



28 November 2018

Dear Member

Here is an update on recent, present and future events at your Club.

New members

Since the start of the Club year we have welcomed over 200 new members. If you are one of these, we hope you are familiarising yourselves with the Club and taking advantage of the various things that we have to offer. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Club Office, or me. In addition we have a member of Council, Joe Constable, who has recently taken on the role of looking after new members' interests. Joe can be contacted via the Club Office.

We run regular New Member welcome and briefing sessions throughout the year. The next one is Saturday week (8 Dec) at 1pm in the Café. If you are a "not so new member" but would still like to find out more about how the Club works and meet some people, do come along as well.

Recent News

The Club has had a busy Summer and Autumn on all fronts.

Our Training School, led by Matt French our Chief Instructor, had its busiest year yet with courses for Adults and Youths throughout the Summer. Stephen Clemmet, as well as being principal of the Training School, has enthusiastically developed our "Lets Go Windsurfing" programme over the course of the summer.

Our Youth sailing initiative, "Team Grafham" has come on enormously over the year under the leadership of Mandy Sweet and Matt French. For the first time ever, we entered the Cambs Youth League, and ended up as second placed Club over the five events. We also entered over twenty people for the Eastern Region Junior Championships, held at Grafham at the end of September, and took the prize for the Club with the largest increase in number of entrants.

Saturday at Grafham is now a busy and varied day. We combine taster sessions, sailing clinics, Club Coaching, Team Grafham, and Sociable Saturday informal racing. Throw in maybe a PowerBoat 2 course, or an Open Meeting and the Club is buzzing with activity. Because of the enthusiasm of those taking part, both Sociable Saturday and Tuesday activities have continued past the end of October.

On the Club Racing front, the Wednesday evening series was as keenly contested as ever, though we suffered more than usual from windless Wednesdays. The Club Championship, for the Duke of Edinburgh Trophy, raced in September, was won by Dan Wigmore in his Laser. Dan also won the Barts Bash trophy which was raced for on the same day. From the beginning of this month, on Sundays, we have moved to our winter programme of three back to back races, finishing at lunchtime; this programme runs until the end of February.

We have had a busy Autumn series of Open Meetings, hosting the D Zeros, Solos, Eastern Region Junior Championships, RS Inlands, Cats, Ovingtons, 420/29ers, and Laser Masters. There were strong Club turnouts at many of these events. Congratulations in particular to David Summerville (3rd D Zero Inlands and 3rd Laser Masters Inlands Standard Rig) and Gerry Reeve (winner Medium Fleet at the Cat Open).

Those of you who have been at the Club over the Autumn will have seen that the water level has fallen significantly. Anglian Water have, however, informed us that as of last week they have started pumping again, so we should see the lake refill over the coming months. We have been taking, and continue to take, a number of measures to clear mud from the slipways in order to mitigate the difficulties of launching with these low water levels.

Last month we started a major infrastructure project which is the replacement of our water and space heating systems. Work is well under way, but will pause now and continue in the New Year to avoid disruption of the major events at the Club in December.

Volunteering

Thank you to all our members who have supported the Club by volunteering over the past months. We are a very active Club and without your help we could not function as we do.

As a measure to try and widen and deepen our pool of potential volunteers, we are introducing "Volunteering Seminars". These will run throughout the year, with the first on Saturday week, 8 December, at 2pm in the Top Bar. The purpose is to give more insight into what is expected in the various volunteering roles, so that the process is less intimidating to those who have not done it before.

Particular thanks are due to a few individuals for their various contributions. Bob Gatton has built for the Club a marvellous Trophy Cabinet, which fills a long overdue need. Tim Berridge, Gordon Oscroft and Gerry Reeve have been quietly getting on with the refurbishment of Stirling, our new Committee Boat. Simon Gray and his team from St Albans Tree & Garden very generously gave a further day of their time to carry out tree work around the Club Site.

Taking advantage of the low water levels, we are running two Saturday working parties in December to clear rocks from and lay gravel on the foreshore where we launch dinghies. The dates are this coming Saturday (1 December) and the following Saturday (8 December), starting at 10:30 on both days. Please come along if you can and bring a shovel and /or wheelbarrow if possible.

Forthcoming events

On Sunday 30 December is the Grafham Grand Prix, now in its 38th year. We set a limit of 180 entries for this and in recent years have got very close to that. Entry is online through the Sailjuice web site ([link here](#)), and there is no entry on the day. Hopefully many Club Members will take part. The Grand Prix is a large and complex event and places a high demand on volunteers: we need around 35 in total in a variety of tasks. So, if are not intending to sail and think you can help, please sign up on DutyMan or contact the Office.

Before Christmas, on Sunday 16 December is the Christmas Lunch. This is preceded by the Christmas Pursuit Race, and there will also be a race for our Juniors/Youth sailors. Do come along to the lunch, whether or not you intend to sail beforehand. Booking are being taken through the website and fill up fast, so don't delay! [Here is the booking link](#). .As usual we will be running a raffle, the prizes for which are generously contributed. If you are able to donate a prize, please take it in to the Office.

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Lunch.

Best wishes

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