

Cadet News

Well done to Anya and Philip for writing this month's contributions – if any more Cadets have interesting stories or would like to let us know where they have been sailing please let me have your contributions for future Newsletters.

Organising Saturday morning Cadet sessions can be quite daunting and the ever-growing number of Cadets and new site can pose a few challenges. The 26 July promised to be no exception and it was my turn to stand in for Ian while he retreated to some other part of the kingdom. Thankfully this time the weather was kind to me... No, it wasn't a sunny summer's day... just the opposite in fact, gloomy, wet and just enough wind to give the beginners a spot of trouble! Still as they say "it is an ill wind" and the effect was to reduce numbers to a very manageable level... Great! No worries about having enough instructors, safety boats, drivers and crew. In fact by 09.30 you could just about count those who had turned up on one hand... not that was any indicator of those who would eventually appear!

Now one of the first rules in sailing is always have an escape plan and being hopeless with paperwork I knew if I wasn't to end up running around like a headless chicken I needed such a plan. With a little persuasion Mrs L (AKA Cathy) agreed to gather names, and ask searching questions so that she could divide the Cadets into their groups and write out the lists for me. Brilliant! I could now concentrate on organising all the other helpers, answer the usual barrage of questions and maintain some semblance of authority. Of course, there is always a flaw and it did not take long to find out what it was. "My paper is all soggy and this pen won't work in the wet!" exclaimed my trusty gopher. "Why do we always do it this way?" we asked ourselves... Obvious, "because that is the way we have always done it!" Well doing it outside did make sense when the Clubhouse was at the top of the hill and the beach was at the bottom but this no longer seemed to apply.... Time for another escape plan... "Let's go inside and get the Cadets to come to us", I suggested. Everyone agreed, so we did, the Cadets continued arriving (until 09.55 tut-tut!) and soon got the idea (I always knew Castle Cove Cadets were pretty smart). We even had the briefings out of the rain and it worked very well. Mind you, when I suggested that they might prefer to watch videos rather than go out sailing in all that nasty rain only a couple of hands went up... Doh, escape plan three

failed! Never mind, at least Mrs L could sit at a table in the dry and was happy, so happy that she said, "I don't mind doing this every week". Surely too good an opportunity to pass over, so let's see how it goes.

OK, so now you see where I am coming from and before Mrs L has a chance to change her mind please **go to the Clubhouse and give her your name, boat details, etc as soon as you arrive for Saturday morning Cadets**. That means **before** you change, rig your boat, chat to your friends etc. Oh yes, and by 09.30... any later and you might find she can be scarier than a doctor's receptionist on a very, very bad day!



**Just so you know what Mrs L looks like
(Non-scary mode)**

I wonder what Ian will think when he returns?... Oh well we can always change it if there is a better way!

Andy Ledger a.ledger@zoom.co.uk

SCREAMING ALONG IN SCORPIONS!

A few weeks ago, I was lucky enough to be asked to crew in the Scorpion Open at the Club. I readily accepted the challenge and eagerly awaited the weekend – not knowing what I had let myself in for!

I was crewing for Alex Green, a great and very competent sailor; in Dolly the new fibreglass Scorpion (I was petrified of damaging it as we tacked across the line among 30 odd other boats!). Saturday was sunny with light winds so it was a great chance to get used to the boat. We even came 6th in one race!!!

Sunday arrived with force 45 winds and of course not forgetting the lovely Dorset sunshine! After an excellent bacon bap (well done Galley team!) I was ready to face whatever competitive racing, Scorpions and strong winds would bring! I was soaked to the skin with spray, but it was awesome planing with the spinnaker up. I must admit – my stomach muscles will never be quite the same after what seemed like hours of hiking!

Overall we came 19th out of 32 boats and I won the 1st Junior Crew as well! It was a great experience and I learnt loads from sailing with such a competent helm and racing in such a competitive and challenging fleet!

Before you begin to doze off to sleep I cut straight to the point- crewing for older people in other classes in open events or even Club racing is such a good opportunity to improve your sailing and racing skills. So all I have to say now is . . .

GET OUT THERE AND GOOD LUCK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

P.S Monday Nights – is the C class extinct? It is not as competitive as Wednesday nights but still great fun!

See you out there!

Anya de longh

SUTTON BINGHAM

We went to Sutton Bingham to race against the Cadets there. It is a small lake with shifty winds. The wind was very gusty and unpredictable. I tried a Topper reefed heavily and still capsized!!! During the racing I sailed in the Mirror with my Dad, it was so much fun.

We managed to have a go on a Topaz Trez with trapeze. We capsized but I had so much fun on the trapeze and learnt to remember to hook on before hanging off the side!!

They were a very friendly group at Sutton Bingham, and we hope to see them at the Cadet Open at Castle Cove in September.

Philip de longh