

April 2010
Issue 197



Issue 197 April 2010

The Island Sailing Club Reading

<http://www.islandsailingclub.co.uk>



'Sailing for all'

Issue 197 – April 2010

Editor Bill Taylor

President	Tim Lockyer
Commodore	Bill Taylor
Vice Commodore	Tom Lori
Rear Commodore	Steve Warwicker
Membership Secretary	Catherine Britton
Race Officer	Mike Jeffries
Social Secretary	Maggie Page
Treasure	Steve & Teresa Savin
Safety Officer	Eddie Insam
Honorary Secretary	Eddie Insam
Bosun	Tom Lori

Committee members' contact details are available on the club website under [members' area/club officers contact details](#)

Please note the date of the, **Open Day 3rd May, Bank Holiday Monday, with a work party on the preceding Saturday, 1st 8am -12 noon.** Both days are important for the club, the work party to prepare the club and the Open Day to attract new members. So your help is requested on both days please.

If you haven't yet paid your 2010-2011 membership fee, please do so to Catherine. Her address is at the bottom of the membership form or there are forms at the club. Thanks.

Commodore's thoughts...

Well, it's finally arrived. I'm Commodore, having risen quickly through the ranks (this is the first time in my life that I've been fast-tracked for anything) from Rear to Vice and now to full Commodore.

I have to firstly pay tribute to Tim for the tremendous amount of time and worry that he's expended on behalf of the club. There have been interminable dealings with outside agencies; the Landlord, the Local Authority, Utilities etc, all requiring time, patience and tack. It's no good getting cross with some of these people as this could backfire onto the club.

He was already Treasurer when the Vice Commodore resigned a few years ago and he decided that there was no other way out but to become Vice, knowing full well that this meant Commodore in the following year, that is, the one that we've just finished. Either of these jobs is a busy one but to accept them simultaneously was an outstanding act of generosity to the club and its members. One which deserves thanks from us all. It has demonstrated Tim's huge commitment to the club over the last few years.

It's not going to be an easy act to follow. The club faces some difficult times like all small clubs in the current economic times, but a plan is being developed and there is a part in the plan for all the members to play.

The club is not as large as Burghfield or Black Swan but then it's less formal, with more emphasis on fun for the family, and less expensive. The committee has a plan for this year which

involves trying to attract more visitors generally, especially on Open Days, and then trying to ensure that more visitors sign on as members. For details see the paragraph below on “Aims of the Club, plans and Training”

May Open Day

As mentioned above, the May Open Day will be on Monday 3rd with a work party on the preceding Saturday 1st.

The idea of the Open Day is to attract visitors to the club with the hope that they will join. Club members can help by being at the club, talking to visitors and answering any questions, be prepared to take them for a ride around the lake and generally make them feel at home.

In addition, the work party on Saturday is intended to prepare the club site, making it look as attractive as possible. The Committee have some plans to this end, so when the call goes out for volunteers, please respond. The work parties last just 4 hours from 8am to 12. We are aware that people have other things to do as well, but 4 hours from most club members can achieve a lot.

AGM

The AGM was held on 16th March and attended by about fifteen members. Tim reviewed the club’s progress over the last year, which has been good. A new committee has been appointed, see page 2, and the constitution changed slightly to make it easier for the club to apply for grants from outside bodies, eg the RYA. The Minutes will be on the website soon.

Skittles evening and Quiz Night

A very good evening was had by over 30 members and families on 6th March at the Dog and Partridge in Riseley. John Beech’s team won the first competition and then after

the buffet Mike Page won the individual “Killer” game, narrowly beating Tommy Savan. A huge thanks to Maggie for organising the evening.

Maggie has arranged a quiz night with fish and chips for Saturday 5th June at the Clubhouse so we hope to see you there. There’s a form to add your name to at the club, or speak/e-mail directly to Maggie

Sailing again!

After the long winter freeze Sunday 7th February saw sailing boats out on the lake for the first time since the Brass Monkey Race on 1st January. On a cool-ish day, temperature around 5°C, and wind force 1-3, three hardy sailors, Mike P, Rob and Dennis H had a race each side of lunch. It was good to see boats out on the lake again.



1 Mike and John neck and neck

On the day that Reading were knocked out of the FA cup there were 5 of us at the club and we managed to get two boats onto the water and start another race! The wind was quite brisk though and there was one capsized. Shame really,

a superb day's weather, wall-to-wall sunshine but so cold in the wind.



2 March

On March 21st, as the days finally become longer than the nights, and weather at last becomes closer to normal for the time of year we raced again. There were two Graduates and a Gull. The wind was gusty enough to require concentration but not so bad as to cause a capsize. A good time was had by all.

Fun Skills Course

On Saturday 6th February five hardy individuals plus some hardy helpers attended the Fun Skills Course run by Sally Reed. The aim of the course was to improve sailing skills generally, and a few specifically. We started with a short race but with a le Mans style start. Intended to improve getting into the boat and sorting it out quickly before leaving. Then we sailed around in small-ish circles learning to control tacking and gybing in quick succession. Not that difficult when there's time between but a lot more tricky when they happen in quick

succession. Eventually, it becomes like riding a bike, you stop thinking and just do it.

