

The NEWHAVEN & SEAFORD SAILING CLUB mag mainSheet



Autumn Sailing Season Edition

September 2012

COMMODORE'S LOG

Welcome to the Club's Autumn newsletter. I hope you find this edition provides you with a good balance of interesting articles about the last few months and details of upcoming events. It's always nice to read what members have been doing away from the club, and I would encourage everyone, especially Cadets, to consider putting pen to paper and sending a contribution to Bob Corbett, our editor. His details together with all the other Officers can be found on the web at www.nssc.org.uk/contacts.html



As we anticipated it has been an extremely busy Summer for the Club with what at times has seemed like a non stop series of events supporting the Olympics, the Queen's Jubilee and our own 60th Anniversary on top of normal events. I have enjoyed many of these personally and would take this opportunity to single out for thanks the Seaford House Committee under Mike Godwin, bar manager John Evans and Jane and Clive in the Galley. They are supported by numerous regular helpers, but always keen to hear from new people who want to get involved. With the end of the 'summer' in sight, we are keen to establish a regular series of activities and events (the new 'Christmas Bazaar' and monthly Quiz nights are good examples) to keep members and visitors using the Seaford Clubhouse. One of the challenges of the next few years will be how we fund the necessary refurbishments and/or replacement of our ageing buildings at both Seaford and Piddinghoe, and it's always much easier spending money on something if it's earning its keep!

September and October can ironically have some of the nicest sailing weather, so don't start packing away your wetsuit just yet and give serious consideration to joining the 'Freeman Iceberg' Winter series at Piddinghoe starting on the first Sunday in November, it's a great friendly series to get started in racing, and the fact that most year's the Trophies are won by visitors from other clubs must say something about our sailing prowess.

Whatever you are doing, enjoy the Autumn

Ian Lambert, Commodore e.mail: commodore@nssc.org.uk 07730 547349

SOCIAL EVENTS

If you have not joined in the fun this year, you have missed out! If there is an event you would like us to put on, please let any of the Committee know. The events we have held have been well attended and we are learning all the time, if you do not come, we would also like to hear from you, why not, is it the price, the dates or something else?

WORK PARTY – Seaford on Saturday 3rd November

If you have not earned all your Dutyman points yet, then come and spend time helping out with general clearing up and doing odd-jobs.

Please see the back page of this edition of Mainsheet or the notice board or website for more details.

CATAMARAN FLEET CAPTAIN REPORT

This has been one of our better seasons and we still have a few more weeks to go, we have had a number of races, where the two hulled machines have out- numbered the single hull thingies, fabulous !

I know there are still a number of Catamarans in the Berth park, that have still to get wet this year, why?, guys, if you need help in any area, please let me know. It is also worth noting that there are 3 Hobies that belong to the Brighton Sailing Club and berth fees have been paid. We had one convert this year from the Monohull fraternity, it only took a couple of trial sails on the Sprint 15 and he was sold, 2 weeks later , another Sprint 15 was berthed at Seaford and has not looked back since he has started racing and enjoying his Catamaran sailing.

If you would like to try a Catamaran , why not join us, why ? well some of you (us) who are not getting any younger, no booms to bang heads on, banging of legs and knees, just a finely sprung Trampoline to sit on and it goes like stink in medium to high winds.

You know that two is better than one and do not forget in the 2016 Olympics, the Catamarans are making a comeback with mixed crews, so, start training now and who knows, you and the wife could be in Rio together !

SHEARWATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

The week before the Bank Holiday saw NSSC host the Shearwater Catamaran Nationals again. They started arriving on the Friday to set up 'The Village' in the car park and rig the boats ready for a practice race on Sunday afternoon.

These are an old fashioned looking class, but they have twin trapeze, spinnakers, centre boards and can choose from a variety of sail plans. This means they have developed into a fast, manoeuvrable class that can tack nearly as fast as a dinghy and run deep, not needing to go off on shallow reaches to go down wind. But much more important than any of that, they know how to party!

Always very much a family event, the youngest competitor was Charlotte Auld, 13, from Hastings.



Unfortunately John Hill, 80, from Stone SC couldn't race this year because his brother and crew was indisposed, but his sons and grandson all took part.

The racing gave the eighteen entries a good selection of weather, from very light on Monday to perfect F3-4 on Wednesday – flat out twin trapezing with big grins – to classic Seaford weather on Thursday afternoon with just a bit too much wind and waves for a lot of the teams. (If you have the chance to sit at anchor in Ark in a steep 2m swell, my best advice is to do something else instead!). Racing was very close all through the fleet, with second place being fought over by three boats in the last race and often four or five boats finishing within 20 seconds of each other in the middle of the fleet. The event was won convincingly by Shaun Allen and Claire Robinson in 1999 'Carbon Footprint', a meticulously prepared boat expertly sailed. Evening entertainment was generally self generated, with a games night on the beach, a band, a 'Shearwaters Have Talent' night and dancing at every opportunity.



A new record was set for the most money taken by the bar in a week, a record previously set them last time they were here! The week finished with a 'formal' prize giving dinner from Jane & Clive who were kept busy all week.

I must say a huge thank you to everyone who helped out during the week – too many to name, both on and off the water – for making the event such a success. The rescue and mark laying boats were most professional in all situations and the bar staff worked their socks off all week. Thanks to all of you, and if you fancy doing it again, they want to come back in a couple of years.

