A Message from the Editor

This month’s Mainsheet concentrates on the forthcoming AGM. We have:

• The AGM calling notice. Note that there will be a light buffet provided by the club after the AGM
• Forms to complete should you want to vote but cannot attend yourself (the proxy form)
• A message from Zoe McCaig who is standing, unopposed, for Commodore
• Some short messages from the candidates who up for election at the AGM, and a list of those standing unopposed.
• A valedictory message from Stuart Ford, the outgoing Commodore

But Mainsheet wouldn’t be Mainsheet without some of our regular items and these are also here.

Don’t forget that the fun starts at the pond this weekend, with Cadet Registration and the Race To France taking place on Saturday 7th April. See the flyers at the end of Mainsheet.

Richard Beal
Mainsheet Editor,
mainsheetnssc@nssc.org.uk
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club Limited (the "Company") will be held at the Registered Office on

Saturday 14th April 2018 at 18:00

Business

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 13 May 2017
4. Election of the Company's Board of Directors
5. Election of Accountants
6. AOB

At the formal end of the meeting there will be presentations on:

Seaford Clubhouse Project - Ian Johnson
The Galley (Seaford) Ltd - Bill Giles
Open forum - Steve Clapham President

W J GILES, Company Secretary

Dated: 13th February 2018

Notes

1. All members entitled to attend but only Full Sailing or Life members may vote. A voter is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and on a poll to vote in the member's place.

2. Nomination Forms for any Director post are enclosed with this notice. All nominations, duly proposed and seconded by full sailing members of the company must be received by the Secretary by midnight on Friday 23rd March 2018. The nominations will then be displayed on the results board at the Company's Registered Office by 1st April, 2018 and left displayed until the AGM;

3. Proxy Forms are enclosed with this notice and must be delivered to the Seaford Clubhouse by 1800hrs on 12 April 2018.

4. Some extra copies of the proxy and the nomination form will be available at both club-houses on the Notice Boards, the website, or by emailing an officer;

(Director positions to be filled are: Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodores for each of Seaford, Newhaven and Piddinghoe, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Hon Sailing Secretary. Up to 5 further 'ordinary' directors may be nominated, one of whom should be the Training Director. However, certain current ordinary directors may elect to remain in post in accordance with the Articles.)

The Open Forum is an opportunity for Members to ask questions of the new committee. It would be helpful if details of questions could be given to the President at least 72 hours prior to the AGM either posted to the Clubhouse or by email.

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England  Registered No. 1290424
Affiliated to The Royal Yachting Association
THE NEWHAVEN AND SEAFORD SAILING CLUB LIMITED
PROXY FORM INSTRUCTIONS 2018

If you are a full or life member of NSSC you can have a vote at the AGM or other meeting even if you are away or cannot attend.

You can instruct a proxy who can vote on your behalf. There is no limit to whom you may entrust your vote: a friend, parent, the Commodore or Secretary for example. For clarity I have put the whole of the rule below my signature block. But note the time limit before the meeting. You can either deliver or send the proxy to the Club or email a scan to me as Secretary. You cannot give it to your proxy to be presented at the meeting as that is too late. If you actually attend the meeting you can either not vote and allow your proxy to operate or you can null the proxy. But of course you cannot, both your proxy and you, vote

You can either:

- Allow your proxy to vote as they think fit.

Or

- You may instruct your proxy to vote in a particular way - that is you can add after the word ‘adjournment’ something like: ‘I want my proxy to vote for Joe Bloggs as Commodore and Daisy Jones to be Vice Commodore’.

Regards

Bill Giles
Hon Secretary NSSC
07720 399189
THE NEWHAVEN AND SEAORD SAILING CLUB LIMITED

PROXY FORM FOR 2018 AGM - 14th APRIL 2018

1. I (name)

of (address)

being a member of the above named Club,

appoint (name)

of (address)

or, failing him, or her (name)

of (address)

as my proxy to vote in my name and on my behalf at the annual general meeting of the Club to be held on 14 APRIL 2018 and at any adjournment.

(signature of member)

Dated ......................

Return this form to the Seaford Club House letterbox by 1800hrs on Thursday 12th April 2018
Zoe McCaig has been nominated for Commodore and is unopposed so there will not be a Commodore election at the AGM. We’ve asked her to provide a few words to introduce herself. A future editions of Mainsheet will include an interview with Zoe giving her the opportunity to provide some expansion of what she wants to do during her tenure.

