A Message from the Editor

Stuart (Commodore) apologises for not providing his usual article this month. He has asked me to pass on some messages and says he will be back in print next month.

Stuart hopes that winter racing is as successful as it’s been in recent years. It starts this Sunday (5th November) at the pond with two races (first at 10:30). The winter series can be just as exciting and competitive as sea racing. There’s also much more scope for banter, friendly sledging, and having your singing heard by all. It’s open to all and cadets tend to do very well. There’s no better way of learning racing rules. Come along and have fun.

The racing statistics for the summer are beginning to emerge and there’ll be proper analysis in next month’s Mainsheet. In summary, after a bad blip in “number of races held” last year (down from 82 in 2015 to 58), this statistic has bounced back to 79. “Average number of boats per race” has stayed at about 13. This figure could be higher and we need to work at getting more people sailing on the sea.

There’s an interesting article in this mainsheet from Jo West covering a cadet review of 2017 and looking forward to 2018. There are a lot of initiatives coming-up next year which should help get sailing numbers up. The “family weekends” (open to all) at Piddinghoe and Seaford look particularly interesting and should be supported by all.

Thanks are due to all the people who volunteered for the work parties at Seaford and Piddinghoe. There are some pictures in this edition.

All forthcoming social events are advertised in this edition. Do come along.

Mainsheet Editor,

mainsheetnssc@nssc.org.uk
Bonfire Night

Friday 3rd November

Bonfire to be lit at 6.30pm, Fireworks 7.30pm
Seaford Club House
(Member and Guests only)

Food Available from The Galley
Please let The Galley know if you want food so we can cater sufficiently 01323 890077

Toffee Apples         Hot Dogs
Chilli               Soup

Jacket Potatoes

There will be donation buckets on the night for fireworks. A small contribution to support the event would be very much appreciated. Thank you
We had some good turnouts this October in spite of the fact that some races had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

The 1st October was windy F5-6SW with large 2m waves so no sailing.

On the 8th October we had much nicer weather, quite warm and with more sun for the second race, it actually felt quite hot, with a F3 offshore breeze. The course was set with a sausage for a change which suited the dinghies, particularly my Streaker which came 1st with Jazz Turner and Bea Cameron sailing the 420 2nd and Rupert Smith and Chris Turner 3rd in their Fireball. We had the same result in the second race.

On the 15th October there was more wind and the 420 sailed by Jazz and Chris Turner came 1st, my Streaker was 2nd and Terry Jones sailing his Sprint 15 was 3rd. The following race was closer but Jazz and Chris still managed to win, my Streaker was 2nd and 3rd was Chas Humphries sailing his Sprint 15.

22nd October was again too windy with a F6-7 W so no racing.

The Burfoot and Cup Winners Race were held on the 29th October followed by the last of Autumn Series race. It was very gusty with a F4 gusting F5 - 6 northerly wind. There was a large swell offshore following strong WSW winds the previous day. It wasn’t too bad when we first went afloat but very soon the cloud came in along with the very strong gusts which led to several capsizes. The course didn’t have a beat so it suited the cats which also handled the strong gusts better than the dinghies. Two RS 600s went out but couldn’t cope with the conditions and after several capsizes they both retired. One of the RS 600 drifted out to sea but the rescue boat was occupied helping a Laser Radial back to shore after it had capsized, turned turtle and lost its rudder. Howard Minto sailing his Sprint 15 went out to try and help followed by Rupert and Chris who managed to attach a line and slowly towed the RS 600 back to the shore.
The winner of the Cup Winners Cup was Mike Godwin sailing his Sprint 15. Rupert and Chris sailing their Fireball came 2nd after taking into account their average times over the two laps they completed before their rescue mission and I was 3rd in my Streaker. In the Burfoot Cup another Sprint 15 sailed by Terry Jones won with Tim Cox sailing his Radial 2nd and the Albacore 3rd sailed by Tom and Stephen Hamilton. Out of the 11 boats in the Burfoot Cup only 6 finished, but all 5 Cup Winner race competitors finished. The second race (last of the Autumn Series) wasn’t quite so windy but only 7 boats decided to stay out for that race, and all 7 finished. The cats continued to enjoy the course and conditions and took the first four places with Mike Godwin winning, Chas Humphries 2nd and Howard Minto 3rd.

When the results for the Autumn Series were finalised it was Jazz Turner and Bea Cameron sailing their 420 who were overall winners, with Mike Godwin 2nd and Chas Humphries 3rd both sailing Sprint 15s. The cats seem to have had a very successful autumn.