Rupert

Alex update - The Road to Rio

After the ups and downs of the early part of the season, "Sail for Gold" proved just as tough, wacky weather and the Worlds best turned up in numbers for the last chance to sail on the Olympic waters before the 2012 games in August.

Alex never got out of the starting blocks and finished the event in an ok 45th, it wasn't the result he was expecting as he was hoping to better his 26th at last years regatta.

The Europeans in Hourtin, France was next on the card, a large lake with a big tree line, it promised to be a light wind and very shifty event, and it delivered exactly that for the first 3 days, not Alex's favourite conditions, after posting 15/23/19/20 he went into day 3 just needing a top 20 finish to get through qualification and hopefully progress up the table as the forecast showed the breeze picking up and becoming more steady.

The first race on day 3 was a nightmare, Alex chose the wrong side as a shift came in to drop him from a potential top ten finish down to 30th, with the discard kicking in all was not lost, Alex finished the last race in 4th position only to find that he had been black flagged at the start and missed out on Gold Fleet qualification by 2 points. The promised breeze kicked in and Alex popped in several top ten finishes, but it was too little too late and he finished the regatta 2nd in Silver Fleet, 37th overall and again, not the position that he had targeted.



After a couple of days back in the UK Alex headed for Weymouth as Paul Goodison's training partner in the run up to the games, before heading up to Abersoch for the UK National Championships and determined to get his loss of form back on track. Whatever he did with Paul it worked, he annihilated the opposition posting 7 bullets, 2 seconds, a third and a mysterious 10th, giving him a score of 11 points from 11 races after the 2nd discard came into play, giving him a massive 19 point margin over the competition, it is his first major event win at senior level, and he becomes UK 2012 Laser National Champion.

The silver ware he brought home was equally impressive, with a cup awarded each day to the overall winner of both races, he won 5 of the 6 days to amass seven trophies including the Dunhill Spike, just holding it makes the hairs stand up on the back of your neck as the winners names on it looks like the who's who of World sailing Ben Ainslie, Ian Percy, Andrew Simpson, Paul Goodison all Olympic Champions, Dean Barker (Emirates Team New Zealand, Americas Cup skipper) Hugh Styles (Tornado class at the Athens Olympics) Hamish Pepper (NZ Star class Olympics 2012 & Emirates Team NZ tactician), Eric Twiname to name a few and yet it is only 10 years, almost to the day when Alex sailed his first topper race at Piddinghoe and now adding his name to the illustrious trophy. With no time to rest on laurels it was back down to Weymouth as one of Paul Goodison's training partner again for the last few days before Paul was due to defend his Beijing Gold medal and title as Olympic champion, unfortunately as we all know Paul was unable to replicate his China success after suffering a back injury on the second race but still managing a creditable 4th. For Alex it was watching from the sidelines and getting a feel for the enormity of the event aboard one of the press boats and doing his bit liaising and helping the worlds media report on the games. After the Olympics he managed a couple of days at home before heading off to Cowes week as part of a crew on board a J 109 in order to get some big boat experience, and briefly managing to pop home for a few hours in between racing to celebrate his 21st birthday. With the Olympics now becoming a distant but glorious memory Alex starts in earnest to achieve his goal of representing Team GB in the laser class in Rio, a weeks training in the Baltic and a bit of competition in the form of the Estonian Nationals to start the ball rolling before the 2013 World & European Qualifiers start in September.



CMB

Recorders Notes - Summer 2012 Sailing Report

June and July were disappointing months with several races being called off due to strong winds or large surf. The Pursuit Race ended in confusion with part of the fleet following instructions from the grey rib to where the next mark was and the other part of the fleet going in a totally different direction as instructed by the red rib. Then we discovered the red rib course was getting larger as the mark was drifting. Eventually the race was declared null and void and will be re-sailed later. We also had lots of problems with Dutyman resulting in some duties not being filled so last minute stand-ins were necessary. Hopefully that will be the end of the problems as all the duties have now been allocated for the rest of the season.

It was nice to see some new faces racing at Seaford this summer. The Laser class seems to have done particularly well with 4 new sailors, Maggie Harvey, Andy Hamilton, Simon Pilling and Phillip Bell and there's a Laser2 sailed by Mollie Dodd and William Dodd. Welcome to Seaford sailing, we do hope to see you all enjoying the racing on a regular basis. There's a couple of new boats that's joined the Menagerie class, John Cornish and his son Andrew have bought a RS 400, which looks like a fast boat so I look forward to seeing it racing and Bob and Julie Corbett are now sailing an RS 200 'Tempo Too', they also still have their Squib 'Tempo'.

