

CVLSC Newsletter



March 2010

CVLSC

Big Shot Skittles 2010

FOUR TEAMS Led by:

Keith Harris

Ailsa Scott

Brian Brooks

Gordon Scott

Compete for the title of 'BIG SHOT'

Players will be drawn from the hat.

Give your names to Gordon or Ailsa Scott asap.

Players' partners, girlfriends and wives! are very welcome.....and there are consolation prizes for any lad whose lady gets a higher score.

Friday 5th March 7.00 for 7.30pm

At the Keynsham Football Club

£6 to include buffet by Stoneground

Commodores Blog

A Happy 2010 to you all.

There was a good turnout for the Steve Morris Memorial Trophy which was delayed due to bad weather. The winner was Chris Goldhawk in his Solo and our thanks must go to Marion Morris who presented the trophy. Over the festive period there were a few revellers who braved the elements to take part in the Tap Trophy, won by Tim Johnson in an RS700 and the Resolution Trophy won by father and son Tony and Zach Freer in their RS 200.

The Final Edition!

This will be the last edition of the newsletter in its current format. The committee has sought the views of a number of members regarding the way in which the club communicates and has come to the conclusion that we must move with the times. So we have taken the decision to stop printing the newsletter in hard copy. There are three main reasons for this, namely:

- 1) The current cost of both printing/posting the newsletter is £3,000 per annum.
- 2) The newsletter is published four times per year which means that it is not as immediate or current as it could otherwise be.
- 3) The current editor, Mary Face, is stepping down.

Therefore all news items will be published on the soon to be upgraded club web site. Articles will also be displayed on the club Fleet News notice board. By using the web site articles will be much more immediate and relevant to the time of year.

A big Thank you to Chris and Mary Face.

Over the past number of years Mary Face, ably assisted by Chris (who I am told is the computer wizard), has worked tirelessly in producing the newsletter. Mary told me recently that it was time to retire and also suggested that the club web site was a better way to communicate (they are both avid readers of my blog). So, on behalf of the membership, can I thank both Chris and Mary and wish them happy retirement.

Too cold for “Frost Bite” Series?

The Frost Bite Series is now well under way. The winds have been variable and at times a bit on the light side for a winter series. The biggest challenge has been negotiating the “icebergs” on the lake. The club actually had to abandon one weekend of sailing due to the whole lake being frozen. On a few other Sundays the ice has been very thick in front of the club house.

Bosun Mike Bracey to retire (gasp, horror)!

Young Mike Bracey, the club Bosun, has announced his retirement at the forthcoming AGM. Mike has been Bosun for 30 years and without whom we couldn't go sailing. Mike has kept the Ribs and Committee boats serviced and repaired through rain and shine. A big thank you to Mike and also a welcome to our new Bosun Alan Coventry.

Burns Supper hailed a success!

We had over 70 people (a sell out) attend the inaugural Burns Supper at the club in January. A piper welcomed the guests to a beautifully decorated club house. The haggis was piped in and then addressed by John Kelly who brandished a rather fierce looking dagger. After the meal we enjoyed various speeches and then danced into the small hours. I would like to thank John & Ray Kelly and Ailsa Scott for organising the evening. Also thanks must go to Jim Boyd, George Simpkins, Claire Cumspty and Stuart Cook for their outstanding and very funny interpretations of the famous Burns addresses.

Plenty to Look Forward to in the Coming Months.

The new calendar has just been finalised and you will receive a copy with your membership renewal. The calendar is also on the web site. The first of the Open events will be the RS 600/700/800 Open on the 13th/14th March. Then on the 28th March we host the Top Club Championship.

In April we host the BUSA Nationals which is a very prestigious event, organised by Bristol University. This attracts a number of teams from across the country to participate in 3 days of team racing. We expect over 200 competitors. The event will be held on the 7th, 8th and 9th of April. Please note that there will be no general club sailing on these days. The Wednesday Evening series is unaffected. And talking of the Evening Series the practice race is on the 14th April (hurray). Also in April we host a Topper Open on Sunday 11th April, preceded by training on the 10th.

World Champions?

Andy and Derian Scott have been making last minute preparations at the club in readiness for the Fireball Worlds in Barbados at the end of April. We say Good Luck and bring back some silver (or a bottle of rum)!

Latest News and Views on: www.chewvalleysailing.org.uk

Mike Bracey, our Honorary Bosun

It is with real sadness that I have to tell you that Mike Bracey, our most honourable Honorary Bosun for 29 years, has informed the Committee that he will be hanging up his Bosun cap for the last time after this year's AGM. This scenario has had the occasional mention at Committee meetings but has invariably been discounted as Mike seems to look younger each year! People will say that no-one is irreplaceable, but when Mike Bracey stops, everyone will fully appreciate just how much he has done for the Sailing Club over all these years.

