



A Happy New Year to all Members and welcome to the 1st Harlow Blackwater SC newsletter of 2016.

2016 will be a crucial year in the club for the Jetty fund raising but it's also important for members to get the most out of their club and enjoy their time out on the water (be that in a cruiser, dinghy, kayak or even a swim). Whilst the evenings are getting lighter it's time to start thinking about your sailing season for the year ahead. The tides are more favourable this year so we should all look forward to the sailing season with renewed vigour.

The sailing programme for 2016 is in the final stages and will be published shortly.

Work Parties

The essential work to maintain the club areas has been identified and work party dates this year are the **14th and 28th February**. Please try to attend these days as it will reduce your subscription. It is also a good opportunity to meet up with old friends and meet new members (with a free meal to boot).

Craftsman are needed: Plumbers, Carpenters, Painters and Electricians.
Please contact Malcolm Cross on 01621 742069 if you can help.

Jetty Fund Raising

The sub committee for fund raising has identified the following areas for helping the club:

- Beer festival (proposed date Saturday 25th June 2016).
- Boat jumble (boot sale) – we need volunteer(s) to help organise.
- HBSC golf day – date in April/May, we will be looking for teams of four so dust off those clubs!
- HBSC 2017 calender
- 'Informal' sailing/camping weekends – Ron Suffield is looking at possible dates.
- Caravan Club (boating section) rally

We also have suggestions for other fund-raising events such as quiz evenings. Any other suggestions welcome. We need volunteers to help take forward these ideas. Get involved and help make sure that we continue enjoying our fantastic club.

This is a critical time for the club and we have taken an unprecedented decision to ask members for donations to help with rebuilding the jetty. You will be receiving a separate jetty newsletter explaining the background and a donation form with this newsletter. Please take the time to read it and consider your donation



Reducing Costs

As a club over the years we have many members who have skills in various areas and have been able to contribute to the good health of the club we would wish to continue this practice to avoid unnecessary expenditure where possible. Please let the Rear Commodore John Bowers know if you are willing to volunteer your time. All offers gratefully received and a big thank you to those who have contributed in the past.

Cruising



Please remember that the current jetty weight limit is now two tons. Also, if members still have their boat in the water, please check attachment to and the moorings themselves (with the storms and wind we've been having recently). Especially since we've just had a boat break loose (see picture).

Dates for cruiser launches are currently planned for the **20th and 26th March** and a possible shake down cruise date to be released shortly.

Sailing

Regatta week will be the 15th to the 19th of August this year – enjoy a week of sailing and off the water activities for all the family.

If you are passionate about your class and want to motivate others to get on the water as often as possible then please put yourself forward for one of the Fleet Captain positions below:

Laser

Slow/Medium Handicap

Fast Handicap

Kayaks/Canoes

Youth

Fleet captains will only need to attend 2-3 sailing committee meetings at the club during the year.

Committee Vacancies

We have filled all positions on the committee apart from the 2 key roles of Commodore and Vice-Commodore. Without these people we are like a ship without a rudder and it does not present the club in a good image to the outside world. Please seriously consider whether you could take on one of these roles.

The Commodore is the principal 'Flag Officer'* and sets the direction for our club and is responsible for the organisation and management of the club. You will have an enthusiastic committee ready and waiting to support you and do the 'donkey-work'!

The Vice-Commodore is second in command and is also a Flag Officer and is responsible for the organisation and management of the sailing side, and associated aspects, of our club. You would have the experienced hands of Clive Tarling as sailing secretary and Lewis Bell as cruiser secretary guiding and supporting you.

If you are interested or would like to discuss taking on one of these roles then please contact John Bowers (Rear Commodore) via email (rearcommodore@harlow-blackwater-sailing-club.com) or phone (01245 472796).

**A Flag Officer has the right to fly a club flag which shows his/her rank - so what are you waiting for..?*

Website

If you have any events or content for the club website (e.g. photos, race/cruising reports) then please email the Publicity Officer with details (publicityoff@harlow-blackwater-sailing-club.com).