The Friars Bay race was very challenging with shifting winds, strong tides and lots of seaweed. Then halfway around the course the wind veered suddenly and increased to force 5 which resulted in several capsizes. I experienced my first capsize in my Streaker as I gybed around the Friars Bay buoy. Unfortunately, while I was swimming and trying to swing the boat around to the right position the wind caught the cockpit and blew the boat up on top of me then turned over on it's side. When I re-emerged, the boat was a few feet away but was being blown away from me on her side faster than I could catch her so I decided to wait for rescue. Michael Veale and Mike Rosier saw me and sailed over in their RS 200 and took me on board. While they attempted to get me back to my boat the Rescue boat turned up so I climbed onboard and we caught up with my Streaker. I managed to get back onboard and get her sailing again. It was quite a fast hairy reach back to Seaford Bay, with everyone in front heading down towards Splashpoint looking for the mark so I followed but couldn't find it. It turned out to be one of the small pencil marks laid fairly near the club. After the race I retired having received outside assistance during the rescue, and the other boats that would have finished 1st Rupert Smith and Chris Turner sailing their Fireball and second Ed Thorburn sailing the keelboat 'Dynamite' were disqualified, leaving the Squib Arf 'n' Arf as winners. However, the race is subject to a protest over the sailing instructions.

The Wednesday Series are now over. My Streaker won the first series with Rupert and Chris sailing their Fireball second and Ruth Rhodes with Dorrinda Dodd or Neil Arnott crewing came third also in a Fireball. My Streaker again won the second series, this time Charlie Gribble sailing his Laser was second and in third place was Steve and Penelope Duncan's Fireball.

The Sunday AM Series 1 & 2 have just finished. Overall, Series 1 was won by the Streaker with Rupert and Chris in their Fireball a close second and Michael Veale and Mike Rosier RS 200 third. Series 2 was very close and not decided until the very last race. Terry Jones sailing his Dart 18' Newt' had been leading for most of the series having had the most wins only to be pipped at the post in the last race of the series by the Streaker 'Mistyblue'. Michael Veale and Mike Rosier were again third sailing 'Hot Toddy'.

Series 1 Class results were: - Laser - 1st Matt Springall, 2nd Chas Humphries and 3rd Charlie Gribble. Multihulls 1st Terry Jones Dart 18, 2nd Mike Godwin Dart 15 Sprint and Dave Edwards and Alan Oatway, Dart 18.

Keelboats - Too few boats sailed to qualify for a class result.

Series 2 Class results were: - Laser - 1st Charlie Gribble, 2nd Chas Humphries and 3rd Matt Springall. Multihulls 1st Terry Jones Dart 18, 2nd Dave Edwards and Alan Oatway Dart 18, 3rd John Morrison, Stealth

Keelboats - Too few boats again to qualify for a class result.

It's been a very poor year so far for the keelboats with the Squibs rarely getting more than two boats on the water, usually it is only Arf 'n' Arf racing. Please try and support your class or you may lose class status and have to join the menagerie class next year. We've had more Fireballs than Keelboats racing this season so far and on one occasion there were five Fireballs racing with Tim Cox and Alice Smith joining the fleet this year.

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Sailing Week was an unusual week with some races on the sea when weather permitted and others on Piddinghoe pond using club boats (mainly Toppers). Matt Springall was very successful sailing Toppers at Piddinghoe and won the afternoon series with Chris Turner 2nd and Rupert 3rd also sailing Toppers. The AM fun series at Piddinghoe was won by James Bovington, with Nia Hall 2nd and Ed Hall 3rd all sailing Toppers. We only held one AM fun race on the sea, which was won by Matt Springall sailing his Laser, 2nd Steve and Penelope Duncan in their Fireball. We did manage to get four races sailed on the sea for the Sailing Week PM series, two on the Wednesday in fairly light winds and the other two on Friday. Conditions were initially tricky on Friday with a big swell but the wind became gradually lighter. Overall result was 1st Streaker 'Mistyblue' Laurence Venus, 2nd Fireball 'Comfortably Numb' Rupert Smith and Chris Turner, 3rd Streaker 'Last Bash' Alan Simmons who just managed to beat Matt Springall sailing his Laser. See Alan Simmons report for more details.

After the re-sail of the last two Seaford Regatta Races the final result was 1st Charlie Gribble in his Laser, 2nd Ed Hall (Laser) and 3rd Arf 'n' Arf (Squib) sailed by Carolyn Turner, Sarah Gribble and Penny Springall.

We have only sailed two PM Series races this season. Charlie won both of these in his Laser.

The Class Championships were a little disappointing with too few boats for separate class results for the Keelboats or the Multihulls so both of these classes were included in the menagerie class this year. The Lasers had a good turnout with several new faces. Matt Springall won convincingly with Darren Field 2nd and Ross Turner 3rd. My Streaker won the menagerie class with John Morrison 2nd sailing his catamaran 'Ice Bear 11' and Michael Veale and Mike Rosier 3rd in their RS 200 'Hot Toddy'. John showed that a cat could do well in light winds.

The weather for the Seaford Games Tourney held over the August bank holiday didn't look too promising with a large swell and a force 4 wind which looked likely to increase. Only 5 boats launched from the beach joined by a Squib from the harbour. One catamaran retired before the end of the first race and only 2 dinghies and the Squib stayed out for the second race. Rupert and Chris sailing their Fireball romped away in both races to win easily on handicap. Unfortunately, with another dodgy weather forecast, there were too few sailors wanting to go out on the Monday for Tourney races 3 and 4 so they will be re-sailed on the 28th October.

Away from the club Alex Mills- Barton won the Laser Nationals, a brilliant result and Rupert Smith and Chris Turner did well at the Fireball Nationals coming 4th in the bronze fleet and winning the Fireball Classic trophy for the second time. The Autumn Series started on 2nd September. Make a note in your diaries that the Pursuit Race is rescheduled to be sailed on 14th October.

