



WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB

MAINSHEET

2017 AUTUMN EDITION

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from the commodore:

Well that seemed a very short summer! As usual I didn't do as much sailing in as I'd hoped, but some of the sails were nearly perfect, so perhaps it was a summer of quality rather than quantity.

It's also been a summer of change with the passing of two of our members, both in very sudden and unexpected circumstances. Ian Hook in the Spring and Ed Halsal in July. Ian and Ed were part of the local sailing community when I first started sailing from Wivenhoe and the place isn't quite the same without them. They will be missed very much.

We had a really good regatta this year and more recently a successful open day, where I believe we gained a raft of new members. The numbers turning out for dinghy races are on the increase, which is great to see. Dinghy sailing sessions for members that need a bit more confidence have proved to be popular and our Cadet Section continues to thrive. So, all in all I think, as a club, we have had a good summer and things are on the up. By the time you read this the Winter Series will be under way, so if you haven't had enough sailing during the summer, there is still a chance to do some more before Christmas. With winter approaching its time to think about ways to keep ourselves amused until the warm weather returns. In most years various talks have been given over the winter period. These normally take place on a Friday or Saturday night. They can have a connection to sailing or the sea, or be about anything that members might find interesting. If you would like to give a talk, or know someone else who might, please contact me or any committee member.

Wivenhoe Sailing Club is one of the cheapest sailing clubs to belong to on the East Coast, possibly in the whole of the UK, which is how it should be. Anyone who wants to go sailing should be able to afford to join Wivenhoe Sailing Club, even unsavoury characters like me. The main reason that we are able to keep our costs down is because we rely on members to volunteer for most of the work that needs to be done every year. In my opinion that's one of our strengths; if members are prepared to invest their valuable free time in the club, it shows that they are committed to and care about the club. This is the biggest difference between a 'proper' club like ours and somewhere that simply charges a large annual fee and provides a service. Anyhow, the only trouble with relying on volunteers is that you can never get enough, so if you can spare some time

for YOUR club, to do bar duty, hard cleaning duty, rescue boat duty, officer of the day, help with the maintenance of the buildings and infrastructure, or just come along make the tea you: will be very, very welcome.

Bill Kippen,
Commodore

from the vice commodore:

Hello WSC club members,

I can't believe we are already approaching the end of another season of boating activity! No doubt some of you will want to extend your season to make the most of any favourable weather, while the rest of us will be thinking about the tasks that come with the winter lay-up – 'tis the season for anti-fouling after all.

If you attended the Boat Owners and Lifting Group meeting you will be aware that lifting dates for cruiser owners have now been published, so if you are planning to stay afloat and would like to berth on the pontoon over winter, please contact Tony Higbee as soon as possible to book your space – places are limited so be quick!

We would also be grateful if you could book your lift and hard standing space as soon as possible to enable the lifting group to accommodate your boat on site. As you are no doubt aware, space in the club has become extremely limited and we are currently trying to reorganise the boat park to free up room and improve access so that our members can easily get to their boats and carry out maintenance over the winter months.

We will be introducing a cap on the numbers of boats stored at the club in the near future to help achieve this. We've also

begun to look at the number of dinghies that have appeared at the club without permission and with no record of payment for storage; if the owners cannot be found, the boats will be disposed of in accordance with RYA guidelines. If you have a boat stored on a trailer, please do ensure that it can be moved easily and, if the trailer is secured with a padlock, that the key is in our club safe and clearly identified. In other news, unfortunately our Viking work boat is currently out of commission due to a gearbox problem and is unlikely to be available until early spring.

This autumn, we're also on the hunt for a group of volunteers to help clean the hard at the main site. The equipment issues we experienced last year have now been resolved, so the process should hopefully be much more straight-forward. There is also the hardworking party coming up on Saturday 28th October: stay tuned for more information, an alert will be sent out shortly.

There are still plenty of exciting events and races to get involved in before Christmas, including the Laying Up race on Sunday 22nd October and four winter series races starting on Sunday 5th November. We'll also be offering Officer of the Day training, as well as safety boat training, for those of you looking to dip your toes into something new. The Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony is also on the horizon – a great chance to catch-up with old friends and celebrate a successful year on the water. We kindly ask that those of you who were fortunate enough to be awarded silverware last year, please return the trophies – cleaned and buffed of course! – ready for them to be engraved and presented to this year's lucky winners. Trophies may be returned either to myself or Rob Maloney – do drop us an email if they have been left at the club.

Finally, we will be discussing some of the ideas put forward by our members at the recent strategy meeting and I look forward to updating you all in the next Mainsheet.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of the sailing season and look forward to catching up with you and hearing your tales of adventure.

