

BROAD REACH

NEWSLETTER OF HARLOW (BLACKWATER) SAILING CLUB

SUMMER 2013

It's all plain sailing now summer's here

This year started off cold and windy. I'm hoping that was the end of it and the summer has truly started!

This year you will need to read your programme to find out when you are on duty. If you cannot do yours, you all have friends and family who may sort you out with a swop. I won't be doing this as being sailing secretary is more than enough.

Vicki Sharman has offered to do the results this year so a big thank you to her, it's a big helping hand. If you are the race officer, please give Vicki the times (or leave them clipped to the racebox wall if she's not around).

The Laser fleet is still going strong with good turnouts so far this season.

Jim Batt has taken over as full rig captain and Keith Gilmore is Radial captain, so if you sail a

so a good time to get some practice and ask any questions.

The Fireball fleet is as keen as ever. We seem to be getting nearly all the Fireballs in the dinghy park



out so that is great – and the racing has been very close.

This year we are running four family days. These are evening or afternoon tides. The plan is to open the club up to anything you want – this can be training of any kind, such as spinnaker flying, or if you have never trapezed you can give it a go. General racing rules can be discussed and there will be a short course race format for the cadets. Club boats will be rigged and ready for families to use.

I'm open to any ideas, don't be shy, it is your club so use it!

Food and drinks are there during the day as the galley will be open. We are also going to get the barbecue out or if the weather is not so good we have pizza inside the clubhouse. If you wish to come to the next one please let me know or see the list at the club near the galley. The next dates are June 15 and June 29.

MARK BATT, Sailing Secretary



Laser or wish to try one, please chat to them, I'm sure they will help you out.

On June 29 there is a Laser training day so try to get there. It is just before the club's open meeting

WEBSITE UPDATE

There is an updated section of the club website for cruisers and for those dinghy sailors who wish to try cruising or sailing in company. You can also find information on BJRC cruiser racing here.

You can also find results from dinghy racing on the website shortly after each weekend.

Also on the website is a For Sale section so if you have anything you wish to sell, please send details to John Case, publicity officer.

BIGGLES FLIES INTO HBSC



Parking his Sopwith Camel on the local airfield, Biggles popped into the club for a nice cup of tea recently. Any slight resemblance to caretaker Alan Sargeant is entirely coincidental.

Come and try a new dinghy/cruise idea

If you fancy trying something different, and having a great weekend, mark the following dates in your diary:

- Saturday August 31 (HW 09.09 and 21.40)
- Sunday September 1 (HW 10.23 and 22.52)

These dates can be used for whatever the cruiser and dinghy sections want. A weekend cruise (dinghies and cruisers sailing together) with an overnight marina stop as a social event, or to help new cruiser owners to get started.

Another option is full day sailing in cruisers for dinghy sailors wanting to experience cruiser sailing or racing.

Let Steve Simpson, the Cruiser Secretary, know on steve.simpson@gmail.com or Rod Martin on rodjackiemartin@hotmail.co. Tell them what sort of day/weekend you prefer and they will try to arrange it. A sign-up sheet is on the cruiser section noticeboard.

BJRC CRUISER RACING

This is the Blackwater Joint Racing Committee, which organises cruiser racing for the members of all clubs on the Blackwater, (www.bjrc.org.uk)

The remaining 2013 Race Days are June 16, July 14, August 3

and 31, and September 14, 15 and 29. All classes of boat may enter and the regular fleet ranges from 33ft racing boats to 20ft family cruisers. It only costs £12 per year so come on and give it a go!

Just search BJRC on the web to find out more about cruiser racing on the Blackwater or talk to Mark Batt (markbatt0@gmail.com) who crews one of the top competitive boats in fleet or Rod Martin (rodjackiemartin@hotmail.com) and John Hockley (tjhockley@tiscali.co.uk), who compete in Moondance, a First 21.7. Which is one of the smaller boats in the fleet (and often last back).

Races last about six hours, starting and finishing close to high tide in the Blackwater. There is a list of safety items you are required to carry but no more than required on a properly equipped yacht.

If you wish to find out about mooring availability, contact

Steve Simpson (steve.simpson@gmail.com)



NOTE TO ALL CRUISER SAILORS

This year your empty trolleys will be stored during the summer on the new land, leaving the hard standing areas available for the caravans during the summer.

Once the cruisers are on their trolleys, they will be parked on the hard standing as normal during the winter.

Do not forget to put a sticker on your trolley and tender.

JUST BEING SOCIAL

'Hello members. There's not much going on in the Social Department at the moment except for the Fitting Out Supper held on April 6 where we had a cosy dinner for 20 intrepid members who braved the cold which included a brill table quiz courtesy of Teresa.

The next social will be in July Saturday July 13 for the Laser Open event, 7:00 for 7:30. Details of all the upcoming events are listed under the Social section of the H(B)SC website and with posters on the noticeboards.

Oh I almost forgot. Mark Batt, our illustrious Sailing Secretary, is organising new for 2013, a series of Family Days which will of course include a social element and food and drink. Full details of the Family Days are shown in the Racing section on the H(B)SC website.



SYLVIA BATT

FAMILY MATTERS

New this year, by popular demand, we are running four family days. These are on evening or afternoon tides and the next ones are later in June.