I'll repeat what I said in my last mainsheet report. Race Officers, please do not forget to record details of those sailing the keelboats and remember to list everyone doing duties on the race sheet so they can be awarded duty points. Also, don't forget to inform the keelboats of the course and any special instructions that may apply.

Stop Press --- We have just sailed our first two Sunday Autumn Series races. The weather was miserable with a good force 4 westerly blowing and it was cloudy with drizzle but we had a good turnout of 18 boats. We had some exciting reaches, several capsizes but we enjoyed two good races. Charlie is leading on 4 points with Rupert's Fireball, Terry's Dart and my Streaker all on 6 points so it couldn't be closer. We have also just completed the Brighton & Back and the Portobello races in glorious weather. Perhaps the wind was a little too light for some, but it was warm and sunny with a steady south easterly breeze veering south slowly. Unfortunately for those arriving later at Portobello and Brighton the tide was strengthening. Michael Veale and Mike Rosier won the fast fleet race, 2nd was Rupert and Chris Turner with Ed Thorburn sailing Dynamite 3rd.

The slow fleet followed my Streaker from start to finish with Charlie 2nd and David Hitchins 3rd sailing his Laser. Unfortunately, Andy Rychlinski sailing his Laser for the first time this season rounded the wrong mark and didn't get as far as the Portobello so was disqualified.

Laurence Venus. Recorder

Sailing Week 2012

Sailing week has been held at the beginning of August for the last five years or so. Previously it had been held at the end of August. Some members and visitors camp/ caravan on the grass area at Seaford and use the toilets and showers in the clubhouse. The Galley is open constantly providing breakfasts, lunches and evening meals. During the evenings there are social events in the clubhouse including a quiz night, Beetle Drive, Disco, sing a long's and games. In the past Sailing week has been well supported by members and we had attracted visitors from other sailing clubs to attend. Alan Simmons, a past member of NSSC and a keen supporter of sailing week keeps a blog of all of his activities and rather than rewrite a description of the week we have copied the following from Alan's blog.

"This year was not a good one with respect to the weather during Sailing Week 2012. Stiff (force 4 and 5) South Westerly breezes created heavy surf on three out of the five days – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – such that few dinghies or catamarans wished to try to launch. As a result most of those interested in sailing moved up to Piddinghoe Pond where the Sailing School boats - Toppers, Picos and Sports 14s – were used by the participants. Alan Simmons from Lancing SC (the only visitor to the week) had elected to do safety boat duty each morning so was not sailing in any of the AM races and although some cadets were present there were insufficient numbers to constitute a Miller Cup series. The morning races, four in total, on the pond, attracted some 20 entrants. The afternoon races on the Pond, where six races were sailed, was the sell out of the week with a total of 22 entrants, 15 of those in race 4. At Seaford the sole morning 'Fun Race' – Wednesday - attracted only 10 entrants. The Afternoon series, on the sea, was restricted to a total of four races – two on Wednesday (when the wind went South Easterly) and two more short races on Friday (where only one had originally been planned for). 13 boats entered during the two days. The morning 'Fun' races at Piddinghoe was a bit of a hotch potch with no one sailing more than two races and the vast majority only one of the four races possible. As a result only James Bovington, Nia Hall, Ed Hall and Jack Turner 'qualified' in that order and all sailing Toppers – and Jack.T only finished in one of his two attempts. Race one was led by Rupert Smith with Chris Turner – in Toppers - on his heels and Jack Turner and James Bovington in a Sport 14 behind them. In Fourth spot was Michael Veale in a Topper and Behind him Alice Smith and Angus in a Laser II. Race two went to Ed Hall , followed by James Bovington, Nia Hall , Jack Turner and Mike Rosier – all in Toppers. In race 3 it was James.B who took line honours ahead of Mike R. This time in a full rig Laser. In third place it was Peter Yelf in a reef rigged Topper. Jack Turner, the only other participant failed to finish. Race four, on Friday was won convincingly by Nia Hall , ahead of Jazz Sayed, Zoe McCaig and Ed Hall – all in Toppers The afternoon racing at Piddinghoe, although classified as 'Fun Races', was none the less taken quite seriously by the majority of the fleet. Toppers were used by the out and out racers and Matt Springhall showed the rest how to do it even though he did not sail in the first two races. The honours in those went to Chris Turner closely pursued by Rupert Smith. Rupert's daughter Alice showed that she was no slouch beating Dad in three out of six outings. A bit further off the pace was Alan.S who did have one triumph with a bullet in the final race (just to show that an olden can do it) and that after a disastrous tack in the middle of race five had left him in irons when he had been in serious contention with Matt. S - allowing Chris.T, Rupert.S and Alice.S to overtake him. Matt.S clinched the series, although tied on points with Chris.T with 3 firsts against Chris's two. Matt.S was also the winner of the only 'Fun Race' held on the sea on Wednesday. Laurence Venus had not participated in any of the Pond races, neither morning nor afternoon, but showed up with his Streaker for the 'serious' afternoon racing on the sea and proceeded to gain 4 out of 4 first places to take the series. Rupert.S and Chris.T in their Fireball with 3 seconds and a third place came a comfortable second overall. Alan.S, in his Streaker had no hopes of keeping up with Laurence and a detached Mainsheet Block (in race three) which he had to stop and lash back in place did not help but he did take third place overall, ahead of Matt.S sailing in his full rig Laser. The Fireballs of Steve Duncan and Penelope Duncan and Alice Smith with Jenny Clapham crewing (her cousin on Friday) were next in line ahead of Penny Springhall and Carolyn Turner (plus Sarah) in their Squib who were in turn ahead of Jack Turner and James Bovington in their Laser II. The Catamarans – James Robertson (Hobbie 16), James Clapham (Dart 18), Terry Jones (Dart 18) and John Morrison (Stealth) - only sailed on Wednesday in breezes which were not suited to their handicaps and were thus 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th Overall. Mike Woollard and Mike Beaumont in the Squib 'Tempo' came out to play in race 4 and finished in 8th place in that and in 12th place overall. The full results of the 'Fun' (Morning and afternoon) and afternoon 'Serious' Races can be found on the NSSC web site. As stated at the beginning of this blog the weather did its best to upset the event, in the end it did not stop all the sailing and just about everyone present had the chance for at least a few pleasant little sails. Newhaven and Seaford SC are at least in the happy position to have the alternative sailing water up at Piddinghoe, not to mention a stock of sailable and suitable boats. Alan.S 1700 "

