



THE PENNANT OCTOBER 07



From the Commodore's table

As has every year since I joined the club, the sailing season has been all too short and we are nearing its end. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the recent weeks of fine weather and fulfilled some dreams.

As I write this, our sailing calendar is nearly completed, all cruises finished and only a couple of races left in the September series. The cruises have been so popular that I believe the regulars have arranged a second trip to Bristol for the weekend of September 22. After that the only official boating activity to look forward to is the Recovery on the weekend of October 20.

Our Regatta on the weekend of 1 September was blessed with better weather this year than in recent years, and a lot more boats turned out for some gentle, enjoyable racing on Saturday and Sunday mornings. It was good to see boats turning up from Barry, Cardiff and Portishead for both racing and the after race party on Saturday Night. Thanks are due to Glenys and her crew for providing excellent food, special mention for Tricia who, due to a misunderstanding that I unintentionally promoted, at one stage thought she was going to have to do all the catering!

However, do not despair because now the Social side will kick in a little stronger!

Next organised event is TRAFALGAR NIGHT on October 20. This is our annual celebration of Nelson's victory 202 years ago, and not to be missed. This year we will be dancing (or not as the fancy takes you) to a live Blues Duo called Until Dawn, the kitchen will be going Indian with a selection of Curries, including vegetarian. Piratical fancy dress for those who want to make a splash, and all for £8 a head....where else in the world could you get that AND beer at £1.40 a pint?

For those of a more formal frame of mind, the Laying up Supper is on 10 November and is the opportunity to shake the moths out of those dinner jackets and to buy that little black number for the missus! Kay Donovan is organising this years event with a 6 course dinner, visiting guests, live music and perhaps an after dinner speaker too!

Ticket prices held at the same price of £24 as the last couple of years. Definitely a night out to remember. Please please make the effort to book your tickets and meal choice

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Recovery

The heavy recovery is planned for Friday 19th October. The crane will be on site at 9am. The main recovery will take place on the weekend 20th of October.

Now is the time to check that your cradle is safe, your pads are padded, your bolts are greased and that your chocks are where they should be.

Bosun's Locker Charges

Invoices for mooring ropes etc were sent out with the last edition of the Pennant to 14 members. 10 of you still haven't paid. I will be naming and shaming in the next edition.

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on the lists in the club, several people were disappointed last year. We would like all tickets to be issued and paid for before the event.

I would like everyone to think about what they can do for the club during the Autumn period. Work Parties will need to be organised for compound weeding and clearing prior to the Recovery. Also the fence line needs to be cleared and holes dug for posts for new PIR floodlighting at the back of the compound. If we can get together a posse of strong men, we would like to lift and relay the Patio slabs. Many of you have identified your own tasks about the club, Wayne Lucas for instance makes it his duty to clean windows regularly, Mike Cox still does the bulk of the club cleaning, but volunteers are required for regular cleaning of showers, loos, kitchen etc. If you see a job which needs doing, do it, tell someone afterwards and book it for signing by a flag officer....easy as that!

It is noticeable this year that there are many new members joining without boats and with little experience of sailing. Ray Ford is doing a brilliant job of identifying them and getting them out on the water. If anyone else feels that they can do this kind of service for new members, have a chat with Ray or look on the noticeboard to see who might like to do some crewing. We will put up a new list for people to put up their names and numbers.

Also seen about the club are several new boats and new owners for old boats.

My Tomahawk "Jander" has gone to Mike Woodward, sadly undergoing minor repairs at the moment.

Brian and Tricia have brought a Mirage round from the South Coast and have already "got into the pots" during the Regatta

Andrew Crichton has brought a twin keel Hunter 27 round from Swansea

Brent has rediscovered the joys of sailing, buying Tony Gatt's Pintail "Calypso"

I have also brought a boat back from the South Coast and am now the proud owner of a Hunter 27 Fin Keel OOD...I only need to learn to sail it properly now.

Stephen and Rhian Woodley have had distressing problems with the sinking of their boat at its moorings, and we hope that their 2008 sailing Calendar will be better than their last two years.

