



The Water's Edge

Paxton Lakes Sailing Club, March 2012

Hardier soles than I have been sailing throughout the winter and, by all accounts, acquitting themselves admirably at events hither and thither. For the rest of us the season is just getting underway. With the vernal equinox behind us and the clocks on summer-time the sun's rays are just starting to be felt, making for very pleasant sailing conditions. This is the time of year when you could say we're in the Goldilocks Zone – not too hot and not too cold. So seek out those smelly dinghy boots and make that effort to get back on the water.

All change at the helm

Everyone who attended the AGM will be aware that there have been a few changes on the Committee. As you know the Commodore stands for 3 years, so it was time for Andy to stand down and be replaced by whoever weakened first. Paul Carrington, who had been doing a sterling job as Rear Commodore, was the obvious choice and thankfully he "volunteered" to take on the role.

Just so you know who's meant to be doing what, we have:

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| Commodore | Paul Carrington |
| Rear Commodore | Gareth Russell |
| Treasurer | Richard Conway |
| Secretary | John Stanness |
| Sailing Secretary | Andy Anderson |
| Social Secretary | Tina Harrison |

As they say at the Oscars, there are many others but too numerous to mention. A Rouges' gallery of the committee is to be posted in the clubhouse so you can put a face to a name, or vice versa. Andy is easy to spot if you don't know him; he's the one still rigging his Solo with one minute to the start.

Perhaps I'll just mention a couple of others here who have taken on important roles: Pat Overs has taken over from Harry as the Principal of the Sailing School. Matt Bowden has taken on the onerous task of Youth Rep on the committee.

Without further ado here are a few words from the new Commodore ...

Commodore's Log

Firstly I would like to say thank you to all those who spent some cold Sundays at the working parties. Those of you who have been down to the club cannot have failed to

notice how much work has gone into flattening the bushes on the southwest bank of the lake. Also we have newly decorated changing rooms, a new mooring rope and permanent ropes for the signal flags. Many other more minor jobs have been done to get the club ready for the new season. The efforts of the volunteers are essential to keep the club operating and must be applauded.

All members with boats should now have stickers for their boats confirming their right to be in the boat park. Please ensure your stickers are clearly displayed on your boat. We are planning to reorganise and tidy the boat park and boats without a sticker may be moved to the waste land at the back of the park.

Last year we started a “buddy” scheme to give help and advice to members before Sunday racing. We intend to expand on what we started with regular themed training sessions such as “Race rules”, “mark rounding”, “getting a good start” and the like. The buddies will also be there to offer basic advice on how Paxton Lakes operates, where the club boats are and how to rig them, where to find the masts, rudders, sails, etc., when to sail and when and how to join in the racing. If you would like any assistance or advice please come down and chat to the “buddy” on duty. If the “buddy” cannot help he or she will know who can and will steer you in their direction. The scheme will operate on Sundays from April 15th before the Morning Series races starting at 10am. Depending on the weather conditions we may offer on the water training. If you have a particular topic you would like to discuss, let me know (commodore@paxtonlakes.org.uk) and we will try to include or dedicate a session to that topic. Sessions will finish at 11am so that racing can get underway at 11:30. Races will be shortened to about 45 minutes so that we can still fit in the usual 3 races. During racing the lake will still be available to non-racers for cruising.

The RYA is changing the way it receives and uses results from clubs to set and update the Portsmouth Yardstick (PY) handicap system. Contrary to popular belief, in the past the RYA used the PYs that clubs set to update the PYs that it published. Clubs were expected to adjust the PYs as they saw fit to reflect the speed of boats on their particular lake. With the “hi-tech” world we now live in the RYA have a new software recording system into which we can enter our results on a race by race basis. The new system will then use those results to maintain the PY list but will also recommend revised PYs for boats for our particular patch of water. The sailing committee have already made some adjustments to the PYs that will be used at the club at least for the first half of the year but watch out for further refinements.

I look forward to seeing you at the club over the forthcoming weeks especially at the main events like the 24 hour race and “Sail for Gold” day.

Youth Sailing

The 2012 season is just starting but firstly the juniors at Paxton would like to share with you some of the fantastic success they had during 2011.

The first big event for the juniors was the RNLi 24 hour race. For those who don't know this is exactly what it says, it's a sailing race that lasts for 24 hours. In 2011 the

juniors entered a team to try and defend their title as 1st junior from 2010. The race saw a fantastic effort from the whole team who sailed (or drifted) all the way through the night and ended up finishing first junior for the second year running. This wouldn't have been possible without the fantastic spirit showed by the whole team right the way through - even those that we asked to go sailing at 2 and 4 in the morning!

A few weeks later a few of the juniors took the long trip to Grafham Water for the NSSA regatta. This is a week long national sailing regatta run by NSSA for anyone still at school. This is a fantastic week and in 2011 Bobby Martin, Andy Martin and Matt Bowden went with Cambridgeshire from Paxton. All 3 did Paxton very proud with Bobby coming 18th in the topper fleet, Matt was 51st in the Laser radial fleet and Andy was 32nd in the slow handicap fleet.