Here’s Zoe’s message:

Writing 500 words about why I have put myself forward for Commodore is a daunting prospect. But if you read no further than this paragraph I’d like to know that as Commodore of Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club I want to ensure that our sailing club focuses upon a few key areas in the coming year. The first and most important is sailing. Whether you are 5 or 75, sailing is what we do. The second but equally important is community. A thriving sailing community is one that works together, treats each other with respect and makes coming to the club a pleasurable and enjoyable experience.

Now we’ve got the speech bit out of the way I thought it would be good to tell you a bit about myself and why I have put myself forward to become the Commodore.

6 years ago I walked into the Seaford club house and registered for a sailing course. Little did I know that this would be the start of something that would transform my life in so many ways. I loved every minute of my course and I was soon scaring the living daylights out of my instructors Jack Turner and, the late, Darren Field. Not only did I fall in love with sailing but also the community within the sailing club. I went on to buy a boat and also to introduce my daughter to this experience also.

In that first year I went sailing every time I could. I competed in the winter racing and then I made another momentous step. I started helping at cadets. By the next year I was running cadets. The school teacher in me and the sailor had found a place to meet.

In the subsequent years I have, with fabulous support from Jo West and many others, developed Cadets up to levels of over 100 cadets and their families. Currently cadets race in the Topper National Team, one in the Topper Zone Squad and three in the Optimist Zone Squad.

Our Cadets, for me, is one of our greatest achievements. Where many other clubs demographic is getting older (and ours is a little) overall our club is getting younger and that puts us in a much better place for the future. And that keeps us old sailors on our toes!!

Another area for us to celebrate is our large female sailing population. For me as a Female Commodore I will proudly advocate for this increasing group and I hope that I can be an inspiration for female sailors within the club and beyond.

When I decided to go for commodore I looked around for support and I found it in the people I have nominated. The officers of the club that I nominated are unchallenged. There are seven nominations for the five available ordinary director positions. For these I have nominated Duncan Burrows, Steve Quinn, Penelope Duncan and Noel West, and I also support Simon Suter’s nomination. Together I believe that we can build our sailing community to one that is the envy of other clubs. We come with different skills and experience but the same goal: to strengthen our sailing community and secure the sailing club’s future.

Zoe McCaig
2018 Elections

At each AGM there are elections for the board of NSSC. The board of directors consists of eight “officers” plus five additional ordinary directors. This year the eight nominations for the officer roles are unopposed. These are:

- Commodore: Zoe McCaig
- Vice Commodore: Ed Hall
- Rear Commodore, (Newhaven): Bill Wates
- Rear Commodore, (Seaford): George Cork
- Rear Commodore (Piddinghoe): Nick Blackburn
- Honorary Sailing Secretary: Terry Jones
- Honorary Treasurer: Ian Johnson
- Honorary Secretary: Richard Beal.

However, there are seven nominations for the five additional Director roles, and there will be a vote for these five positions.

The vote will take place at the AGM. If you want to vote but cannot attend the AGM you can nominate someone else to vote on your behalf (a proxy vote). The forms to allow you to do this are included elsewhere in this Mainsheet. The proxy form must be returned to the Secretary at the Seaford Clubhouse by 6pm on Thursday 12th April.

Note that not all club members are eligible to vote. Associate, Student, Social, Temporary and Honorary members are not eligible to vote.
Noel West

Hi, my name is Noel West, and I have put myself forward to be a Director of NSSC as I believe my business skills and sailing experience can be put to good use to benefit the club and its members.

I managed a very successful engineering company for 25 years, employing 80 staff and operating 4 sales and service centres throughout the UK. My business also took me, on not only travelling in the UK, but throughout the world. The experience I gained during this time will allow me to concentrate on the business side of our club, paying particular attention on the galley and sailing school. For the last 10 years I have run a charter fishing boat out of Brighton Marina. Although this was in effect a hobby business, I learnt a great deal about the professional boating industry. Now I am fully retired with time to devote to NSSC.

I am also a self-confessed “boat nerd”, I have always loved boats in all their forms. I am a commercially endorsed Yacht-master for power and sail, a dinghy instructor, racing coach and cruising instructor. I even really enjoy rowing my 10 foot dinghy up and down the River Ouse!

My passion is racing sailing dinghies, and I have campaigned, racing in Enterprises, Solos, Streakers and Flying Fifteens in the UK and abroad, in Opens, National and International events. My highlights were racing Flying Fifteens in New Zealand and Hong Kong. Never up near the front of the fleet, but what an experience.