Gary Jobber,
Vice Commodore

from the membership secretary:

Dear Members,
2017 has been a great year for us with several new members joining, most of whom are keen dinghy or cruiser sailors and it has been good to see lots of boats on the water. We have organised several events including cleaning the hard, social sails and barbeques and look forward to continuing this next year. I would like to extend my thanks to all who took part in the events and made even the (hard) hard cleaning almost fun!

Social Sailing

Two 'Social Sails' were run this season to enable those who perhaps don't want to race to get time on the water in company with other boats and to give less experienced sailors the opportunity to sail with 'old hands'. Crews were paired up and several boats/sailors who perhaps might not have otherwise have been out this season took to the water for a cruise down towards Brightlingsea. The boats sailed downstream for one hour with Buoy 17 by Rat Island the turning mark and were ably supported by a RIB and Viking crewed by volunteers. Cake and biscuits were served up after the first event but for the second event a superb barbeque was organised. The success of these social sails has shown that such events are popular and we will be

organising more next year so look out for the Sailing Calendar in the next Mainsheet.

Volunteers for Club Duties

As always we need volunteers to help with Club Duties; these include Bar Staff, Hard Cleaning, OOD, Safety/Support Boat Crews and general duties. This year I was pleased to see that most of the duties were filled but unfortunately it seems that the same members generously commit again and again. The Club is run by volunteers; we don't have any permanent staff to do the chores and Members are expected to sign up for at least one Duty each year. I feel that our Senior Members have 'done their bit' over the years and it would be great to see more of the 'younger' members joining in.

Most if not all Sailing Members use the facilities including the new hard which needs regular cleaning. We have struggled to keep this clean enough to safely launch boats, again relying on a few dedicated members to give their time, usually on a Saturday, to make the hard safe to use so I would appeal to all those who use the hard to sign up on the Duty Rota and take part on at least one day.

To mis-quote the immortal words of Lord Kitchener 'YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU'! So, look at your diaries, choose a day (or two) and put your names down on the Duty Rosters in the Club Hose lobby.

Wivenhoe Dinghy Sailors Whatsapp

Thanks to the kind efforts of Julie-Anne we now have access to 'Whatsapp', a smart phone application for members to communicate directly. This is currently used to organise crews, safety boats and OOD's for dinghy sailing and has been very effective. All members are welcome to join and can be included by sending your mobile phone number and details to me at wscmembershipsec@gmail.com.

Whatsapp is not restricted to dinghy sailors

and if anyone would like to start their own group, for example, Bar Duties, social events or Cruisers, we can help to get it going.

There will be more membership news in the next edition of Mainsheet but until then enjoy the rest of the season and if you are down at the Club on Friday nights come over and say hello!

Chris Wood,
Membership Secretary

from the rear commodore:

There have been just a couple of events as, hopefully, most people have been sailing during the summer.

Regatta Barbeque

This was very successful and well attended. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Open Day

Slow start due to inclement weather but as the weather improved so did the momentum and the day ended on a high note and the sausage rolls, tea & homemade cakes went well. Many thanks to galley slaves Gill & Kay. Thanks also to those who made the delicious cakes. They were well appreciated.

Future Events:

Games Night

Due to a sailing clash this has been postponed to 11 November, 7.30. Families welcome as the games will suit all ages.

Christmas Draw board

This will be available from beginning of November thanks again to Albert.

Annual Dinner

to be held on Saturday 18 November, see the form in this Mainsheet which we would like returned by 11 November.

Christmas Gathering

Friday 22 December. Great family event with carols, mince pies and mulled wine, the Ugly Mince Pie Competition and the Grand Christmas Draw.

Reminder

2018 Row & Ramble is on Saturday 6 January to the Albion at Rowhedge followed by chilli at the Club.

ANOTHER REMINDER

We (Carole & Myrna) will be stepping down as Rear Commodores at the next AGM. If you're interested in taking on this role, either on your own or sharing it as we have, then please get in touch with us and we'll be pleased to give advice and show you the ropes. We've had an enjoyable two years and have received lots of help running the various events, so go on give it a try.

Myrna & Carole

open days past and present:

In 1988 the then commodore, Andrew Diggins, spotted that the RYA had suggested that all sailing clubs should hold an open day. This was in order to show people that sailing was not a pastime confined to the wealthier classes and to encourage new members. At that time, there was a ghastly programme (in my opinion) on TV about yacht builders and yachties around the Solent. It was all fashion clothes, beautiful boats, stripy tops, money and glamour. Neither mud nor wellies were to be seen of!

