

NEWPORT USKMOUTH SAILING CLUB



THE PENNANT APRIL 07



The Season Begins

What a good start to 2007! Those of you who came to the Eve of season supper will have had a brilliant night with good music from the by now resident house band, Mid Life Crisis and a magnificent buffet prepared by Helen Cox and her team of ladies. Thanks are due to Dirk for organising the final event of his tenure.

Another year comes around and another person occupies the commodore's hat, with all the benefits that brings. It has been a mad social whirl during the last month with invitations to visit other clubs at their Eve of Season bashes. I have been to Weston Bay, Cardiff Bay and Barry yacht clubs. Dirk wound up his year by going to Portishead yacht club and Alex Liberson stepped in to go to Cardiff Yacht Club on the same night that we had our own Eve of Season Dance. Much as we enjoyed attending these events on your behalf, there is a serious side to all this gallivant-

ing, it is our opportunity to see how other clubs in our region are getting on.

The message all over though is that all of these clubs have the same issues to deal with as we have. In general it seems that for all clubs it is a challenge to try and provide the facilities and events that the membership want when some of those members don't tell us what they want and others are unwilling to help out to effect those things.

Let us face up to the challenge then and try and communicate all of our needs! Andrew Preece does a tremendous job getting the regular Pennants out with details of forthcoming events.

The club handbook has details of most of the year's events, notices of special events are often posted on the boards as well as Work Parties and Volunteer tasks.

We have a club meeting every Tuesday evening when contact can be made with Flag Officers and friendships can be made. No excuses then for not knowing what is going on!

We would particularly like to invite newer members to come along and would ask older members to be welcoming and informative. As a club we need to get it together better.

Committee meetings are held every month and members having ideas which they feel might be of benefit to the club and its membership can lobby any committee member to bring those ideas before the committee. The more input the better.

On a lighter note, the weather has been dry for a month and plenty of boats are getting ready for the launches later this month, see within for launch details. The club exists for pleasure boating and the next real boating event is our Cruiser Rally in May at which we would like to see a bigger turnout this year than we have had during the

Film Show

Saturday 28th April at 8:30pm

Square Riggers of the 1930s

Around Cape Horn

Two excellent films with breathtaking scenes of square riggers battling against the world's oceans

(Continued from page 1)

last few years when only a dozen or so boats have turned up for a two day event!. On Saturday you can expect food to be laid on in the Galley, the opportunity to sail around a few of the bouys in the river, and perhaps as far as the "Sewer" with other club members. The bar will be open for refreshments both alcoholic and non alcoholic throughout Saturday evening, and Sunday will be a second chance to join friends messing about on the river with presentation of prizes afterwards. There should be opportunities for non boat owning members to crew and it should be a fun event.

Also in our sailing calendar is going to be a revival of the Perseverance Day Race on June 16, an event at which we hope to see other clubs

joining us for a full days racing The hope is that we can combine this with an evening Barbecue and Disco after the race.

My ambition during my year in office is to make the club a place where all members, old and new, sailing and non sailing feel that they are part of an organisation to which they want to contribute.

HAPPY SAILING!

Chris Roberts

On page 5 of this years club book, there is a space for a list of Committee Members and their contact details. Here is that list for you to cut out and paste into the appropriate place.

At the same time you may wish to remove the back page, summarising the year's sailing programme and attach it to your fridge door. Here, it will serve as a useful reminder of forthcoming events.

2007 CRUISES

Another season almost here and if you have not done so already it is time to get the charts, pilot books and tide table out to start planning the summer trips. For the club cruises this year some of the planning work has already been done for you. I sat down after Christmas dinner with the tide tables and selected a number of weekends with suitable tides. If I have got my sums right there should be water in the river when you get to club and it should be going in the right direction!

The first cruise this year is to Gloucester at

Easter in company with other boats from a number of clubs in the Channel. We plan to leave Newport on Friday morning and sail directly to Sharpness in time to lock in at high water. The Sharpness Harbourmaster can be contacted on channel 13 using the call sign "Sharpness Radio". Once into the Gloucester Sharpness canal it's a leisurely cruise stopping where and when you want. Some vessels head straight for Gloucester but I prefer to stop over night on the way up for a quiet night close to a

(Continued on page 3)