Sadly there has been a significant decline in attendance and the club directors would be interested to know whether there are any ways in which we could make this event more attractive to the current membership. Any ideas please to one of the club directors. On Saturday we were due to have our annual expedition to Cuckmere Haven, when we casually sail our racing dinghies on a rising tide to Cuckmere Haven and pull them up onto the beach and have a picnic whilst the tide turns and we sail back to Seaford on a falling tide. However the weather, again, was against us and we decided to go with plan B which had been hatching during the week and that was to sail on the River Ouse. We rigged up Toppers and sailed them across the pond and hauled them up onto the river bank. We had to wait quite a while for the rising tide to subside and we launched into slack water, which lasts about an hour. We sailed a course along the river from Piddinghoe towards Newhaven. It was an interesting experience to sail on the river. The race was easily won by Alice Smith followed by Matt Springall and Michael Veale, who both had young cadets on board. The race was such a success that we are considering making this an annual event. If you have never attended Sailing Week, I would thoroughly recommend trying to attend at least part of the week.



Terry Jones Sailing Secretary

Membership Position

I have heard some people conjecturing that the success of the Seaford 'Shorebreak' café and the Bar in recruiting new social members to the club may be changing the balance, so I thought I would give a quick summary of the membership position – to enlighten and reassure. As usual we will provide a full year picture at the AGM next April.

	Sailing Memberships with Duties	Sailing Memberships without Duties	total Sailing	% of total	Social with Duties	Social without Duties	total Social	% of total	Life and Honorary	over-all total
2011 year end	124	77	201	78%	34	6	40	15%	18	259
2012 mid August	108	81	189	73%	43	6	49	19%	20	258

As you can see the Percentage of Social memberships against the club membership overall has only risen 4%. Our biggest change in fact is the drop in the number of Sailing members prepared to undertake duties, a trend which if it continues will drive us down the road of having to increasingly pay for support services and this clearly will drive a move from 'members club' to a more commercial sports club.

Geoffrey Sargeant

We have lost one of our long standing Life Members, Geoffrey Sargeant, one day short of his 96th Birthday quietly at home. Geoffrey wasn't a regular at the club, but has been a significant supporter and influence on the clubs development, particularly at Piddinghoe. Back in the late '70s when the club was trying to buy the Piddinghoe freehold, Geoffrey was negotiating for us with the landlords and offered further help with the purchase. Eventually, when it came to buy the land in 1980, an expected sports council grant was not forthcoming and the club was short by about half the money. Geoffrey was approached for a loan for the difference. Instead of giving a loan for half, he paid for the whole freehold himself as a donation to the club. In his words "I have enjoyed many years sailing and I am only too pleased to be able to assist in the assurance that facilities will be available for young people to learn how to sail and all that flows from this in the future."

Part of the agreement was that the donation was kept anonymous, but I hope his family don't mind this recognition now. With this very significant help, NSSC has been able to develop Piddinghoe into the asset it now is to all of us.

Rupert Smith

Pond News

During sailing week as there were high winds and a shore break so the pond was opened and used both for cadet and adult races. It was quite odd to be living in Seaford, camping at the clubhouse then going to Piddinghoe to sail. However there was a brilliant group who made the best of it and we had some great races and a lot of fun. Getting the boats out and then putting them away each night should be on every good fitness trainer's regime. After coping with Monday to Friday at the pond and every night at the clubhouse, I was hoping Saturday would be a relaxing expedition to the Cuckmere with Paddy. Alas the weather had other ideas, and a plan B of up and down the river with the tide for a picnic on Oppys, became a river race on Toppers. This turned out to be a great adventure, the tide was favourable and the wind for once just right. After sailing the toppers across the pond we carried them over the bank and when the tide was right launched into the river. We learned that the trees at Piddinghoe are too good a windbreak for the start line and that as the wind follows the river so you can be close hauled right round a bend, ask Matt Springall if you don't believe me. With a pirate skipper on the Rib and cadets a plenty helming and crewing a pond success. We have just finished Cadet Week at the pond. A good turn out of cadets, parents and helpers all week. We managed to secure sponsorship from Veolia, they Incinerator operator, they have provided funding, merchandise and volunteers to do some gardening and help in the galley. We have all been in Olympic spirit and have 4 teams, Team GB, USA, China and Brazil competing daily as well as the normal Topper and Oppy races. The weather was ok, a bit windy some days and we had to reef some of the toppers, but as ever plenty of fun and games. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to make this a fun week for the cadets, especially Jim Skinner who crewed a safety boat every day.