Mike and Mary's first contact with the Club was in the early '70s, when they owned the garage in Chew Stoke and were asked to store dinghies through the winter because they had to be removed from the Club grounds – sailing was a warm weather activity in those days! They were invited as guests in 1974 by Bill Guard, for whom their son was already crewing, and shortly joined as members.

Mary was the first to get 'involved' as Galley Manager. She remembers that Committee meetings in those days were held at the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Chew Magna. After Mike had demonstrated his engine expertise by helping out, the then Commodore, Peggy Taylor, asked him to take on the role of Bosun in '81.

In those early days the Club had just two Dory's and a Committee Boat. The engines were hand started and they steered by wire cables! Mike was responsible for purchasing the boats, looking after them in every way and teaching members to drive them, and all as a volunteer. He introduced the Club to hand held radios.

CVLSC has grown in the last quarter century to become the busy popular Club we are today. We now have 4 RIBs, an outboard tender and two Committee Boats. Each one gets heavy, year round usage to cover our racing and pleasure sailing, as well as the intensive winter training of Juniors and Students. The servicing and repair needs necessitate many hours of work for Mike who, despite the ever increasing demands on his time, has remained totally committed to maintaining the boats to enable our ambitious programme to happen. Engine replacements and servicing is carried out in double quick time when each boat can be spared.

Our large Committee boat is lovingly cared for during the winter months when Mike can spot a gap in the schedule of its use. This has been perhaps the biggest and most frustrating change from Mike's perspective; 30 years ago there were months of 'down time' for all the boats. Now they are used intensively all year round.

Over the years Mike has dealt with the catalogue of repairs we members have inflicted on the boats; rigid hulls colliding with concrete jetties, RIB sides punctured, propeller guards smashed, keys broken off in the ignition to name but a few! Honesty when mishaps happen is definitely the best policy, but I have seen grown men quake at having to explain to Mike that this or that accident has occurred! However, all such traumas have been dealt with and the boats fixed, usually ready for use again the following weekend.

Mike's philosophy is that "you only get out of a Club what you put in". It would be impossible to quantify the hours he has spent being our Bosun, and perhaps more impressively, the many thousands of pounds he has saved the Club by his voluntary efforts. We were all hugely proud in 2006 when Mike travelled to London to be presented with an RYA Community Award in recognition of his efforts for CVLSC.

Over the many years I have known him, Mike has been a stalwart supporter of the Family Regatta, taking charge of the Committee Boat ferrying folk to and from Little Denny. He and Mary have long been active on behalf of the RNLI, particularly manning a table selling Christmas cards in November and December. He is a senior member of the 'Wednesday' crowd doing his bit to keep Brian Brooks and co. in order!

Mike, on behalf of us all, I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for everything you have done for us over the years. I know that you and Mary will remain regular users of the Club, sailing your Topper and Wayfarer. I hope you can enjoy driving a RIB now and then knowing that it will be someone else's responsibility to ensure that it starts and stops when you want! (But I am sure we won't mind if you feel the occasional need to 'take the lid off' and check what is underneath!)

John Smalley - President

Vice Commodore's Report

“Terribly sorry”. Not at all, dear boy”. Such might have been the conversation between two gentlemen going into the city on the train, reading The Times and bumping pages. Technological advance has replaced them with bankers seeking bonuses on Blackberrys. The Newsletter has not escaped: it will now be only in electronic mode. Mary Face is taking well-earned retirement. Our thanks are given for her faithful production or the club's regular news digest for so long.

Much of the sailing committee's activities, rather like the sailing, has been curtailed by the weather, in particular the snow which made the club a difficult place to reach.

Despite the difficulties the programme for next year has been finalised. It contains the usual mix of training, racing and fun. No fundamental change has been made to the year's activities. The Club is proud to host three major events: the British Universities National Championships on April 7-9th, the Police national Championships on June 9-11th and the RS200 Inland Championships on October 16-17th. Otherwise the usual mix of Open events, trophy races, class and handicap races remain. For the junior weekend of August Antics, the Bank Holiday there will be no club racing.

The next event on the calendar is the Asymmetric Open on 13-14 March. For those not sailing this will be a spectacle worth a visit to the club even if only to try to understand why they don't sail in straight lines as well as the speed (and possibly spills) if it is blowy. Hopefully the lake will have stopped it's intermittent habit of freezing by then.