Junior racing then returned to Paxton for the annual Youth Trophy. This saw a great weekend of close racing mixed with some race training. Well done to Andy Martin who won the youth trophy this year, 2nd was Tori Carrington and 3rd Bobby Martin. But also well done to everyone that took part, everyone had a great weekend.

The Cambs Youth League ran throughout 2011. This is an inter-club competition between Paxton Lakes SC, Hunts SC, Cam SC and Ely SC. The first event in 2011 was at Cam SC (based on the river). Cam is an interesting club to sail at due to the very narrow river making the racing very compact and difficult. Incredibly light winds met the sailors as they arrived on the Saturday morning but they were all determined to get racing and get the season off to a great start. But as they day went on the winds became worse, leading to the last race lasting nearly 2 hours, as that's how long 1 lap took!! 2nd on the calendar was a trip to Ely SC, here a nice breeze met the sailors and some fantastic racing was seen by all. The penultimate event was at Hunts SC. Here fantastic winds met the sailors and led to a very wet day for many! Despite that the Paxton sailors kept going and that led to some fantastic results. Going into the final event at our home lake the junior sailors were doing very well and were competing with Cam for 3rd spot in the team trophy. Medium winds met the juniors this time and the home advantage defiantly helped as Paxton juniors were used to the horrible shifts that our lake throws at us. This led again to some wonderful results and Paxton taking 3rd in the team standings, a great effort as we have been last for the last few years! There were also some great individual results!

2011 was a great year for the Juniors at Paxton, but we now need to try and better that in 2012. This year is a very busy year for the juniors; below are a few of the events that they may be attending:

RNLI 24 hour race- 23rd/24th June - Again a Paxton junior team will be entering so come down and help us retain our title as best junior team!! Speak to Tori for more information.

Youth Trophy - 1st and 2nd September - Again this weekend will be made up of race training on Saturday morning and then racing on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Let's see if someone can beat Andy or if he will retain his title!!

Cambs Youth league - Let's see if we can beat our 3rd from last year and maybe get 2nd or we could even dream of winning it!! To do this we need as many people as possible at each event so please try your best to get there. If you have any problems (like being unable to get there) or just want more info speak to Matt, Tori or Bobby as we may be able to get round your problem and will certainly be able to give you info.

Cam Sailing Club – 21st April

Ely Sailing Club- 30th June

Hunts Sailing Club- 15th September

Paxton Lakes Sailing Club- 13th October (all juniors should at least attend this!)

NSSA Regatta - 8th to 14th July - This is the highlight event for many juniors. This year it's taking place at Weymouth and Portland on the OLYMPIC courses! For more information speak to Matt or Bobby who will help you.

As you can see 2012 is going to be a very busy year for juniors at PLSC so keep checking the Paxton website, Facebook page and the Youth notice board in the club house for information about the events and reports of how the juniors got on. Let's see if we can better 2011 and if we do its going to be a brilliant season!!

So Good luck to all the juniors at Paxton SC.

The Social Side

Here we are at the start sailing season so it is a good opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Tina Harrison and the new Social Secretary at Paxton Lakes.

Myself and the Club Committee as a whole would like to do a lot more this year for the social side of the club and create an environment that Paxton Lakes Sailing Club is more than just about going sailing.

The clubhouse has recently had a make-over; with a comfy area including new tub chairs, coffee tables and a flat screen TV. In addition it boasts a selection of used books and users of the clubhouse are encouraged to take part in the book swap scheme. We have had many positive comments on the new comfy area and it has helped promote a more relaxed atmosphere in the clubhouse and one in which people are more than happy to stay in to have a cup of coffee and a catch up.

We have a couple of events already in the diary this year, the Laying-up Supper and Sail for Gold BBQ. From time to time we have run other social events including quiz nights, meals out, BBQs in the summer and the Bradwell weekend away. This year however we are looking to expand what is on offer compared to the last few years.

At the end of the day this is your club. So I am asking for your feedback as to what social events you would like to see throughout the year; to be held in the clubhouse or elsewhere. Some ideas so far are;

- Summer BBQ, maybe once a month
- Pub meets
- Knots evening
- Fish supper
- Quiz nights
- Murder mystery party

As a family club, children are always welcome at our events. So if you have any ideas of the types of social events planned or impulsive that you would like to take part in, please email me on social@paxtonlakes.org.uk

And finally...

Thanks to Paul, Matt and Tina for providing the key articles in this edition of Water's Edge. It has greatly eased the load on my aching brain.

Not mentioned elsewhere but worthy of note is a slight change in the fleet splits for the Series Races. The Fast fleet will now be Laser Radials and anything faster. The Slow fleet is anything slower than a Laser Radial. This will apply to the Morning, Spring, Summer and Autumn Series. The Junior Fleet is for Under-16s of all abilities and Under-18s who have not previously won a junior series trophy.