I am fairly certain that WSC was the first club on this part of the coast to follow

through with an open day that year. We had a few small cruisers, of which one owner dispensed G & T to two mature ladies, thereby establishing a regular clientele for the next year. We also had the Wivenhoe One designs and several other classes of dinghy plus a Dory safety boat, all operating from the Old Hard. Back then, the club had a similar number of members to what it has today, including a thriving Cadet section.

We advertised well with a large banner and on that day, took about 50 people afloat. I don't think we have missed a year since, weather permitting, and have on occasions taken well over 100 people afloat as well as extending the clubhouse hospitality. There were no pontoon or jetty in those early days at the Old Hard so everyone had to be transferred to the bigger boats by dinghy.

This year was a much quieter event with not so much publicity. Tea and cakes as usual and the bar opened later on thanks to Mick and Marie. We often gain new members from Open Days even though this is not the original aim. My first passengers had an extra adventure as I ventured too close to Essex Wildlife's new mud bank on the Fingringhoe side, opposite their sea wall breach. I should have put the depth gauge on as the bottom goes from plenty of water to nothing very suddenly. When I raced we regularly sailed right down that side to get out of the tide but I strongly advise anyone to keep well clear now if on a falling tide. You will stay there if aground and it is dangerous to get out because of the very deep gulley's either side of the bump.

My Indonesian family passengers realised we had 'parked' for a moment and one of the children thought it great fun that we were shipwrecked and dutifully moved about as instructed to shift ballast! After about twenty minutes, the rising tide

floated us off and we continued happily. I explained to the father of the family that if he would really like to experience sailing, a dinghy trip was the answer. Having safely returned his family to the clubhouse, he set off with Rob in the club Wayfarer and returned an hour later with a huge grin on his face. That is what it is all about.

Brian Sinclair

a tribute to Ed Halsal:

It was a great shock to all of us who knew Ed to hear he had lost his life overboard on one of only two boats to do the Ostend event this year. It had in fact been cancelled but Ed and his crew had planned to combine it with scattering the ashes of his dear friend Tony Williamson on the Gunfleet, so they went anyway.

I think my earliest memory of Ed was at a Kindred Club event with Clacton SC in the 1980's. Prior to being fed in their clubhouse we were playing rounders on the beach. Both Ed and his wife, Jackie, were playing and I think from their conversation that she had a slightly better idea of the rules than Ed did. It was hilarious and from then on Ed was a friend.

When it became apparent that WSC would need to move downstream because of the Barrier, Ed was at the forefront of activity and fundraising along with Tony Williamson and many others. On the day that the club moved out of our old headquarters over the Legion, Ed turned up with a huge farm trailer and tractor. It was so tall that we were able to step out onto the flat roof and lower all the furniture into it, moving out in almost one hit

Tony and Ed were practically inseparable and right in at the initiation of the Ostend Rally, an annual event which came to involve other clubs too.

Of course, we are all familiar with Ed's Ferro cement smack *Pertwee* which he built himself with the help of many friends over a number of years. She was powerful and fast, but frowned upon by some of the traditionalists. Telegraph poles made useful masts and spars.

At one point, he even fastened a large gas bottle to the stem like a super tanker and I was never sure whether that was just a wind up or designed to improve performance. It was a regular occurrence to see *Pertwee* anchored in the Colne with a large raft of ACBOA boats alongside as the crews all yarned and drank whisky on board the smack. He was also a stalwart of Alresford Creek Boat Owners.



An innovator who did not have a great regard for Health and Safety, one of his most famous achievements was when his engine clutch failed while crossing the North Sea. He stripped it down and relined it with strips of carpet from the cabin floor, more than once I believe, but they got back ok. The crew of that famous trip all have certificates referring to a carpet clutch. Things did occasionally go wrong as some of us experienced, but Ed would do anything for anybody and there was no

such thing as “Can’t be done”. We will remember you fondly Ed as a great and kind friend.

The large anchor which sits just to the side of the clubhouse in the garden was donated by Ed and when Tony Williamson died Ed placed a memorial plate on the anchor. Hopefully we can do the same for him alongside his old pal Tony’s.

Brian Sinclair

nature watch: the horse-fly

Late summer to early autumn is the time we might have an unwelcome visitor to our cabins. It’s attracted there by the shiny varnished surfaces, the warmth and our exhaled CO₂.