The Topper open will follow on April 11th.

The committee is pursuing the purchase of two RS Fevas for club use. These are intended to take junior sailors beyond the Topper stage to appreciate two-handed sailing and to learn spinnaker use.

One of the problems that needs to be solved is the proper maintenance of the club boats. The Club would like to appoint a Dinghy Bosun who would oversee the maintenance of the club's sailing boats, Optimists, Toppers and the larger boats. If you would be interested in this role please contact one of the Club's Officers.

We have hosted a number of training weekends this winter and this has put a bit of strain on the Club's resources. If you wish to run some kind of training or coaching event please let me know as soon as you can in order that all the facilities may be available.

Finally, and most significantly, Mike Bracey is retiring as club Bosun. In this role he has maintained all the club's powered boats to an extraordinarily high standard so that we have been able to sail uninterrupted throughout the year. He has given his own time for very many years for which we are enormously grateful. We wish him a relaxing retirement but I suspect he has a mixture of oil and water in his veins that he won't stop fixing boats.

In coming to look at ways of replacing Mike the possibility of an employee of the Club taking on the role was entertained but quickly discarded as a poor way of proceeding. Happily, Alan Coventry has volunteered to take on the role, assisted by Mike Meloy with Mike Bracey acting in a consultative way. Please support them as much as possible by taking care with the boats and engines and reporting any faults.

As the daffodils raise their heads spring must be on its way with longer warmer days for more sailing. See you on the water.

Mike Thompson
Ff 3899

Rear Commodore's Report for March 2010 Newsletter

Although this is the last newsletter to be distributed by mail, these reports will continue to be published on the club website. These pieces are intended to communicate club activities but seldom result in any feedback. So I thought I'd try to encourage you to be more vocal. Why not let us know what you think? Is the club focussing on the right things? Do you think there are things the committee should be doing that we are not? Are these reports helpful? Please send me a mail at the address at the bottom of this report and I'll do my best to ensure that your feedback is published – anonymously if you like.

Matters under way are commented on below.

Work is about to commence on the pontoon to the south of the clubhouse. This will involve two sets of activities. The first is to make the attachment between the upright and hammerhead secure. The connections between these pieces have been steadily eroding over the years to the point where some re-engineering is required. Under the supervision of Mike Meloy and with the help of Docking Solutions Ltd, we will be attaching new connectors to these two pieces. These are channels that will be bound to the ends of the pontoons and which will in turn be joined to each other using connectors that allow movement through all spatial dimensions. In parallel with this, the anchoring arrangements will be replaced with a more robust set-up that should further reduce wear and tear by reducing the pontoon's movement during adverse conditions.

The second set of activities is to enable the pontoon to be more easily used by the less able bodied members. This will involve attaching a wider walk-ashore with guard rails and a hoist device to enable disabled sailors to embark and disembark from fixed keel dinghies. This work should be complete by April – weather and contractors permitting!

Most of the work has now been done to try to fix the annoyingly persistent shower problems. Acting under professional advice we have been trying a number of things to increase the volume of water delivered to the shower heads. Our approach has been to try everything possible before resorting to the use of a pump mechanism.

So far we have:

Removed bottlenecks in the pipes leading to the clubhouse.

Replaced shower heads with ones of a more efficient design

Removed old pressure reduction devices that pre-dated the latest hot water boilers.

Cleaned and cleared blockages in the shower piping itself

This appears to have resulted in an improvement. Please let me know what you think!

Other matters to report are the completion of the roof and skylight replacement project and the extension s of the southernmost slipway.

Please remember that the clubhouse is available for the use of the members for social events. If you wish to use it, just contact me at the address below.

Well, that's all for now, but please do let me know what you think about how things are progressing.

Happy sailing and kind regards.

Jim Boyd

Rear Commodore

01749 674930

07748 492860

Jboyd6565@btinternet.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Your membership renewal is now due. The Committee have decided on a small increase in Subscriptions this year after being held at the same level for the last two years. The boat fees have increased to £67 following the Bristol Water rent review, which occurs every 5 years.

The Club continues to be excellent value for money. This year we have a comprehensive race and training programme, and of course 4 days a week sailing.

Membership of the club is full with 30 Applicants on the Waiting List.

By now you should have all received your renewal forms in the post. As last year I have simplified the process by pre-populating the renewal form with the data that I hold on the membership records for you.

Therefore all you need to do is check that the details are correct and return the form to me by **1st March 2010**. This allows me a clear month to process the renewal forms and send out the 2010 membership pack before the 31st March deadline.

