

Calendar

Date	Event	Notes	
Sun 24th Mar	Series Warm up series 5		1044 5.4
Sun 31st Mar	Club event Ice Breaker	1st warning signal 1325 BST begins	1626 6.1
Sat 6th Apr	Training First Saturday Skimmers	Start 0930	1017 5.2
Sun 7th Apr	Series Spring Points Begins		1122 5.6
Wed 24th Apr	Series Informal Wednesday Evening Racing Begins	1st warning signal 1825	1829 Low
Sat 27th Apr	MYC & WSC Interclub Challenge	Start 1410	1443 6.3
Sun 28th Apr	Club event Commodores 1	1st warning signal 1325	1526 6.3
Sat 11th May	Training Laser 2000 Training Weekend		1433 5.8
Sun 12th May	Club event Commodores 2	1st warning signal 1325	1459 5.7
Sat 18th May	Club event Club Open Day		1142 Low
Sat 18th May	Scouts Topper Fun Day		1142 Low
Sat 1st Jun	Cruise Cruise to Queenborough		1250 Low
Sun 2nd Jun	Club event South Kent	1st warning 1110	1429 Low

31 1/2

Issue 105

SPRING 2013



Wilsonian
Sailing Club
Magazine



Editorial

As the season starts to warm up, the weather certainly has not! Some of the more hardy sailors of the club have been going all season at other local clubs and have also been supporting Wilsonian's own warm up series. Unfortunately work, weddings and general cold weather means I have only been able to attend two of this year's warm up races but both times I was reminded of how great sailing on the river is at this time of year. Despite losing the feeling in hands and feet, the wind seems steadier and there is so much more river with many of the moored boats still wrapped up on shore.

For this edition I have re-jigged the layouts to improve how it is viewed online so do let me know if it easier to view like this or as it was before.

For those of you, who have requested the newsletter as a hard copy, thank you for your letters and I hope the newsletter format works for you to.

Here is to less snow, good winds and a great 2013.

Amy

If you would like to contribute to the next copy of the club magazine, whether a good story, some club history or you would like to advertise a business, please email editor@wilsoniansc.org.uk

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www.wilsoniansc.org.uk

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Front page: Warm up Series 2013 (Peter Heyes)

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Newsletter images and articles:

I am always in need of more photographs and articles for the newsletter, you could send in something about the sailing you have been up to, historical articles or even just some photographs you took whilst on the rescue boat! Either pop them in the box at the top of the stairs in the sailing club or email them to editor@wilsoniansc.org.uk

Is your fleet or class underrepresented in the magazine? Why not send something in to promote it?

Do you recognize this attractive lady? She has been seen around the Wayfarers and helping out on works parties!



From the Commodore

As I sit in a cafe in the sunshine on the mountain in Corcheval I reflect a little of our achievements at WSC and how well we have done to keep ourselves ahead with our finances and activities this last year all due to our vigilant and hard working members of our club of which I say a big thank you.

Although well dressed it is -9 here but the sunshine makes all the difference and I do wonder how the Pre Season Series is surviving with the severe wintry weather at home. Well done all those that braved the weather. Our thanks to John Hewat for organizing this and to the volunteers for doing duties.

The works party this year was severely disrupted again by poor weather conditions and we had to cancel some equipment hire over a weekend. This was done later in the schedule which allowed the pot holes on the top drive to be repaired and Car Park mound of earth to be leveled out which you may have noticed. This has still further work to be done where by a membrane will cover the reclaimed land and laying crushed concrete down to make it a firm base this will extend our car parking area much needed.

My thanks to Roy Winnett for organizing and attending every work party and Duncan Griffiths for his expertise. Thank you to all those who attended their one work party and more and volunteers preparing food some of which was hot food this year and gratefully received.

The last work party was followed by AGM on the 16th February this was better attended this year with 46 members. It was decided to have hot food for those staying after the work party as it was a long day for them and everyone coming to the AGM was invited for this as well. I felt this made the AGM more of a social evening with a friendly and relaxing atmosphere an enjoyable event. Perhaps we can attract more people to come next year by doing the same again.

You will find the Minutes of the AGM in this month's 311/2 to see mine and all other reports for the year.

I have just completed and sent off our reapplication form for Volvo Champion Club status which means we are continually introducing sailing to young people and

From the Commodore continued...

encouraging them to progress via race training. Hopefully this will be reaccepted.

We met with Sam Rowe our On Board Development Officer at the end of last year to help us coordinate some of the local schools into our Saturday Skimmers group and training sessions

It's the start of a new funding period for Sport England which is every 4yrs and we met with Andy Hooper Regional Development Officer for the RYA to present to him why the club needed this funding to help the club achieve all our aims for next four years.