NUSC Committee Members 2007		
Commodore	Chris Roberts	01495 763426
Vice Commodore	Alex Liberson	01633 881463
Rear Commodore	John Parker	01495 757279
Mooring Officer	Jim Warrington	01633 483049
Secretary	Steve Woodley	01633 413395
Treasurer	Robert Lynbeck	01633 676274
Cruiser Captain	Barry Welch	01453 763574
Sailing Sec	Mike Jones Downing	01495 221903
Training Officer	Julia Oliver	01291650753
Membership Sec	Andrew Preece	01633 892215
House and Estates	Keith Bradfield	01495 201494
Bar Manager	Bryan Morgan	01633 450209
Bosun	Idris Lewis	01633 278672
General members		
	Kay Thomas	01633 765256
	Chris Potter	02920 851272
	Neville Barnes	01531 822573

(Continued from page 2)

country pub. We then join up with the others to spend Saturday night in Gloucester before retracing our steps back down the canal on Sunday, ready to lock out again on Monday morning.

Last year we spent Sunday night close to where the old railway bridge crossed the Severn. It was destroyed in a spectacular accident with a fuel tanker in the fog in 1960. The remains of the bridge foundations and part of the vessel are still visible on the riverbed at low water. If you walk along the riverbank back toward Purton you can still see the remains of a number of vessels that carried cargo up the river and canal system in the past. These were deliberately beached years ago to protect the river bank. Cruising can be a lesson in history as well.

Later on in April I plan to visit Bristol for the weekend. We will leave Newport on the Saturday morning, cross the sands on the rising tide and plan to arrive at the City Docks at high water. Once in the River Avon the passage upstream winds through the countryside before passing underneath the Clifton Suspension Bridge on the outskirts of Bristol.

The Dockmaster can be contacted using the call sign "City Docks Radio" on channel 14. We then enter the lock to port where the Dock Master will be waiting to take your lines. Once into the floating harbour you can moor at a number of places against the wall or continue to the City centre where there is a pontoon with water and electricity. This mooring is in the middle of city and is a great place to spend the day and evening but I find it better to move to a quieter spot for the night. There is plenty to see and do around the harbourside.

As with all trips toward Avonmouth you should monitor Bristol VTS on channel 12 to keep aware of shipping movements. On a club cruise I normally call them up on behalf of all the club boats as we approach to let them know where we are from, how many and where we are going. It saves everyone calling separately and the VTS have some idea of where the dots on the radar screen approaching from Wales are going! Bristol VTS will also contact Sharpness or Bristol on your behalf to inform the relevant

Dock Masters of your impending arrival so they will be expecting you.

Also on the subject of monitoring shipping movements, to remind everyone sailing out of Newport and down toward Cardiff of the request by the Newport Harbourmaster that we monitor channel 69. Severn VTS who are located in Cardiff communicate on this channel with shipping approaching the Welsh ports, so by listening in you will know what their intentions are.

I have put a list of the proposed 2007 cruises on the notice board and will provide additional information on other cruises closer to the date. The notice has got my home number and mobile number on the bottom so if any one wants to give me a call to discuss any of the trips please feel free to do so. If anyone is unsure of how to do a trip, particularly the new members, or if you want a bit of advice on any trip you are planning then please feel free to give me a call.

See you on the water.

Barry Welch
Cruiser Captain

MOORING NEWS

In the last issue of the Pennant and at the mooring meeting, members were warned that the club would refuse to launch any boat if its mooring was considered to be in poor condition.

Unfortunately there are still a large number of moorings that need attention. Don't risk the disappointment of not being launched. Inspect and repair your mooring before the big day.

Racing News

Hi, I'm Mike Jones-Downing and have become your new Sailing Secretary. For those of you who don't know, my boat is called Redeye. If you would like to chat or even have a sail and see me aboard please don't feel shy or intimidated, just say hello you would be more than welcome.

It appears that for many years there has been a steady decline in club members competing. I think this is due to a changing society where men now consider their family commitments more than perhaps they did in the past. So to generate interest in the club and just possibly halt the decline, I would like to have some family orientated events.

If you have any ideas please let me know.

On the above theme I would like to try something that was done in the past... a pursuit race held only in the river... this would give the spectators on the bank something to watch and enthuse about.

I may try it out when a tide race is scheduled for an afternoon or even the second day of a larger event which always seems poorly attended. I will need to consult on the details but again please let me know what you think.

In a pursuit race the slowest boat starts first then ever faster boats set out to sail three or four laps of a fairly short course. The winner is the first boat to cross the line. If the handicap system has worked, it should be a close finish. This can be quite exciting as the faster boats attempt to catch the slower ones and the slow boats endeavour to stay in front long enough to cross the line first and win.

A New (for our club) Starting Procedure.

