



Mengeham Rythe Dinghy Sailing News



Andrew Filipinski

And we're still at it in the Harbour: *Spring points 5&6 marked the end of the series and went out in a blaze of sun and breeze. Comments like 'best sailing in ages'. Club coach was heard saying left hand side of the course was the favourite whilst playing the shifts'? Finn and Osprey Open: the club rose to the challenge and members did well in the results.*

New Committee Boat: Lots of people to thank and yes it stayed afloat and it did perform in the Bay on 2 consecutive weekends without a hitch. (see later)

Personal Handicaps: Many of you that raced in the Spring points have now established your own and it will now be time to test the system in the forthcoming Betty Hudson Trophy and Cury Pot on Bank Holiday Sunday.

From the Bosun's locker: Rescue boats- It may be worth a reminder to all rescue boat crews to turn off all radios and equipment and remove the battery isolator keys when packing up the Ribs. With Patsy ensure the onboard isolator switch is turned to "off". We regularly get flat batteries and are unaware until we come to use them. *Dave Hughes*

From the Committee Boat: **The life and death of a dan buoy – or a note for PROs and crews on race equipment.** April 26th saw the end of the spring series and some of the best club racing ever experienced, but before hand we were anxiously trying to find the dan buoy – not to be found, though luckily a spare in the store. Enquiry was made of a well known PRO as to whether he had brought the mark in from the Bay the week end before – "of course, I am sure I asked the RIB to pick it up". Well quality will out – a visit to the seafront with bins by our errant PRO found the mark still sitting proudly in the bay and after racing he charged out into the Bay to recover. But in the world of dan buoys it seems that life, particularly a second life, can be strangely short. The following W/E our dan buoy found itself back out in the Bay again only to suffer death by drowning. One moment it was there, the next nothing to be seen – the coroner's report explains that death was due to a weight being attached to the mark (already weighted by heavy chain links) so that it ran out of breath (buoyancy). Alas poor dan buoy (plus anchor, line and orange flag). The moral of this tale – please ensure that all equipment (*except masts for the displacement boats and RIBS*) is checked back into store, and note that we only use weights for the very tall dan buoys and the tall racing marks – these are rarely used for club racing, otherwise no weights! *Graeme Macdonald.*

Social sailing: 2008 didn't provide the best weather, but we hope to have a better sailing season this summer. A few of us have already been out on suitable days, but March has proved to be still chilly. Some Gulls, Scows, and a Drascombe took advantage of improving April weather. Social sailors normally meet two hours before high tide, ready to sail. We hope to decide a destination, sail in company, take a snack, possibly stop off somewhere, and return to the Club before the tide ebbs. The Club does not allocate safety boats or crews during the week, but one of our members has been kind enough to escort us in his motor boat. When he comes he manages to do some fishing as well! (Thank you Alan) *Joan Palmer*

Junior Training: 28 of the little darlings are signed up and off.

Events: Summer Points 1 & 2 – Bank Holiday Monday

Osprey Open From Yachts and Yachting website: *The Ospreys gathered in anticipation at Mengham Rythe Sailing Club. The forecast was good, Force 3-4 on Saturday and Force 3 on Sunday. The racing on Saturday was tight but Richard and Mark Hartley always managed to come out on top. First place was usually hotly contested by Martin Cooney and Peter Frith although a careless capsize on the first race when leading put them into last place although they managed to fight back up to 3rd by the finish piping John Shenton and Steve Offer on the line. In the second race the youngest member of the fleet teenager Alexandra Willis, sailing with dad, came in 3rd. The race officer showed great skill and determination in getting the 3rd race off despite having to relay the course due to a wind shift. The late finish created a challenge for the fleet beating up the creek to the club against the wind and tide in virtually no water. After a good social on Saturday night Sunday dawned with clear skies and in the first race Nick Jones and Peter Grieg lead the way to the windward mark although they let through Frith / Cooney and the Hartleys through with Frith and Cooney breaking the Hartleys monopoly on the bullets.*

The wind again shifted forcing the Race officer to change the course for the last race, the Hartleys restored their monopoly on the win followed by Paul Heather and Jonathan Osgood with Jones / Greig once again 3rd.

Thanks to Mengham Rythe Sailing Club for putting on such a good event.

Finn Open report on MRSC website: well done John Tremlett

Many Thanks to you From Sailing Secretary and Sailing Committee:

Finn/Osprey Open meeting: As usual the Club acquitted itself well in running a successful open meeting well attended by 26 Finns (17 from Mengeham), John Tremlett retaining his Southern Area Championship. For the race team, safety crew and bar and galley teams this weekend was part of their club duties, and they did a first class job for us. However without the help of others who volunteered to do extra the meeting could never been so successful. To Paddy Lamperd (for helping get all the kit up to scratch), Jean and Brian Quinton (for breakfasts), Mandy Reed, Ros Wilson and Angie Tingey (for food preparation), Anthony Walker and Simon Wilson (for the use of their RIBs), Ann Kent (for entries and lovely cakes), Chris Reed, Lee C-Jackson, Roger Hallett, Julian Smith, Simon and Ros Wilson, Glen Hardy and Jack Watts (for adding to the race team, sometimes at short notice), Ken Osborne for the results, John Brydon, Adam Osborne, Scott & Roy Collison, Gil and Carol Carter, Peter Hayward (for help with the trolleys), and Marion Waters and her social committee helped by Elaine Barnett and Ted Munro (for the BBQ and band on Saturday evening) and to anybody else who quietly lent a hand very many thanks. That is what it takes to run a good meeting – luckily at MRSC we still have enough members willing to commit that bit extra, and in the case of Tony Douglass and Vernon Wright (bar) dress for the occasion!

Tarka: our new committee boat was finally launched on May 1st. Thanks are due to John Stephenson for travelling to look at possible purchases and numerous odd jobs, to Jasper G-Jones for travelling to survey the boat, to Dave and Glen Hardy, again for travel and for checking out the engine and electrics, to Chris Reed for replacing the floor and cupboard, to Paddy Lamperd for much carpentry work and fitting and with Peter Tart for the fendering, to Jeremy Rapley for making the cupboard, providing timber and helping extend the keel, to Brian Quinton for help with fitting equipment, Ray Davey and Dick Mumford for help with the radio, and to Richard Search for making and supplying one-off fittings for rigging her. Thanks also to Mick Rich and John Stephenson for making the trailer work. – oh, and to Chris Dobner for opening the bar so that we could celebrate! Of course, none of this would have been possible without the funding from Bentley Walker and Sports Match.

Editorial: What a great start to the season and thank you for all your the feedback regarding the Mengeham Rythe Dinghy Sailing News and it's content. Keep it coming. *Andrew~*

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