



Mengeham Rythe Dinghy Sailing News



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It's official: *"a thriving Dinghy Racing Fleet is a key element in the future of the Club."*

(General Committee minutes – February 2009)

Your Sailing Committee has worked hard over the winter not only getting the season organized but also reflecting on the issues raised in various papers that have circulated regarding dinghy sailing at Mengeham and racing specifically. A number of initiatives have been developed the first being this monthly newsletter.

We shall be to using this format as the 'dinghy' that brings together all that is small boat activity afloat and ashore engaging the sailing members in order to inform, amuse, debate and report activities. The newsletter will be posted in club but more importantly it will also be emailed to you monthly.

PRO Spring Sailing Meeting: if you haven't already been contacted, you are heartily invited to this meeting on Saturday 21st March at 11:00 (there is an alternative Friday night session on 20th 19:30) at the club where the new courses and general racing topics will be presented and discussed. Although this is principally aimed at PRO's and their assistant's we would appreciate any input that would make for a better 'afloat racing experience'.

Duty committee member: Please note for those that are PRO's there will be a list of 'Duty Committee members' on the website this is for any last minute operational questions before the event or on the day. We have changed the system this year such that there is no one member for a whole month, so please check the website.

New courses: laminated courses cards, sailing instruction and chart will be available from the bar from 21st March.

Racing: **Spring Points 1** marks the start of the season on 29th March so only 10 polishing days left, unless of course you are one of the hardy Finn sailors that have been out polishing their skills already. This series is the most popular of the season as enthusiasm seems to get the better of us all as Spring drags us out of hibernation.

Start Racing: Starts 18th April every fortnight April to July. This Saturday series will have an optional classroom / training side and a race all this to introduce / consolidate racing skills. The shore session will be held 3 hour before the start time aimed at looking at various aspects of racing. We shall also have a buddy system for those that don't feel quite so confident in order to encourage more people out on the water. Strictly no seasoned ringers except for buddy volunteers.

NEW Rules: At a recent Federation Sailing Committee meeting it was agreed that all clubs would embrace the '3 boat lengths rule' when establishing an overlap at a mark. Since this is a rule that has changed since last year and has the option of either 2 or 3 boat lengths it was useful to get unanimous agreement across the harbour. **THREE IT IS.**

Personal handicaps: we are going to shadow the normal results to develop personal handicaps. **Why?** – because PYs do not allow for the differences in equipment and experience; PHs will take this into account, removing the discouragement of newcomers consistently being beaten by better boats and more experienced helms. **How?** – we calculate the handicap which would have resulted in each boat having the same corrected time. **When?** – we will start calculating PHs from the first race, and continue to do so for all harbour races sailed as either fast or slow handicap. You will need to complete three races to gain a PH, and thereafter it will be adjusted cumulatively through the season. See next newsheet for races for which PH will be used to decide the result. PHs will be **published** on the results board.

Club Web site: will be refurbished and will have on a trial basis a news group. This should be particularly useful for those seeking helms/crews. **It is up to you to join it.**

Events: Boat Jumble in aid of the Jeremy Strugnell Fund (Junior Sailing)– 10:30 Monday 13th April – bring, sell, buy and barter. RNLI - Cheese & Wine soirée an opportunity to hug a lifeboat crew-person Saturday 28th March ideal start to the season.

History: In response to a question about the history of the Cups we race for, we are collating the information on the benefactors and the history of the Cups themselves. Sam Plunkett used to present the cup himself with a bottle of bubbles. The Sailing Sec has admitted that it was the first cup he won at the Club and is quoted as saying *"oh, the good old days I remember it well."* The Cleeve Cup, originally a fishing trophy, was presented by Reg Cleeve in the early fifties.

Editorials: Clearly as a new venture all comments, suggestions and copy are welcome. The idea being that content should be relevant to either the last 4 weeks or the next 4. We intend to have items like results, help needed, event reminders, rules, Harbour news and pictures. I hope to have the newsletter out by the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Please advise us of anybody who may like to receive this newsletter or if you specifically don't want it.