

Shotwick Lake Sailing



Newsletter – April 2009

Editorial

With the 2009 Sailing Season well underway and the light nights well and truly here its time one again for another Newsletter – yes I know it says “April” and that’s when it was originally scheduled for but lack of content has meant holding back until now.

This issue is a bit thinner than usual but we do have a couple of photo’s and a training report from Tim.

Tim has also written a number of other articles including one on volunteering – no not to do anything foolhardy or dangerous or to spend lots of your hard earned cash. I’ll leave it to Tim to explain exactly what you’re wanted for however I would add that it may be slightly embarrassing as one of our members will find out when he gets this latest issue.
CK

Training

During the winter months we have been holding Open Training for our junior sailors. They have been practicing various boat handling techniques and tactics. Now the Sunday racing has started you may have met them on the start line!!!



Courtesy of Tim Bowden

The training programme is updated regularly on the web site so take a look at what is available.

Steve Hopson and Tim Bowden attended the Welsh Yachting Association Instructor Conference on the 14th March. These conferences give an opportunity to update skills and have a briefing on current issues that are being considered or are shortly to be implemented by the RYA.

We had an Instructor Training Day organised at Shotwick on the 21 March to develop Assistant Instructors to become involved in the training and to update existing Instructors.

Other training opportunities at the club coming up shortly are:

Starting 4th May Junior Beginners Sailing (4 No evenings course fee £20)

See the web site for more details or email training@shotwicksailing.org
TB

A Cautionary Tale

Many of our adult members may have heard of the "5 P's" if not then ask around or try and work it out based on this cautionary tale.

Like most people I was looking forward to the start of the season and wondering how I would get on in the first couple of races – would they set the tone for the rest of the season.

The day arrived, weather quite warm for the time of year, dry and a nice wind just to get back in the swing of things, about a force 2 – enough to get the feel of the boat again after the winter lay off but not too much to make it hard work.

First race, first start – not a bad one about 3rd away from the line followed by a good first beat.

First spinnaker leg – good hoist and a good drop at the end of it.

First lap – holding 2nd position just behind Carl and Shellie and not falling back too much, still in striking distance.

Second lap – pretty much the same as were the subsequent laps.

Last lap – still in second place, don't think we'll catch Carl and Shellie but don't think we'll get caught either.

Last reach – no chance of first but no chance of being caught.

Last mark – harden up round the mark, sheet in, kicker on, 20 meters beat to the finish line to go – 2nd place in the bag – not a bad start really – feeling quite smug.

Last beat – pull on the kicker – **"BANG"**

B***dy H**l what was that?

Oh!!
No forestay.

Oh!! Oh!!
No mast.

Oh!! Oh!! Oh!!
No finish – just got blown away from the line.

Yep – the “5 P’s”.

I hadn't checked the rig over the winter and hadn't noticed the fray in the forestay.

Just goes to show to do well in a race you need to be good but more importantly you need to finish.

CK

Fast Lap Trophy

With wind being either too light and/or in the wrong direction there has not been much opportunity for any attempts on the existing record which is currently held by Tom Piggot.

As a reminder of just how fast you will need to go I have listed the 3 times from this/last year below.

The second table gives an idea of what different classes of boat would need to do a lap in to get anywhere near Tom's time.

POSITION	DATE	BOAT	HELM	CREW	TIME	HANDICAP	CORRECTED TIME
1	23.11.08 (2008/2009)	Topper	Tom Piggot		8m-17s	1290	6m-25s
2	23.11.08 (2008/2009)	Topper	Lewis ?		9m-21s	1290	7m-15s
3	22.06.08 (2007/2008)	Scorpion	Richard Jones		8m-55s	1056	8m-27s

POSITION	BOAT	LAP TIME	HANDICAP	CORRECTED TIME
1	Topper	8m - 17s	1290	6m - 25s
	Optimist	10m - 34s	1646	6m - 25s
	Miracle	7m - 34s	1178	6m - 25s
	Graduate	7m - 29s	1167	6m - 25s
	Solo	7m - 25s	1155	6m - 25s
	Laser Radial	7m - 04s	1101	6m - 25s
	Laser 2000	6m - 59s	1089	6m - 25s
	Laser	6m - 55s	1078	6m - 25s
	Topaz Omega	6m - 54s	1075	6m - 25s
	Albacore	6m - 50s	1066	6m - 25s
	Scorpion	6m - 47s	1056	6m - 25s
	Blaze	6m - 43s	1047	6m - 25s
	Phantom	6m - 42s	1043	6m - 25s
	RS300	6m - 25s	1000	6m - 25s
	29er	5m - 56s	924	6m - 25s
	49er	4m - 48s	747	6m - 25s

*The 29er was added just in case Tom fancied trying to break his own record and the 49er just as a point of interest – just goes to show how bl***y fast those things are!!*

CK

Volunteering

Volunteers are the life blood of the club without their commitment and enthusiasm we would not achieve our goal to develop a sustainable and vibrant club.

