



Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club

June 2016 newsletter

Inside this issue:

From the Commodore	1
Vice Commodores' report	3
Solo Open	5
Laser Masters at Chew 2017	7
Push the Boat out day	8
Chew Crew and youth sailing news	10
Chew Lasers at Rock	11
RYA Training Courses	15
From the Bosun team	16
Biosecurity	17
Incorporation	18

From the Commodore

I am constantly amazed at the expertise that we find we have amongst the membership and always grateful for the help offered in areas where otherwise some of us would be entirely 'at sea', not least with the work that Simon, Nick and Keith have put into the preparation of the documents required for the forthcoming changes to an incorporated club and indeed the lease negotiations with Bristol Water. That expertise and help runs beyond those involved in the club committees and the smallest contributions are always welcome with working parties being an example of how to get involved. I thought that I would highlight some of the projects currently underway and lead by some of the committee members as a measure of the activities and change that we might expect over the coming months. Steve (IT) has finally managed to persuade British Telecom to bring fibre broadband into the Chew



What's on

25 June	All Aboard Schools and SW Optimist Championships
2 July	Family Regatta
3 July	Club racing regatta
9 July	Ladies' Day, Sisters of Swing (5.30)
10 July	Admiral's Chase and Steve Morris Trophy
21 August	Class Race Day 3
27—29 August	August Antics
4 September	Mercury Macklin Masters, Melvin Watts Trophies, Anniversary Cup
18 September	Bart's Bash
2 October	Topper Open

Valley after many years of trying and is in the process of updating our account which will enable us to develop a more comprehensive website, perhaps more frequent webcam images and for Chew Crew, better gaming opportunities.

Simon (President) has invested an enormous amount of time in the development of the documents for incorporation with a level of clarity that will enable a structure suitable for the club for the next 50 years.

Sandie (Treasurer) has collated generations of financial records and introduced controls and transparency to the club accounts that provide the confidence and understanding that we need to make the decisions necessary for the club to develop.

Helen (Vice Commodore) is a rock and my 'check and balance' for some of the slightly more bizarre ideas I have a habit of proposing and keeps us all on the straight and narrow. I now recognize 'that look' in committee meetings that says time to move on to the next item and all of it is welcomed and valuable. Helen and I are working with the RYA to set us up as a High Performance Club for youth pathway and Paralympic training which I hope will be an inspiration to all.

Paul (Groups) is the expert in herding cats, given his role in co-ordinating a most diverse collection of groups. Keeping tabs on the University students is fickle at best and the Police are of course a law unto themselves. Not really! We are in the process of changing the nature of involvement of All Aboard who currently provide sailing opportunities for local school children with the intention that some of their adults are able to sail at Chew. Cathy (Honorary Secretary) records proceedings with remarkable accuracy and clarity, so critical to the operation of a club of this complexity and is a great supporter of the ladies sailing and the membership open days such as Push the Boat Out. We are considering more open days during the course of the year as well as a membership referral scheme offering a reward to those in the club who introduce new joining members as we are not at capacity and would like to introduce more people to the sport. Watch this space.

Andrew (Vice President) did a great job in organizing the RYA Push the Boat Out day with over 50 members of the public involved and a number joining the club during the course of the day. He is also a master with the strimmer and a regular week day working party member painting, fixing, cutting and tidying things around the clubhouse and grounds. A further Saturday morning working party is coming up on 9 July to cut the grass and remove the weeds around the dinghy park and so sharpen your secateurs and make an appearance.



Caroline (Rear Commodore) has the longest list of jobs and without whom the ladies changing room would be in darkness, the playground out of action and the lift not lifting to name a few.

Rick (Duties) has the weekly challenge of persuading some of you to do your duties, an element of the role that really should not be necessary and which he does with diplomacy and a firm hand. We will be reallocating 'no shows' a further duty and so expect a tap on the shoulder. Best just do it first time round.

Me (Commodore). I'm still focused on reclaiming the balance of the missing funds and the lease renewal is imminent. We have a planning application submitted for the clubhouse upgrade and plan to do the work towards the end of the year. I have piloted the 'sailing assistant' role on Saturdays in helping with the CLADS sailing group and so look out for the forthcoming newsletter explanation of what is involved and offer to help please. I am organizing Pirates for the family regatta and so if you know any get in touch as I particularly need those below the age of 14 but big ones would be welcome as well.

