



Up River Yacht Club Newsletter December 2011

FLOTSAM

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Festive
Gathering
Info

Officer's
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Merry Christmas





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Commodore's Report

When sitting down to write this report, I can't believe that Christmas is only 5 weeks away. I hope that all members have enjoyed their 2011 sailing and social activities as much as I have.

With all the cruisers now safely recovered, and the dinghy winter season now well underway we can start to plan our activities for 2012.

All cruiser owners please make sure that your halliards are secured away from the mast, as constant banging on windy days is an unnecessary nuisance to our neighbours.

Don't forget that the club is open every Friday evening and Sunday lunchtime during the winter months to meet friends and to breakup those long winter days.

I'm also planning a day trip to London on Tuesday 1st May to visit the Houses of Parliament and view other venues such as the London Eye, a trip on the river etc. The cost will be approx. £7.50 per person providing we get a minimum of 48 members to fill a coach. So if you are interested please put your name on the list in the hallway.

This being our 75th Anniversary, I feel that the club's social activities have been well supported from the Fitting Out Supper in April, through to the annual Dinner Dance in October. However it would be nice to see a few new faces at any future events. On that note why not come to our Christmas party on Saturday 17th December at 8pm. This is a great evening with music, dancing, good food, and of course great company.

On the sailing front we have had an active dinghy programme throughout the year, together with 2 open meetings. The Cruiser races have not been so well supported as in previous years, but the summer cruise and weekend trips have made up for the disappointing racing.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking members and committees who have worked so hard in making the sailing and social activities possible throughout the past year.

For 2012 I would like to look at ways of improving the clubhouse/toilets décor. Your executive is also looking at the possibility of installing an electric winch for launch and recovery of cruisers and rescue boats.

Please remember if you have any ideas you think will improve your club



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please speak to me or any one of my executive. This will then be discussed at the regular monthly executive meeting for consideration.

Finally I would like to wish all members of Up River, a very Happy and peaceful Christmas, and an exciting and enjoyable 2012.

Alan Parker (Tripper) Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

I do not want to duplicate other flag officers' reports so I shall be brief.

I would like to say that it is a privilege to belong to Up River Yacht Club.

I think that while many clubs are struggling we are fortunate to have an active membership. The Club Cruise was a most enjoyable week as usual. It was a pleasure to support the dinghy sailors at Norfolk Week and I have enjoyed being in the kitchen for the Winter Series.

We are also fortunate in that we have a strong core of members who can be called upon when something needs to be done. If any member has a problem there are always people who are more than willing to help.

In this 75th Anniversary year we have been talking of the history of the club. However, we now need to look to the future of the club. I think it is important that we do everything we possibly can to encourage the younger members and their children as they are the future of our club.

Unfortunately, health and safety and child protection issues have made it impossible to continue taster days so we all need to look for other ways to encourage new members.

Julia Hall (Vice Commodore)

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE OWNERS OF TENDERS

Too many tenders are unmarked in our tender park.

It has been decided by the Executive Committee that 4 weeks from the date of this notice, any unmarked tender will be moved to a separate space.

One month later and tender still unclaimed and unmarked will be disposed of in order to make our grounds more tidy.

THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER WARNING

Jim McAvoy (Hon Secretary)

On behalf of the Executive Committee



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Rear Commodore, House

By the time you read this report the club will have held its AGM and I will have stood down as Rear Commodore House after two years. I would like to thank all of those club members who have made my job an easier task.

The Christmas party is on the 17th December and costs £7.50. There will be a buffet supper and music will be by Decadence. The childrens party is also on the 17th December starting at 11.00 am and finishing at 1.00 pm there is no charge for this event.

The club will be closed on 23rd December but will be open on Christmas Eve from 7.00pm for those of you who wish to start the Christmas festivities.

The club will also be open on New Years Eve. Bring along your own nibbles and enjoy an evening with friends and see the new year in. Please note the club will be closed on 30th December.

May I finish by wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Pat Harris (Rear Commodore, House)

Lobster Pots on the East Coast

An article in a recent Motor Boat Monthly gave some information on who to call if you are unfortunate enough to experience problems with lobster pots.

River Deben, East Anglia

Who to call? If you think pots are getting out of hand in their waters, try the Port of Felixstowe on 01394 604500.

