



The Water's Edge

Paxton Lakes Sailing Club, March 2013

According to the rules of the club there are only a few days left before we can discard those wet-suits and dry-suits on the 1st April and resume sailing in shorts and a tee-shirt. Looking out of the window I think I'll be disregarding that rule and keep myself well wrapped up for a wee while longer.

Obviously not much has happened so far but there are a couple of things that need to be brought to your attention so here we go.

Steady as she goes ...

All of you that attended the AGM will know that thankfully no one was killed in the rush to get their nominations in for a place on the committee. Nor was there any need for a re-count of the votes as everyone was effectively re-elected on the nod. So just to recount we have:

Commodore	Paul Carrington
Rear Commodore	Gareth Russell
Treasurer	Richard Conway
Secretary	John Stanness
Membership Secretary	Joe Sharp
Social Secretary	Tina Harrison

For anyone new to the club there is a rouges' gallery of the committee on the notice board so you know who to go to if you have any problems or queries.

Pat Overs continues in his role as Principal of the Sailing School.

Locks

On the 1st April we shall be changing the combination on the padlock on the inner gate. You should all have had the new combination with the programme for the year when you renewed your membership.

You may or may not have realised that the old combination was made up of 4 memorable letters when seen on an old style mobile phone. However as all you gadget junkies no longer have such devices the new number is meaningless (to all but the person who suggested it).

Membership renewal prize draw

To encourage prompt renewals we had a prize draw with the name of everyone who renewed before 31st January going into a metaphorical hat. The prize, an iPhone, was kindly donated by EE. The draw was held at one of the work parties and I can reveal that the lucky winner was Susan Simpkins.

Boat stickers

Following on from last year's successful re-introduction of date coded boat stickers we are once again sending out stickers for the year 2013 when memberships are renewed. The only difference is that this year we are going to be a bit more strict in the enforcement. So please get your sticker stuck on a prominent part of your boat so that Joe (our membership secretary) can verify which boats belong to fully paid up members.

If, for any reason, you either didn't receive a sticker or you've lost it then have a word with Joe or email him at membership@paxtonlakes.org.uk

It's never too early

We all lead busy lives (well you all do, I'm not so sure about me) so it's never too early to start thinking about events that are still a few months away.

On the distant horizon we have our annual 24 hour Marathon on July 13th and 14th. I say distant horizon but it's only three and a bit months away which is nothing really. This is one of those events where many hands really do make light work, especially as the race duties are shared out among the participants and their team supporters. When the number of teams gets into double figures the duties are easily managed even when the teams comprise sleepaholics like me. So start thinking about forming a team now. Try going up to a stranger and saying, "fancy being in a team?" or "doing anything in July?" and see what reaction you get.

And you youngsters ...

Don't forget that the Cambs Youth League starts on April 27th.

It's a great way to improve your sailing by competing in a different fleet on different waters. You also get to make new sailing friends around the region and have a bit of fun at the same time.

If you're not sure what it's all about then have a word with Matt or Bobby, both of whom are your youth representatives on the committee. Between them they have plenty of experience and tips to pass on. They may look big and ugly but they're really quite friendly and approachable.

Racing programme

Have you just slipped your racing programme for the year into a drawer without looking at it closely? Well have another look and you will see that there have been a couple of subtle changes.

In an attempt to widen our net and provide racing for people who have other commitments on Sundays, some races have been moved to Saturday. In particular, Match Racing and the Pursuit Series are all on a Saturday.

Last year's Buddy training didn't go quite as well as we had hoped but we still believe that there is the need for some form of skills improvement at all levels. So this year we have decided to continue with the scheme but to reduce the number of sessions to one per month, starting on the 7th April. Details are on your programme.