Please note that any boat that you own and intend to sail at the club must be registered and the boat fees duly paid.

If your details are not correct then you have two options.

- 1) For minor amendments/additions such as e-mail address or mobile number then please just alter the form.
- 2) If you have changed your address or your registered boat details then you must complete a new form. Blank forms can be downloaded from the website, completed and returned to me in the usual way.

If you haven't received your form by now then please download a blank renewal form, craft details form and duties form from the web: complete and return to me by 1st March 2010.

If you have not renewed by **31st March 2010** then you face losing your membership!

Please ensure your new sticker is fixed to your boat(s) by 30th April or face losing your boat space. New stickers are slightly smaller than previously to more easily fit those boats without transoms.

All new members who joined after June last year are invited to a **New Members Day on Saturday 22nd May** at 12.00pm. All the Committee and Fleet Captains will be present and will be more than happy to show you round the club and advise you on any particular boats that you may be considering. The Club Youth Co-ordinator will be on hand to explain what youth/junior sailing programmes we offer.

If you do not wish to renew then please let me know by returning the renewal form duly noted along with your key(s) and I will return your key deposit.

If you have any questions about your renewal then please get in touch either by phone or e-mail.

Happy sailing!

John Bone, *Membership Secretary*

Tel: 01275 331550

Email : cvlsc.membership@tiscali.co.uk

F/Fifteen F/Focus

My rambling this issue is tenuously linked to the Flying Fifteen, so bear with me reader while I tell you a true story.

As you may remember from the last newsletter, I started Racing in 1986, crewing with the founder member of the Flying Fifteen Fleet, Geoff Keeling. (that's the link)

In 1987 I decided to take one of the Sailing courses at the Club. I wanted to learn the R.Y.A. 'way', so as not to pick up any bad habits.

The course was then run by Chris Face. He was an ambulance driver, his title now would probably be Paramedic.

I think, because I raced, Chris assumed I knew more about sailing than I actually did (I was only a crew member !) as he would some times get me to confirm a point he was making to the group of pupils.

Come the day of the man over-board training, Chris assembled the group where the Topper / Solo concrete apron is, to watch proceedings.

We put several plastic bottles in to my 420, (men over-board I presumed) and sailed with my 8 year old son Tom, away from the shore.

When we were about where the Committee Boat is normally moored, Chris said, 'is your son o.k. I said yes why ? With-out another word, Chris adopted the aqua dive mode, dropped backwards off the boat into the water, shouting MAN OVERBOARD, and was gone !!

Fortunately for me, I did a bit of revision, the night before. I managed to carry out the figure 8 manoeuvre, came along side Chris and pulled him back on to the boat, and received a round of applause from the shore.

Chris just said 'I knew you could do it'

I have to tell you reader, I have since taken a Sailing Instructors course and I can assure you, jumping off boats, to test your pupils sailing skills is **not** on the curriculum.

The man is an absolute nutter (that's a compliment) and I love him to bits – in a manly sort of way.

The reason I bring this tale to you, is that Chris will be 80 years old this year, He is still a very active sailor, and because of several bits of body replacement and heart surgery, is known as the bionic man !

Unfortunately while messing about at home, he fell out of his loft and is presently recovering from surgery to remove pressure on his brain caused by a build up of blood.

I am sure you join with me, in wishing him a speedy recovery and hope to see him and his long suffering wife Mary, back at the Club soon.

Max Passmore

Flying Fifteen 3421 maxpassmore@talktalk.net

Handicap Fleet Report Feb 2010

The Winter Sunday series was a windy one and eventually produced nine qualifiers from the twenty five entrants. Simon Hawkes emerged the winner in a Phantom from Peter Rose's Scorpion and Derian and Andy Scott in a Fireball. After Christmas the wind strength moderated but the cold set in and on several occasions racing could only commence once the rescue boats had broken up the ice. Now at last the weather seems to have relented and the ice has departed the lake but for the time being I shall continue to take the sheets home to make sure they are dry and unfrozen when I rig the boat each Sunday. The Frostbite turnouts are increasing and we have welcomed a number of visiting sailors into the club for the duration of the Frostbite series. The Musto Skiffs seem to be multiplying with Andy Hewitt moving on from the Blaze and Paul Clements ensuring that Tom Offer doesn't have things all his own way. Other boats have been spotted emerging from hibernation including Toby in his NS14, Rick in his Merlin and Tony and Zach in their RS200. I hope we can continue to build on this and that we'll see more of you out on the water when the Spring Sunday and the Wednesday night series begin in April.

