

Shotwick Lake Sailing



Newsletter – January 2010

Editorial

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Newsletter of the new decade, we've had the 80's, 90's and even the "noughties" but I've not heard any good ideas as to what we're all going to call the next ten – answers on a postcard please.

Having been the lucky recipient of the "Club Person of the Year" award at the Annual Presentation Evening for my efforts in producing this rag I did think that the decent thing to do would be to stop pestering everyone for articles to put in the Newsletter, after all how can I take credit for other peoples hard work. Well the thinking's over and I've made an executive decision and that is that I'm quite happy to take credit for anything – whether I did it or not – so keep the contributions coming PLEASE.

Anyway the production of the Newsletter is a pretty easy affair by comparison to the tasks carried out by many other members of the club. One thankless task – "you can please some of the people etc." is the compiling of the Race Duty List. Yes most of us love to race and there are even one or two who love to do race duties but let's be honest we would all rather sail most of the time (weather permitting!!!)

BUT

If no one does duties then no one can race so it is essential that we all do our bit not only by actually turning up on the day but also by letting people know in plenty of time if we can't make it. This is just as important, if you can't make a duty then arrange some cover. Our Duty Secretary who has the thankless task of compiling the duty list has written a small piece on this and this is included later.

CK

Sunday Morning Blast

For those of you "unlucky" enough to miss the sailing on the 1st November 2009 I have copied a few photo's taken on the day. What started of as an enjoyable sail in fresh conditions soon turned into more of a battle for survival with only a few boats actually finishing the first race – the second race being cancelled, a great start on the first day of the "Frostbite" Series.

Gareth Henshall and Tom Piggott showed everyone the way to do it with some impressive boat handling in their Laser Radials (obviously something in the genes) with Ade (Slim Shady) Hall and son Tommy flying the flag for the proper boats ie those with 2 or more sails (runs and dives for cover!!) in the new Scorpion - 1969 – "Water Please" along with Geoff Weir and Louise Stevenson in a Miracle

As always the photographs tend to downgrade the conditions but if anyone thinks it doesn't look too bad then bear in mind that one gust during lunch literally lifted the Scorp off the trailer and dumped it on the gravel – and no – the sails weren't up.

CK



*Carl and Shellie lead Ade and Tommy during the early part of the race.
Courtesy of Colin Keogh*



*Gareth blasting on a reach as the wind picks up.
Courtesy of Colin Keogh*



*Tom demonstrates the new hiking technique for light weights as he gets as much weight out as he can
Courtesy of Colin Keogh*



*Ade looks a bit relieved following another frantic reach
Courtesy of **Colin Keogh***



*Geoff and Louise looking a bit on the cold side
Courtesy of **Colin Keogh***

End of Season Dinner Dance

Our End of Season Dinner Dance and Presentation Evening was again held at “The Armory” in Flint Those who attended the event on the 14th November 2009 were treated to an excellent meal, cheap bar and an entertaining quiz courtesy of our very own Bamber Gascoine (younger readers ask your parents).

Unfortunately I was unable to attend myself and so missed Tony’s speech and the presentation of awards to members who actually won for doing something.

For anyone else who wasn’t there a transcript of the trial – sorry speech appears below along with a list of the winners.

**SHOTWICK LAKE SAILING
PRESENTATION EVENING 2009
AWARDS CEREMONY**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to The Armory in Flint for this, the culmination of the 2009 season of Shotwick Lake Sailing. Four years ago we witnessed the formation of Shotwick Lake Sailing when we arranged to purchase the lake, to secure our future, following twenty two years of success as the former British Steel and then Corus Colors Sailing Club. The move to become an independent club has certainly helped to improve our fortunes, increased our profile in the wider community and given us the enthusiasm to move forward to even greater achievement. Such achievement can only be possible with the involvement of the members and this evening is our chance to celebrate that involvement.

Before the prize giving begins, just a few words about the season and its activities.