Others (Lots): Alan and Allen, Brian and Steve, Rob and Vicky, Caroline and Mike, Claire and Jackie, Rich and Uncle Tom Cobbly and All keep the machine oiled and to all of them we are very grateful.

I have visited a few other clubs on my sailing travels in recent months and on every occasion have returned to Chew with a sense of pride that we have, by a significant margin, the best sailing in the region and the friendliest people and so when you have a moment, tell everyone you know and enjoy your sailing.

Rob
Commodore



A message from the Vice Commodore

June already and nights!! In the February newsletter I talked about the contrast between wild and windy and flat calm. At last we have had a sequence of reasonable breezes, interspersed with ... almost flat calm. With the latter at least the lake looks lovely and it has prompted some ad hoc tuning sessions and jolly social times.

We rely on each other turning up for duties to ensure we can sail regularly. Rick Knapp has taken



over as Duties Secretary and is working hard sending reminders to OODs to check the team. It would help him and the OOD if you could confirm on Dutyman. A few anomalies arise at and immediately after renewal time, please be patient, we are working on streamlining the system. Huge thanks to those of you who have stood in at the last minute.

So much goes on at Chew which we try to report through the weekly (almost) email newsletter. Do let me know if there is an event you wish to publicise or report on. By the time you read this we will have had the Summer Solstice Wednesday evening race, several sessions of the Start Racing course on Thursday evenings, the All Aboard / Schools regatta and SW Optimist championship, the Family Regatta and Racing Regatta.

Chew Crew goes quiet in July and August but don't stop sailing!! And look out for details of August Antics. Thank you Jackie and Claire for overseeing Chew Crew and Mike Kew for organising August Antics.

Coming up:
Saturday 9th July **Ladies day**. Training in the morning, a series of short races in the afternoon for the Ladies Trophy. Briefing 1.30, first race 2pm.
Followed by the **"Sisters of Swing"**, two sets of about 45 minutes starting at 5.30. BYO picnic/ BBQ. Tickets from Helen Martin, Sarah Tauwhare, Jayne Masters. £6.00 or £15.00 for a family ticket.

Sunday 10th July. Admirals Chase and the **Steve Morris Memorial Trophy**

If you are sailing at Chew, away at an Open meeting, cruising in the Solent or Scotland or up a lovely SW river, I wish you fair wind and happy times.

Helen Martin VC

Solo Open

With a forecast of wind gusting up to 30 knots and heavy rain for most of the day, we were anticipating a relatively poor turnout however word of the great Solo racing currently taking place at Chew must have got out - and we were delighted to welcome Solo sailors from a total of 7 different clubs from throughout the Western region.

Chew Valley Lake is perfectly aligned for a southerly and Claire Jefferis our Race Officer made full use of the magnificent open space to give us a classic mix of triangles and sausages. She got us away first time every time and each of her lines were impressively balanced. An excellent result in itself.

The fleet split at the start of the first race with a pack led by our local hero, Tim Johnson going left, and the remainder headed by fellow Chew sailors Alex Corby and Nigel Appleton to the right. Tim just squeezed Nigel at the first mark and proceeded to demonstrate a beautifully fluent downhill technique to build what became an unassailable lead. Alex and Nigel stayed ahead of the rest of the fleet to finish 2nd and 3rd respectively.

After a well-earned break for lunch the second race started with a very slight starboard bias to the line. Tim Johnson defended his space well to claim the Committee Boat end with each of Alex Corby, John Steeles and Guy Lonsdale in hot pursuit. The shifts favoured the right hand side initially but the advantage was to swing to the left and then back again before the leading boats arrived at the first mark, and it was Tim who led the fleet round. However, although he went on to win both the race and the event, the big excitement was still to come....



As Rob Mitchell our Commodore described it, the winds for our third race were 50% exhilarating and 50% terrifying. The wind was now blowing at full strength and some of the gusts were awesome. This was racing for the brave.

Tim Johnson again spied advantage at the Committee boat end, however this time it was Nigel Appleton who romped into the lead followed by Guy Lonsdale and Graham Cranford Smith. By the time we reached the first windward mark Nigel had built quite a lead and I would have put money on him winning with ease. However, he was hit by a singularly pugnacious shift three quarters of the way down the first run and was knocked into a capsize. Suddenly the race was wide open with not only Guy and Graham but also each of Rob Mitchell, Ken Comrie, Tim Wade, Alex Corby, Vernon Perkins and myself in contention.

But then came Armageddon: a true *brute* of a gust hit the jibe mark and capsized four of the leading boats allowing Nigel Appleton to regain his lead - and very deservedly, win the third race. Guy and Graham took 2nd and 3rd.