Luckily I am able to announce we have achieved some funding for Race Coaching and Adult Improvers, this is in the form of coaching days and subsidizing for 6 participants to do the Race Coach Level 2 and development officer time to help with other funding and a mentoring program.

This year we are hoping to run a sort of Adult Skimmers session to run concurrently with the juniors and also to introduce Adult Beginners Courses Level 1&2.

This is try and encourage Guardian parents and well as those adults that may have come to our Open Day.

The Open Day /RYA Push the Boat out day on the 18th May is a regular event in our WSC calendar now and we need all the volunteers we can get to help take interested people on the water. If you think you haven't got a suitable boat to take people out I am sure we can arrange to borrow one please ask me or other flag officers.

The 6th July hails the Medway River Festival which started last year to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and the Olympics and is a good way of advertising for the club. Volunteers are always needed and welcome to man a stand over at Gun Wharf Chatham.

Our Medway Regatta is on 13th/14th July our biggest event so save the date please.

The Website and Communication via the web thanks to Jason Ramsden is much improved with latest events Duty List and Sailing Programme for you to find under Members Area.

Please do keep a check on the Duty List.

We are still short of people to do duties covering the Winter Series so if anyone can feel they can help with another duty during this period I would be very grateful.

If you can Please contact the new communication for duties on duties@wilsoniansc.org.uk

I am looking forward to a new vibrant Junior Racing fleet with the help of the new Junior Fleet Captain Elliot Eyre and able assistant Ellie Kift.

Hopefully the weather will improve with the new season approaching on the 31st March when the clocks go forward and Saturday Skimmers starts on the 6th April look forward to seeing you at WSC.

Christine

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Medium Handicap Fleet Report

As I write this it is just 3 weeks to the start of the main sailing season and I am starting to think about getting the boat ready despite the wet and chilly weather outside. I have at least spring cleaned my sailing bag and cleared out all the old gloves, T shirts etc – together with a few rotten apples. I don't sail in the winter series, but I am told there has been **some** good sailing weather. I prefer the warmer weather so here's hoping there is time for an improvement during those 3 weeks.

Last year we had 34 boats sailing in the Medium Handicap Fleet some time during the season but had no more than 10 in any single race – and a maximum of only 9 during the Spring Series. (These numbers were all down on 2011.) It would be good if more people were able to sail on a regular basis this year and improve the competition between us. Gordon Belcher has won the Medium Handicap Fleet trophy for the last two years so lets see if one of us can beat him this year.

We had an excellent fleet evening at the Hoo Ness Yacht Club early in February. The Club were again good hosts and the meal was very good – thanks to Christine and her team in the kitchen. Those there received their prize mugs – I will hand out the remainder as soon as I meet you at the club. I would welcome ideas for next year's fleet evening – and any volunteers to take over as Fleet Captain next year.

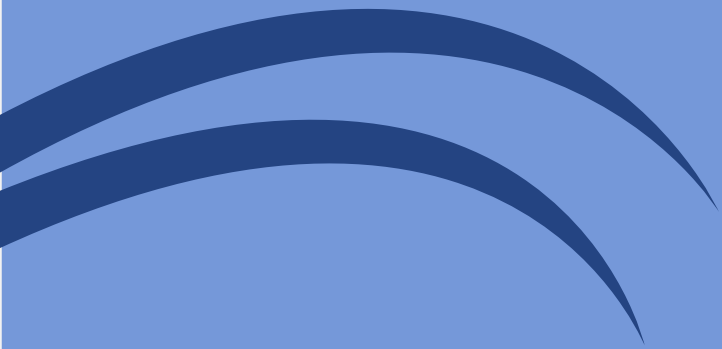
Hope to see you on the water soon.

Graham Jenkinson

Laser 191856

Right: Alto sailing during the warm up series

Peter Heyes



With the Ice Breaker only one week away, the club will open from midday on Saturday 30th offering afternoon tea and cakes for those that want to bring down their boat or finish off some last minute chores.



Fast Handicap Fleet Report

I have succumbed to the lure of high office, with the attendant trappings of power and possibilities for personal enrichment, and taken on the role of fast fleet captain. Actually, no-one else seemed to want the job, and I had a weak moment... If anyone knows what the role entails, please let me know! I'm looking forward to lots of helpful advice and feedback on course setting etc.