I delight in passing my skills on, and took great pleasure in teaching our Cadets during the last 3 years, on how to race. I was very pleased to see 3 of my “kids” join the South East Zone racing squad, last year.

However the really important part in teaching is not zone squads, but to watch and enjoy how each of the youngsters improve, and enjoy sailing. Fantastic to watch them join me in my passion.

Please vote for me.

Noel West
Stuart Ford

I have been Commodore for the last 2 years and prior to this been a board member for the previous 3 years. I am able to assist with the direction the new Commodore wishes to take based on experience both within the club and my wider knowledge of financial management and business related employment skills. The club has moved in the last two years, to a company turning over ¼ million pounds, with the potential this year of much more. In many organisations the outgoing person like the Commodore stays on for a further year and this helps with understanding of previous decisions, continuing a robust hand over that supports the continued success of the club.

Stuart Ford
Commodore

Mike Beamont

I have been a member of this club for over 35 years, having joined to teach my young sons to sail. During this time I have served as Training Director, Senior Dinghy and Sports Boat Instructors, Principal of the Sailing School, Commodore and Vice Commodore. I even managed the bar as well!

I offer my wealth of experience to the Board of Directors, I have always encouraged forward thinking and not living in the past. I believe the Galley is a great opportunity for developing revenue for the club if managed professionally. Cadet development has significantly improved over the last few years and hopefully will continue to improve.

Mike Beaumont
Steve Quinn

Hi, I am Steve Quinn, a family man who along with my partner Sarah, have three children in cadets, Maddie in the Topper race squad and George and Harry currently racing optimists.

I am in my fourth year at the club and a firm believer that the more you put into the club, the more you can get out. That is why I am excited to support the visions of the new board, including bringing Seaford and Piddinghoe together again, maximising every members enjoyment of the club, both in sailing and social events.

Steve Quinn

Duncan Barrows

We joined NSSC as a family in 2015 after being introduced to the delight that is Piddinghoe Pond by friends who were members of the club. I bought an Enterprise and so started our slowly growing dinghy collection.

I became berth master at Piddinghoe in 2016 and have very much enjoyed the opportunity that position provides to help, and to get to know, club members. It has been great helping to organise Piddinghoe work parties and to get the Piddinghoe berth register into order. As a parent of NSSC cadets, I have also loved being able to regularly help out ashore for the Topper group.

During the week I work as a software engineer and until recently ran my own software company. At weekends you’ll often find me pottering about at Piddinghoe, manning a bonfire or in the summer playing follow my leader in a dinghy with the kids.

As a family we love spending time with other club members and camping at the pond during the summer is a highlight.

I have also appreciated the events held at Seaford. Living in Hove, Seaford is a bit further away for us to come, but the opportunity to meet up with friends in a welcoming bar has brought us over. I look forward to continuing with this and look forward to getting to know people who sail from Seaford better. This year we hope to graduate to Seaford and start sailing on the sea.

I’m hooked, and I want to do what I can to help others enjoy the club too. I would welcome the opportunity to represent others and to help run the club for the benefit of its members. Thank you.

Duncan Barrows
Simon Suter

I have been sailing since the age of 10, and a member of NSSC for nearly 20 years, I am an RYA DI, SI and PBI. I have a background in agriculture and engineering, with 25 years experience in running a company in building and landscaping. I still work part time as a College Lecturer, Assessor and Administrator.

I have always been active in the Club, helping with practical tasks, and joined the Board 5 years ago, first as Rear Comm Seaford, standing in as Rear Comm Piddington, and latterly as Training Director, taking on the roles of Principal of the Sailing School, Chief Instructor and Powerboat Instructor.

I look forward to developing the Sailing School into something that the Club can be proud of, utilising the Club’s resources and assets, continuing to develop a sustainable and healthy income stream to support the club’s financial aims.

I really enjoy helping novices, younger or older, onto the water giving confidence, competence and maximum enjoyment to club members in boats.

Simon Suter

Training Director

Penelope Duncan

Twenty years ago I did a sailing course at Piddington and rediscovered the adrenaline buzz my life had been missing!

I joined the club, bought a Topper and started racing at Piddington and Seaford. A few years later I became an RYA Instructor and have helped many adults learn to sail and to love the Club. I have been running ‘Women on the Water’, along with a great team of supporters, for four years and we begin the fifth year this month. I still race all year in my Laser.

