

Harlow Blackwater Sailing Club Newsletter



April 2016

The sailing season is now well and truly underway with the first of the cruisers being launched and the dinghy racing has commenced (after being rudely delayed by Storm Katie).

See sections below to see what is happening at your club. Come down and make the most of our club and enjoy the sailing.

If any member would like to contribute material or photos to the newsletter or the website then please email publicityoff@harlow-blackwater-sailing-club.com with details.

Work Parties

A big thank you to all those involved with the Spring parties and some individuals who have been working on the club premises in the week. Areas around the club have had repairs completed and painted. The under clubhouse storage areas have been cleared and re-ordered to make equipment more accessible. The container has been painted. The lane outside has had some of the potholes repaired, hedges trimmed and general tidying of the club environment has taken place.



The Safety Boats have been serviced and the jetty washed so the season can now start with the club in good order.

JETTY CLEANING Saturday 14th May - Volunteers required. Please contact John Bowers (rearcommodore@harlow-blackwater-sailing-club.com) or give him a call on 01245 472796 if you are available to help.

John Bowers
Rear Commodore

Sailing

Sailing started on the Friday of the four-day Bank Holiday weekend with Easter Egg races 1 & 2. For those that went out they were greeted with glorious conditions of sunshine and no more than a force 3. Unfortunately, that was to be the calm before the storm as the other sailing days planned for Sunday & Monday were cancelled due to Storm Katie. The club weather station made for some interesting viewing that day.



IMPORTANT NEWS: The Family Day & BBQ on **Saturday the 21st May** is going to be part of the RYA initiative 'Push The Boat Out'. Further details to be published but please invite any friends or family along (it starts at **11:45**). It will be more informal than an Open Day. If you are happy to take people out in your boat or kayak then please contact publicityoff@harlow-blackwater-sailing-club.com.

In the meantime, we have the following sailing dates to look forward to over the next month:

- Saturday 23rd April @ 12:45 - Family Day & BBQ
- Sunday 24th April @ 13:00 - Spring Points 3 & Handicap 1.3
- Saturday 7th May @ 12:15 - Training Regatta 1
- Sunday 8th May @ 12:45 - Spring Points 4 & Handicap 1.4
- Sunday 22nd @ 11:45 - Hells Bells (Two Island Race)

Social Events & Jetty Fund Raising

The beer tasting event held by Theresa over the bank holiday weekend was very well attended and everyone got stuck into the selection of beers on offer with plenty of strong opinions as to which were the best. The bar still has some beers left over from the night so if you can remember your favourite get down there before it runs dry!

The next event in aid of the replacement jetty is the Men's and Ladies Golf Day at the Three Rivers Country Club on the **29th April**. We shall post a report after the event to let you know if certain members golf skills rival their sailing abilities (or are at least on par – no pun intended!).

Many thanks to all members who have donated so far to the jetty fund. Further fund raising events will be publicised shortly.

A review of the plans for the new jetty will be taking place at the next committee meeting on the 26th April.

Cruising



Shakedown cruise/sail for cruisers + dinghies:
Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May

Come along to blow away the winter cobwebs and take in some beautiful Blackwater locations on our first cruise in company for 2016. We plan to make the most of the bank holiday weekend:

Saturday 30th April:

- 0700 meet at the club to discuss plans/check weather etc.
- Drop anchor off Osea for breakfast/second breakfast
- Head downriver towards Mersea
- Lunchtime: pick up a buoy in Mersea Quarters and get the trot boat ashore for lunch (either in the Oyster Bar or a pasty and ice cream on the beach)

After lunch is where the fleet can split. Those just out for the day (and the dinghies) can head back upriver towards Maylandsea ready for the evening tide to get back on their moorings (HW: 1847). Those who wish to stay out overnight will sail around before heading into Bradwell marina for the night. I will contact Bradwell Quay YC to see if they can accommodate us for the evening, otherwise we can head to the Green Man for dinner and/or drinks.

Sun. 1st May:

- Sail around for the day, to your own preference
- approx. 1930: head back into Maylandsea + pick up moorings
- Head home to bed

It's an early start, but once we're out of the creek, we can have breakfast off Osea beach. Then throughout the day(s) we will sail as a group so there will always be someone around to help if needed. The cruisers can act as safety/mother ships for the dinghy sailors and I'll be towing my tender (with engine) to cover any change in plans.

If you are planning to come, it would be great if you could let me know so I can make arrangements and to know how many to wait for on Saturday morning. There will be a signup sheet on the notice board at the club as well.

Fingers crossed for the weather!

Keep an eye on your email inbox and the notice board for future cruises. I'm provisionally planning something for the bank holiday at the end of May, so please save the date!

Lewis Bell
(H(B)SC cruiser secretary 2015-16)
cruisersec@harlow-blackwater-sailing-club.com

Committee Vacancies

There are still vacancies for the important roles of Commodore and Vice Commodore.

The Commodore is the principal 'Flag' Officer and sets the direction for our club and is responsible for the organisation and management of the club. You have an enthusiastic committee ready and waiting to support you and do the 'donkey-work'!

The Vice Commodore is second in command and is also a Flag Officer and is responsible for the organisation and management of the sailing side, and associated aspects, of our club. You would have the experienced hands of Clive Tarling as sailing secretary and Lewis Bell as cruiser secretary guiding and supporting you.

If you are interested or would like to discuss taking on one of these roles then please contact John Bowers (Rear Commodore) via email (rearcommodore@harlow-blackwater-sailing-club.com) or phone (01245 472796).

Key Amnesty

For anyone who is not on the committee and has committee keys, please could they return them to a current committee member as soon as possible. Thank you.