Results:

Oppys: 1st Fynn Hall, 2nd Jasper Thorp and Joe Jupp, 3rd Toby Wride

Toppers: 1st Nia Hall, 2nd Katja Ward, 3rd Nicholas Panzera

Open Race: 1st Katja Ward, 2nd Nia Hall, 3rd Nicholas Panzera

The oldies race was won by Ed Hall, however he had instructed the cadets that it was ok to be pirates and jump on the parents boats to capsize them. With Nia and Fynn helming pirate vessels the rest of us were doomed from the start. I was boarded by Lucy first who tried hard to capsize me but it needed a second pirate to finish me off, the first of three dunkings.

Mary Simms did a great job with off water games in the training room and the egg drop which went on for ages before an egg was broken, very good contraptions from the cadet teams. The parents egg broke first go. Thanks to Alex and Clive Mills-Barton who managed to get two Olympic rash vests and Ian Lambert for an Olympic cap. Below are some photo's of the trophy winners from left to right; Flynn Hall, Nia Hall and Jasper Thorp and Joe Jupp.



Ian Johnson Rear Com Piddinghoe

WANTED—Step ladders for use at Seaford clubhouse

Have any members got any step ladders they no longer use they would like to donate to the club? Steps in all sizes would be welcome but they would need to be in safe and serviceable condition and of lightweight construction (i.e. aluminium - not wooden).

If you have such an item you are happy to part with please contact Dave Robertson (dave_ontrapeeze@yahoo.co.uk) or 07941 429555

FOR SALE and WANTED

Just a reminder to look on the club web site at www.nssc.org.uk and take the option on left hand menu 'For Sale and Wanted' to see what boats that members and others are seeking new homes for and bits desperately wanted.

Some examples of items on the site at the point we went to press:

SQUIB keelboat – shares available in syndicates, perfect for those who want the excitement of the sea without the challenge of the beach

Topper and **Laser** single handed dinghies looking for new homes

Laser 2 dinghy, ideal for young sailors who want to sail together. Lightly raced. Road and launching trailers. Berthed at Seaford. £800 ono. Contact Tom: 07799671321 or tom.roper@gmail.com

A number of traditional 'sit in rather than on' style boats: **Mirror, Miracle, Wayfarer** etc

Boats to 'do up' over the winter – we also have a number of boats abandoned at Piddinghoe that for a small contribution we are happy to see go to new loving owners. Most (to be truthful all) need tender loving care, but could almost certainly be sold on e-bay after a little work. They are not currently on the web site – give me a call to discuss.

Ian Lambert 07730 547349 e.mail: commodore@nssc.org.uk

Fireball Championships

A few weeks ago was the Fireball National UK Championships, hosted by Penzance Sailing Club. Normally Dad is the only one from our family to race in these championships, but this year (with the arrival of 'Eebiegeebe Rides Again' last November) I had the chance to race with my cousin Anneka.

After starting off a bit nervous, as I've never sailed in such a large fleet before, and having to adapt to gate starts, the week seemed to be going very well. Our positions were steadily improving as we reached the windward mark in each race. The issues only came with the spinnaker pole. We had a hard time with it almost every time it was used.

As the week progressed, the wind strength also rose, meaning that on the lay day (Wednesday) the gusts had reached force 8, setting off some car alarms in the car park. As racing was cancelled on Friday, Thursday turned out to be the last day of racing, however with rising wind speeds predicted and 25 knots already blowing before the race, Eebiegeebe stayed wrapped up in her cover. By the end of the week, a tube of Evo Stick and a replaced shroud later, as well as many stories about Eebiegeebe's many past achievements from passing Fireballer's, we finished 57th place overall.

Alice Smith



REGIONAL Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship at Bewl Water 4th August

Congratulations to our two club representatives who having won the heat of their age group in the Club round in June went on to do a great job for us at the South East Regional final at Bewl Water on the 4th August. Katja did exceptionally well, gaining 3rd place in the 13 to 16 age group in the Region.

Both **Katja Ward** and **Cameron Lawrance** are now undertaking their RYA Powerboat 2 courses with the club and we hope to see them and the many other talented Cadets have another go at this competition next year.

For anyone going to the Southampton Boat Show (14th to 23rd September), the National Finals for this event will be taking place on Sunday 16th at the show and you can gain a great view if you walk towards the area where the huge Cunard Cruise liners are docked.