The Autumn Series Class results were Multihulls, 1st Chas Humphries, 2nd Mike Godwin & 3rd Terry Jones all sailing Sprint 15s. Menagerie Class 1st Jazz & Bea 420, 2nd myself Streaker, 3rd Rupert Smith & Chris Turner Fireball.

Laser Class 1st Zoe McCaig, 2nd Jo West and 3rd Yves Horent all sailing Radials.

In the meantime the cadets have had a very successful Autumn series on the pond. Dominating the series was Lucy McCaig sailing her Topper, (I hear she will be sailing a Laser Radial next season), 2nd was Lola Blackburn also in a Topper and 3rd was Ollie Westhead sailing his Oppie. Hopefully some of the Cadets will join in the Winter Series races. Thanks to Zoe and Jo for running the pond cadet series.

The Winter Series starts on 5th November with a 10:30 am start for the experienced sailors fleets and a 10:35 start for the novices and younger sailors. If you are a cadet but think you have sufficient experience you may wish to sail with the main fleet but please be careful when signing on so the RO knows which fleet you are sailing with.

Thank you to all those that have returned the trophies they won last year and especially all those that returned them polished. I have now got to get them all engraved ready for our prize-giving at the annual dinner on 2nd December.

_Laurence Venus_
_Recorder_
At The Galley
Newhaven & Seafood Sailing Club

2 courses £14.95 - 3 courses £17.95
Available throughout December
Tuesday to Saturday

Now Taking Bookings

10% Discount for bookings of 10 people or more
Cadets

Jo West reflects on the successes for the cadets in 2017 and looks forward to 2018. There are lots of events planned for 2018 for cadets, their families, and the wider club membership.

Key Cadet Achievements 2017

- Roughly 30 new sailors have been taught to sail by the cadets this year. Overall 100 cadet sailors have been coached by the cadets this year.
- Successful cadets week with 42 families and 70 cadet sailors participating. A highlight was the family day on Wednesday. Each day we filled 16 volunteer slots with adult helpers.
- More cadets buying boats and participating in our coaching pathway at NSSC. We now have roughly 15 privately-owned Optimists in the club.
- 8 Cadets attended the 2 day South East Zone Championship at Datchet water in September. The club with most participants was Papercourt with 10.
- During sailing week 11 cadet sailors participated in races on the sea with many of these continuing to participate in Sunday racing.
- 5 cadets participated in the Optimist Nationals 2017.
- 3 cadet sailors have just been selected for the South East and London Optimist Zone Squad. Well done Harvey, Toby and Bea.
- 1 cadet sailor has been selected for the National Topper Squad. Well done, Bill.

As you can see the cadets have achieved loads in 2017 and that is all down to the fabulous cadet sailors, their committed volunteer coaches and instructors and their extremely supportive families. Official cadet coaching has now finished for 2017 but please do not forget that cadet sailors are very welcome to join in with Sunday racing at the pond over the winter. In fact they are normally essential to the racing as the adults need to be shown how to race on the pond by our experienced and expert cadet sailors.

Cadets 2018

I know you have all been banned from booking summer holidays until we have released the dates for next year so we have worked hard to confirm the dates as early as possible. This year we have two new events.

Cadet launch day on 7th April, this is a chance to launch the season in style with a sponsored sail to France (around the pond), bake sale, taster sailing sessions and maybe even an evening disco if I can persuade the amazing DJ Harvey.

Family Weekends, we love sailing week and cadet week so much that we wanted the fun to last all season. There are weekends at Piddinghoe and Seaford and they are designed for every level of sailor to be supported to get out sailing and enjoy the wonderful facilities we have at both sites. These weekends are open to all members not just cadet families. There will be duty points on offer so sign up for a duty early as I think they will be popular with cadet families.

As always keep an eye on the cadet page on Facebook for updates and further details about events nearer the time. If you have any questions please email Zoe at cadetsnssc@nssc.org.uk.
Pre Season Saturday Training Dates

Saturday 14th April, 10-2pm Optimist Race Squad Coaching
  2-4pm - Topper and Optimist pre season training

Saturday 21st April, 2-4pm Topper and Optimist pre season training

Saturday 28th April, 10-2pm Optimist Race Squad Coaching
  2-4pm Topper and Optimist pre season training

Topper and Optimist pre season training is open to any cadets who can confidently sail a triangle (club boats can be hired for £5 a session).

*New for 2018*

Cadet Launch Day

Saturday 7th April, 10-4pm

Keep this day free because it will be the day that starts the season in style. Please keep an eye on Facebook for details.

