

WHITSTABLE YACHT CLUB

June 2014 Newsletter



From the Commodore – Richard Earland

Welcome to the WYC Newsletter. Whilst we have significantly increased the use of social media (Face book, News feeds, Mail chimp and the Club Website) members have said they still value an update by News Letter. We aim to produce six a year at about two monthly intervals. With the aim of keeping members updated about developments and events in the club. Your feedback is important, as are any contributions you may like to make. Please discuss any ideas you have with any member of the General Committee whose details are on the club website at: -

wyc.org.uk/flattened/contact_officers.html

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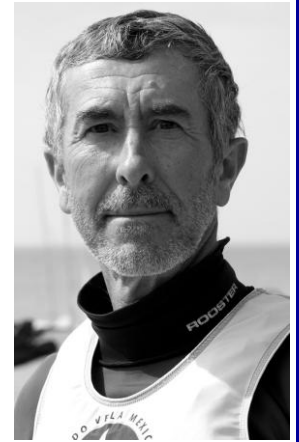
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Introducing Max and Steve – General Committee

The AGM on the 28th March saw a number of new members stepping forward in both Flag Officer and General Committee (GC) positions. We will introduce members of the GC to you by sharing a few facts - some things you may not know about your fellow club members. Rather than inundate the reader with information in this issue we introduce two long standing club members – one who has been on the GC for a number of years – Steve Gray and another who was elected for the first time this season – Max Hunt.

Max Hunt

- Is a budding (sorry for the pun) amateur viticulturalist - in his first year looking after a row of vines at a large vineyard just outside Canterbury.
- Has had enough of big business and has decided that refurbishing boats is much more fun.
- Used to be able to speak a bit of Spanish until he tried to properly learn Italian - the languages are so similar he's now totally confused!
- Is trying hard to find a property in the Whitstable/Tankerton area that has a garage/workshop, off-road parking, that he can afford.



Steve Gray



- Started sailing aged 12 in black Mirror 5988 my Dad bought for £80 from Exchange and Mart
- Bought first Laser (10343) 40 years ago and am currently on my fifth - and should be much better at it having sailed one for 40 years on and off...
- Was a qualified Senior Instructor whilst at uni and came close to taking a full-time job running a sailing school as a career.
- Have owned a number of boats that are not Lasers over the years - Enterprise, Lark, Topper, Mirror, 29er and Tasar to name a few - have lost money on all of them!
- Have been in automotive trade most of my working life importing/marketing Land Rover, Daihatsu, Jeep/Chrysler/Dodge and SsangYong vehicles over the years, but am still a pretty poor off-road driver despite lots of training...
- Have travelled a good bit for work (98 visits to Detroit) but would always prefer to visit India - endlessly fascinating and always challenging!

Plans for the Club and progress on improvements so far

The 2014 sailing season has got off to a very good start with good fleet sizes in all events and very good attendances overall. Good early season weather has helped with an excellent turnout of 55 boats over the Club Championships and 6 of 7 possible races in the spring series being run.

Progress on the new Committee Boat is reported elsewhere with regular up-dates on both the Club Website / Facebook and News feeds. It is important that this new asset is seen not just as a replacement but as an exciting new capability – progress has been very impressive and the quality of the workmanship impressive. Thanks go to Ian and Jason Wild and Stuart France for all their hard work. Since early discussions about club developments in March of this year, a number of initiatives have been taken forward.

Andrea Oliver has stepped forward to lead on families and youth sailing. A small group is leading this agenda and a number of very successful families social and sailing events have taken place.

Peter Gowing is leading the Sailing Development programme this year again with very strong participation – particularly amongst the Laser fleet.

Jill Fagg has begun to get to grips with the role of Rear Commodore House and is working very closely with Andy Jackson. He is leading a small group that is considering the whole “Look and Feel” of the club from the basis of the fabric of the buildings and the ‘membership experience’ of using the facilities. This work has identified three priorities that will be taken forward as follows: -

- Phase One – Refurbishment of the Sea facing external spaces of the club
- Phase Two – Redevelopment and enhancements to the interior of the club to improve the experience for members. This will follow consultation and the use of ‘Mood Boards’ to allow members to contribute to the design principals.
- Phase Three – A continuation of the long-term strategy for major enhancements over a strategic period. This will need to be matched with significant fund raising aspirations.



In addition to leading the club design strand of work Andy Jackson was Co-opted at the first meeting of the General Committee – following the AGM in March as Vice Commodore.

Membership Matters

The following initiatives (and progress so far) are being taken forward

- Promoting the club as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) – Progress: Getting rid of the prominent “Members Only” sign has been a start. The club has fallen into line with best practice for a CASC and no longer insists on new members needing a proposer /seconded.
- Involving club members in recruiting – Progress: The General Committee has agreed a proposal that members should be rewarded for new members they recruit. – See the minutes of the June GC and the News feed for more details.
- Reviewing the ‘joining’ experience for new members’ – Progress: Recruiting a Family Liaison Officer and Sailing Development Officer and improving the joining paperwork issued from the office.
- Review the types of membership – Progress: We are currently trialling our first Corporate Membership.
- Monitoring membership statistics – Progress: The Sailing and membership officer will produce a monthly membership report so that the GC can monitor progress in our aim of growing the membership.
- Review methods of payment for annual membership - To be considered over the next few weeks.

The Office and our Staff

In addition to the day-to-day activities of a busy office a significant amount of work has been taken forward in the club office under the leadership of our new Club Manager Jeff Emerson. All staff contracts have been reviewed, along with processes and the way the office works. These

changes will achieve efficiencies, and present a better experience for club members. A new telephone system has been installed, allowing 'dial in' and conference call facilities. Maureen Bush is doing sterling work supporting Jeff with bespoke training and overhauling the way finances are run on a day -to -day basis. The loyal, hard working staff employed by the club do much on our behalf. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

Listening to your views

The General Committee have responsibility for not just ensuring good Governance of the Club but importantly for taking the ideas about development and enhancements forward. To ensure progress is made the GC are holding a series of planning and development workshops. All members of the general Committee are welcome to attend such activities – no one is excluded. There is however a core group emerging from those leading the various activities. This group comprises The Commodore, Vice Commodore, Club Manager, Rear Commodore's Sailing and House, Mat Green, fee Clarke and Ian Wild.

We are keen to hear what members think about the ideas and intend to hold a series of opportunities for discussion with the GC. The first of these will be scheduled to take place after racing during Whitstable week. Details will be promulgated on the club website and News feed.



Summer of Sailing

After a great start to the sailing season, I'm now looking forward to the summer of sailing, and we have a packed schedule of sailing and social events.

In July we have the Town Regatta and Wanderer National Championships on the weekend of 12th and 13th, then the Dawes Cup and Whitstable Week from 27th to 1st August. In August we have the August Regatta on the Bank Holiday Weekend, then in September we have the Vattenfall Forts Race and Barts Bash scheduled. As well as these special events, we have regular club racing all other weekends, Wednesday Evening races every other Wednesday, and plenty of Sailing Development and Cadet & Family events planned.

The club website is the best place to see the latest schedule, and it's worth keeping an eye on our email newsletter, facebook page and twitter account for updates and new events. If you haven't done so already, I'd also recommend adding the club sailing schedule to your smartphone or computer diary. Download it at

wyc.org.uk/on-the-water/schedule

I look forward to seeing you on the water soon!

Robert Govier (Rear Commodore **Sailing**)

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Web: www.wyc.org.uk