Lowestoft

Who to call? If the pots are impeding your progress into Lowestoft's Haven Marina, call 01502 580300 and let them know.

Overheard on the slip-way during a recovery day

“That’s the trouble with anti-foul it washes off”



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Children's Christmas Party



**Sunday 17th December
11:00 - 13:00**

Lunch Refreshments will be provided and
Father Christmas will be making an appearance!
Please contact Alex if your children will be attending
01702 204578 alexandiangore@yahoo.co.uk



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NSSA (or National School's Sailing Association) national Championships

This is a 5 day regatta that takes place every year, this year Grafham, and is open to school children 18 and under. This year our resident cadet Matt Hopkins decided to take his Lightning 368 to see how he fared against people of his own age. We all know he can beat us on the River. Dad went along as trolley dolly and pit crew.

Day 1

The regatta has fleets for Laser, Laser Radial, Toppers, plus a fast and a slow handicap fleet. Disappointingly the Lightning has suddenly become a fast handicap boat for this regatta so Matt was sharing the line with Phantoms, RS300, RS200, RS400, etc. Advice from Lightning coach (self promotion), try to get clear air and sail your own race. At least being the slowest boats in the fast fleet, anyone he beat on the water was a result!

Wind was a very erratic, 4-6 mph and from varying directions usually at the same time!

Now by his own admission in Race 1 he "had not got a clue what was going on" when the start gun went. Not good start then. Matt then sailed his own race, finishing a very creditable 8th in the 31 boat fleet.

Race 2 and getting the timer right this time Matt took the fight to the fast boats on start, won the favoured committee boat end and started clear ahead, first across the line, hurrah. Unfortunately he was soon a Phantom/RS300 sandwich and spat out the back. A creditable 10th round the first mark was soon a gradual slip down the fleet as some of the faster boats slipped through. The result was a 9th; I guess it is one of the mysteries of sailing how the better start can give you the worse result!

Race 3 was chaos. A major wind shift meant crossing the line of Starboard was impossible even though many tried. Getting onto Port was the way to go and Matt managed to sniggle through and went in search of clear air on the right. At the Windward mark and Matt rounds 10th on the water ahead of a gaggle of RS something's.

With 2 laps down Matt is still on the same leg as the leading Phantom. One lap to go and looking dangerously like a race win could be on the cards, but no, the wind decides to fail up by the windward mark just before Matt gets there.



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What was a 2 minute deficit to the leading Phantom (who needed 6 minutes on handicap) becomes a massive gap as he drifted home in 11th place. I just made myself scarce whilst Matt got it out of his system.

So day 1 complete and overall Matt is 8th. A good solid start but unfortunately the wind is forecast as more of the same so could be a trying week.

Update in the evening there was a DSQ and Matt jumped up to 7th overall. We went to bed happy.

Day 2

Race 4 and its windy, full hiking weather and as I feared this did not suit the Lightning's against all the trapezing, spinnakering boats. Matt started well but was soon left behind and came home 16th. Starting to think we need lighter winds to be successful against the big boats.

Race 5 after lunch and the wind has eased quite but. Once again Matt went for the start and nailed it. Good first beat and he stayed with the faster boats all the way round, even planing past a three sailed 420 on the reach! Final result Matt 7th

Race 6 and the wind was starting to get fickle across the course though still some planing gusts. Matt somehow did it again at the start but spoilt the hero worship by later admitting he mixed up the guns and did not realize that it was the start. Either way he was off the line in the front rank and had another strong race staying just in touch with the slower, faster boats, if that makes sense, another 8th.

So the end of day 2 and the first discard kicks in and Matt can lose that 16th from this morning and a few new boats jump into the mix. Overall after 2 days Matt 10th overall.

Break from fleet racing for some match racing and pursuit race tomorrow so back on the regatta Thursday.

Day 3 Pursuit Race

Well great events today.

As Matt was not involved in the Match Racing Trophy not being an official Cambridge Team sailor (coming from Essex) he entered the Allcomers Pursuit race. This was open to all children and any Helpers who wanted to sail. Somewhat curiously Steve Cockerill of Rooster who was here as a coach/helper entered in his Scorpion. No guessing who won then!!



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And second place Matt Hopkins Lightning 288... Result!