Overall, it was local Chew boats who won what was a truly amazing day with Tim Johnson our victor and Nigel Appleton beating Alex Corby into 2nd place on count back. Guy Lonsdale from South Cerney was 4th and Graham Cranford Smith from Salcombe was 5th. Congratulations to all and a huge thanks to all those who made it so special.

Report by: Alex Timms
Solo Fleet Captain





Stop Press! 2017 Laser Masters Inland Championships at Chew

8-9th April 2017. Chew Valley Lake. Probably the best Lasers Master Inland Championships ever!

What is Laser Masters sailing?

Laser Masters sailing is a genuinely friendly form of mass participation competitive sailing at the national and international level. We expect exciting and fun big fleet racing in our wonderfully competitive one design class.

The travelling Laser Masters sailors are known for being experienced sailors; with a tremendously interesting set of sailing experiences from around the world. The more experienced masters have often been racing each other for years and this makes for seriously fun racing. Come along and meet these sailors; join in with this special event.

Why Chew in 2017?

Chew has been selected on the strength of its Laser fleet at club level and its renowned pedigree for putting on a first class event. The goal is to have 100 Lasers participating. We would really like to see every Chew Laser sailor of eligible age (33 and above by end of 2017) to participate in this fantastic celebration of sailing in our 50th anniversary year. *(and let us show our rivals at Queen Mary, Parkstone and Stokes Bay that Chew Valley Lake has the most vibrant Laser fleet in the county!).*

Don't normally sail a Laser?

If you don't normally sail a Laser, or used to but have change to a different boat, and you would like to participate then get in touch as we will do our best to get you participating in this special event.

Want some support getting ready?

Jayne Masters is organising a training campaign to help people. This will provide access to a range of support including boat preparation, buddy training, formal coaching and some team bonding socials. Just email chewlasers@gmail.com to register your

interest.

Volunteers – want to help?

If you are not eligible to compete, but want to be part of this special event then please do come forward. We will need people to help make this the best Masters Inlands ever(!) and that takes organisation and enthusiasm. We need friendly volunteers to help us with:

- Parking and unloading at the start of the day;
- Front desk assistants for registration;
- Trolley assistants for launch and recovery periods;
- Photographer and videographer;
- Putting up and removing local signage around and on site;

Bar assistants for Friday and Saturday evening

Please email chewlasers@gmail.com or speak to Laura Smith (laser fleet captain) to register your interest as a volunteer.



Push the Boat Out Day

Push the Boat Out day was part of a nationwide nine day event (14-22 May 2016) where hundreds of sailing clubs and centres across the country opened their gates for local people to come and have a go at sailing.

Saturday May 14th dawned sunny and remained so through the day with a perfect gentle breeze for beginners, just enough to make people have to sit out to keep the boat flat but

nothing scary!! Between 10am and 3.30, several of the club's top sailors between them took fifty five enthusiastic newcomers to sailing on-to the water for a sail around the lake. Those that wanted to were able to take the helm and



steer the boat themselves. Afterwards our visitors were invited to enjoy the lakeside and consider how to continue sailing either by joining Chew or other local sailing clubs.

There were many comments about the friendly and welcoming atmosphere at the club and so far we have 5 new memberships as a direct result of the day: 3 single members, 1 student and 1 family. We are still in contact with several of the other visitors who expressed an interest in joining.

The visitors came from across the Valley and from further afield too:

East Pennard, West Harptree, Compton Martin, Filton, Highridge, Bristol, Ubley, Clutton, Saltford, Frome, Warminster, Bishop Sutton, Totterdown, Stockwood, Wells, Bishops Cleeve

Radstock, Bath, Street, Chew Stoke, Abbotsleigh, Norton Malreward

Thanks to Andrew Martyn-Johns and Andy Southall for managing bookings and logistics on the day, Rob Mitchell, Melvyn Matthews, Steve Smith, Nick Martindale, Andy and Jonathan Harris and Mike Pearce for enthusiastically sailing all day; and to Caroline and Sandie for onshore meeting and greeting; and finally to everyone there on the day making the club the friendly and delightful place that it is.



Chew Crew and youth sailing news

Sunday mornings by the lake have once again been filled with our young sailors taking to the water from 10am until 1pm.

Chew Crew continues to focus on developing our younger sailors from age 8 through to age 18 and giving them the basic skills and experience to go on to sailing in the club races which more and more of them are getting the confidence to do.

