

“Notes from the Bridge”

Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club Newsletter – October 2017



(aka “Commodores’ Jottings”)

Another busy year for the BSC has flown by – Wednesday evening racing has been and gone, Burnham Week is just a distant memory (didn’t someone win the Town Cup?), Friday evening sailing has finished for the year. But despite the nights drawing in and the clocks having gone back, it is not all doom and gloom - I don’t mean to panic you but you’ve only got another 22 weekends to prepare your boats for the 2018 season!

2017 – Another good year for sailing

We have had a good season of Wednesday evening racing this year. In the dinghies the largest fleet was fast handicap with an impressive 15 boats at the start of the Spring Series. In the keelboats we had Class 1, Class 3 (white sails), 707s, RS Elites, Squibs and RBODs averaging 23 boats each week.



Class 3 was particularly competitive this year with seven entries. We all tried hard but Ron Woolhead stood out by doing everything he could to make *Heartbeat* lighter and faster, getting rid of bicycles, anchor and chain, a vast

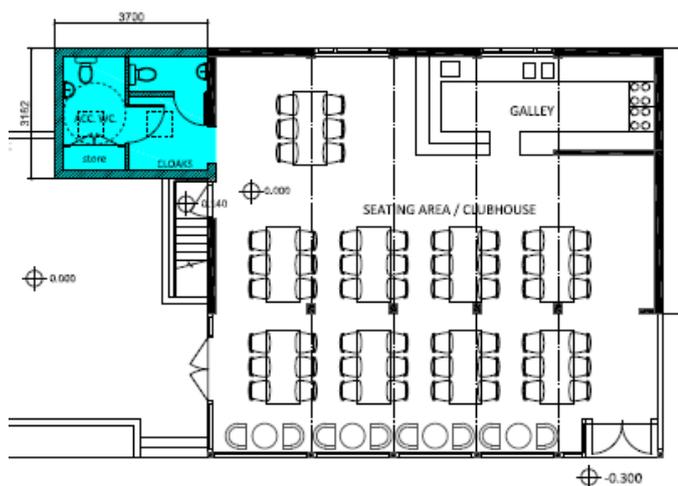
collection of chandlery and even his store of booze (I made that last bit up). The final week of the Summer Series saw at least 3 boats getting scrubbed – it mattered that much! Ron and myself were both on the shortlist for the Clanger Trophy this year – Ron for rounding the 8kt mark (or was it the ski limit mark?) instead of “Cliff” and me for following him! However, the worthy winner was Richard Moore who managed to fall out of his boat and was rescued by his crew, Roger Tolhurst, at the second attempt.



BSC boats also did well in Burnham week - see later.

Accessible WC

We have been working to progress the construction of the accessible WC and hope to have this in place for the start of next season. For most of us the existing toilets and changing facilities on the lower ground floor are no problem but, unfortunately, they discourage some of our more senior members from attending social events or coming along to the club on Wednesdays and Fridays as spectators, particularly when their mobility decreases. An accessible WC has been on our wish list for a very long time but the original extension plans were so ambitious and unaffordable that the WC was put on hold. But we are now going ahead with the construction of an accessible WC attached to the side of the clubhouse at ground floor level which



can be accessed from within the clubhouse. (However, we do expect our able bodied members to continue using the existing facilities.)

The cost of this work is in the region of £16k so we have applied for some external funding. This external funding is not guaranteed but we are hopeful (we should find out if we are successful in November). We have also received some generous donations from members but if anyone else wishes to make a donation please contact our President, John Mellard, or Vice-President, Rosemary Prior.

Pontoon

The pontoon seems to feature regularly in our newsletters, although we shouldn't be surprised at that - it is essential for our sailing. But on the morning of 23rd February 2017 ("Doris Day") I received a phone call from Priors boatyard about 30 seconds after a particularly strong gust of wind came through - "You won't believe what has just happened to the pontoon, it has taken off." The image I was greeted with a few minutes later will stick in my mind for a long time.



But we did manage to get it back together in time for the sailing season (although we have yet to get one pile vertical and re-install the final pile cage). However, Google Earth is still showing the pontoon in a fragmented state!

Burnham Week

Just in case you didn't know, Digger won the Town Cup!! It is the first time in the 90 year history of the cup that Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club has been engraved on the cup (although BSC members have won the cup and crewed on winning boats). So, huge congratulations to Digger, Pete, Doug, Ben and Tom.



A number of other boats from the BSC competed in Burnham Week and, whilst the winds were light, we had plenty of sunshine and it was hugely enjoyable.