Away from the club Simon Hawkes has been busy, winning the singlehander fleet at the Grafham Grandprix, second in the Steve Nicholson Memorial at Northampton, and fifth in the Rutland Tiger Trophy. Further from home, sometime Chew sailor Ed Presley managed an excellent 12th place in the Contender world championships.

Peter Rose
Scorpion 1995 "Silverlode"

Powerboat Training

The next powerboat course will commence on Saturday the 27th of March in the Training Room. As always, it will be run over two days — the first covering the theory side and the second day will be the practical, dates for which will be agreed on the theory day. Practicals will take place on Thursdays and Saturdays, dependent upon course members' availability, and, unlike the theory day, will be restricted to two trainees per session.

If you wish to undertake the training (or, if undecided, wish to find out more about what is entailed) please ring me on 01761 472155. As I still have several names on the waiting list and places tend to get filled rapidly, please contact me as early as you can.

Given the pressure upon numbers I do not normally accept anyone under 18 but exceptions are made when a level 2 qualification is needed for someone between 16 and 18 who is working towards an instructor's rating.

Please note that as this is the final edition of the newsletter future course details will appear on the club web site. (www.chewvalleysailing.org.uk)

Mike Meloy - Powerboat Chief Instructor

Novice Racing

This years introduction to Racing will take place on:
Sat 5th, 12th, 19th June and 10th July

These sessions are intended to be light-hearted and fun.
So if you need a little confidence or want to know the rules before joining in on a Sunday then please come along.

For further information please contact John Shimell
email:john@wells2005.plus.com

Call for volunteers to help with Junior Sailors

CVLSC operates a successful and growing junior sailing section on most Sunday mornings from mid April until the end of September. The children are divided into an oppie group and a topper group and range from complete beginners to those verging on entering the club racing. They are generally very keen, attentive, and great fun to work with, and it is good to see such enthusiasm amongst the youngsters. However none of this youth training can take place without volunteers from the membership. Each Sunday morning we require one qualified dinghy instructor, one experienced sailor who is preferably powerboat 2 qualified, can give some coaching and can organise a race, and 3 or 4 shore support helpers ready to assist with launching and recovery (these latter would most suitably be parents of those taking part).

If you feel able to offer the occasional Sunday morning to help with this we would be delighted to hear from you (particularly from qualified instructors and experienced sailors) (e mail to cvlscyouth@googlemail.com). With enough helpers this need be no more than a commitment for one or two Sundays across the season, and the benefit to the juniors is immense.

If you are able to help or have any queries please e mail us.

Many thanks.

Jenny Hemming and Sally O'Grady

Burns Supper

Some of those who did not go to the 2010 Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club Burns Supper have said ‘We have heard of Burns Suppers but what are they all about?’ Robert Burns is Scotland’s greatest poet but also has universal appeal. In the year following his death in 1796 some of his friends got together to celebrate his memory with what is now known as a Burns Supper. Now the celebration is on a much wider scale. In Scotland as you would expect there is a multitude of Burns Suppers. But also as you would expect of a poet who has been translated into 80 languages and who is immortalised in a statue in Central Park in New York (one of 15 in the United States) there are celebrations all over - in Hong Kong and Hawaii, in Turin and Tokyo, in Melbourne and in Moscow.

At a Burns Supper tradition dictates certain rituals. At the beginning the Chairman says a special grace written by Burns known as the Selkirk Grace as it was first penned by Burns while staying with the Earl of Selkirk. After the soup course, which is generally Cock-a-Leekie – chicken and leek soup sweetened with a prune to improve the flavour of the old bird with which it was made, the haggis is (bag) piped in and the Chairman toasts the piper and the chef with a ‘dram’ (a whisky served neat). An invited guest recites Burn’s Address to the Haggis. Haggis is sheep heart, lights and liver with onion and oatmeal stuffed in a sheep stomach and traditionally served with ‘neeps’ (turnip/swede) and ‘tatties’ (mashed potato). Because the Address is in Scots dialect it is sometimes difficult to understand so here is a translation of the verse, where the haggis is cut up.

His knife see rustic labour dight

His knife see the countryperson wipe

An’ cut you up wi ready slight

And cut you up with a skilful stroke

Trenching your gushing entrails bright

Your shining insides gush out as if ploughing

Like ony ditch

Like any ditch

And then, O what a glorious sight

And then oh what a glorious sight

Warm-reekin, rich

Warm, steaming/smelling, rich

After pudding, normally Topsy Laird (sherry trifle – but thank you Stoneground for substituting whisky) there follows the ‘Bletherin’ which can be translated as the ‘craic’.