Ian Lambert 07730 547349
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News from the Squib and small Keelboat Fleet

15th out of 16 – yes, a result! This morning (2nd September) was the first time this season that "Pickle" (my Hunter Europa) has been round the race course for a long time. We have done some cruising around the bay but 2012 does not seem to have gone very well weather wise. The forecast this morning was for a westerly wind F3 – 4 and when the ferry departed it was 15 knots at the outer breakwater so top end of the forecast and my impression was that it picked up a bit more during race 1 which, combined with some choppy conditions in places and the rain, ensured that Sue and I were pretty wet when we got back to the Marina.

With just "Cornet" and "Pickle" representing the keel boats this morning it rather reflects the small number of keel boats getting out this year. I think the most I have seen so far racing is three but more often one or two although well done Penny, Carolyn and Sarah in "Arf & Arf" who must be leading the most number of races completed again this year. As always, crossing the start line on time is desirable but someone has to be a hundred yards back although I was glad to see that we were not completely alone in this demonstration of poor tactics! Back home I got my racing rules book out to check a couple of calls – the first was the Cat hurtling past us on the windward side nicely asking for water as we neared the mark. We altered course to oblige and got a very polite thank you but, as leeward boat? And I could not find John's overtaking "watch out" as a valid call but, being aware of what looked like a scaffold pole sticking out the front of his RS bearing down on our transom, a slight course change seemed sensible!

This year seems to have flown by but let's hope we get some better weather in September/October to finish off club racing for 2012. Also, I very much hope that we will be able to organise our Squib and Small Keel Boat Fleet winter series once again and avoid the more or less complete blow out experienced last year! There are still opportunities to buy a Squib (my "Khamseen") or shares in "Condor" - see the "for sale" section of the Club web site for more details. We have welcomed Mary Hudson who has joined Rob in the "Cirrus" syndicate and "Flashdance" is in the boat park to be fitted out for 2013 by Jim and Petra.

Oh, that 15th position! Having been convinced that "Pickle" was well and truly last this morning I saw from the provisional results that we were actually 15th out of 16 so, as they say, it's not the winning, it's the taking part! And "Cornet" was 11th.

All for now. **Ricky Smith – Fleet Captain**

A Personal Experience of the Olympics

I know a number of people in the club were lucky enough to get roles as volunteers at the Games, and I hope many of you have been able to get tickets and visit one of more of the locations, because challenging though it has been, I for one wouldn't have missed it for the world. I am writing this on my way back after a 12 hours shift on Paralympic results reporting at the Olympic Stadium, and the atmosphere when I left at 20.00 was electric, with the sound of cheering from the floodlit stadiums echoing around the park. It's a long story and I won't bore you all with it, but for the Olympics itself I am proud to include a photo of me on the slipway at Weymouth where I spent nearly two weeks meeting all the competitors three times a day to sign them on and off the water. Next time I coach the Cadets I shall have a good store of stories – not least the fact that the Chinese girl who won the Laser Radial Gold arrived to rig her boat AN HOUR before anyone else, and you can bet her boat was perfectly rigged. What I found particularly illuminating was the way that the GB team all helped each other when they weren't sailing themselves., I don't think I saw any of them pulling their boat to the slipway on their own. Although some of the other countries had equally strong Coach and competition managers, none of them seemed to have the same spirit of 'one team' that our guys and girls have.

I have promised to keep this short so I will, but if you see me at the club do ask – I am going to be boring people about this for year's to come !

Ian Lambert



Cycle Track completion at Seaford

A quick update for members on what is happening in this long running saga; What seems like many years ago, the council decided to provide a cycle track from Seaford to Newhaven., I believe it may be intended to form part of the National cycleway scheme. You will probably have noticed that most of the sections were completed some time ago, however to complete the section that runs alongside the road past our Seaford premises and the adjacent Caravan Park the council ran into the problem that they had to negotiate with what at the time were our landlords: Newhaven Port and Properties, which is French owned. For various reasons their requests fell on deaf ears and as a result the cycle way has had an embarrassing section missing.

With both properties now however in British hands things are moving forward again and there is some possibility that we will see the cycleway completed this winter. I say some possibility because although we have had a number of successful meetings with the engineers who are keen to start at the end of October, the Finance and the Estates team at the council don't seem to have the same sense of urgency.

'What does it mean to us ?: we will give up about 1 metre of our northern boundary for them to extend the footpath and create a wider joint footpath/cycleway. This is currently an unusable waste strip of land for us and as a part of the deal (so far agreed in principle with the engineers) we will benefit from a new fence and a new 'hard surface' access strip up the boat park to what will be a re-positioned gate on our Eastern boundary. This new access will provide a much gentler slope for pulling the heavier boats such as Catamarans onto the seafront as an alternative to the wooden ramp, and we believe will be a significant benefit for the club.

During the construction phase over the winter we will need to move the Catamarans further into the boat park to make space for the construction to take place., but once complete they will go back on their existing berths. We have also offered to rent space in our car park for the construction vehicles and materials , so there will probably be an area fenced off. I hope to confirm that all is agreed and work is underway by the time of the next Mainsheet.

For more information: **Ian Lambert** 07730 547349 e.mail: commodore@nssc.org.uk

SEAFORD TORCH 'RACE' and EVENING 14th July

It was always going to be a high risk arrangement – Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club were scheduled to start the council's Seaford Torch Event (previously called the Olympic Torch event, but name changed to avoid the litigation) with a Race starting from Martello Tower beach. As you might have guessed this summer, surf conditions precluded launching, we selected our best helms (actually from memory our only helms) present at the time: Mike Godwin, Terry Jones and Dave Robertson with myself as Safety and we set off to race a 'token' boat on its launching trolley down the promenade to the Martello so that the event could start.