A new feature of Burnham Week this year was the John Torrance Memorial Race for dinghies on the Wednesday evening. It proved very popular with 32 boats racing (won by Ben & Flynn in the Fast HC, Milly Drew in the Slow HC and Angus Beale in Optimists). But the fun didn't stop there – we managed to cram 160 people into the clubhouse and marquee for the Hog Roast and party with dancing to JiggaWatts (hopefully we will get them back next year).

2017 in brief

In June we were fortunate to be given a Hunter 19 (Hunter Europa) “Thalassa” by Peter Hardiman. Peter and Linda have moved on to a new chapter in their lives on the Greek Island of Corfu and generously donated the boat to the BSC. It is basically a “Squib with a lid” and we are planning to moor it on the foreshore outside the club for members to use. Thanks Peter and Linda for your generosity.

We also purchased a replacement for “BSC2” which “popped its tubes” on a particularly hot day (yes, we did have a hot summer). The new “BSC2” is a brand new Vanguard 400 RIB which we secured for a very competitive price.

Other projects undertaken this year include refurbishment of the clubhouse floor, construction of the concrete hardstanding outside the tank room (store), installation of electricity to the pump room / store, some significant refurbishment work to Volunteer and our MAD Kayakers built their very impressive kayak store. We have also replaced the fence between the dinghy park/car park.

In terms of sailing and socials during the year, in addition to Burnham Week and our regular

Wednesday, Friday and casual weekend sailing, we had: -

- The Jimmy Starling Trophy (Squibs)
- RS Tera Open Meeting
- Asymmetric Open Meeting
- RS Feva Training Weekends
- Commodore's Cruise
- Bart's Bash
- BSC Regatta
- Icicle Race – to be arranged!

Socials included :-

- Bingo Night
- Fish & Chip Supper
- “Afternoon Tea at the BSC”
- Games night
- Prizegiving Dinner
- Junior Awards Evening (10th November)



Alan Hanna

(typical pirate, always nicking the cakes!)

St Mathew Cup

We nearly did it again! The BSC Team of Ian Gray, Ian Simons, Dan Wastnage, Ellen Morley, Dylan McPherson and Ben Harden sailed incredibly well in the RBODs. It was team racing format and to say it was hotly contested is a major understatement. After each of the four Burnham Clubs raced each other in a "Round Robin", the BSC progressed to the final against the RBYC which saw the BSC boats cross the line in 1st and 2nd. But it didn't finish there – a protest over an incident at the first leeward mark led to two hours deliberation by a protest committee who eventually deemed that one of the BSC boats had not taken the penalty turn "at their first opportunity" and disqualified the BSC, declaring the RBYC winners of the 2017 St Mathew Cup.



Whilst the protest and final decision will be remembered (and debated) for many a year, no one can deny how well our sailors did.

Looking forward to 2018

Although we will be printing the 2018 Calendar & Race Program and posting it on the website in the new year as usual, in the meantime I might as well give you a few confirmed dates: -

- **Wednesday 11th April – Practise Race**
- **Wednesday 18th April - Race 1 Spring Series**
- **Sat/Sun 19th – 20th May – RS Tera Open**
- **Saturday 16th June – Commodore's Cruise**
- **Saturday 14th July – Asymmetric Open**

Stand Up Paddleboarding ("SUP")

In accordance with our desire to encourage a range of water sports, accommodate the wishes of existing and potential future members, and "move with the times", we are establishing an SUP section which will be led by Tom Harrison (BSC member who lives on houseboat Anne Marie). And why not, it is the fastest growing watersport, we have the ideal pontoon for launching from and our youngsters have been doing it for the last few years when there is not enough wind by simply using windsurfer boards. However, Tom is encouraging new members to the BSC, providing SUP coaching and is planning some SUP events for 2018. We will shortly be adding a new SUP page to the website.

Notice of AGM

Finally, the AGM will be held on Sunday 28th January 2018 at 3pm at the BSC Clubhouse.

- Any proposals for rule changes (Proposed and Seconded by Members) should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary* on or before 1st January 2018.
- Any proposals for agenda items must be received by the Honorary Secretary* on or before 7th January 2018.
- The Agenda for the AGM will be posted on the website on the 19th January 2018.
- The Financial statement will be available on request from the Hon Treasurer in advance of the meeting [from 21st January 2018].

* Position remains vacant so in this case please send any proposals to the Commodore.

Tea and cakes to follow the meeting.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our wonderful club.

John Saunders

Commodore