‘We ha tales to tell

And we hae sangs to sing’

The main speech which is usually quite serious and thoughtful is the Immortal Memory – a tribute to the Bard.

‘He’ll hae misfortunes great and sma

But aye a heart aboon them a’

Burns was nothing if not a ladies man so of course there is a usually humorous Toast to the Lassies

‘Come let us stray our gladsome way

And view the charms of nature’

Naturally in these politically correct times there is an equally humorous response.

‘He hums and he hankers and he futs and he cankers

I can never please him, do a’ that I can’

There follows increasingly informal and occasionally raucous poems and speeches and songs, then dancing. The evening concludes with the company singing the world’s unofficial anthem the Burns penned Auld Lang Syne.

‘And each took off his separate way

Resolv’d to meet some other day’

The 2011 Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club Burns Supper will be held on Saturday 22 January 2011. Tickets will be available later on this year.

John Kelly



As you know there hasn't been quite as much sailing as usual at CVLSC. I did manage a trip to view the frozen waters by sledge back in January but there was no ice sailing as far as I could see. Sadly, now that the ice has receded, the customary winter winds have not returned with their usual zeal. Some hardy types however, have put in the hours in the freezing zephyrs, so well done to them. The results speak for themselves.

Frostbite series: am

- 1st Steve Smith
- 2nd Martin Jeremy
- 3rd Jeremy Millward
- 4th Duncan Staff
- 5th Bill Irish

Frostbite series: pm

- 1st Martin Jeremy
- 2nd Jeremy Millward
- 3rd Duncan Staff

Warmth was happily in abundance at the Laser Christmas meal on the 19th December. We had 35 attendees at the Walled Garden café in Wrington and they did us proud with excellent food and minimal fuss. I liked it so much I booked it for next year just to be on the safe side, so if you can bear opening your diaries that far in advance you could pencil in the 18th December for the annual do.

Before we concern ourselves with the next yuletide we have some good events to look forward earlier in the year. The first is the annual visit to Rock in Cornwall for the Easter Laser Open & Easter chase. The first race is on Friday 2nd of April at 18.30 with further races on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This is always great fun with lots of extra curricular activities for families and individuals. Its not too late to join in, so contact me, talk to Peter Sherwin, or consult the Rock sailing club website for details of race times (www.rswsc.co.uk/programme.aspx)

Later we have two training days. This year they are dedicated to particular skills. The first day is for beginners and intermediates, keen to get to grips with boat rigging and handling. The second is particularly for mid fleet sailors who want to improve their racing skills. Both these training sessions can be used for preparation for the Wednesday Evening Series and the Laser Open. If you haven't tried these events before, come along and give it a go. We often have 60 to 70 boats on the water on Wednesday evenings, indicating a lot of people think this is great fun...

14th April	Wednesdy Evening Series practice race starting at 18.30
17th April	Laser training for beginners and intermediates
21st April	Wednesdy Evening Series, first race starting at 1900
22nd May	Laser training for racing intermediates
13th June	Laser Open

I look forward to seeing you on our wonderful west country waters but if you would like to ask questions about any of the above before then, don't hesitate to email me.

Andrew Southall 532

chewlasers@googlemail.com / Laser 186838



Topper Fleet News

We'll start with a thank you to **Andrew Jones** the out-going Topper Fleet Captain for all the work he has done as fleet captain. Andrew is only out-going at the moment as he has not yet completely relieved of his duties – I'll be assisting Andrew at the Topper Open that CVLSC is hosting on the 10th & 11th of April.

So for an introduction; I will be the new in-coming Topper fleet captain – **Simon Cummins**. I can be contacted by either email: sc007w5610@blueyonder.co.uk or by mobile phone **07970 436 039** these details are also posted on the CVLSC web site.

Whilst I might only be sailing occasionally in amongst the Topper fleet, my son **James** will be active in the fleet, sailing in some of the South West Topper Traveller series, Junior Challenge (Sunday AM) series at the club and also doing some Sunday PM Topper Fleet sailing at the club. You will also find my daughter **Stephanie** joining in the Junior Sundays. If you see Topper sail number **26620**, you'll know we're at the club, so do please say hello, I need to know who you all are!

And this leads me nicely to the next item; I will be your voice on the fleet captains committee; so do please introduce yourself as I need to know what you like or don't like and if you don't tell me then things will remain the same and the club wants you to enjoy your time.

I've touched very briefly by naming some Topper sailing activities which are well know to the regular Topper sailors, but for those of you who are new members I will give some more information.

