

From Your Commodore

It was a sad start to the year with Bill Greenhill, Bill Skipper and George Southgate all passing away within a relatively short period of time; I am sure that they will all be fondly remembered and sadly missed by many of the longer term members of the club. The club was well represented at each of the funerals. George's passing creates the requirement for a new Vice President which is a matter to be discussed by the Management Committee later in the year.

By the time you read this report, the new season will only be a few weeks away and I am sure that we will all be hoping for good sailing weather and fair winds. I hope that we will see good fleet sizes on Sundays throughout the season. At the time this report was being written, members of the Management Committee were considering the options for encouraging more of the junior members to make the transition to Sunday racing. It is likely that there will be more on this elsewhere in this issue of Mainsheet.

Whilst on the subject of racing, this is of course the 50th anniversary year of the Three Rivers Race and the first planning meeting has already taken place. I understand that the festivities for this year's race will start on the Friday before the race with Navigators & General, sponsoring the cost of a marquee which will be sited on the grassed area of the island. There should be a festival atmosphere around the club on the Friday for those who are able to attend. There are plans to set up web-cams on the front of the clubhouse and at Potter Heigham bridge so that anyone who

goes on-line world-wide will be able to watch the progress of the race from these two vantage points. I know that Colin Facey is hoping for a record number of race entries and if we get them, all we will need is good weather for sailing and for spectators for it to be a really spectacular occasion.

We start this season with the Training Centre's new resource, 'the floating classroom' or Bure Magic, to give its correct name. Whilst the boat was primarily funded, acquired and adapted to support junior sailing on Blackhorse Broad, it has the potential to be a resource for the whole club, for example as a committee boat or a spectator viewing platform during racing on the broad. It has also been suggested that Bure Magic could be used to ferry spectators who wish to 'follow the fleet' on down-river races.

Plans are in hand to fit it with the necessary equipment such as a course board. Colin Facey is offering training in handling the boat for OODs who wish to use it as an alternative to the pontoon.

I am certain the Training Centre is confident of another very successful season.

I wish you all well for the coming season and hope to see many of you at the Club whether you are sailing, supporting the sailing programme in some capacity, at social functions or simply socialising.

Denis Hands

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Rear Commodores' Report

Its seems like a distant memory now, but the Christmas party was enjoyed by all those that attended. We even had a 'surprise' visit from Santa, distributing nicer gifts than the orange-in-an-old-sock, that were given as part of the 1940's wartime theme.

A big thanks to all those involved in organising the party, wrapping presents, decorating the clubhouse, and judging the fancy dress competition.

Some of you may have discovered a new club website. It has been revamped, and now includes the membership database, accessible to members only using a unique username and password. If you wish to take a look, and verify that your details are correct, please send an email to webmaster@horningsc.co.uk. You will be asked some security questions before access is granted.

You will also notice that we now have a 3 rivers section. Information here is gradually being added, and we hope to have a special feature to mark the 50th anniversary this year.

We also have the traditional rigging out supper on 27th March in the clubhouse. Please see the enclosed leaflet for more information.

I look forward to the coming sailing season, and anticipate a better turn-out from the Reedling fleet.

Happy Sailing.

Stuart

We have had big freezes and gales so far this winter – what else can we get? The Saturday working parties have been prevented just once from going up-river beyond Black Horse Broad, and by the beginning of April, the improvements in wind should be considerable. The Thursday Gang have been hard at it as usual, and their work so far has included removal of a dead tree in the car park, and removal of the one on the island close to the bridge which had come down in a gale.

ATTENTION ALL ABLE-BODIED CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Last year we experimented with a wood chipper to dispose of much of the stuff we had cleared, and this year we are repeating the exercise over a whole weekend. So we would ask you to put Sat/Sunday 20/21st March in your diaries and make a real effort to come for at least one half day over the weekend. That will give us the chance to clear up in a more relaxed way than we did last year.

Please let me know either by e-mail on jeremyhsc@googlemail.com or by phone on 01603461649 as to when you can help.

On both days it will be 9.45 to 12.45 or 1.45 to 4.30. You will be able to start or finish with a hot lunch at 1 o'clock, but we will need to know

Club Subscriptions

Have you renewed your subscriptions yet ?

The Club annual subscriptions became due on 1st January 2010.

We have a number of projects which we have and are due to undertake ; all which involves some expenditure. These projects will bring benefit to all members but can only be completed with the assistance of your subscriptions.

HORNING SAILING CLUB 200 CLUB

The 200 Club was formed several years ago to raise money for special items for the Club. We also hold social events and have quarterly draws of fourteen prizes totalling £310 per quarter. The draws are usually held around the Rigging Out Supper; the end of June and September, and again during our annual Christmas Dinner in December.

There are 90 numbers in all and recently numbers 38, 51 and 81 have become available. Subscriptions for the 200 Club are £6.50 per quarter, or £26 annually, and can be paid by standing order/direct debit. Alternatively you can pay annually by cash or cheque

Membership of the 200 Club is open to members of Horning Sailing Club and their partners.

If you wish to join you can contact me, Joan Butcher, at the Rigging Out Supper, phone me on 01603 466535, write to me at 48 Proctor Road, Norwich, NR6 7PQ or by email at joan324butcher@btinternet.com.



YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU

In view of the number of younger members within Horning Sailing Club the committee has recognised the need for a Junior section. We are therefore looking for volunteer(s) with some fresh ideas to put together a small group and decide on some activities to encourage the younger members to socialise on a regular basis.

These activities do not have to all be sailing related, it could include bowling & trips to the cinema.

If you are interested please contact Denis Hands (Commodore) or Anne Wagstaff (secretary)

Motor Cruiser News

Come and join us for the 2010 season motor cruiser events:

The 50th Three Rivers Race on Saturday/Sunday 5/6th June is expected to be big with a record number of competitors and a need for 25 guardships, mobiles and rescue craft. That number of boats requires 50 volunteers to crew them. If you would like to help, please contact me, Bill Sowell, from 15 March on 01603 412196 or bill.sowells@tiscali.co.uk.

The New Berry Shield motor cruiser (M/Cr) fun driving competition takes place on Blackhorse Broad (BHB) from 2.00 pm on Saturday 10th July. Followed by a sit down meal and prize giving in the evening. Have a go! It's FUN. There are even a few owners prepared to let you drive their boats if you don't have your own. Onboard altercations between crew members, married or otherwise, discouraged.

A Motor Cruiser Treasure Hunt will be held on BHB from 2.00 pm on Saturday 24th July. Followed by a DIY BBQ on the pontoon. If the weather is unkind we will relocate to the Clubhouse.

Bill Sowell
Vice President, Motor Cruiser Captain