



Shearwater Sailing Club

Log Easter 2011

From the Commodore

2011 has started well on the water with a good turnout for the First Thrash. Well done to all those got their boats ready in time for the start of the season. The start of the Spring and Annual series have been well supported too.

Saturday 9th April saw Shearwater hosting the Comet and Topper Open events, with 22 boats out on the lake. This produced an interesting day's racing for both classes, frisky winds in the morning caught out some of the Topper helms who took an early bath and kept the rescue boats busy for a while. Despite some of the sailors spending most of their time at the back of the fleet I didn't hear any moans or complaints, just people enjoying the weather and the fun of sailing.

Welcome to those new members who have joined the club this year. I hope to see you on the water soon. If you have any questions about the club, racing or sailing in general don't be afraid to ask. There is a wealth of experience among our members, some of it going back further than they care to remember. So whether it is how to read the wind shifts on the lake or the best way to apply varnish someone will be able to help.

On the subject of helping remember that the club relies on the goodwill and efforts of the members to keep functioning smoothly. Nowhere is this more important than on the weekly race days. As a minimum an OOD, an Assistant OOD and a Rescue boat driver are needed. Peter Barnes is the Duties Officer and does not want to have to detail off people to fill the vacancies in the rota. Please check your diaries and visit the club website or speak to Peter to do your turn on duty. If you are not sure what goes on in the box during a race drop by sometime, you will find it is not as complicated as you think and you see things from a different perspective.

There are plenty of events coming up over the next few months, especially the weekend at Roadford and the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. Please see the articles below in the log for further details.

I wish you all fair winds

Martin Honor – Commodore

Shearwater 50th Anniversary Weekend

18th/19th June 2011

Here is an outline of what is planned for this special celebration; more details will follow nearer the time..At this stage the details and times below may well change a little

SATURDAY 18th

2.00pm to 6.00 pm then an evening BBQ, or possibly something like a hog roast, and social.

This will be an afternoon of fun on and off the water that everyone can enjoy, particularly families and youngsters, so bring the family, friends, children and grandchildren.

Things will start at 2.00 with judging a best dressed boat competition. (so come a little earlier and turn your boat into a pirate ship, dress it up with colourful flags or whatever your imagination can think of.) These will be judged at about 2.00 with prizes awarded then.

During the afternoon there will be a number of games on the water for all to join in, such as a tug of war competition between two boats (you don't have to use your own boat for that!), a treasure hunt and so on. Prizes for these will be awarded as the day goes on.

The activities will end at about six o'clock and there is about an hour to change and put boats away before the evening festivities from sometime after 7.00pm. Details about the tickets for this will be announced later. There will be a deadline for tickets as we must know numbers we need to cater for. (please let us know if you are vegetarian or have other dietary needs .)

We have permission from Longleat to allow camping in the dinghy park overnight if you want to make a long night of it or be early for the Sunday racing!

SUNDAY 19th

This will consist of three races with a number of prizes (slow handicap, fast handicap, vintage handicap, 1st lady helm, 1st junior helm). **But there is a special one off 50th**

Anniversary GOLD CUP to be awarded to the overall winner. This is an opportunity not to be repeated – well until we are 100 perhaps, so you get to keep this special trophy. This will be an OPEN event so do ask other sailors to join in and there will be some vintage boats too so if your friends sail an older boat they are most welcome (handicaps based on the CVRDA system). So a Junior lady helm sailing a boat that's over 25 years old in the slow or fast handicap fleet could possibly come away with about five trophies! The entry cost will be £12 for a boat, this will include one helm, £6 for a crew or extra person. (this covers, not only the prizes, but includes lunch, tea and hot/cold drinks throughout the day)

So do put this weekend in your diaries now and make it a great weekend for you, your family and the club.

Racing at Shearwater for Novices (like me). Peter Barnes

At Shearwater we run two kinds of races: Pursuits and Points. The Pursuits race is held on Sunday mornings and the Points on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings.

A Pursuits race (Sunday a.m.) gives every boat a start time calculated so that the slowest boat and the sailors with the highest personal handicap start first. This will give you clear water at the start of the race, with the faster boats catching up. Theoretically, by the end of the race everyone will have arrived at the same spot at the same time. Fortunately, this rarely happens! Do ask for help when signing up in the clubhouse so you get the correct start time for you and your boat.

The Points races (Sunday p.m. and Tuesday evening) start everyone at the same time and calculate an 'adjusted time' at the end of the race for each sailor based on boat speed and competence. Again, ask for help so you put down your correct number (from about 1070 to 1670). Once on the water it will do no harm to hold back a bit by staying slightly downwind from the line and following everyone, copying their choice of tack, etc until you are left behind (or maybe not!) and have to fend for yourself.....

Now, down to the nitty gritty: If possible, start racing on Tuesday evenings and get there by about 5pm. If you can only do Sundays, aim to be there by 10am and rig your boat on the hard standing by the clubhouse so that your sails are ready to put up once you are launched. By about 10.25 you'll be ready to change into your wetsuit, with something warm and windproof over the top. 10.35 sees you asking for help and filling in your name, boat number and start time on the race sheet. This start time will be anything from 10.55 to 11.20, so you may only have 20 minutes to memorise the course displayed on the board outside the clubhouse, launch, get your sails up and sail to the start line! Don't panic... remember your buoyancy aid...

