



Issue 198 September 2010

The Island Sailing Club Reading

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



'Sailing for all'

## Issue 198 – September 2010

Editor Bill Taylor

President	Tim Lockyer
Commodore	Bill Taylor
Vice Commodore	Tom Lori
Rear Commodore	
Training Principal	Steve Warwicker
Act. Membership Secretary	Dennis Ollington
Race Officer	Mike Jeffries
Social Secretary	Maggie Page
Treasurer	Steve & Teresa Savin
Safety Officer	Bill Taylor
Honorary Secretary	Dennis Ollington
Bosun	Tom Lori

Committee members' contact details are available on the club website under [members' area/club officers contact details](#) but note that the password to the members area has changed – see the e-mail from Dennis, who has recently joined the Committee. For the benefit of the newer members, the Committee's photos are on the wall just outside the gents changing room in full colour, un-airbrushed, they really look that good!

Please note that the Club's Annual Dinner will be held on

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December

at the Bearwood Lakes Golf Club where the year's trophies will be presented. The cost will be £30 per ticket.

Maggie will be announcing the menu soon.

## Commodore's thoughts...

It's a bit far back now but I was pleased with the result of the May Open Day when we recruited 14 new members. We welcome to the club the Tait Family, Mark, Emma, Hannah and Sophie, the Cau-Tait family, Paolo, Marcello and Gianluca, Ian and Melanie Wickens, Tilly Taphouse, Kim and Tomas Pottinger Peter and Lotte Horne and Barry Woodrow and Harry. We are over half way through training them all so hopefully we'll see them on the lake soon. Since the Open Day, David Blake and Rose have also joined, welcome to you both.

The Open Day followed about nine months of quite hard work in improving the look of the club. Tim Lockyer started it last Summer, organising the clearing of old boats and rubbish from the compound over a period of about 6 months. Then in January he organised the new double-glazed windows which has done so much to improve the look of the club house. New signs have been bought for the gate and the end of the lane, the fencing behind the clubhouse that faces the gate has been painted, a second flower boat installed and the clubhouse interior painted and new photos hung. All this has been done by members in their spare time and the club owes them its thanks. It is difficult to prove that the improved look was a factor in the success of the open day but the RYA inspector (see below) said that his first impressions had been very favourable.

It has been pleasing to see 5 boats on the water on one of the Wednesday evening sessions as well as on a Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Aug). Well done to Steve Warwicker for organising these evening sessions and giving help and advice to the newer members.

Any club exists only if its members are prepared to take a part in running it. Some committee members are in the process of hanging up their Sou'westers after long service so we'll be looking for replacements please later this year/into the beginning of next. See the article below on this subject.

Finally, could I remind members that those with boat spaces in the compound should be keeping their slot tidy and keeping the weeds down. Now that Summer is ending and weed growth is slowing, it is a good time to do some weeding.

## Longest Day Race

We had a fine day on the 20th, with some sun and wind. The wind wasn't that strong but we still managed three capsizes between us. There were three crews; two Graduates and a Laser, with 7 sailors in all and we raced for just

short of 4 hours. Our thanks go to Dick Sawdon-Smith and Steve Dyer, the duty crew, Dick spent the race in the race hut patiently noting times and Steve was in the safety boat watching us go round and round. After almost 4 hours of racing the time difference between the first two boats was less than a minute! Unfortunately, yours truly rolled my team's Grad over twice, so we spent about half the race with half a boat-full of water so we were about 2 laps behind. Never mind, we all had a good day and it was good to see 4 boats on the water at one stage with another club member "just sailing".

The result was 1<sup>st</sup>, John Beech and Ian Finlayson in a Graduate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Page and Rob Howell-Jones in the Laser and 3<sup>rd</sup> Maggie Page, Bill Taylor and Steve Rudman in the other Graduate.



## The Hottest Day of the Year so far

June 27th turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far with the temperature at the club around 29C! The wind was quite fickle but it gusted enough to keep us moving and we were able to run two races with 3 boats in each race.

## Aims of the Club and training

For the benefit of new members the aims of the club are to have (safe) fun on the water. Learning to sail is not easy but once mastered is fun, whether just sailing around the lake or racing. It's outdoors, away from that computer screen, it provides fresh air and exercise, and a certain sense of pride and achievement, which is good for self esteem, especially for the younger members. Someone mentioned to me a few days ago that there is another

advantage that I hadn't thought of, and that was the mention of sailing skills and qualifications appearing on CVs. Some of our juniors may be wanting to write a CV in the next few years! Such skills and qualifications might tip the balance in a close race for a college place!

On the matter of training we would like to expand the number of power boat drivers, safety boat drivers and Assistant Instructors (AI). All these are needed to watch over the sailors on Sundays and to help run the RYA courses. In due course we'll be calling for about 3 volunteers for AI and 3 or 4 for Safety Boat drivers. (They operate the safety boat in training courses and are an RYA requirement). Also we'd like to make all those who operate the power boat on Sundays up to RYA Power Boat level 2, for the sake of those on the water generally and the sake of the boat as well.

Please give some thought to volunteering for these courses. They are an opportunity to extend your skills and knowledge with the subsequent opportunity to help other club members (some of whom, hopefully, are not in the club yet).

### The new Training Principal (and inspection)

Steve Warwicker is the "new" Training Principal and has already run several RYA courses, with more to come in the next few months. The change of Training Principal triggered an inspection by the RYA which we passed. The inspector was impressed with the club, especially the first impressions and has made a few suggestions for improvements.

Although Steve is our Senior Instructor and runs courses, members do not have to wait for a course before asking questions. Steve is always willing to help with advice on rigging, sailing technique etc.