Starting 27 minutes behind the first Oppie he passed the 30 or so Laser 4.7's before the first mark and reeled in all the Toppers and Oppies. Unfortunately he was never to lead on the water as Team Rooster slipped through after two laps to take the lead on the last leg.

On the final beat as the gun went he was judged to be 3rd behind a RS 300, but trust me this was a con. The RS300 continued to race after the hooter, not holding position as per the SI's until the finish rib passed them and a protest was in order. With a witness in a friendly RS200 they decided to raise Matt to joint 2nd as he was "probably 2nd but we could not prove it conclusively" and we incorrectly protested the race committee not the RS300. So fair decision in their view but we know he was clear second and with only Team Rooster in front that's as good as a win! Curiously at the prize giving they awarded Matt the 2nd place trophy and the RS300 third so justice done?

Day 4

No wind today and all racing cancelled. There will be 4 races tomorrow to complete the series.

Day 5

There was an early start today and there were short sharp races to get everything finished by early afternoon. It started quite windy again and it is noticeable that the results, 17th, 7th, 12th, 8th indicated whether the wind was up or down. It has been very noticeable the performance window of the Lightning is up to about 5mph against the fast boat then trapezes and spinnakers give them the advantage.

So overall Matt finished the regatta in his overnight position of 10th out of 31. Congradulation to Matt for fine performance considering he was in the fast fleet. Even more heartbreaking was he was tied on 70pts with the 420 in 9th and RS200 in 8th! Count back gave them the edge. Moral victory to the Lightning though I think.

Next year this regatta will be at the Portsmouth and Weymouth Academy Olympic venue, two weeks before the start of big event. Matt can't wait. Anyone got a spare Phantom?

Simon Hopkins
(Rear Commodore, Sailing)



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Christmas Party



**Saturday 17th December
20:00**

**£7.50 per person including Buffet & Disco by
"DECADENCE"**

**Please put your name on the list
if you will be attending**



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2012 SEASON

As another year draws to an end please remember that your club subscriptions are due for renewal and must be received by 31st January.

Renewal forms will be sent out as soon as possible after the AGM. All members are required to complete all the relevant sections please in order to maintain up to date records.

Mooring Renewal and CHA Pad forms will also be included where appropriate. A CHA Pad form must be completed for each boat. If you choose to send your PAD form and payment direct to CHA please add a note on your club renewal form to indicate that you have done this.

The Crouch Harbour Authority has set the Mooring Fee for 2011 at £125. As usual the Crouch Harbour Dues vary according to the length of the boat. These charges are listed on the Membership Renewal Form and on the PAD Form. You see that they remain the same as last year unless they are paid late.

Please remember that £20 per head needs to be paid in advance, by any member who cannot attend at least one of the four club work parties.

If you wish, the Crouch Harbour Mooring Fee (£125) and Boat Registration Fee (£40) may be paid with a separate cheque post-dated for March 1st 2012.

Cruiser Members Please Note - The Mooring Renewal form must also be completed, signed and sent to the Membership Secretary with your Membership Renewal form. No mooring form may result in the assumption that you do not wish to retain your mooring.

Once you have returned your forms and fees you will be issued with the combined club programme and tide tables for 2012.

Please send your completed renewal forms and payment to the address given on your renewal form.

Michael Aarons, Membership Secretary.

NEW BOAT PARK SOCKETS

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that we now have three new electric socket posts complete with lamps in the boat park. If for some reason they 'trip', the switch to rectify the problem can be found in the box on the outside of the boat shed.

Members should be reminded that all sockets are for use by members only while they are on the premises. If a member has a need to leave power connected when they are not within the club grounds they need to gain advance permission from the Executive Committee.



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Christmas Eve

**Get your Christmas off to a
good start with friends at the
bar**



From 8pm



PLEASE NOTE THAT AS CHRISTMAS EVE IS ON
SATURDAY THIS YEAR THE CLUB WILL NOT BE OPEN
ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY 23rd DECEMBER



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**Come along and see in
the New Year!**

*Please bring a contribution
for the "instant buffet".*



**From
8pm**



PLEASE NOTE THAT AS NEW YEAR'S EVE IS ON
SATURDAY THIS YEAR THE CLUB WILL NOT BE OPEN
ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY 30th DECEMBER