For a number of years NUSC has been using an adaptation of an obsolete race starting procedure. This by itself was not a problem, however there is a world standard for the flags used and the countdown minutes of:

Five, Four, One, Go!

This system is being used by more Sailing clubs each year which makes interclub events easier for everyone to understand. Those clubs which don't will increasingly appear amateurish.

Our current system, although simple, does not allow the OOD to delay the start if there is any sort of hiccup and the recall procedure could be clearer. Additionally we now need to replace the club flags as time, damp and mice have taken their toll.

An outline of the new starting sequence is given overleaf. Full details of the flags and the news system will be on display in the club and in the OOD Instruction book in the OOD hut.

Nobody likes change and I expect there to be a few teething problems, but I think it's something we will have to do sooner or later, so it might as well be now.

Mike Jones-Downing




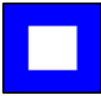






Sailing Secretary

OOD Duties

Last year 10 members were fined for not completing OOD duties. This year we will continue to fine members who do not turn up.

Members are also reminded that if they fail to attend on three occasions they may have their membership terminated.

RACE STARTING SEQUENCE & FLAGS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Flags</u>		
5 Minutes before start	One Blast	Flag "O" raised		
4 minutes before start (Racing rules now apply)	One Blast	Flag "P" raised		
1 minute before start	One Blast	Flag "P" lowered		
Start	One Blast	Flag "O" lowered		
If any boat is over the line	One Blast	Flag "R" raised		
If the race needs to be delayed,		Flag "AP" raised		

Children's Play Area

Over the last year Kay Donovan has been collecting money for the children's play area. Kay collected approximately £1000 which the cub had previously agreed to match.

This was sufficient to buy a number of items of equipment which have now been installed in the corner of the field near the river pontoon.

A big thanks to Kay for leading this project and all those who helped and contributed.

Membership News

Congratulations to Andrea & Gavin Lewis on the birth of their son Ethan and to Rhian and Steve Woodley on the birth of their son Henry Stephen.

Volunteers Needed for OOD Duties

If you are the type of person who likes hanging around bars, then volunteering for extra bar duties is a good way to help the club and complete your hours.

If you would like to do more bar duties keep an eye out in the club for a list of future vacancies.

Comments on this issue, or contributions for future issues of the Pennant can be made in person to the Editor, Andrew Preece, sent by post to the club, or by email to aquila@nusc.co.uk.

NUSC Sailing Programme 2007						
Day	Date	Event	Race	Start (BST)	HW	
Thursday	06-Apr				0958	
Friday	07-Apr	Cruise To Gloucester			1025	
Saturday	08-Apr				1053	
Sunday	09-Apr				1128	
Tuesday	17-Apr		Knickertwister #1	1900	2012	
Saturday	21-Apr	Cruise To Bristol			1040	
Sunday	22-Apr		Tide Race #1	1000	1120	
Saturday	28-Apr		Tide Race #2	1600	1744	
Wednesday	02-May		Knickertwister #2	1900	2017	
Saturday	05-May	Cruise To Watermouth			2150	
Sunday	06-May				2221	
Monday	07-May				2256	
Saturday	12-May	Cruiser Rally		1430	1557	
Sunday	13-May			1530	1705	
Thursday	17-May		Knickertwister #3	1900	2032	
Sunday	20-May		Tide Race #3	0900	1028	
Saturday	26-May	Cruise to Milford Haven	Tide Race #4	1430	1559	
Saturday	16-Jun		Perservereance Race		0845	
Sunday	10-Jun		Tide Race #5	1330	1511	
Friday	15-Jun		Knickertwister #4	1900	2015	
Sunday	24-Jun		Tide Race #6	1300	1437	
Saturday	30-Jun		Knickertwister #5	1830	2006	
Sunday	01-Jul	BBQ @ Brean Down			0830	
Sunday	08-Jul		Tide Race #7	1200	1329	
Saturday	14-Jul		Knickertwister #6	1830	2006	
Sunday	22-Jul	Summer Cruise to West Wales and East Ireland	Tide Race #8	1100	1234	
Saturday	28-Jul		Knickertwister #7	1730	1904	
Saturday	01-Sep		Regatta	0900	1029	
Sunday	02-Sep			0930	1104	
Saturday	08-Sep	Cruise To Burnham	Tide Race #9	1630	1801	
Sunday	09-Sep				0632	
Tuesday	11-Sep		Knickertwister #8	1900	2013	
Saturday	22-Sep		Tide Race #10	1500	1622	
Thursday	27-Sep		Knickertwister #9	1900	2029	