

## Cadet News



By the time you read this your boat should be polished, your sails washed and all repairs made good, or perhaps you are still thinking about it. The Senior Cadets start sailing Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and the younger groups start on the 31<sup>st</sup> at the end of the Spring Bank Holiday. If you have been down to the Club recently you will have seen how close we are to having the site ready for sailing but there are some things that still need to be done so don't be surprised if for the first few weeks Cadet mornings merge with a few rather more practical activities ashore and afloat. This edition of Cadet News is full of information about Saturday morning Cadet sessions and has a list of Cadet friendly events on the back of the Sailing Programme enclosed with this Newsletter – so you might want to keep it handy throughout the season. If you are reading this and wondering “why?” (particularly when you get to Fred's contribution!) remember you can always ask Cathy Ledger for exemption. On the other hand you may be able to pass this on to someone who might be thinking of joining the Club, and perhaps invite them along to the Open Day on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Special thanks this month to Fred and Hugh Shone who share their views on preparation for the season ahead.

**Lock up your Oppies**, and your Toppers as well. Boat security will be reviewed throughout this year so please ensure you report any losses or damage to your equipment but an obvious precaution will be to lock your boat to the rack so it cannot be misused. For Oppies a wire strop passed through the mast hole and secured with a padlock should be OK. Toppers may need a longer strop passed through the dagger board hole, unless anyone has a better idea?

**Parents and carers** are always welcome as helpers ashore and afloat. This season we will be hoping to provide our own food in the Clubhouse. The provisions are already there, all we will have to do is prepare and pay for it.

**Cadet Mornings** aim to start on the water at 10am, so you need to arrive in good time to prepare beforehand. I have received only a handful of registration forms so far. If you have not been able to print out a copy from the Website please let me know. You will not be able to sail with Cadets unless the form is signed. The morning ends at noon. If you are thinking of coming along for the first time then let me know, or see one of the Cadet Committee at the Open Day or Cadet Evenings.

**Courses** make sure you return your application to Maria Ellison as soon as possible.

**Portland Port** stickers must be displayed on every boat. They will be available for Toppers and Oppies at the Cadet Evenings for those of you who have already applied.

**Your views** and comments are always welcome. You can contact me, or the Cadet reps Tom and Emma, through the Website link, or find us on Saturday mornings.

**See you** at the Cadet Evenings.

**Ian Green Cadet Officer**

Fred and Hugh used to sail Oppies at Castle Cove...

## **I HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT**

It draws ever closer through the dark tunnel of winter. Rain and wind scours my skin as I stand day and night upon the highest hill in Stinsford – arms outspread beseeching the gods of weather for a favour and sacrificing goats to please the gods of the seas for a little kindness. I've burnt incense in the garage where my ceremonial sailing garb is kept. The boat has been sprinkled in rare Persian lesser-spotted lily petals and relevant pages from sacred texts chanted to it. My crew has spent the winter in a secluded monastery studying the words of the masters – Brian Willis and his eternally wonderfulness Frank Bethwaite. Every bearing and line has been painstakingly inspected and sprinkled delicately in the finest blends of Mclube™ and Prolube™. A seat of nails is being constructed to improve mental stamina and prayer is on Monday mornings. Finally if you wish to join my sect – get in touch and I can arrange for you to make a donation – or drop off your goat.

I think I have preached to you enough about prep and if ever it was appropriate to talk about something new at the beginning of the year this is the time. The new site is running and racing has started. If you're itching for a sail then why not saunter down and bring the boat. Get in touch with people, arrange a group, bring a sibling, and sacrifice a goat – whatever it takes to get you going.

Lastly for all those interested I can put you in touch with a new genetics company called sailing-implants™. For all you asymmetric sailors - balls the size of marrows are available and for everyone else they sell pansy pots for you to sit in.

***Fred Shone***

As well as travelling all over the country in the speedy 29er I have been doing several Laser training weekends put on especially for us wonderful people in the South West. The venues for the weekend long training sessions were at Chew Valley SC, Bristol Corinthian SC, Roadford SC and WPSA.

A variety of 50 sailors from members of the Olympic transition squad to people just getting into competitive Laser sailing like me turned up in a rather varied mix of conditions (mostly freezing).

I was lucky because Will Davies and Mike Robbins from CCSC also did the training events - this allowed our parents to spread the travel commitments and there was twice as much food!

I believe that all of our sailing skills have greatly improved and the training was also good fun because of all the new people we met in our travels.

All of these training sessions were put to good use at Highcliff SC for a Laser qualifier in which 84 boats turned up for the wonderful weather- not being sarcastic (for the first time).

Then Fred went and broke his collar bone falling off his tricycle and I was forced to sail the Laser instead of the 29er at the Youth Championships at Hayling Island SC. Will and I went through large amounts of Malt Loaf and Mexican Chilli which helped power us on for the week's racing. The wind generally was either blowing a steady 4-5 with huge waves or a 1-2 with hot sun. So although I didn't do amazingly well I was able to work on the old tan. I enjoyed sailing in the amazingly un-British weather and I enjoyed the racing especially watching the standard of the top sailors. After all of these events and training I now strongly disagree with the saying that states that racing takes the fun out of anything. I have also been able to take advantage of Fred's little accident and gain valuable experience sailing a different boat.

I hope to see all of you at Cadets where you will probably see us somewhere in the Harbour in our 49er.

***Hugh Shone***