The contribution from some volunteers is more visible than others such as organisation of sailing events, race officer, safety boat crew & helm and the galley facility dinghy training and maintenance work parties. Other volunteer contributions are less visible, treasurer, secretary, membership secretary newsletter editor, and webmaster.

No doubt some of you have been volunteers without actually realising it!

Maybe think about how you can help the club, the commitment only needs to be small; every little helps. If you have a desire to be involved in a particular area let us know contact Ron King or Tim Bowden or email volunteering@shotwicksailing.org we have access to training and development opportunities in return for your commitment.

One area where everyone can contribute is to maintenance work parties, we have four arranged throughout the season.

The first was held on 28 February significant progress was made on improving the launching area, various painting jobs and other tasks. The support is much appreciated. If you did not know about the first date please make a note of the future dates and commit to attending one of them.

11 July
17 October

The pictures below are from the Work Party on 28 February (Also see more pictures on the web site)



Courtesy of **Tim Bowden**



Courtesy of Tim Bowden



Courtesy of Tim Bowden



Courtesy of Tim Bowden



Courtesy of Tim Bowden

Useful Links

Racing Rules of Sailing *Racing Rules Of Sailing: 2009 - 2012*

Sailing 2009-12 *If you want to catch up on the changes in the latest racing rules, check out these videos by Dave Perry.*
[RRS 2009-2012 Videos](#)

Or read the rules here: [Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012](#)
(PDF file Opens in a New Window).

Sailing and Boating *Sailing and Boating*

Boating *A new link has been added to [links page](#).*

This is a sailing related website (obviously!) with lots of very useful information for sailors and boat owners.

www.sailingandboating.co.uk

Please note that the above has been shamelessly lifted off our website you will need to access the links via <http://www.shotwicksailing.org/news>

Shotwick Weather

The new weather station is now up and running and is showing some pretty interesting results.

The record highs and lows are shown below.
<http://www.shotwicksailing.org/weather>

Records Since 20 February 2009

Temperature and Humidity

Highest Temperature	20.1 °C	at 10:54 on 20 April 2009
Lowest Temperature	-11.0 °C	at 14:36 on 25 March 2009
Lowest Wind Chill Temperature	-22.3 °C	at 14:36 on 25 March 2009
Highest Minimum	11.7 °C	on 12 March 2009
Lowest Maximum	7.0 °C	on 04 March 2009

Rainfall

Highest Rain Rate	31713.0 mm/hr	at 11:06 on 29 March 2009
Highest Hourly Rainfall	2646.3 mm	at 11:02 on 29 March 2009
Highest Daily Rainfall	2646.3 mm	on 29 March 2009
Highest Monthly Rainfall	10445.0 mm	March 2009

Wind

Highest Wind Gust	46.3 kts	at 11:56 on 23 March 2009
Highest Wind Speed Average	44.9 kts	at 23:49 on 15 March 2009

Pressure

Lowest Pressure (sl)	978.2 mb	at 18:18 on 03 March 2009
Highest Pressure (sl)	1035.8 mb	at 10:09 on 17 March 2009

Forthcoming Events

2009 WORK PARTIES

Work

Parties *The club depends upon volunteers to undertake minor maintenance tasks at the club work parties are therefore arranged from 09.30 to 13.30 on the following dates:*

Saturday 11 July 2009

Saturday 17 October 2009

Please make every effort to attend at least two sessions.

Training Scorpion Training

and Open *Saturday 9th May*

Meetings

Scorpion Open Meeting

Sunday 10th May

RNLI Charity Day

Sunday 6th June

Solo Open Meeting

Sunday 7th September

Bala – Whitsun Regatta

Some of you may remember the Scorpion Fleet returning from the unofficial "Welsh Championships" last August and enthusing over the fantastic 3 day event they had just had at Bala over the Bank Holiday Weekend.

Well this year the event is being held as part of the Whitsun Regatta which means that it is basically open to anyone, further more the weekend also includes the Laser 2000 Millennium Championships, a Miracle Open Meeting, a Buzz Open Meeting and a General Handicap Fleet so there is quite a lot there for us Shotwick sailors to join in with.

This year why don't we try and get a good turn out across the fleets from Shotwick, there is excellent camping within 5 minutes walk of the club and with the cheap beer and live music last year a good time was had by all.

For details of the club and the nearest campsite see: -

www.balasc.org.uk

www.penybont-bala.co.uk/html/gallery

Embarrassing Photo Time

This issue it's the turn of Adrian "Kim and Aggy" Hall.



Courtesy of Tim Bowden

The Last Word

Hopefully now that the season is in full swing there will be lots of things for you to all write about and send me for the next issue. This is scheduled for July 2009 so I will need some contributions by the end of June – only 8 weeks away so start writing!

Who knows we may even get a “Club Member in the Spotlight” and it may be you – I will be asking some willing and not so willing victims over the next few weeks.

Colin

Please send any articles to newsletter@shotwicksailing.org
Colin