Kevin Hardy with his Seaford Bonfire Society contacts, stepped-in at the last moment with an offer of flaming torches – however by the time I thought to take the photo we were down to our last torch and had decided we needed to retain it unlit for the Leader of the Procession, so the photo misses the full drama and spectacle of our boat arriving at the Martello Tower to thunderous applause from the assembled throngs. We then joined the Parade of local dignitaries and sports club members to the fields next to Wave Leisure where a variety of local clubs had provided competitions and exhibits. We are indebted to Kay Young, John Cook and others who spent the day talking to people about the club around a stand with Topper, Pico and Windsurfer. I noticed at the prize-giving that a number of NSSC member's children succeeded in taking away a significant numbers of medals from the other club's events, so clearly competition is in the family genes.

Following the day's activities we hosted an evening ticketed event for all the sports clubs in a packed (too windy for the planned Marquee on the beach) Seaford Clubhouse enjoying a great BBQ from the Shorebreak team and music from a talented local artist. All in all a useful event which has pulled together the local sports clubs and placed our clubhouse on show to the area. Particular thanks on this one to Mike Godwin as he attended regular planning events for months to ensure everything went smoothly. Thanks also to the volunteers who gallantly attempted to rig the marquee despite the wind.

QUEENS JUBILEE SAILPAST

We didn't get 60 boats on the water, however I believe we did present a proud and honourable spectacle and her Majesty would have been proud of us.

With all our Safety Boats rigged out in bunting, but maintaining their position as required outside the bathing buoys and a varied selection of dinghies all with flags flying sailing close to the shore to give spectators a good view. The fleet assembled west of the club house then sailed past in 'line astern' past two of our Senior Members (Jack Baker and Ken Bourne) on the Race Box balcony who had decked themselves out in 'Cowes Rig' to present a timely reminder of what yacht Club members should wear on formal occasions.



Men's National Laser Champion – Our Alex

As hopefully most member's know, our capability in helping local children into sailing is literally 'world class' – and **Alex Mills Barton**, now 21 but remembered by many of us as a young cadet with a propensity to capsize on the downwind legs, has added another array of cups to his collection by winning the Men's Laser National Championship in July as you will have just read.

The picture shows Alex relaxing at the club having just returned from the event, and he is holding one of the trophies he came away with, a particularly special one for us, because the club presented it back in the 1970's when we hosted one of the first National Laser championships. It is a beautiful trophy depicting the 'Seven Sisters' cliffs and today is presented to the winner of day 5 of racing at the Nationals. What makes it even more special is the array of well known names who have won it in the past – you name a male 2012 GBR team sailor and you will find their name on it.

A small plug here for Alex, he is committed to undertaking the challenge of competing to represent Britain at the next Olympics in Rio and has to find a way of funding his campaign. Although we as a club will continue to help him with his boat, and he gets a small amount of support from Sport England through his RYA Olympic Development Team membership he urgently needs commercial organisations to take an interest and help fund his travel to the many International competitions and events he must attend if he is to succeed. If anyone knows of a local company or organisation that would be interested in sponsoring Alex, do get in touch. It is often through personal contacts that these things happen,

Alex has a web site and it currently has a great video of a recent interview in our clubhouse. It's well worth a watch, you can find it at: <http://www.amsailing.com/press.htm>

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday 24th November

On Saturday 24th November we will be having a Christmas bazaar at Seaford Clubhouse. Craft pitches / tables will be available for £10. There will be mulled wine and the Shorebreak Café available. Tombola, Hamper Raffle, bric-a-brac, books and all sorts of Christmas Gifts. Proceeds of 2nd Hand Book stall to the Newhaven RNLi Lifeboat, other proceeds to NSSC development fund. Contributions to the Hamper, Tombola and 2nd hand book stall gratefully received at the Seaford Clubhouse.

Get Crafting ! and book your Stalls now with the organisers :

Joyce 0795 234 2074 and **Sara** 07853 368 730

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

- Friday night 14th September start of RYA Powerboat 2 course - on the sea
- Saturday 22nd September start of RYA Better Sailing course - Piddinghoe
- Saturday 29th September Italian Night- Seaford Clubhouse (was 8th September) book by 21st with Jane/Clive
- Saturday 6th October Cadet Festival at Piddinghoe
- Saturday 27th October Laying up supper - Seaford Clubhouse
- Friday 2nd November Bonfire Night- Seaford Clubhouse
- Saturday 3rd November WORKING PARTIES - Seaford and Piddinghoe
- Sunday 4th November Winter Series starts - Piddinghoe
- Wednesday 7th November RYA meeting- Seaford Clubhouse
- Saturday 24th November - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR at Seaford Clubhouse
- Saturday 1st December Xmas Party & Prize Giving- Seaford Clubhouse
- Wednesday 26th December BOXING DAY RACE - Piddinghoe
- Wednesday 16th January RYA meeting- Seaford Clubhouse
- Wednesday 20th February RYA meeting- Seaford Clubhouse



Why not come and join in on a Working Party, it's great fun !