The club separately offers RYA courses for children to get qualifications but Chew Crew is an ideal way for your child to get supervised time on the water and sail with friends in a fun and relaxed environment and includes use of club boats.

If your child is interested in having a go please email Jackie & Claire at cvlscchew-crew@gmail.com and we can arrange for you to come along and have a taster, there is still plenty of time to start sailing with Chew Crew this season. The club also regularly has youth sailing events such as specialist Topper or Feva training which happen all year round and over the weekend of 25-26 June the fantastic All Aboard Regatta & SW Optimist Championship which is open to all kinds of boats and includes coaching on the Saturday.

Chew Crew will be taking part in the Family Regatta on 2nd July and then we stop instruction for the summer holidays but please remember your children can still sail at the weekends and use the club boats during the holidays.

Kind regards

Jackie & Claire



Chew Lasers at Rock

The annual 'Chew Valley Lasers' Easter holiday at Rock lived up to its usual high standards!

Gales were forecast this year; and many of our team decided against taking boats. The quality of walking and relaxation at this superb location being such that the sailing is often a secondary aspect!

In spite of the forecast, all 4 of the scheduled races were sailed. The conditions were exhilarating, with Roger Williams, commodore RSWSC choosing to summarise what he had seen in three words; 'respect, awe and insanity'!

Good Friday

I recall a delightful coastal walk around to Polzeath with friends in glorious sunshine. Pasties, ice creams and good times!

Race 1 was sailed on a sunny evening. A fierce flood tide ran against the fresh SSW breeze that evening as the estuary landscape changed from sand to water. The tide threatened to sweep hasty competitors over the line, with all three rigs starting together in unison. A confused wave condition unsettled the sea legs of many of our lake sailors downwind! Julian Cooke (Standard) took line honours, with Steve Smith (Radial) in second. Jan Frayne led the women home in her 4.7, from Niamh Keohane (Radial).



Saturday 26th March

The realisation of race 2, following as it did the heavy gales and heavy rain during the day, came as rather a surprise. A weather 'window' emerged late afternoon in the forecast; and it was with some (well-hidden) reluctance that the fleet prepared for the evening race. Indeed the 'window' wasn't to last; with the middle part of the race seeing the arrival of SW squalls. 39mph was observed and recorded by the Met-Office; this was truly the stuff of awe and insanity! Smith (Radial) led the fleet home from Cooke (standard). Laura Smith (4.7) took line honours for the ladies, with Jan Frayne demonstrating astonishing determination to finish the race in what was by now a gale. Dinner and glasses of wine / pints of local Doom Bar were deserved that evening!

Easter Sunday

An early start on Easter Sunday morning for Race 3! The race team dutifully got matters underway at 08:30 to meet the high water timings; and I can confirm that there were a few tired/emotional and rather stiff bodies out there! Thankfully the winds remained moderate to fresh (only!), and made for enjoyable sailing in the sunshine. The front of



the race was rather processional, with Cooke winning the favoured starboard end of the line and going on to dominate the race, with Peter Sherwin (Standard) second. The stronger competitive interest was found a little further back in the fleet; with Andy Bassett (4th) pleased to finally overhaul local stalwart Stuart Richardson (5th) after an enthralling contest. A special mention to Anna Mason for completing her first race at Rock; and in good form too!



Much of the fleet enjoyed a splendid walk out to Stepper Point in the afternoon. This was followed by a very jolly tea and cake party at the Cooke / Smith household. The fleet got into the Oxford-Cambridge boat race spirit (see photos) and much merriment was had!



Easter Monday
Competitors for the final race were again treated to a sunny morning. A light to moderate Westerly breeze was welcomed by competitors. Alas - it wasn't to last! A filthy black cloud appeared over the coast line; and resultant gusts in excess of 25mph brought renewed interest and excitement to spectators ashore! The squall re-shuffled the pack,

but once passed the light winds re-established themselves. Normal service resumed as Cooke (Standard) emerged as the deserved winner from Smith (Radial). And after that....? Time to head to the beach again...!

Want to join in?

The Rock Laser Open at Easter really does have something for everyone in the fleet. The race format of one race per day, always early morning /



evening, leaves plenty of time for relaxation and other leisure activities. The format is great for young (and not so young) families too! The Rock Laser Open has been attended by sailors and non-sailors from Chew Lasers for over 30 years; we know that we all love it and we are confident that you will too!