As a final thought, it is within my remit to award certain "prizes" at the Laying up supper, and if anyone has a current season anecdote about high sea or harbour misadventure, the "GONG" is still going begging this year....All applications in a brown envelope please!

I have already had suggestions for the Basil Mountjoy cup for young helm, don't keep your thoughts on other awards to yourselves, share your ideas of suitable candidates for other awards too.

Make the most of your last month of sailing, enjoy everything the channel has to offer!

Chris Roberts

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SAILING ON THE SWAN AND CANNING

While sitting in the Clubhouse at Uskmouth, enjoying a doughnut, putting the world to rights and watching the torrential rain on a summer day it's nice to look back on a sailing season 'down under' in Perth. Linda and I have spent a few winters there with our daughter and family, who emigrated six years ago.

There are about ten sailing Clubs grouped around the Swan and Canning rivers in West Australia. There is a wide choice to suit all tastes and budgets. Amongst the most prestigious is The Royal Perth Yacht Club, which first took the America's Cup away from the Yanks in 1984. This rubs shoulders with Perth Dinghy Club where eight year old Mudlark sailors have jelly fish fights while their parents and grandparents race Herons, Javelins and Cherubs.

All Clubs however share sandy beaches, warm clear water, a small tidal range, sunshine and blue skies. In the summer the breeze is usually an easterly land breeze in the morning which dies away at lunch time before the sea breeze, the famous Fremantle Doctor sets in for the afternoon. Dolphins and pelicans are abundant as are the handsome swans--- which of course are black. All this is in the centre of a City of 1.5 million people--- a



yachting paradise. The famed Australian informality disappears when it's time for the results, as the Club Officers, resplendent in white uniform, take their place to present pennants for the day's racing. Clubs operate a personal handicap system as well as handicaps based on the class of boat. We found this quite strange at first but it does help to foster a good atmosphere and club spirit and every body gets a prize at one event or another!

Linda and I are members at Shelley Sailing Club on the Canning River, a tributary of the Swan. The Canning is away from the bustle of the Swan and an ideal club where

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The Recovery Of Solfohn

Early in August, Solfohn sank on her mooring. The professional salvage company appointed by the insurers were unable to recover her despite several days of effort. Solfohn was eventually removed from the river into the compound by a team of club members. Congratulations must go to Jim Warrington, Elwyn Blease, Graham Cox Brent Barnett, Steve Woodley and others for a job well done. (Full story to follow)

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youngsters and families can get into sailing before tackling bigger things. The club, like NUSC is run entirely by volunteers with an excellent training programme and racing in Cats, Lasers and Herons every Sunday afternoon.

The Clubhouse is on Convict Bay, so named because in the colonial era convict labour was used to build a walkway/ fence in the middle of the river. This helped to define the channel and provide a sure footing for the men who poled the barges laden with timber from the forests. It now remains as a row of salt water hardened stakes, just covered at high water, ready to pierce the bottom of your dinghy.

The Shelley members find it hard to picture our big tides and muddy waters. We on the other hand are getting rather spoilt and think twice about sailing if the conditions are less than perfect!

Sior Preece

Wanted

Committee Members for 2008

Next year we will have vacancies on the committee for a Mooring & Compound Officer, the Rear Commodore and one or more general members. If you are interested in helping run the club, or want to find out more. Have a chat with a current committee member.

Dates For Your Diary

Trafalgar Night

Celebrate Nelson's Victory over the French in the traditional manner.

Join us for curry & rice on Saturday 20th October in a fun-filled fancy dress evening in the club house.

Tickets £8

Laying Up Supper

Saturday 10th of November

6 Course Dinner

Live Music

Tickets £24

Membership News

Early in September, I was joined by Anne and Stephen Hampson for a Knickertwister race, despite witnessing the unique start sequence of random flags separated by a 5 minute, 3½ minute, 50 second and start gun (instead of the traditional 5,4,1 go) they were so impressed that they joined the club on the spot.

I would also like to welcome Ann & Anthony Williams and Catriona & David Craig as new members to the club. And finally I would like to welcome back Marguerite and Peter Hood who have rejoined the club and bought Emma.

Andrew Preece

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.