Once out on the water your aim is not to win, but to communicate with other sailors and learn from what they are doing. If you find that you and another boat are heading for the same bit of water (!) it is always acceptable to shout 'hold your course' and avoid them, or ask 'do I have right of way?' The boat on Starboard tack (wind coming from the right of the boat) has right of way. When two boats meet on port tack, the one beating up to wind has right of way, so, heading downwind on Port tack you have to avoid everyone.

I hope this gets you racing – why miss all the fun? We'll have more advice on good starts, rounding buoys, etc, in the next log. But 'til then, ask for help, get out there, if in doubt keep clear of others, don't blame me when it all goes wrong, and, most of all, JUST DO IT!

A helpful way of remembering the Port and Starboard rule and which tack you are on is to use a piece of masking tape on both sides of your boom. When you are sitting on the port (left) side you need to be able to read PORT, GIVE WAY. The other side should read STARBOARD, GO. If you want to be a little more subtle write **port** in red marker and **starboard** in green. (These are the colours that represent the two words). Then think traffic lights: if you see green then 'go', if you see red then 'give way'.



Average Lap Times

At the beginning of the 2010 sailing season the sailing committee decided to use average lap times (ALTs) for all handicap races for the next two seasons. We're now into the 2nd season and we think that this is a good time to consider how things are panning out. Different opinions have been expressed some saying that they like the ALT system, in which everyone is given a position in the race,

and others saying they preferred the old system where the maximum time for a race was 2 hours—any boat not finishing in that time was ruled DNF (did not finish).

ALTs are recommended by the RYA, the main reasons being that everyone sails in the same wind conditions and because, as races last for a specified time, it is easier to plan a day's events. However it is important that a race lasts for about one hour for the lead boat as the handicap system is based on that assumption. Looking through last season's results most races ended with the first and last boats finishing within 10 minutes of one another. Also they show that the faster boats are very rarely, if ever, affected by the ALT system---the slower boats can be especially if the wind conditions alter.

As an example of how ALTs work here are the details of how the boats finished in the Bristol Goblet on the 3rd April 2011. Pat Jones was OOD. Ten boats were in the race.

Name (Boat and PY)	Laps sailed	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Position
Jon Rawson (Supernova 1065)	7	64mins 31secs	3635	1 st
Peter Barnes (Mirror 1371)	5	65mins 02secs	3985	6 th .
Mike Jones (Laser 1082)	6	65mins 41secs	4249	8 th .
Martyn Stubbs(Vision 1085)	6	65mins 48secs	4245	7 th .
Jack Langley (Laser 1082)	7	66mins 40secs	3697	2 nd .
Chris Mulholland(Laser 1082)	7	67mins 30secs	3743	3 rd .
Nick Anderson (Laser 1082)	7	67mins 57secs	3768	4 th .
Rob Kilby (Lark 1073)	7	68mins 54secs	3853	5 th .
Fraser Jones (Laser 4.7 1175)	5	73mins 30secs	5254	9 th .
Bill Lynn (Mirror)	DNF			11 th .

I thought it was time to give you an update. If you have anything to add to the debate why not send your comments to Chris Barlow who can then include them in the next log.

Colin Newton.



Spotted in Bath, Shearwater beware!

Notices

- Is anyone still in contact with past members and especially past commodores? The committee wish to make contact with them regarding the 50th anniversary. Please email or talk to Martin Honor.
- Don't forget the Shearwater trip to Roadford (see flier that you should have received or look at the website). This is always a lovely weekend at a large reservoir set in beautiful country. Whether you want to race, cruise, potter or practice hoisting your spinnaker I'm sure you will enjoy it.
- Next CVRDA event is Bough Beech, Nr. Tunbridge Wells see www.cvrda.org and is also a vintage Merlin event.
- I have a number of old Mirror spars, rudders and centreboards from various boats. If anyone needs anything a donation to club funds will secure. Chris Barlow
- The website is kept up to date by Pat and others so check it out for all information about the club www.shearwatersailingclub.co.uk
- Check your duty days on the website http://www.shearwatersailingclub.co.uk/ssc/?page_id=369 It is a condition of membership and if you haven't already suggested a date for your duty day then it is worth finding out when you doing it.

Club Key Holders – Important for OOD's & Rescue Boat operators

Jack Langley	Bath	01761 471304
Chris Mulholland	Bishopstow	01985 300434
Richard Loverock	Trowbridge	01225 762838
Colin Singer	Crockerton	01985 213696
Nic Cross	Dilton Marsh	01373 822258
Ken Adams	Devizes	07974 073764
Martin Honor	Dilton Marsh	01373 822031
Margaret Pell	Frome	01373 462549
Paul Athay	Frome	01373 463474
Matt Weale	Longbridge Deverill	01985 841223
Leon Ward	Westbury	01373 824126