

Shotwick Lake Sailing Newsletter

February 2013



AGM Well Attended

Yet again the meeting was well attended by members with a good number of members sending their apologies.

2012 saw another good year with many successful things happening at the lake. The commodore announced that completion of the purchase of the lake is now close (I think he said the same last year!); Membership was up on last year (156), which, according to the RYA, is unusual and not reflected by many other clubs; Training had been very successful not only in bringing a great deal of funding to the club but also that a high percentage of participants had since become members of the club. The club house has seen a bit of a face lift with work both inside and out having been completed and more tie downs have been installed. Racing was well attended on the whole, but needs more people to race more regularly. (Details of changes on back page)

Minutes of the meeting will be displayed at the club when they are ready.

Snowy weather doesn't put off young sailors



Despite the cold weather and lack of wind, the first Junior Open session was quite well attended with 5 young sailors braving the cold. It was great to see some of our older young sailors, Ben, Cameron and James giving up their time to help and give advice. Well done guys.

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again when the renewal form should be heading your way.

Last year, members were very good at sending their completed forms back quickly, which was great. We would like to repeat it again this year as it cuts down on extra administration when chasing up members.

Members should be aware that if their boat is not displaying a current membership sticker, then it will be considered as abandoned and may be moved to the graveyard ready for next year's auction.

**DON'T DELAY,
RENEW TODAY!**

This month's contributors: Jonathan Edwards

2013 Racing Season

The 2013 racing season has changed from the format of previous years after a number of proposals were passed at the recent AGM. The Spring, Summer and Autumn series will now be sailed as one handicap fleet; the separate fast and slow fleets have been dropped.

A personal handicap competition will be introduced for the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Twilight series. Handicaps will be updated on a monthly basis and will be derived from your individual performances over the previous month. This will give everybody a chance of winning, no matter where you are in the normal pecking order. It will utilise the same race times as the normal handicap racing i.e. sail one race but get two results.

The club regattas will be changed to Olympic style scoring for this season as a trial, to see if it encourages more participation in the third race. Under this format the third race will count for double points and cannot be discarded; one discard will still be allowed from the first two races.

A club champion competition will be introduced based on the best 6 results from each of the individual series during the season, so even if you can't do enough races to qualify for an individual series you can still potentially qualify for this competition. It will utilise the normal handicap results with a twist; the scoring will be on a high points basis which rewards more those who win in larger fleets. Besides the overall champion, awards for the best junior (≤ 12 on 1st March), youth ($>12 \leq 17$), master ($>55 \leq 64$) and grand master (>65) will also be awarded.

Only 2 OOD scores can be counted in any one series; to provide a balance between the recognition for individuals doing duties against the fairness to all competitors in the race series results.

A couple of the safety rules in the sailing instructions relating to signing on for a race and declaration of retirement will be strictly enforced this year, which means you won't get a race result if you don't comply with them. A grace period will be in effect until the 1st May with any offenders reminded politely, but also named and shamed on the race results to raise awareness generally.

Club specific PY handicap numbers are being developed and results will be also be generated using these numbers for this year's series; no prizes will be awarded on the basis of these results. These results will be published on the website and they will be reviewed at the 2014 AGM. A proposal for a third formal club race on a Sunday afternoon was again rejected by the membership, but approval was given to those interested to run their own informal racing on a Sunday afternoon provided it didn't interfere with other users of the lake.

The changes should make it possible for us all to have a chance to win something, it'll make a change from chasing Dave Turtle and Partner around the lake (I think he has an electric motor stashed on board!)

Boat Auction

Thanks to everyone who has identified their boats and removed them from the graveyard. The auction will take place in April to allow old members to be contacted and given a chance to collect their boat.

What's on next Month

March

2nd & 16th March Junior Open

9th Instructor Training Day

10th Race season begins 1st race

10:30am Start

Dates for your Diary

April

20th/27th (4th, 11th, 18th May) RYA

level 1&2 Dinghy sailing

28th & 5th May Start Windsurfing

May

7th, 14th, 21st & 28th Junior

Sailing 1 (none RYA certified).