### Commodore's day piccys

Here are a few pictures from the recent Commodore's Day. After an early shower, the weather stayed fair, and a good time was had by all. My thanks go to the organizers, those who helped and contributed food for the barby and the cakes and to those who turned up. Thank you.





## Special Projects Fund

The Special Projects Fund (SPF) is set up to allow members to make extra contributions to the club over and above the annual fees if they so wish and around 10 members contribute. Typically donations are made by standing order monthly of about £5, and are set aside within the accounts for “little extras”, things that the annual fees cannot quite pay for. At the moment, we are saving for some more, second hand, Toppers. (That’s a Topper on the front cover). These are very good boats for recently qualified juniors (though a senior has been observed in one this Summer) and, given the number of juniors in the club at the moment, are likely to be well used. If you would like to contribute, please see Steve Savin who will give bank account details.

## Committee Vacancies

The current Committee members are shown above and on the face of it, all posts are filled, but please note that Bill Taylor, Tom Lori and Steve Warwicker each have two jobs. It would be fairer if they had one each.

The Safety Officer keeps an eye on safety aspects both on and off the water, and brings any problems to the attention of the committee. The Bosun is responsible for maintaining the clubhouse and the boats. NOT doing the work,

but, in conjunction with the Committee, deciding what needs doing and by when, and organising work parties to actually do it.

As stated in the Commodore's thoughts, some committee members will be standing down at the AGM in March, so we'll be looking for replacements please.

## 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. 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.

## Quiz & Fish and Chips Night 5<sup>th</sup> June

On the subject of social activities, 33 members gathered at the clubhouse for our Annual Fish and Chip supper and Quiz Night.

Our quizmaster for the evening was the indefatigable Denis Handslip. As usual he had prepared a testing series of rounds on a variety of subjects, with the added twist this year of a 'joker'. At the beginning of the evening the four teams had to select the category for which they would play their 'joker'. Apart from the Fothergill/Daniels/Braithwaite/ Page team who opted for Geography[thank goodness], all the others opted for science .

The first two rounds passed without incident and the scoring was close although the Jeffries/Howell-Jones/ Skelcher team were ahead and the Geographers were rather lagging behind. Fish and Chips duly arrived at approximately 8.15 p.m. and were enjoyed by all; The Lemon Plaice really do provide a good service. After clearing away, Round 3, 'The Geography Round' began. Well, although I say so myself we did rather well and because we had played our joker were able to double our points. Would we be the winners!!

Then came the Science Round. As the questioning began there were anguished cries from the joker teams. I cannot really remember any of the questions but if you want to know the name of a disease suffered by turtles please ask Denis. Suffice it to say the scoring, by all teams, was pretty low and the advantage of their jokers nullified. Despite this the aforesaid Jeffries/Howell-Jones/Skelcher team were declared the winners and received their prize, which they kindly shared.

It was a good night. Many thanks to Denis for all his hard work.

### Introduce a friend

The club relies on a steady stream of new members to replace those who leave for various reasons and the Open Day 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. We will need to make them a temporary member for the day at a cost of £2 with the usual form to fill in, but then they can have some fun.

### 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.

### The web site

Please don't forget the website, [www.islandsailingclub.co.uk](http://www.islandsailingclub.co.uk) where we post the calendar, the duty list, committee contacts, past editions of this magazine etc. There is also a gallery and if members want to send me a photo or two, I'll do my best to add it. Send it(them) to [wrbtaylor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:wrbtaylor@tiscali.co.uk) If you make it a JPEG image, around 800x600 pixels or around 100K, I'll do the rest.

Sunday Duty Rota 3rd October to 30th Jan. 2011

Date	OOD	RO	ARO	Galley
		<b>Wet Suits</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	
03-Oct-10	Peter Cawthraw	Dennis Ollington	Stephen Rudman	Richard Pitman
10-Oct-10	Tim Lockyer	Steve Dyer	Andy Clark	Kim Dyer
17-Oct-10	Mike Page	Maggie Page	Tom Skelcher	Lindsay Skelcher
24-Oct-10	Dick Sawdon-Sr	Denis Handslip	Ian Wickens	Melanie Wickens
31-Oct-10	Steve Warwicke	Danny Walsh	Steve Savin	Teresa Savin
		<b>Wet Suits</b>	<b>Compulsory</b>	
07-Nov-10	Tim Jones	Ian Finlayson	David Blake	Nicola Jones
14-Nov-10	Tim Lockyer	Catherine Britton	John Walker	Brenda Walker
21-Nov-10	Geoff Planner	Dennis Ollington	Paulo Cau	Ann Planner
28-Nov-10	Ken Tomkins	Penny Tomkins	Bob Ferryman	Emma Tait
		<b>Wet Suits</b>	<b>Compulsory</b>	
05-Dec-10	Mike Jeffries	Rob Howell-Jones	Tilly Taphouse	Joy Jeffries
12-Dec-10	Tim Lockyer	Simon Chattock	Peter Home	Rowan Chattock
19-Dec-10	John Beech	John Frake	Seb Burge	Joan Beech

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	<b>Wet Suits</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Compulsory for Duty</b>	<b>Please</b>
01-Jan-11	Brass Monkey			
09-Jan-11	Geoff Planner	Bill Taylor	Stephen Rudman	Ann Planner
16-Jan-11	Tim Lockyer	Steve Dyer	Andy Clark	Kim Dyer
23-Jan-11	Mike Page	Maggie Page	Steve Savin	Teresa Savin
30-Jan-11	Danny Walsh	Denis Handslip	Tom Skelcher	Lindsay Skelcher

25/8/10 Dennis Ollington

Note: This list is only valid on print date. Changes may occur due to swaps on Dutyman.

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 using Dutyman or putting a request on the Yahoo News Group.

( If that fails please notify the Commodore at least two weeks prior to the 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 OOD 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.

Link to Dutyman

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