*New for 2018*

Family Weekends – Open to all NSSC Members

These weekends are designed to allow everyone to enjoy the water with safety cover and informal coaching and racing. NSSC members are welcome to camp for £5 per night and we hope to put on some evening social events.

Piddinghoe

7&8th April
5&6th May
2&3rd June
1&2nd September

Seaford

19&20th May
7&8th July
15&16th September
Cadet Mondays 7th May – 16th July

This is our regular training night in the Summer. We request that you do not miss more than one session. As usual you can sign up for cadet Mondays when you renew membership in January, we then allocate places in order. Last year everyone got a place. Depending on numbers beginner topper training is likely to be on the first 2 family weekends instead of Mondays.

5.30 pm  Briefing (all boats should be rigged)
5.45 pm  Training in groups
7pm  Groups off the water
7.30pm  All boats should be put away
8pm  Site Closes

Sailing Week – 6th-10th August, Seaford

Lots of cadet families enjoy camping and sailing on the sea during this week. More details will be available on the club website.

Cadet Week – 13th-17th August, 10-4, Piddinghoe

This is the best week of the year, we sail and play games each day from 10-4. You can even camp at the pond each night with your family. This is always extremely popular and there is a limit on numbers. Sign up sheets will be available on Monday Cadets so keep an eye out.

Jo West
End of Season Saturdays

These are designed for Optimist and Topper sailors who can sail a triangle and would like to develop their racing skills.

Saturday 1st September, 2-4pm, Piddinghoe
Topper and Optimist race training and Cadet Autumn Series.

Saturday 8th September, Piddinghoe
Topper and Optimist race training and Cadet Autumn Series.

Saturday 15th September, 2-4pm, Piddinghoe
Topper and Optimist race training and Cadet Autumn Series.

22&23rd September TBC
RYA Zone Championships, Topper and Optimist

Saturday 29th September, 2-4pm, Piddinghoe
Topper and Optimist race training and Cadet Autumn Series.

Saturday 6th October, 2-4pm, Piddinghoe
Topper and Optimist race training and Cadet Autumn Series.

Saturday 13th October, 2-4pm, Piddinghoe
Topper and Optimist race training and Cadet Autumn Series.
Bill Giles: Learning the Ropes In Gib

In my RAF career I was very lucky to be posted to Gibraltar where Hazel, the girls and I had a little flat right next to the Sailing Club whose slipway went into Gibraltar’s great harbour. I had never sailed before but had messed around in boats all my life. So I saw this as a great opportunity to learn to sail. I spent every minute I could learning on one of the Club’s fleet of Albacores, between work on the aircraft there and my young family.

Just like NSSC one was expected to do duties and I was duly selected as ARO on a Sunday morning race. The Race Officer really knew the ropes and flags and was ready for anything. Now anyone who has ever seen a picture of Gib will know that it is a huge rock, but will probably not know that the wind spends 49% of the time blowing from the East and 49% of the time blowing from the West. Westerlies are happy winds, nice clear weather and steady breezes. Easterlies can be miserable blowing a ‘Levanter’ over the Rock and settling a damp, depressing cloud over the city and harbour. Not only that the wind can never decide whether to go around the Rock via the North or South or over the top. As a sailor you can sometimes go from one side of the Harbour to the other ‘tacking’ in that the wind turns 180 degrees and the crew changes sides but the direction of travel never changes. This did lead to some interesting starts from the club line. Anyway as the start countdown progressed the wind duly shifted 180 degrees and the RO decided to reverse the course. Blew the hooter and hoisted flag R. Of course only about 50% of the fleet of about 20 Albacores cottoned on so when the start came half of them went across the line left to right and the rest went right to left to general confusion.

Having got the fleet sorted out the RO made ready to restart the race. Me hauling flags unknown to me and the RO watching the line and the timing. With about a minute to go he suddenly said “Darn it, my watch has stopped” (he might actually have used heartier language but this is a family magazine.) He then told me to watch a star helmsman called John McSomething who was always on time. As John was about 5 feet from the line the hooter was duly blown and the fleet got away without a murmur of complaint, although John did say later that he thought that he was going to be a couple of seconds early.

After I got my RYA Elementary Certificate (now Level 2) from the Club Training Instructor who had just done one of the first ever RYA Instructor Courses I was allocated a club Albacore. It got lots of loving care and a fresh coat of paint, in a nice canary yellow. It is probably politically incorrect these days but I had a lot of fun with “Yellow Peril”. Although one time I
was pushing the start line and heard the RO say “I think the yellow one is over” so Peril became blue like most of the rest of the fleet. I was sailing 5 days a week and then qualified as an instructor. Zero to hero in about 18 months.