CVLSC is a Volvo Championship Club which via the RYA allows us to host coaching by an RYA Topper coach free of charge for those who can already sail a triangle course with the aim of getting these sailors sailing competitively. We will host this Topper training on 3 weekends this year. The club contact for registering your interest is **Richard Hole**, email: richard@theholes.wanadoo.co.uk or by mobile phone **07980 800 615**.

The first of which will be on the weekend of the 20th & 21st March (09:30 till 17:00) and the Topper coach will be Tim Hulse who coaches to Olympic standard (sorry to those of you who are reading this after the event). The next hosting after this will be on the 8th & 9th of May; so those new to the club and reading this for the first time, here is an ideal way to get some top coaching. The third and final hosting event will be over the August Bank Holiday weekend of 28th, 29th & 30th which will tie in with August Antics another Junior / Youth event where you can learn to sail through fun, games and coaching. The club contact for registering your interest in August Antics is **Adrian Cudmore**, email: augustantics@googlemail.com or **01761 435 489**.

And as noted at the start of this news letter - for the Topper sailors we have an Open event on 11th April preceded by Open training organised by ITCA on the 10th (see <http://www.gbrtopper.co.uk/page.php?38>) you will need to enter these events via the GBR Topper ITCA web site (which will be posted shortly), again for those interested in learning and having some competitive fun I would encourage you to enter as this is being held on 'home' waters! **Don't delay** though this CVLSC Topper Training & Open is a very popular event with limited spaces, it would be a shame if club members miss out.

Although not strictly Topper fleet news the Youth section of CVLSC will be running Junior Challenge (from April through to September 10:00 till 13:00) again this year which is mainly sailed in Toppers. So if you are planning to join in with Junior Challenge why not stay a little longer and do one or both of the afternoon fleet races against other Toppers? The club contacts for enquiring and registering your interest is **Jenny Hemming**, Youth Co-ordinator, email: jennyhemming@blueyonder.co.uk or by landline telephone **0117 962 0207** and **Reuben Woodbridge**, Junior Challenge, email: reuben.woodbridge@blueyonder.co.uk.

Final thing – although I have written all of this to address all the pre-adulthood Topper sailors, Topper fleet racing is open to all club members regardless of age. Have a go!

Simon Cummins

Something for the Chewfarers

The start of another year

I was going to start by saying “with the winter now behind us.....” but alas, as I write this, our sailing is still being somewhat disrupted by the white stuff and the cold weather that is associated with it.

Never the less we are off to a start and its pleasing to be able to say that the introduction of the “Valley Four Seasons” race last year grew in success as each of the four races progressed such that there is demand for the series to be run again this year. Therefore, in response, the first race (Winter) was held on Wednesday the 24th of February and was competed for by some of the more serious racers with in the club – those that we normally see on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. Does this mean that we cruisers are setting standards that appeal to the serious racer? It must be so because the race winner was Max Passmore sailing a Flying Fifiteen ably assisted by Ailsa Scott with George Simpkins close behind in second place. The highest ranked Wayfarer was sailed by Richard Thomas and ??????.on their maiden voyage in ‘Grace’.

Look out for the date for the next race (Spring); but moving on from there I can say that the Wayfarer enthusiasts have organised quite a few away trips to the coast again this year and it just might be possible for some of you Wayfarer sailors to join them. If so then the best person to contact is either myself or Peter Cheek for more details.

If you are new to Wayfarer sailing or just lack a little confidence or knowledge then, whilst no one person knows all there is to know about the Wayfarer, there is enough of us to fill in most of the gaps that will get you started. So, if you need a little help, get in touch with me and I will try and arrange a get together with an experienced Wayfarer/Wanderer sailor.

Brian Brooks W8016 (01275 331136)

Peter Cheek (01275 392937)

Junior Sailing 2010

Calling all Oppie and Topper sailors. Are you keen to helm an Oppie yourself for the first time? Would you like to race your Topper in the racing fleet but don't feel quite confident enough? Are you looking to sail your boat better and make some friends in the process? If this sounds like you, then come along to Junior Sundays.

Junior Sundays will operate on 18 Sunday mornings from 10.30am to 1.00pm between April 18 and the end of September as detailed in the 2010 calendar. These morning sessions are open to all children aged 8 or above and are divided into two groups. For the younger participants Junior Sailing will concentrate on Oppie sailing around a simple course, and for the Topper sailors Junior Challenge will offer a mixture of training and racing across a Spring and Summer series.