The plan is to open the club up to anything you, the club members, want and involving the whole family. This can be training of any kind (see my article, front page) or just getting out and messing about on the water.

Of course, all of this is fully covered by our support boats with our own expert sailing members on hand to provide a safe, fun and learning experience. Our Club sailing boats will be rigged and ready for families to use, or use your own boats.

Food and drinks will be there during the day as the galley will be open also. I'm planning to do food for up to 50 people so if you are coming please book it by emailing me on markbatt0@gmail.com or see the list at the club near the galley.

Please join us for a great fun and learning experience.

MARK BATT

It is with great sadness, but also many fond memories, that we report the deaths of two members who made a significant contribution to the club and leave behind a great many friends. Les Lester was the club's former bar manager and Mabel Mayo the former club secretary. Both had been members for several decades and our thoughts continue to be with their families.

LES LESTER

LESTER LESTER (for that was indeed his name) became a member of HBSC in the early days of the club.

During his long sailing career he was a regular in the Fireball fleet and often told tales around the club bar about those good old days when he and his friends made their own wetsuits out of sheets of rubber.

Some of his favourite stories surrounded the wearing of such rudimentary protection in sub-zero conditions, which involved much breaking of ice (whether this was ice on the boat cover, or the creek was actually frozen over, tended to vary depending on how many pints of bitter Les had consumed). Les also later enjoyed dayboat sailing.

When it was time to hang up his wet-boots, Les did not need much convincing to become a regular fixture behind the bar, a role he performed with admirable reliability for many years. Indeed, in the days when the caravan site was open, Les would happily keep the bar open on a Saturday night until the last customer left (4am was not unknown). With a hard core that included the likes of Stan Bell and Frank and John Chumley, there was



debate on many different subjects – Les loved an argument – which became more animated as the pints went down.

Although some of his tales may have been a little tall, that certainly was not the case when he recounted his early life at work, when he used to commute on a bicycle from Laindon to Woolwich each day – it is difficult to imagine many of today's generation having that sort of drive and determination.

Later, Les moved to Wickford and he continued to enjoy his job at a tool

hire firm until his retirement. He was never a great traveller but every summer went to the same hotel on the Isle of Wight with his wife Doreen, although he was persuaded to go off on an adventure to New Zealand and more recently went to Greece.

Less visible than his bar role, but just as valuable, was Les's job as grass-cutter, another that he undertook, unpaid and uncomplaining, for many years.

It almost came to an untimely end when Les was presented with a shiny new sit-on mower. Not being familiar with the controls, he tried to park it under the clubhouse without getting off first and was almost decapitated!

There were smiles at Les's funeral when, after the service, most of those present had a double-take when a gardener drove past on a tractor mower.

Les's health slowly deteriorated over the past couple of years but he only gave up the grass-cutting last year and continued to open the bar at 12 noon every Sunday until a few weeks before his death, aged almost 85. He was part of the fabric of the club and the bar will forever be known as "Lester's Bar".

MABEL MAYO

MABEL MAYO was for many years the club's secretary while her husband Peter was the treasurer and together they dealt with all aspects of the club's administration with incredible efficiency and professionalism.

Mabel was one of the sweetest ladies you could hope to meet and even those who had known her for decades say they never heard her raise her voice or found her in a less than cheerful mood.

Due to increasing frailty, Peter and Mabel had not been regulars at the club recently, but their contribution will never be forgotten. Here, TONY BUSHELL gives his own memories.

Now, I realise that it's because I'm a wrinkly and therefore the friends I have are likely to be wrinkly also. I think it's fair to point out that the "Departed Friends" file on my PC is now larger than my "Current Friends" and "Potential Friends" files put together. To save any confusion, it's

not me that determines at what time in our lives we leave the club. I'm only responsible for file management.

They asked me to write a little piece about Mabel Mayo, who sadly passed away recently. Mabel and her husband Peter were stalwart members of the club from the early days, starting off in dinghies and then, when vertebrae determined that dinghy booms were too close to their centreboards, a change to cruisers took place.

They had purchased an Achilles 24 when I first knew them and Mabel had already learned a vital lesson in cruising:

Do not talk to him on the oars / helm / sails / radio / charts.

She had implicit faith in Peter's ability and to my knowledge this was well founded.

They were part of the Wilson, Chumley, Bishop, Coxall fraternity, racing in the BJRC and generally cruising the Essex and Kent coasts, most weekends. Even

if bad weather was forecast, then hanging on the hook at the end of the creek watching the dinghies become the order of the day.

Mabel's demeanour was one of quiet cheerfulness. She listened a lot (she practiced her cruising rule). When Peter became club treasurer, Mabel did her stint as secretary.

I can remember Peter saying at more than one committee meeting as she read out the previous minutes: "That's not what I / he said." So we all made amendments to our minutes. I can't recall Mabel ever altering hers.

In later life she put up with an arthritic hip until it was replaced, thereafter Peter wouldn't let her sit anywhere near the compass. Eventually Anno Dominae made the journey down that bit more difficult and they resigned from the club back to their house in Enfield.

So here was a woman, always smiling, always content, whose quiet manner I for one appreciated.