After sandwiches came the two best parts, sailing backwards (deliberately) and sailing without a rudder. The sailing backwards entails turning the boat into the wind so that the jib flaps along the centerline of the boat. Then the crew member pushes the boom right out as far as the shrouds to provide some power from the wind which is now coming from the front, while the helm stands up, facing backwards and steers the boat, pointing the rudder in the direction that he/she wants to go (Not too far from the wind direction though otherwise the wind starts to come round the jib or main and the boat will start to sail forwards).

Sailing without a rudder isn't intended to anticipate the situation when the rudder snaps but rather to minimize the use of the rudder, which creates turbulence, thus slowing the boat. It uses the fact that when the wind blows onto the main sail, which is situated aft of the centre of gravity of the boat, the effect is to push the stern of the boat round whereas the opposite effect comes from the wind blowing onto the jib, which pushes the bow round the other way. So if the intention is to turn to starboard on a port tack, ease the mainsheet and let the wind blow onto the fully tightened jib. The boat will start to turn to starboard. It obviously takes a bit of practice but it works! Also the boat can be turned by just shifting the weight to one side, forcing that side of the boat down. The curved side of the boat then acts like a spoon biting into jelly and the boat will turn towards the (now) higher side of the boat. Again practice makes perfect.

All-in-all a cold day, the toes were blue by the end, but certainly a worthwhile day and plenty to think about and to practice.

With a little luck there will a repeat later in the year and someone else can have a go. If there is, it comes recommended.

Aims of the Club, plans and Training

Over the last few months the committee has been thinking about the future of the club and has been developing plans. The club is affiliated to the RYA and is supported by it. We are fortunate in having Steve Warwicker as a new member. He has volunteered to be Rear Commodore and is also an RYA Senior Instructor (SI). John Williams of the RYA is our link and is involved with the committee developing plans and will then assist in putting them into effect. So Steve, John and Sally will be running our training courses, sometimes with no cost to members and there may be RYA funds available to the club to help in its development. The RYA's aim is that people should enjoy water sports and have fun but also to be safe.

The courses that the club offers are listed below. Members are encouraged to put their names forward for these training courses, there's nothing better than knowing how to do things properly rather than learning by trial and error (mostly error) which can take a long time and can be unsafe.

In addition the club would like to develop some members as assistant instructors (AIs) (we already have a few but need more). These AIs assist RYA instructors on training courses, especially useful on a large course where there are a ½ dozen or more students to watch over and assist. There is scope for Assistant Instructors to go all the way and become qualified RYA dinghy instructors which would give the club a high degree of flexibility in its training programme.

The RYA courses:

Dinghy levels 1 & 2 - how to sail a dinghy

Powerboat levels 1 & 2 – how to operate the safety boat

Safety Boat – how to offer assistance to a dinghy on its side

Assistant Instructor – how to help a Senior Instructor to run a course – need dinghy level 2.

First Aid

Dinghy Instructor – How to train new club members to sail a dinghy.

Members interested either in becoming an AI or a dinghy instructor, please talk to Steve or Eddie or any other committee member.

49-ers

Please note the changes to the 49-ers fund. Due to falling membership of this group, and the threat that monthly payouts might exceed the income, the committee was tasked by the AGM to “do something”. We believe that there should be a channel for members to make extra contributions to the club if they so wish and so we have changed the format.

It is now a straight donation to the club. The fund will be earmarked for special projects which will be advertised at times with progress towards a cash target. Members are encouraged to make out a standing order to the club (with a reference of “SP fund”). (Current contributors to the 49-ers need do nothing).

The current Special Project is to improve the club’s signage. The signs at the gate and at the end of the lane need replacing, perhaps to have a few brown tourist type signs in the lanes around the club or new secondhand boat/safety boat/ young person’s training boat. The gate signs will cost about £100. The brown signs will cost a lot more, we are investigating the cost at the moment but it could be of the order of £500.

SO all donations gratefully received. If you are not currently a member of the 49-ers, please consider joining the new SP Fund. £5 per month is not a lot for an individual but summed over, say, a third of the membership, would yield about £1000 per year and allow marked improvements to the club.

If you can help, please speak to Steve or Teresa Savin, joint Treasurers.

Thanks.

The new calendar (2010-2011)

The new calendar has been placed on the website under About the club/Calendar and there's one on the notice board in the clubhouse. Please make notes in diaries of open days/work parties/Commodore's Day/Christmas Dinner etc.

Committee Vacancies

See page 2 for the new committee. We welcome Steve Warwicker not only to the club but also to the committee where he has taken over as Rear Commodore. Each post has a name against it but please note that Tom, Eddie and I each have 2 jobs. It would be fairer if we had one each

Committee membership lasts for one year till the 2011 AGM. The work is a bit busy sometimes but isn't onerous if the committee is fully manned. If you think that you can help, please talk to one of the current committee members. Thanks. The club is only as good as the members make it.