I am standing for the position of Director because the current focus of the Club seems to have drifted away from 'sailing for all, family community and fun' and I would like to help the new team get it back on track.

Penelope Duncan
Final Message from The Commodore

With only a few days left at the helm of our sailing club it is a time of reflection. On the whole I have enjoyed my time as Commodore but nobody tells you what you are letting yourself in for!

As Commodore everybody wants to pass their issue onto you, whenever you walk in the clubhouse you are met with a flurry of ‘can I have a quick word’ they are never quick. Nobody tells you that at any point during the day your phone will go off and it will be a director with time on their hands or a member looking for the codes for Piddinghoe. That is without the 2am alarm calls. Also if nobody else will then you fill the slot.

So what has changed. I started in 2016 with future vision and transparency. The first has been started with the formation of a working group on the Seaford Clubhouse development led by non-Directors as requested by Ian Johnson, so that the board was at arm’s length with only a link Director. Thank you, Lawrence, for fulfilling this role. The Commodore was kept abreast of the actions of the working group but with no decision-making power. Hopefully this project will continue, but will need new members to keep it going. Next came along the opportunity for Piddinghoe development but unfortunately not successful at the grant stage. However a big thank you to Jim who took all of the work on involving members and the board to bring it to this stage. These projects both need to be kept moving as it will affect the clubs depreciation ability on money spent.

Our aging boats have started to be replaced with 6 new toppers purchased January 2017. This was the start of an ongoing cycle of club investment and the next step is this should be continued with boats for the training school and older sailors. Also the work has been undertaken to look at bringing Cats into our fleet at the request of our Cat sailors. So going forward hopefully the training director will be able to furnish the club with some better boats for our older sailors.

Our Ribs although old are good for a number of years especially as there was the investment in a new engine for one of them last year and the other engine is on borrowed time. Once this has been replaced soon our rescue fleet will be good for a number of years.

The club has trained many people over the last couple of years and will continue to do so in the coming years. A huge thank you to Simon and all of the work he has put in over the last couple of years keeping our training school afloat.

Our Cadet section has grown and over the last couple of years has been the area that most capital investment has taken place. New Toppers, second hand oppies etc and the cadet Monday night requirement for showers. Without our Cadet section this investment would have been longer in the making. Our Cadet section success is not down to one individual but a vast number of adults from all across the club. However, Jo and Zoe have led the team well and given the enthusiasm and drive some parents and cadets have required.

Our Galley up until now been the discussion of many a board meeting. I remember when I was Vice Commodore the same to be true. My predecessor dismissed two franchises at least I only have the one! The best thing that the current committee did here was to bring it inhouse giving the club the full say. It might not please everybody but it is working for this club and has allowed us to plan and invest in what we have required (Boats). Its not about being a cash cow its about supporting the club and its activities at a good price for the members. This has been achieved with the ‘sailor specials’ etc. The Galley makes little profit from members and members events. It relies on the pub-
lic use out of designated club times. If we did not run the Galley the prices would increase to members especially with functions. When the decision was made to undertake this change, Bill took on the challenge and what a challenge it has been. The Galley will reach its First Birthday at the end of this month and without Bill and the directors of TGSL the club would not have made a profit this year.

Piddinghoe has had much investment over the past two years, showers, dredging, slipways, banking etc. It has all been led by our Rear Commodore Nick who has turned Piddinghoe into his back garden. If the weather is OK and it’s a weekend you usually find Nick at the Pond undertaking the serious Rear Comm duty of Grass Cutting.

Lastly our finances – When I took over as Commodore we where a sailing club with a turnover of around £120K. This has risen to almost £250K and this club financial year should be in excess of 1/3 of a million pounds. This growth is what is needed if we are to replace clubhouses and boats over the coming years. Terry has done a tremendous job for our club this year with his many roles that he fills. Finance is the kingpin in the club going forward, without balanced books we will head backwards.

Not forgetting transparency, its not perfect but it is better than before I became Commodore, never before has a Commodore published the notes from a board meeting on the club website, now it does. If ever asked a question I have always provided an answer, but we don’t all like the answer we get.

Looking forward I wish the new board well in what they wish to achieve or which direction of travel they hope to take. Commodore is a full-time job and in the most I have enjoyed it; however, I look forward to getting back in the boat and going for a sail.