One very positive fact is that our membership now stands at 149, plus of course family members, which compares very favorably with last season's total of 138. In addition to this increase we also now have 7 permit groups as associate members which is also up on last year's figure of 4. Publicity, superb racing opportunities and training have played their part in this improvement but, the thing that tends to seal the deal when tentative members visit is our warm and friendly welcome and willingness to help in any way required.

Use of the club facilities continues to grow and we are pleased to see so many weekends and evenings now busy with various activities and events.

In a moment, Richard will tell you about another high turnout racing season, both at home and away, and it is a credit to member's endeavors that this evening's trophies are spread widely among the competitors with relative newcomers now being up in the running with the longer standing racing members.

We again held the annual charity race day in the summer and were pleased to be able to present the RNLI at Flint with a cheque for £223.

Our training team has done another fantastic job of introducing newcomers to the sport. The work on training over many years and our current very full program has certainly earned us the respect and support of the WYA and Flintshire Sports Council. In addition to adult Level 1 & 2 courses, many youngsters have experienced WYA open training and club youth training sessions with a number being put through the RYA Youth Stage 1 course. This youth training has paid dividends by way of the significant number of youngsters now regularly racing at the club. They are also representing the club at away events and our youth contingent is currently the largest contributor of competitors in the Welsh Squad.

On the social side we held yet another very successful barbeque early in September and, although caught out by very cold weather, everyone enjoyed good food, music and the company of fellow members and their guests.

You will all have noticed the much improved galley facilities which were the result of a great deal of effort by a number of members early in the year. It is now cleaner, brighter and more effective and enabled the club to register with Flintshire County Council Environmental Health Department by whom we were awarded a bronze food hygiene certificate.

Many members helped to improve the launching area before the start of the season by clearing rocks, laying a special interlocking plastic grating system and then compacting crush and run into it. This has resulted in a large, gently sloped and safe area for launching and recovering dinghies.

I would now like to introduce Richard Jones who is representing our Sailing Secretary, Carl, who was unfortunately double, booked for this evening and the wedding invitation could not be turned down. Richard will tell us some details of the racing season.

Dot King has kindly agreed to present the trophies this evening on behalf of Shotwick Lake Sailing.

Trophy	Presented For	Winner	Runner Up
Mersey Cup	Spring Series	S. Hopson	R. King
RAF Shield	Spring Series	C & S Jones	C. Walker & P. Newman
Capenhurst Cup	Summer Series	J. Bowler	A. Hughes
Presidents Cup	Summer Series	J. Edwards	C & S Jones
Dee Shield	Autumn Series	D. Clarke	A. Hughes
Shell Shield	Autumn Series	J. Edwards	D. Riley & D. Morgan
Cheshire Shield	Port Series	R. King	I. Postings
Brian Farrer Memorial	Port Series	J. Sargent	C. Walker & P. Newman
Commodores Salver	Twilight Series	A Jardine	I. Postings
Corus Colors Salver	Twilight Series	C. Walker & P. Newman	J. Sargent
Shotwick Cup	Starboard Series	R. King	A Jardine
Alyn Sheild	Starboard Series	C. Walker & P. Newman	J. Cooper
Centenary Shield	Spring Regatta		
George Forster Memorial Plaque	Autumn Regatta	C & S Jones	C. Walker & P. Newman
Luff Trophy	Best club boat at Scorpion Open	C. Jones & J. Hannabus	-----
One Up Cup	Best club boat at Solo Open	R. King	-----
Fast Lap Trophy	Fastest Lap around corner buoys	T. Piggott	-----
Junior Shield	Best Junior	J. Bowler	-----
Most Promising Newcomer or Novice (Catherine Jelfs Plate)	Best Newcomer	J. Hargreaves	-----
Travellers Trophy	Traveller Series	T. Piggott	-----
Carver Plate	Windsurfer of the year		-----
Club Person of the Year	Club Person of the Year	C. Keogh	-----