Simply speak to Laura, Steve or any of the group who regularly attend and we can provide you with any information that you may need.
Come join us for 2017!



RYA Training courses in September

The next RYA training courses will be run over 6 days on 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 September which includes 'Barts Bash' on 18 September.

We will be offering the RYA National Sailing Scheme Adult beginners courses Level 1 & 2, and the Youth Sailing Scheme Stage 1 & 2. If there is demand for the Adult Stage 3 or Youth Stage 3 then we will run these courses as well. The cost is £140 for adults and £90 for youth/juniors. Application details are on the website Training page.



As well as sailing courses, you can also gain the RYA Power Boat Level 2 certificate to enable you to helm the club's safety boats and if you want to get involved in delivering training, then we also offer "Assistant Dinghy Instructor" and "Dinghy Instructor" training.

Check the website for full details, and if you have any questions, contact me.

Rich Hole
RYA Training Co-ordinator
training@chewvalleysailing.org.uk
07980 800615



From the Bosun team to all rib drivers

1. Thank you for following the guidance to ensure the rib fuel is used efficiently. It seems to be working well and we are experiencing fewer problems related to fuel quality.

“Take cans from the LEFT HAND end of the bottom shelf to maintain a regular turnover of fuel. New supplies will be placed at the RIGHT HAND end. Empty cans should be placed on the top shelf.”

2. Another reminder that it is **NOT necessary to “warm up” the engines by a fast circle immediately after launching.** In the words of the Commodore “This is entirely unwarranted, induces unnecessary wear and actually damages the engines. The fact is that the only real need to use speed is in a rescue situation. Mark laying and training, for example, can generally be done at much lower speeds and this would reduce wear and tear, save on fuel costs and reduce the impact on the immediate environment.”

3. check there is water coming from the “tell tail” when you start the engine.

4. The water level is dropping. Beware of the concrete jetty, shallow water near Denny Island and when coming ashore— we are aiming for fewer damaged propellers this year!!

5. Please leave the boats as you would wish to find them – remove rubbish and tidy tow lines and anchor warps.

6. Use the kill cord at all times.

Thank you

Alan Coventry, Steve Turner, Allen Marsh



Biosecurity reminder

Reminder: members returning to Chew and visitors: prevention of the spread of invasive non-native species.

I have been heartened by the positive approach of members and visitors alike to preserving the pristine nature of the lovely lake on which we are privileged to sail.

Here is the note that is on our website and in our Notice of

Race for open events.

“CVLSC and Bristol Water are committed to the prevention of the spread of invasive species. We are following the Environment Agency and RYA guidelines - **CHECK CLEAN DRY**.



Visiting sailors before travelling to Chew and members returning should take all reasonable measures to:

CHECK for plant material and animal species (e.g. shrimp, zebra mussel)

CLEAN - wash boats, launching trolleys and kit

DRY - for as long as possible, **at least 2 days**

After racing/sailing all visitors are asked to **CHECK** and **CLEAN** before leaving the site. Further details will be provided at registration and as part of the competitors briefing.

If you are unfamiliar with this procedure see the following links: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry>

<http://thegreenblue.org.uk/Clubs-and-Training-Centres>

Thank you.

Helen Martin, Vice-Commodore, CVLSC vice-commodore@chewvalleysailing.org.uk

“

Incorporation

At the club's AGM last October, it was decided in principle to incorporate the club as a 'company limited by guarantee' and behind the scenes much work has been going on in preparation for this.

To date, we have received advice and specimen documentation from the RYA, and have obtained copies of the Rules and Articles used by other clubs who have also converted their status.

Using these, and Chew's own documents, we have re-drafted the club Rules and By Laws and created Articles of Association which will form a combined framework for the new Limited liability entity. These documents are undergoing a final review before being passed to the General Committee for comment.

It is then proposed that we will issue the documents to members for review and comment in advance this year's AGM in October.

We hope that at the AGM we will be in a position to ask members to formally approve these documents and to ratify the decision to press ahead with incorporation. Practically, there will be much work to do after the AGM, including setting up the new company, arranging the transfer of assets, obtaining tax clearances, and setting up new paperwork to admit members as participants in the new company. We have received advice that the simplest way of achieving this is to make the transfer effective on 1 April 2017 as part of the membership renewals and to save everyone having to sign new paperwork part way through a membership year. In summary, therefore, we are on track although there remains much to do.

I should also like to specially thank Keith Harris and Nick Graves, club members who have devoted huge amounts of time and effort to getting us this far.

Simon Chapman
President