To take part please e mail Jenny Hemming or Sally O'Grady at cvlscyouth@googlemail.com and we will forward to you a registration form. You will need to return this form to us together with your registration fee of £20.00 for the season, and once you have registered you can sign up (by e mail) for as many of the weekends as you like. Numbers are limited to 10 each week for Junior Sailing and 15 each week for Junior Challenge.

Over the last few years these junior mornings have been very successful and great fun. However they can only happen with the goodwill and assistance of the volunteers who give up their time either to coach, to man the safety boat or to help onshore. Each Sunday morning we require one qualified dinghy instructor, one experienced sailor who is preferably powerboat 2 qualified, can give some coaching and can organise a race, and 3 or 4 shore support helpers ready to assist with launching and recovery. Without these volunteers the sessions will not run. Yet with enough volunteers it need be no more than a commitment for one or two Sunday mornings across the season, and the benefit to the juniors is immense. If you are able to help please e mail Sally or Jenny at cvlscyouth@googlemail.com.

We look forward to hearing from sailors and helpers alike, and to a great season of sailing. With any queries please contact us.

Jenny Hemming and Sally O'Grady

SOLO SAILING

My last newsletter commented on the gales that were sweeping the lake at the time but since then, apart from a few windy Sundays, it has been almost universally light winds, or even widespread ice, on Sundays with only the occasional stiff breeze to provide some variety in the racing. This has suited most of us, since capsizing in winter waters is no fun, but it does mean we have been missing practice for heavy weather sailing which some of us do enjoy.

Chris Goldhawk and Nigel Snedker continue to secure the most wins. However they are both testing their new mast and sail combinations and indulging in some friendly boat tuning together, as they compare Mylar vs. Fabric and the settings required to get the best out of their new boats, so we don't really know who is coming out on top. John Smalley is invariably part of the top three on the water when he joins us, with the rest of the fleet enjoying increasingly close competition for the remaining places, which bodes well for the coming spring and summer series..

As a result of the lighter winds there have been a few Solos enjoying recreational sailing mid-week; but with few of them contemplating the racing scene. That may change with Brian Brook's 'Four Seasons Valley Race' now attracting more interest beyond the Wayfarer sailors, some of which have noted the high places achieved by John Shaw's new 'Wayfarer' in the A-fleet frostbite series. I have been asked to organise the 'Novice Race Training' for the coming year, partly I suspect because I won last year's 'Four Seasons' races and others now want a slice of the action. My credentials for race training are based more on enthusiasm than any formal training that I have received myself. However, I was a typical 'novice' myself when I joined and know what is needed to take part and enjoy the fleet racing. I have been offered help from other club members and am hoping for some interesting racing on some Saturdays, and perhaps mid-week depending on the interest level. Do let me know if you want to get involved in any way, even for some light-hearted racing.

The **Solo Racing Fleet** has grown steadily during the 'Frostbite' series with George Simpkins now racing regularly with Steve Morris's boat that he bought recently. We now often have five or six boats taking part and with the imminent return of milder weather we're hoping that other regular Solo racers will resume their interest in the racing calendar.

NB. There are still members of other fleets expressing an interest in buying or possibly borrowing older boats so if any 'Solo' members want to part with their much-loved boats currently under cover at the club do let me know. I am currently preparing my own wooden Solo, 4604, for sale and will happily let club members try it out if they want to join in for a few races.

John Shimell,

SOLO 4315.

The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the contributors and so do not necessarily reflect the views of the *General Committee*.

Front cover photograph by Colin Shepherd

Latest News and Views on: www.chewvalleysailing.org.uk

Stoneground – the chosen food partner for CVLSC

Since February 2009 Stoneground has been operating the galley, providing a wide range of hot and cold foods for club members and guests. Established in Clifton for over 25 years, Anne and Dave are building on a long established tradition of providing high quality, nutritious and tasty food at reasonable prices.

Club menus include a full breakfast range, freshly made soups, hot specials, jacket potatoes and a wide range of salads, quiches and tea time treats – all freshly made in our kitchens in Clifton and in the galley in Chew.

As a family business we are passionate about quality food and groceries. We source from local suppliers wherever possible and work closely with small specialist providers. At our Clifton shop we offer a wide variety of organic, vegetarian and fair trade products and specialise in wheat, gluten and dairy free alternatives.

Stoneground is expanding – specialising in sports club catering, private and corporate event catering and will soon be opening a fair-trade café in Bristol Central library.

Club members receive 10% discount on all grocery items (stock lists and order forms are available from the galley and items can be delivered to the club).

For more details on any of our catering or grocery range, please contact us on

0117 9741260 or email: anne_edmonds@hotmail.co.uk