SHOTWICK LAKE SAILING PRESENTATION OF AWARDS 2009 SPECIAL AWARDS

Junior Shield:

This is awarded to a junior member who, in the opinion of the committee, has shown great skill in sailing and commitment to the club in general. This year's winner came to prominence after starting to race in 2008 following completion of youth open training sessions at the club. Since then he has become a regular at Sunday racing at the club. As his sailing expertise has grown so have his ambitions with performances in the Club Youth Racing Circuit events, the Optimist Nationals at Largs, an Open Event at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy, a Welsh Schools event and the Welsh Junior Championships. What a great deal of activity to have crammed into such a short sailing career and he has even been seen paintbrush in hand at a work party. The winner is James Bowler.

Most Promising Newcomer:

From a beginner on a club training course at Shotwick Lake only a short time ago this person's enthusiasm has continued to grow. He has progressed to sailing a Solo and shows a keenness to do well in club racing. He has explored every possibility to improve and has sailed in all weathers this season with his skills improving greatly in some very testing conditions. I am pleased to announce that this year's winner is John Hargreaves.

Travellers Trophy:

This is awarded to a club member who furthers and publicises the name of the club by taking part in numerous opens and nationals through the year. This year's winner has been a very active member of the club since a very early age, starting in Optimist dinghies and progressing on to Toppers, Laser Radial and occasionally his father's Laser 2000. He has become a very skilful competitor and an excellent ambassador for the club. His sailing prowess has seen him involved in Welsh squads. The winner for the second year in a row is Tom Piggott.

Club Person Of The Year:

This is awarded each year to a person who we believe has made an outstanding contribution to the club in ways not necessarily through racing prowess. This year's winner has been a member for countless years and always seems to have been on the scene even having been a committee member years ago. He has always been active and willing to help in any way he can. I remember his early sailing exploits in a Merlin Rocket which seemed so easy to capsize but not so easy to get going again after righting. However, for many years now he has displayed great skill in helming in the Scorpion Fleet. He has been very successful at the club and has been an excellent ambassador at opens and nationals at which he has personified the friendly nature of our club. His love of sailing is unquestionable as indicated by the vast numbers of series and special events he has entered. More recently however, a sinister side to his nature has become apparent in tracking down the dirt on unsuspecting members who have then appeared in amazingly humorous articles in the club newsletter. It is for his dedication to the club coupled with his untiring work in encouraging contributions for, writing articles for, editing of and issuing of the now very popular club newsletter. The winner is of course Colin Keogh.

The club would now like to give a token of gratitude to Dot in appreciation for presenting the awards, for organizing this evening's event and for her hard work in the galley throughout the year.

We would also like to formally thank Gladys, Sheila, Win & Julie for their hard work in the galley. All of these wonderful ladies look after us so well and really do deserve a vote of thanks.

Earlier this season it was with sadness that the Directors accepted the retirement of our warden of many years, Shellie Jones, who had decided to devote more time to other ventures in her life. We are very grateful to her for taking on the role and for looking after the facilities to allow us to enjoy them for many years. Again, Shellie sends her apologies for not being here this evening – that damn wedding again! Would Sheila please accept these flowers on her behalf.

That brings us to the end of the formal presentation but it remains for me to offer thanks, on your behalf, to a number of people whose efforts continue to make ours the best club in the region. Without their tireless input our club could not succeed.

Firstly Carl, our Sailing Secretary, who has not only organised the trophies and keepsakes for this evening but who has also continuously organized and supported the racing throughout this and many previous years.

The whole club is also indebted to all those who have helped in any way towards the well being of Shotwick Lake Sailing and its activities. These include race officials, safety boat helms, the training team, work party attendees, our new warden Keith and all those who come down and utilize the club and make it such a special place.

Please do not forget your Directors and co-opted Management Committee members who, as ever, are the unsung heroes, or back room boys and girls, who work tirelessly throughout the year ensuring the smooth running of club. Many of you will not realise how much does need to be done to manage such a successful organization. So thanks to them and please give them your support in future when asked to help in some way.

