



WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER



www.wivenhoesailingclub.org

MAY 2020

SOCIAL NEWS

FRIDAY QUIZ NIGHT

Join the WSC Virtual Quiz nights, every Friday 8pm to 9pm. Access is via the Club Zoom programme (details on the Club Website). You can use Zoom on laptops, PC's, Ipads and smartphones. If you don't have one of these you can join in by phone. The Quizmaster on Friday 15th May is Bruce Anderson.

Friday night quizzes have provided an opportunity for fun, banter, gentle stirring of the grey matter and memory.

The quizzes start at 2030 and last 20 - 30 mins with 10 general trivia questions including one on the local area and one on sailing. Each question has a choice of three answers a, b, or c. The winner gets a virtual bottle of wine and the pleasure of acting as quizmaster providing the next week's questions.

Our Commodore, Bernie Hetherington, set the first quiz, Fiona and Derek Ems won that one, Daniel Stoker and Amy won the next one, Russell and Sharon Channer were next and last week Nick White won. Nick will set the quiz on 22 May as Bruce is hosting a sailing quiz this Friday.

About 12 members (couples or singles) already participate so why not join in, it is relaxed and fun.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Boatbuilding Competition

A competition is underway to see who can build the best boat using only one sheet of 8 x 4 plywood. The competition runs until the end of June. Dave Souch (above) is currently in the lead with his one man (and a dog). A link to a useful website: <https://www.christinedemerchant.com/boat-styles-one-sheet.html>

I've been planning to build a boat for several years, but with other projects round the house going on I never got round to it. Then with the announcement of the Covid-19 lockdown, and already having some materials for jobs round the house on order, everything aligned and a plan was formed. I read back through several boat building books for ideas, and decided the Micro Mouse in Gavin Atkins "Ultrasimple Boatbuilding" was the project for me. Gavin explains building with Chines (screwed and glued joints), and stitch and glue methods, (Mirror dinghies are traditionally built with stitch and glue). I decided to combine the two approaches; the simplicity of the chine construction appealed.

I'm pretty pleased with the resulting small craft, and while I know the colour scheme isn't to all tastes, it was quick and easy to do and should be hard wearing in future. From first cut to completed boat was two weeks of evenings and weekends - I'm told you can build quicker but personally found that schedule ideal to give the epoxies paints and varnishes sufficient drying time between jobs.

I've named the boat Dunlin after the small grey wading bird, and am now looking forward to trying her out on the river, rather than just on the lawn with a confused Labrador.

Stay Safe, I look forward to seeing everyone out in the water soon! Dave Souch (Boatbuilder)

SAILING NEWS

Virtual Sailing. The RYA has provided clubs with free access to the 'Virtual Regatta' online game. There are dinghy races and long distance offshore races. The Club holds virtual inshore dinghy races every Monday night from 8pm. Cruiser races are advertised on the 'Virtual Regatta' website.

www.virtualregatta.com/en/.

Access is via the Club Zoom programme and details are on the Club website.

Virtual sailing has taken place every Monday evening throughout lockdown on Zoom and the game 'Virtual Regatta Inshore'. It continues to prove popular with members, who have progressed to weekly and increasingly competitive virtual championships consisting of 5 races with 2 discards (to allow for WiFi issues). On 27 April, this format was repeated to formally enter into the RYA's eSailing Club Championships, with the GC's Daniel Stoker, sailing as "Thamesa", being crowned WSC Club Champion. Daniel will now be going up against 27 other club 'champions' in the Regional eSailing Finals from 18 May and we look forward to following his progress as represents WSC on virtual stage.





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NEWS AND EVENTS

Nature Trail by Tim Denham



This year the walk took place on Sunday 2nd Feb. Despite days of rain the day dawned dry and brightish if dreadfully soggy under foot in places. Twenty+ club members and a couple of friends arrived to set off from the clubhouse at 10.00hrs. There were a lot of apologies from regular walkers due to ops and family events but twenty was a nice number and the bird spotting was really good with excellent numbers of our winter visitors seen. Perhaps the most impressive sighting for us was the large flock of some 450+ avocets all in the air together. We had good close-up sightings of black-tailed and bar-tailed godwits side by side, so it was nice to compare the differences and a lovely little female reed bunting hunted for seeds in the marsh plants close by us on the sea wall. The walk was the usual 2.5 mile route along the seawall, along the old railway track, up through the wood and along the edge of the field then along Cut Throat Lane to the Chase. Just before the Chase in the horses' field there were sightings of some 25 beautiful fieldfares. Down through the Chase and across the sodden marshes brought us back to the clubhouse. We all arrived back rather muddy and very ready to have a drink and another great hot lunch prepared by the wonderful galley crew. Bird sightings - - all 50 species! Little grebe, Cormorant, Little egret, Grey heron, Mute swan, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Goosander, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Pheasant, Moorhen, Oystercatcher, Avocet, Grey plover, Lapwing Dunlin, Black-tailed godwit, Bar-tailed godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed gull, Lesser black-backed gull, Herring gull, Greater black-backed gull, Feral pigeon, Stock dove, Woodpigeon, Great spotted woodpecker, Skylark, Meadow pipit, Robin, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Long-tailed tit, Blue tit, Great Tit, Treecreeper, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion crow, Starling, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Reed bunting.

Wivenhoe Sailing Club and Wivenhoe Canoe and Kayak Club Amalgamation.

2020 bring the great news that the now defunct Wivenhoe Canoe and Kayak Club (WCKC) has joined WSC as the Paddling Section with 20+ former WCKC members becoming full members of WSC. Along with the canoe and kayak members, Bruce Langley, previously Chairman of WCKC, has brought the Wivenhoe Rivercare Group under the umbrella of WSC where he remains Team Leader of the Rivercare Group.

The Wivenhoe Rivercare Group

We organise litter picks along the River Colne from Wivenhoe to the University Quays. We have an amazing group of organisations and individual volunteers supporting us to clear our river of litter and maintain the environment for the local wildlife and all of us who use and love the river.

Bruce Langley. Team Leader Rivercare Group

Editorial.

We hope to issue a monthly newsletter to replace the now defunct Mainsheet. If any members would like to contribute articles or news please email the Vice Commodore thevicecommodorewsc@gmail.com

Chris Wood VC WSC