Thank you to the many people who have supported me both personally and in my position of Commodore.

Have a great sailing season, I will see you around, I might even popup on the start line!

Stuart Ford
Commodore
The new season on the sea got off to a good start for the Commodore’s Cup with a good competitive fleet. The weather was ideal for the first race back on the sea with a gentle F2-3 NE breeze and not as cold as of late. The first boat to finish was Rupert Smith and Chris Turner sailing their Fireball then Ed Thorburn with his Finn, then my Streaker followed by Jazz Turner and Bea Cameron sailing their 420. The conditions suited the Streaker with a flat sea and variable offshore winds so I managed to win on handicap, Jazz and Bea were 2\textsuperscript{nd} and Ed 3\textsuperscript{rd}.

I now have the new handicaps for the coming year which we used for the first time during last Sunday’s race. As usual there are winners and losers.

The classes that \textbf{gain} the most from the RYA handicap changes are:-

- Topper \hspace{1em} + 11 \hspace{1em} now 1358
- Sprint 15 Sport \hspace{1em} + 10 \hspace{1em} now 904
- Laser 2 \hspace{1em} + 10 \hspace{1em} now 1075
- Dart 18 \hspace{1em} + 8 \hspace{1em} now 824
- Laser 4.7 \hspace{1em} + 7 \hspace{1em} now 1207
- Finn \hspace{1em} + 6 \hspace{1em} now 1051
- Laser Radial \hspace{1em} + 3 \hspace{1em} now 1142

The classes that \textbf{lose} the most from the RYA handicap changes are:-

- Optimist \hspace{1em} - 10 \hspace{1em} now 1655
- Fireball \hspace{1em} - 6 \hspace{1em} now 953
- Streaker \hspace{1em} - 4 \hspace{1em} now 1128
- Sprint 15 \hspace{1em} - 4 \hspace{1em} now 927

\textit{(no jib or trapeze or if sailed 2 up)}

\textit{Note the gap between Sprint 15 & Sprint 15 Sport has closed by 14 point}

- RS 600 \hspace{1em} - 4 \hspace{1em} now 916
- Albacore \hspace{1em} - 3 \hspace{1em} now 1038

Next weekend is Easter when we hold the Easter Series for the Bosuns Cup, best 3 of the 4 races to count, 2 held on Sunday & 2 on Monday. The Sunday after that on 8\textsuperscript{th} we start the Spring Series which will continue for the following 4 weekends. Each Sunday we will hold 2 races the first starting at 10:30 and the other at 11:30. Note this year there will be no afternoon races as support for those races have diminished over the years.

This year there will be some family weekends at Piddinghoe organised by Zoe and Jo starting on 7\textsuperscript{th} April, and on Saturday 21\textsuperscript{st} April we will have the Club’s Open Day at Piddinghoe.

See you on the sea, it’s so nice to be back out on the waves.

\textit{Laurence Venus}

\textit{Recorder}
2018 Sailing Season- we are off and sailing......

The only comparison I can make is that there were more of us at the Commissioning Supper the night before than on the water the next day.........great time had by all. Please please try and support the other events in the same way, they are good fun.

Ok, so it was a slow start for the Cat sailors, with the only representation from one Dart 18 well done Colin & Joe and one Sprint 15, Paul, our new addition to the fleet.................and Paul was looking fast, so it should be an interesting season!

Many of us are still in the boat park carrying out repairs.........(Doh, knew I should have completed them at the end of last season!)

Not much wind, but enough to push everyone around the course,

Mike Godwin
Help Us Raise Money for Cadet Funds

Saturday April 7th
Piddinghoe Pond

Sponsored Sail to France

Sail in a Feva and get sponsored for each lap of the pond you helm or crew. All laps will be added up on our progress board to ensure the cadets ‘Sail to France’.

Sponsorship Forms available at Piddinghoe and Seaford clubhouses, Cadet Facebook or email cadets@nssc.org.uk.

Help Us Raise Money for Cadet Funds
Help Us Raise Money for Cadet Funds

Cadet Launch Day
Saturday April 7th
Piddinghoe Pond

Cadet Taster Sailing Sessions and Registration 10-4pm
Cadet Sponsored ‘Sail to France’ all day
Bring a cake for the cadet bake sale
DJ Harvey Disco 5.30-7.30pm
Galley Open for lunch and a food van in the evening

New Members Welcome

Help Us Raise Money for Cadet Funds