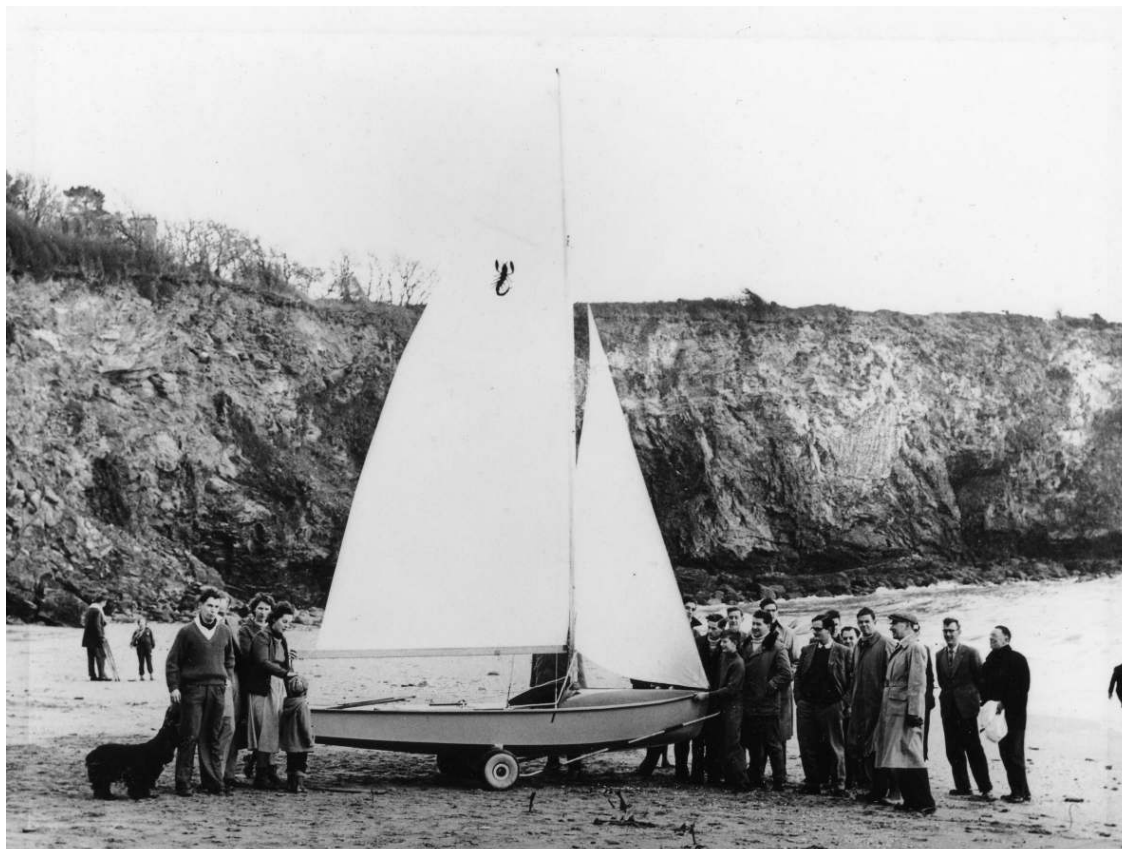
Thanks also to all of you for being with us. We hope that you have enjoyed your meal and that you will enjoy the rest of the evening. On your behalf can I please say thank you to the chef and staff at the Armory for providing excellent food, service and surroundings.

Finally I now wish to invite you to move back downstairs to the function room where the rest of this evenings activities are about to begin.

AF

Times Gone By

I recently had the good luck/miss fortune to be asked to help produce a calendar to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Scorpion Class. Whilst researching for this I came across a number of advertisements and photos which bring home how little our sport has changed in some ways and how much in others.



The first Scorpion prototype prior to launch at Porthpean Sailing Club in January 1960, it's amazing how little the boats lines have changed in 50 years compared to the cloths!!!
Courtesy of Kay Ecclestone and Porthpean S.C.

