

THE NORFOLK 14-FOOT ONE DESIGN DINGHY CLASS

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NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2010

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CLASS CAPTAIN

Last October, as some of you may be aware, I took over as Class Captain from Alan Mallett who had held the post for six years. It all happened rather suddenly and, as you may have noticed, or not, the change over has been virtually undetectable. This is possibly because I have not done anything yet. Perhaps at least writing this newsletter will sow the seed for some sort of action. The fact is that Norfolk Dinghies seem to carry on regardless as can be seen.

NORWICH FROSTBITES

With the season well over half way through, this is the location for the highest number of Norfolks sailing regularly, in summer or in winter. Norfolk Dinghy sailors at Frostbites include a dozen or so who have been sailing every week. Twenty five different Norfolks have been on the water during the season. This is in spite of the weather which, not only having been cold, but also not offering much in the way of wind. The sailing conditions are not ideal due to trees, moored boats and shallow water. Nevertheless, Frostbites is a very enjoyable, friendly and competitive place to sail.

BECCLES

Beccles Amateur Sailing Club has been amazing in recent years. Since the one hundredth anniversary, boats have multiplied. As far as the Norfolks are concerned the series races up to Christmas included six regular Norfolks and the Open Meeting in May and the Open Regatta in August were well attended, the latter had ten Norfolks entered. There are twelve resident Norfolks at Beccles. Have a look at the website for some very good photographs.

COLDHAM HALL

This is another location where a small but regular group of Norfolks sail during the summer. Happily the Coldham Hall Tavern is about to re-open under the management of Natalie Linder. This will be good news not only for the club but particularly for visiting Norfolk Dinghy Sailors who enjoy a pint or two. It will also play an important role in the success of the regatta in May.

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NORFOLK BROADS YACHT CLUB

Traditionally the home of the Norfolk Dinghy, numbers have significantly fallen off in recent years. However, we are lucky that the Committee remain happy to provide a series of races throughout the season, a closed event in May, two open events in June and September, and of course, racing during Wroxham Week. NBYC is a pretty good place to sail. It has excellent facilities and it provides open water racing with expert race management. We need to support the events here and I hope a larger fleet can be established in time.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

I attach an updated calendar for 2010 showing the main class events for you to pin up in your kitchens, well that's where mine is going, and I shall endeavour to forward more details on each nearer the time. Hopefully this will tie up with the Green Book which should be out shortly. I will mention some of the events below.

BARBEQUE

Geoff and Jenny Coulthard have kindly offered to host a class barbeque at their home 66 Thunder Lane, Norwich and the date we have in mind at the moment is Friday 16th July. Invitations will be sent out later.

CLASS SUPPER

This will be an important event this year. There was no time to present Alan Mallett with any retirement gift from the Class so I am intending to do this at the supper. Attendance has not been good in recent years but please, I would be very grateful if as many as possible could come to this, and particularly more of the sailors and crews. It will be on the Saturday evening of the June open event at NBYC.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Contrary to our proposals at the AGM, I have decided to hold the 2010 Championships at Horning. This will be on the weekend of 25th and 26th of September and will be sailed on Black Horse Broad. I am hoping to get Gordon Williams' permission to use his garden so that a small number of spectators will be able to watch proceedings. We are sharing the weekend with some other dinghies, probably not many and there will be a supper on the Saturday night, possibly in the clubhouse.

LOOKING AHEAD

2011 will be the 80th anniversary of the Potter to Hickling race and I am intending that we shall run another commemorative event from Hickling on Easter Monday of that year and perhaps due to the occasion, run the Championships at NBYC. These are just thoughts at the moment and I would welcome your comments.

NEW MEMBERS

The latest members admitted to the Class include Sarah Davies who has acquired B23 Brown Jane from her brother Paul Carrington and has just started sailing at Frostbites. Paul had been sailing B23 but has now acquired B9 Dumpling and has been one of the most regular sailors at Frostbites. B51 Grebe has been purchased by Stuart Goodson and Daniel Cripps has bought B38 Bacchante. Tim Haycock has bought B29 Beagle and Neil Cousins B55 Widgeon. That's a lot of changes and we welcome them all.

WEBSITE

No, we haven't got one at the moment. Watch this space!

HANDBOOK

Incredibly it is 30 years now since Paul Buckerfield wrote "A Real Boat". Over the past few years efforts have been made towards a new publication but the plans have been beset with problems you wouldn't believe. We may well have to start again.

OBITUARIES

I haven't the knowledge to go into much detail but I remember sailing with Peter Hornagold in B82 Heron and John Twitchett in B76 Shanderlee at Frostbites and also against Di Murland in B63 Mardler at NBYC. All three have died in recent months and we all remember them in our own way.

BOATS FOR SALE

B36 Hobbit	Bob Cobb	01953 456181
B41 Firefly	Crispin Clark	01603 279345
B72 Waterwitch	Mark Turner	07780981032

AND FINALLY.....

I am very pleased to have the opportunity of being Class Captain once again. I hope to enjoy the experience and also that I can contribute something. My thanks go particularly to Alan Mallett, no we haven't seen the last of him yet, to Vernon Penketh the same thankfully, to the Committee (whoever they are) and to all you Norfolk Dinghy owners for carrying on regardless. Good sailing in 2010!

David Yapp
February 2010