I got quite good at racing and a friend asked my to crew on his cruiser Hazy Daze and I jumped at the chance. It was an offshore race of around 200 miles. I was so sick I thought that I would die and then I wished I did it was that bad. I swore that I would never go offshore sailing ever again. However, I did get tempted back and swore never to be sea sick again. I am pleased to say that my promise to myself has been kept for the last 15,000 sea miles. Poor Mike, the owner of Hazy was like me with a young family but he spent a lot of time on his boat. One day his wife gave him an ultimatum “The boat or me!” which is how he ended up living on Hazy!

The sailing club had a bar, of course, and employed a couple of local guys to run it. My usual was a beer or a Spanish brandy and Coke. Perhaps we could copy in NSSC - the brandy was 3p and the Coke 4p. Happy days, Our girls learned to fish and swim and Hazel even got an Elementary Certificate and won a race. She was not keen on crewing for me but one day my crew failed to turn up so she reluctantly offered to crew. I was sternly told - "if you shout at me I shall go home". We were in the lead at the first windward mark and settled down on a run when she changed sides and caused the boat to gybe and nearly capsize. I shouted “Why did you do that?” at which point she jumped overboard and swam half a mile home. She never crewed again and I never asked her!

My 30 months in Gib was too soon over and I was posted to South Wales where I sailed another Albacore for a while and then a series of Enterprises until the Laser. I got to go back to Gib a few times to teach sailing but it was never the same. Still happy memories.

*Bill Giles*
Menu
Christmas Lunch served throughout December
Tuesday to Saturday 12.30pm-2.30pm
2 courses £14.95  -  3 courses £17.95

Starters
❖ Seasonal Homemade soup with granary or white bread (v)
❖ Prawn cocktail
❖ Christmas Pate with toast and seasonal chutney

Mains
❖ Traditional Roast Turkey with pigs in blanket, chestnut stuffing & cranberry sauce
❖ Baked Salmon in a watercress sauce
❖ Chestnut, apple & spinach wellington with a cranberry, cinnamon and apple sauce(v)

All served with seasonal vegetables & roast potatoes

Desserts
❖ The Galley Christmas pudding with custard or vanilla ice cream
❖ Apple & cinnamon crumble with custard or vanilla ice cream

Coffee & Mints (2 & 3 courses)
£5 deposit and pre-order required to ensure availability.
10% discount for parties of 10 or more
Call 01323 890077 for more details and to book
Autumn Work Parties

Thanks to everyone who turned-up at Seaford and Piddinghoe for the Autumn work parties. Both sites look much better after all the good work. Ian Johnson took some pictures at Piddinghoe, which I’ve reproduced below.
Old Sailing Pictures

Over the next few pages are some pictures of sailing at Seaford in the past. Gabrielle Turner (nee Carter) sent me the first photo of sailing at Seaford. She says:

“Our Whole family moved from Seaford to Devon (nearest sailing Salcombe, Dartmouth, Dittisham) in the 1990’s. I think this is from before my time and none of us can name any of the people or boats. I don’t remember anyone with a Mirror with no number on it?

My whole family sailed at NSSC over the years. Occasionally we would have three generations out on the water at one time! My Grandmother Elsie Lyle loved to join in for the annual race that required the combined age of the crew to be higher than usual.

My parents John and Sheila Carter are well and living the dream in Devon, father used to build a Mirror in our spare room every year to sell on, was an instructor and fiercely competitive in their Mirror ‘Oozalum’. My brother James and I started with Mirrors and Lasers and went on to Fireballs and Laser 2 classes.

I would love to know if anybody recognizes somebody from the photo, hope you can make use of it, many thanks, Gabi Turner”.

I showed the picture to Laurence who made the following observations:

“I did have the same picture. It was taken during the 1950’s (about 1956) and several including this one and the one below was given to my parents as the club boats were berthed behind ‘The Buckle Inn’ which my father ran and his parents before him. We had the picture up in the old pub. Two of the Graduates I recognise as they were still sailing when I first started sailing. The picture attached shows another picture taken on the same day. One of the Graduates was called Speedwell and another No. 39 was Kango. I sailed in this boat in 1964 and 1965. The boat with no number was actually a Graduate not a Mirror as suggested. Mirrors weren’t designed until about 1965 and had a gunter rig. I think we actually had one of the Graduate sails hanging up in the club lounge until recently. I think it was quite nice having those old sails up on the ceiling, it improved the atmosphere.”
I remember John Carter who was a very good Mirror sailor and I think may have been class captain. He won the Mirror goblet in 1978 and several occasions after that.