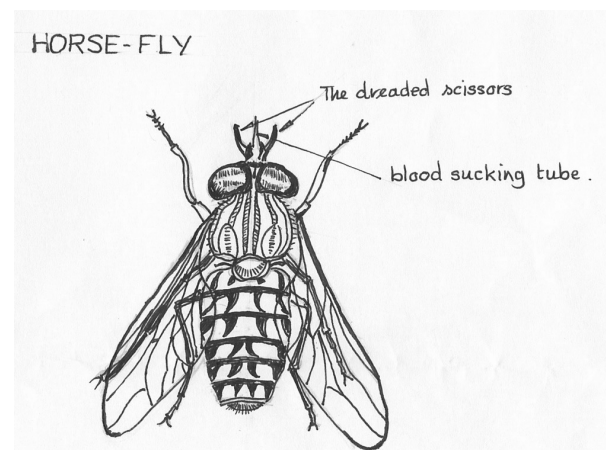
This visitor is the horse-fly and it is the female of the species that is most unwelcome as it is the one that bites! When you try swatting it you will have noticed how active and agile it is in flight, especially during the lunchtime period.

There are 28 species of horse-fly and like the house fly, they are found all around the world other than the Arctic or Antarctic regions. In America they are called ‘bull dog flies!’ They grow in size to one inch with some to one and a quarter inches. It’s those around New Forest ponies and deer that are the monsters, I believe. (25mm to 33mm). They are among the world’s largest flies. For those of a timorous nature, thankfully they live for just a few days. Swallows, sparrows and warblers can eat them.

The female horse-fly lives by biting and sucking the blood of mammals, usually horses and cattle ... and us! The bite can be painful and can cause a swelling which lasts for several days. She bites by cutting through her victim’s skin with scissor-like

jaws and digs and opens the wound. She has now created a little pool of blood in which she inserts a tube and sucks up the blood. The male is harmless as he feeds on nectar... nice fellows. After strengthening up on the blood, the female flies off to lay an rich, healthy eggs on the leaves and stems of water and bog plants. After hatching later in the Autumn, the larvae now wriggle to wet soil and there they stay for one or two years feeding by cutting holes in the sides of their prey, usually earthworms, and sucking out the body juices. After hibernating over one or two winters in the wet soil, the larvae pupate in the very late Spring or early Summer and hatch into adults some 10 days later, ready to start their rather intriguing lives.

Tim Denham



lifting group activities:

Autumn Haul-Out:

| Start | Day | Description |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 19/10/2017 08:43 | Thursday | HW Wiv 12:43: ht 5.2 |
| 20/10/2017 09:19 | Friday | HW Wiv 13:19: ht 5.2 |
| 21/10/2017 09:53 | Saturday | HW Wiv 13:53: ht 5.3 |
| 23/10/2017 11:00 | Monday | HW Wiv 15:00: ht 5.2 |
| 24/10/2017 11:33 | Tuesday | HW Wiv 15:33: ht 5.0 |
| 04/11/2017 07:46 | Saturday | HW Wiv 11:46: ht 5.3 |
| 06/11/2017 09:14 | Monday | HW Wiv 13:14: ht 5.6 |
| 07/11/2017 10:00 | Tuesday | HW Wiv 14:00: ht 5.6 |
| 08/11/2017 10:47 | Wednesday | HW Wiv 14:47: ht 5.5 |
| 18/11/2017 07:54 | Saturday | HW Wiv 11:54: ht 5.0 |
| 20/11/2017 09:02 | Monday | HW Wiv 13:02: ht 5.2 |
| 21/11/2017 09:36 | Tuesday | HW Wiv 13:36: ht 5.0 |
| 22/11/2017 10:10 | Wednesday | HW Wiv 14:10: ht 4.9 |
| 6/12/2017 09:47 | Wednesday | HW Wiv 13:47: ht 5.6 |

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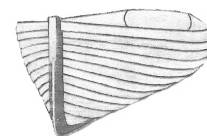
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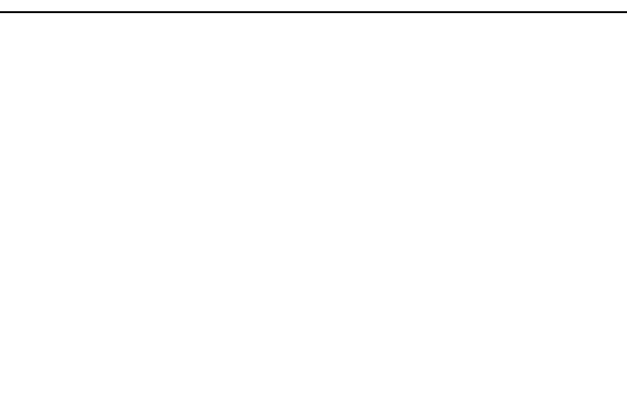
07901624341

robmaloney9@aol.com

Or you can find me in:

St John's Road,
Wivenhoe
Essex
CO7 9DR

WSC: MAINSHEET



Next Mainsheet: Dec 2017/ Jan 2018

Ed. J. Gledhill

Please email all contributions to:
jamie@digitalsurface.org