



The Water's Edge

Paxton Lakes Sailing Club, August 2010

In the last issue of the newsletter we saw how we had to fight our way through the ice for the Boxing Day race; more recently it was blanket weed that put a temporary halt to racing. Worst of all it appeared just a couple of weeks before the 24 hour race when we were expecting quite a few teams from neighbouring clubs to join us for the event. Unlike at the Beijing Olympics, we didn't have 10,000 soldiers at our disposal to clear the weed but we had the next best thing – dedicated sailors who knew that the only thing to do was roll up those sleeves and get stuck in. Needless to say it didn't get cleared in a single day but after much effort by many people we had a sailable lake for the big day. Well done and a big thank you to all who helped.

R.N.L.I. 24 hour marathon

Fifteen teams in all presented themselves at the start line for what turned out to be a very close race. As well as nail-biting racing what about the weather – glorious sunshine and a good wind that stayed with us throughout the night. The wind even picked up enough on Sunday morning to tip a few of the unwary in for a swim, to the delight and amusement of the assembled spectators. The dog doesn't seem to be paying much attention though; not a real sea dog then.

Was I the only one to feel slightly let down when the Hog Roast wasn't a whole pig on a stick with an apple firmly stuck in its mouth slowly being turned over a roaring fire? Still, nice crackling though.

It was hinted at in the previous newsletter that Solos have a habit of doing well in this event – and so it came to pass that the winning team was indeed the Solo team from Paxton Lakes. If only I could say that this was down to meticulous planning and preparation but alas no. Even during the race we were blissfully





unaware that the Supernova team that we were gauging ourselves against was actually in third place and that we should have been keeping our eyes on the Moth instead.

Here we see our team captain during one of the calmer periods of Sunday morning; gaze firmly fixed on the tell-tales; extracting every last ounce of effort from the wind; man and machine in perfect harmony.

I can't finish without remarking on the very impressive bang that signalled the end of the race, timed to perfection. Well done Nigel.

Beds & Cambs Regatta

It's often said, and always true, that it does you no harm to put your boat on its trailer and try your hand at an open meeting. The Beds and Cambs Regatta, held each year at Grafham Water, gives sailors who spend most of their time on small lakes like ours the opportunity to sail in bigger fleets and on a larger expanse of water. Being just up the road it's the ideal first-time venue to dip your toe in the water, so to speak.

The boats are divided into two fleets, Fast and Slow. This year there were 5 boats competing from Paxton Lakes out of a total of 30 (one boat in the Fast fleet and four in the Slow fleet). Andy Anderson came a creditable 9th (out of 22) in the Slow fleet. This just goes to show that when you put the effort in, as Andy has been doing lately at Solo open meetings, the results will follow.

Club Burgee

Have you all noticed that we are sporting a new burgee atop the flag pole? The old one was getting a bit frayed round the edges when all said and done. The design is essentially the same as before but tweaked slightly to make it more obvious as to what we are looking at. So it's not a pregnant snail after all!

Facebook

By all accounts you can now keep up to date with the club's activities on Facebook – there's a link on the club website. Don't expect me to explain further, I get all the news I need on the wireless.

Club Boats

The system for reporting problems with club boats hasn't been working, or to be more precise people haven't taken the time to record problems when they come off the water. So John Pratt, who provides a sterling service maintaining the boats, is simplifying the system. All you have to do is go to the galley, find the folder with the forms and write down any problems you have had.

Taking a few moments at the end of your sail is a small price to pay for the free use of the club boats. As was said before, reporting a fault in no way makes you personally responsible. Damage, missing bits, collisions etc. happen to us all but reporting them ensures that the boat will be in working order when it's needed again.

Tales from the committee room ...

Recent meetings have been largely concerned with the preparations for the 24 hour race, as you can imagine, so not much else to report.

You may not be aware but in the past the Club has had a number of trustees who were required by the landlords to act as guarantors. Over time many of these trustees have left the club and retired from their role and replacements are difficult to find. The Treasurer has contacted the landlord's agent to ascertain whether or not we still need trustees. We are not expecting a speedy response.

Members of the RTC sub-committee are in the process of preparing development plans for both sailing and power boating – a good thing in itself but should also be useful when seeking grants and other funding for such things as replacing the fleet of training boats.

A new engine has been bought for the dory and should be fitted by the time you read this. Be gentle with it!

The committee won't be meeting again until early September.

A few dates for your diary

Sept 18	Race training
Oct 2	Race training – Juniors only
Oct 9	PLSC hosts Cambs Youth League
Nov 27	Laying-up Supper