Social activities this Summer

In addition to the racing programme the club runs social events in order to provide members with opportunities to meet other members and their families, chat and enjoy themselves away from boats. (**See the Skittles Evening ad above**). In

addition the “social team” provide refreshments and a bar-b-q at some of the club’s sailing functions, for example on Commodore’s Day and Family Open Days. These events are intended to be enjoyed by members AND families so please come along and enjoy them.

Introduce a friend

The club relies on a steady stream of new members to replace those who leave for various reasons and the Open Days mentioned above is one mechanism of introducing new members. Another is for current members to introduce a friend, a work colleague or neighbour for example. If a member did bring a friend, he/she could take the friend for a sail in one of the club’s larger (2-man) boats or if not feeling that confident, we could arrange for someone else to take them for a sail. Just let a committee member know on the day.

Racing Results.

New members may not have seen the club’s calendar, but the year is divided into several series of races. So, for example in Spring, all the races on Sundays, before lunch, count towards the Spring AM series. Then all the races after lunch count towards the Spring PM series etc. Prizes are awarded to the winners of the various series.

There is a handicapping system so that someone in a slower Enterprise for example races on equal footing with someone in a faster Laser. The idea is that no matter what boat a member may feel most comfortable in, he or she is in with a chance, even though it may not be the fastest boat in the fleet.



3 In case you missed it, the club in Winter, again!

Duty list 4th. April '10 to 31st. October '10.

Date	OOD	RO	ARO	Galley
04/04/2010	John Beech	Rob Howell-Jones	Bill Taylor	Joan Beech
11/04/2010	Mike Jeffries	Seb Burge	Andrew Morris	Joy Jeffries
18/04/2010	Peter Crawthraw	Dave Sowden	Stephan Rudman	Gwyneth Rudman
25/04/2010	Geoff Planner	Steve Dyer	Andy Clark	Kim Dyer
02/05/2010	Mike Page	Maggie Page	Tom Skelcher	Lindsay Skelcher
09/05/2010	Dick Sawdon Smith	Steve Warwicker	Andrew Morris	Denis Handslip
16/05/2010	Christian Sturt	Tim Jones	Danny Walsh	Nicola Beeston
23/05/2010	Tim Lockyer	Eddie Insam	Simon Chattock	Rowan Chattock
30/05/2010	John Beech	Rob Howell-Jones	Bill Taylor	Joan Beech
06/06/2010	Mike Jeffries	Seb Burge	Andrew Morris	Joy Jeffries
13/06/2010	Peter Crawthraw	TBA	Stephan Rudman	Dennis Ollington
20/06/2010	Tim Lockyer	Steve Dyer	Andy Clark	Kim Dyer
27/06/2010	Mike Page	Maggie Page	Tom Skelcher	Lindsay Skelcher
04/07/2010	Dick Sawdon Smith	Steve Warwicker	Andrew Morris	Denis Handslip
11/07/2010	Christian Sturt	Tim Jones	Danny Walsh	Nicola Beeston
18/07/2010	Tim Lockyer	Eddie Insam	Simon Chattock	Rowan Chattock
25/07/2010	John Beech	Rob Howell-Jones	Bill Taylor	Joan Beech
01/08/2010	Mike Jeffries	Seb Burge	Andrew Morris	Joy Jeffries
08/08/2010	Peter Crawthraw	TBA	Stephan Rudman	Dennis Ollington
15/08/2010	Tim Lockyer	Steve Dyer	Andy Clark	Kim Dyer
22/08/2010	Mike Page	Maggie Page	Tom Skelcher	Lindsay Skelcher
29/08/2010	Dick Sawdon Smith	Steve Warwicker	Andrew Morris	Denis Handslip
05/09/2010	Christian Sturt	Tim Jones	Danny Walsh	Nicola Beeston
12/09/2010	Tim Lockyer	Eddie Insam	Simon Chattock	Rowan Chattock
19/09/2010	John Beech	Rob Howell-Jones	Bill Taylor	Joan Beech
26/09/2010	Mike Jeffries	Seb Burge	Andrew Morris	Joy Jeffries
03/10/2010	Peter Crawthraw	TBA	Stephan Rudman	Dennis Ollington
10/10/2010	Tim Lockyer	Steve Dyer	Andy Clark	Kim Dyer
17/10/2010	Mike Page	Maggie Page	Tom Skelcher	Lindsay Skelcher
24/10/2010	Dick Sawdon Smith	Steve Warwicker	Andrew Morris	Denis Handslip
31/10/2010	Christian Sturt	Tim Jones	Danny Walsh	Nicola Beeston

Club races should start at 1200, 1400 and 1530

Please make every effort to turn up on your duty day as without your attendance the day is disrupted.

If you are unable to carry out your duty, please exchange with someone else.

If that fails please notify the Rear Commodore at least two weeks prior to date so that changes can be made.

All officers should arrive at the club at least one hour before the start of the first race.

They should have buoyancy aids with them and be prepared to man the safety boat in an emergency. The duty officer is responsible for the general management of the days racing. The other duties can be re-allocated on the day if so required.

Please would the person on Galley Duty bring 1 Litre (two pints) of milk (for which they will be reimbursed) with them.

<http://www.dutyman.biz/dmmain.aspx?id=I0001364>