One day I’ll get round to writing some club history.

I’ve also attached a picture of the dinghy park when it was in the pub grounds behind The Buckle Inn. The beach huts were the clubs changing rooms and our pub the club’s bar. The beach huts eventually ended up at Piddinghoe and were the changing rooms I used in 1964 when learning to sail there.”
While we’re all wallowing in nostalgia here are a couple of older pictures. The first is of a rather magnificent boat off the beach at the top of the Causeway. The second is another of the Buckle Inn. If you walk from Tidemills to the club-house behind the beach you’ll find some old railway lines. You’ll see that they must have crossed the club site and terminated at the Buckle as the rail-head for the flour coming from Tidemills.
Friday 17th November 7.00pm
Discover Rum
with Mark Ridgwell

Local Author of Spirits Distilled

A tutored tasting of six Rums to discover how and why they taste the way they do

Tickets £10 includes light nibbles
Limited places available, please book with Galley
Tel: 01323 890077 E-mail: gallevnssc@nssc.org.uk
Members & Guests Only
October Update

This was our last month for sailing at Seaford, so all Cat and other thingy sailors I hope you all had a great season as there is only the pond to look forward to for the next few months.

What a great Sunday to finish the last race of the season, it was all happening! The RO set a brilliant course for Cats, come on, we only get a couple every season. I left my Sprint 15 on the trolley with Jib on, gust of wing and over she went....I caught the mast as it came towards me standing on the beach, no damage done, only a lesson to remember. Howard launched his boat but decided he would rather be dragged than actually get on board, 10 minutes later and with the assistance of the safety boat, he was finally on-board. He said he tripped on launching Huh, oh really.

There were a number of capsizes and with only one rescue boat, they were being kept very busy due to the high gusts. Well done to Howard and Rupert/Chris who peeled off to give assistance to those who were struggling, all boats and sailors un-harmed. I have asked Laurence to ensure the results reflect the assistance given [Ed: he did].

I was following Rupert/Chris, huge gust and over they went.......never have a camera when you need eh, Chris on the centre-board and Rupert very awkwardly determined not to get wet soon had the boat up from 90 degrees to continue sailing. A classic capsize recovery.

Special mention to Zoe, who was clearly enjoying her morning work out, hiking out, in and out, in out, it made me quite queezy as I sat on my trampoline and wondered what was going on.

So what next? (No Cats will be at the pond, doh!)

Please assist at the pond in duties like RO, ARO and safety boat, the sailors who turn up will really appreciate you as it means they can go sailing. It only a couple of hours and you can enjoy the fresh air and a cup of coffee.

Final good news is we now have our 6th Sprint 15 sail number 1890 to join the club. So huge welcome to Paul Nason who will be sailing with us on Sundays in 2018. If it carries on like this, we will have to have a longer OD mark, but making sure of course no bias for the single hull thingies to the first mark J (something to discuss with RO in 2018).

Enjoy your sailing at the Pond

Mike Godwin
SUNDAY LUNCH & JAZZ

The Galley Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club
Sunday 12th November 12.30pm-2.30pm
with ‘Music from the Sofa’

Open to Members & Non-Members

**Tickets**
Members £12.00
Non-Members £14.00

Includes 2 course Lunch, choice of roast and dessert (vegetarian option available)

Tickets available from The Galley
or please contact
01323 890077
Refurbished Slipway At Piddinghoe

The third slipway at the pond has been cleared, re-laid and embanked with new wooden piles and shuttering. Here are some pictures of the work party involved. One key lesson was learned: don’t use a strimmer near a car’s (or in this case a van’s) windows ......
**SOLO FOR SALE**

My single-hander Solo dinghy has not been used for a while and needs a little TLC before ready to go again. It has a glass-fibre hull and wooden topsides. The sail and rigging are all in good condition and the hull is watertight. The deck probably needs a bit of easy work. Comes with a launching trolley and cover. Only £200 or near offer. Currently at Piddinghoe. See Solos here: [http://www.solosailing.org.uk/the-boat/](http://www.solosailing.org.uk/the-boat/). The picture is from that site, not the boat for sale.

Ring Bill on 07720 399189

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**WANTED**

Geoff Sheridan is after a second-hand lower mast for a Laser Radial. If you’ve got one, contact Geoff directly or contact the Mainsheet editor: mainsheetnssc@nssc.org.uk. Thank you.