time to gain awareness of what was happening with other boats – not always possible when sailing as a crew.

Social events throughout the summer were well attended and enjoyed by the new members. By the time of the August cruise to Dove Point two new members had already bought their own boat which they sailed themselves, but for others there were invitations to hop on board a cruiser with a glass of something chilled and let someone else do the work! Members were so inspired by the

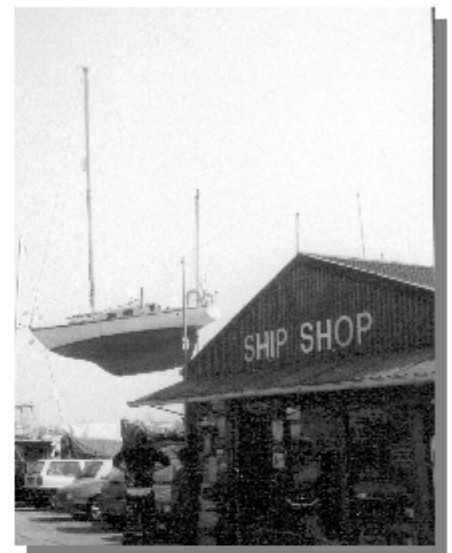
Monday night training that there are now four additions to the dinghy park: two Wayfarers, one Mirror and a Skipper.

The summer of 2002 was a resounding success certainly from the point of view of those of us who were new to the sport. A new interest, many new friends and a feeling of belonging to a Club that really does live by its ethics of being run by the people for the people means that we are all looking forward to next spring and getting the boats out again.

A big thank you to all at Slaughden, but in particular the instructors who gave their time freely to welcome us new members and we all hope that we can give back to the Club as much as you have given to us.

**The 2003 training programme will be featured in the Spring edition—Ed.**

## Caption Competition



**'Spaarndam ship shop reports global warming problems'**