Stewart Scorpions

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J. B. COOKSON, 27 RAINES LANE, GRASSINGTON, YORKS.

*The boat seems pretty cheap compared to the tie and scarf
 Courtesy of Carol Haines and the National Scorpion Association*



*Scorpion No.2 on a tight two sail reach
 Courtesy of Kay Ecclestone and Porthpean S.C.*

Forthcoming Events

AGM Shotwick Sailing Club Annual General Meeting

Wed 17th

Feb 2010 This years AGM will be held at 19:30 on Wednesday 17th February.
Please make every effort to attend.

Deeside Royal Naval Association Club, Chapel Street, Connah's Quay, CH5
4SA.- See website for directions

Pick Your Own Duties

Your Club depends, for the operation of organised dinghy racing, on the involvement of members in carrying out Race Duties. Club Racing forms the core of the Club's activities, without which the Club would probably soon wither away. For this reason the Club requires, as a condition of membership, that all members will carry out Race Duties as assigned.

However it is understood that some members do not wish to race or race infrequently and such members are asked to do fewer Duties than regular racers. In practice this means that regular racers are asked to do three Duties per year, while non racers are called on once or twice.

Duties are assigned in this fashion :- The Duty Secretary maintains a list of current Members with details of Member's suitability and qualification for the various tasks (ie. Race Officer, Assistant Race Officer, Safety Boat Coxswain and Safety Boat Crew). The Club has a policy that Safety Boat Coxswains should have RYA Powerboat Level Two Certificate.

When the programme for the coming season is available (October or November), an empty Duty Roster is posted in the Clubhouse. Members can then fill in their own preferred dates for the coming season. This list remains posted until the Roster is finalised in April.

The Duty Secretary then fills in the empty dates by working through the list of Members in alphabetic order on a continuous basis (ie. not starting at "A" each year but carrying on from last year.)

Members are then sent a reminder via Royal Mail, about three weeks before their assigned Duty; along with a list of contact details for all other members. So they may arrange swaps if necessary. The Duty Secretary will not in normal circumstances be involved in rearranging duties but Members are asked to be responsible themselves to find a willing substitute if they are unable to perform the allotted duty. The reason for this is that otherwise the work of the Duty Secretary becomes very onerous, and to this end the name of the Duty Secretary is not published.

This method of assigning Duties has been arrived at over years of practice and we strive to be equitable as possible. But if you have any comments or suggestions as to how we could improve the system please put them to any Committee Member for consideration (or better still, attend the AGM and have a say there.)

I hope this little essay has been informative and encourage Members to select their own dates as described.

Yours sincerely, The Duty Secretary.

PS. You can review the Duty Roster at :- <http://www.shotwicksailing.org>

Embarrassing Photo Time

Once again an unsuspecting member has fallen victim to the unrelenting search for that photo you wish was never taken. The latest victim is probably the hardest to identify so far but until he (that's the first clue) sees this he won't even know I've got it.

Some people will have seen this picture before in the not to distant past but for those he haven't here's a few more clues.

- ❖ *The glasses have now been ditched.*
- ❖ *He's quite a bit bigger now.*
- ❖ *He now sports a different (more wild) hair style.*



The Last Word

Well that's it for another issue.

I hope that you're all keeping well and that you are taking good care of your loved ones, keeping her in out of the bad weather and warm on these cold winter nights. Some of you will have bought her something nice for Christmas or treated her to a make over, its amazing sometimes what a bit of cosmetics can do for the overall appearance and a good polish can work wonders on her bottom.

You look after her and in a few years time when you fancy something younger with a bit more go you could still get a good price for the old girl, who knows someone else at the club may take her off your hands and get as much enjoyment out of her as you did.

But no matter where she ends up you'll still look upon her as yours.

It's amazing how attached we can get to our boats

See you all soon.

Colin

Please send any articles to newsletter@shotwicksailing.org