Anyway, since I've only just started, there is little to report so far. The Chilly Willies was sparsely attended, but probably one of the best days of the winter so far, with Ian Foxwell carrying the flag for the fast fleet. Chris Ashby and Ian Parris in the Alto have been getting in some sneaky practice, and currently lead the inaccurately titled warm-up series. Amy and I had our first outing in the 3000 last week, when the weather was surprisingly pleasant. I've seen the forecast for tomorrow and am therefore looking forward to a day in the race box... Fleet news – the Vortex contingent looks as if it will be beefed up by the addition of Martin Jones. Hopefully future reports will be more informative!

On another subject, I will also be helping out with the organisation of Wednesday evening sailing. Many thanks to Tony Hunt for his efforts in running this over the years. For anyone who is not aware, Wednesday evening racing takes place every week from the beginning of May until the end of August, starting at 6.30. Racing is fairly informal, but for many of us who participate, it provides some of our most enjoyable sailing experiences, and a very nice mid-week escape from the pressures of work etc. I highly recommend it! Last year, the Wednesday series suffered somewhat from a combination of dire weather and patchy duty coverage. This year, we will be making some changes in the hope of rejuvenating the series, though alas, there is little we can do about the weather! The idea is to minimise the size of the duty crew by running the race from the safety boat, so that we will only require 2 duty crew each week, and someone to open/close the club. I will be "encouraging" people to come and sail, and also to sign up ahead of time for safety boat duty. I know that it is hard for many people to make a commitment on a weekday evening, but if you can, it really helps the series work. If you can't please turn up and sail anyway. I look forward to seeing you all at the club during the season.

Peter Heyes

V3000, 3602



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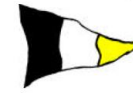
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Laser 2k Fleet Report

As I sit here writing this article (late as always), there are just two weeks to go to the start of the new season. However, despite my very tardy delivery to the editor, it is actually quite an apt time to be writing this. The recent snows have now thawed, apart from the odd little pile in sheltered corners, the strong winds have subsided, the rain has stopped and the sun is doing its very best to brighten the start of the day. For the first time in a very long while, I am beginning to look forward to the start of the season.

The annual Fleet gathering was very well attended back in February, with 23 of us sitting down to a roast Sunday lunch followed by a short discussion and prize-giving for the 2012 season. As a consequence of the reduction in the anticipated cost of the lunch, we raised a total of £23.72 for the RNLI, which was deposited into the RNLI collection box on the bar. Thanks to everyone who generously donated.

I would like to formally note my sincerest thanks to Roy and Paul for kindly supporting me as vice fleet captains for the last few years. Their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

John Hewat and Paul Clarke have kindly agreed to take on vice fleet captaincy for the forthcoming 2013 season, for which I am again most grateful.

By way of three early season reminders:

- (i) we will have a new Class Flag board this year, being a reversal of what we've always had. The new flag will now be a red logo on a white background.
- (ii) our boat and class will no longer be known as the "Laser 2000", but will henceforth be known simply as the "2000", with all future boats being built and supplied by LDC Sailing (not RS Sailing). Going forward, spares can be obtained from LDC Sailing by contacting Charlie Merchant on 01794 526767.
- (iii) we are proudly one of the largest 2000 fleets in the entire country, so please remember to renew your Class Association membership for the forthcoming year (excellent value at just £15 for the year).

On the water

Over the weekend of 11/12 May we will be hosting a 2000 Class Association training event, with a top 2K sailor in the national Fleet undertaking the coaching. The weekend is free to members of the Class Association. Everyone is cordially invited to participate. I have no doubt that, regardless of experience and/or levels of ability, everyone is likely to get some benefit from the weekend. We will be receiving guests from other clubs, though numbers are likely to be far fewer than last season's open meeting. Do try to come along if you can possibly make it that weekend. I have asked for further details from the Association, and will forward these on to you as soon as I receive them.

This year's Nationals are to be held at Pwllheli from 4th to 9th August, which should prove to be a superb venue for the event, with excellent sailing waters, superb clubhouse, dinghy parking and car parking facilities and great launching from a gently-shelving sandy beach. If you are thinking of joining us, I would advise that you book your accommodation as early as you can, as accommodation near to the venue is quite limited, I believe.

MS Open meetings for the coming season are as follows:

18/19 May	Broadstairs
1/2 June	Snettisham Beach
8/9 June	Grafham Water
6/7 July	Lee-on-Solent
14/15 Sept	Felixstowe Ferry
14/15 Sept	Felixstowe Ferry
5/6 Oct	Bala
19/20 Oct	Rutland

This year's Medway Regatta is to be held over the weekend of 13/14 July, and I am hoping that we get the tremendous Fleet turnout that we got last year.

Broxbourne's annual Regatta is scheduled for the weekend of 7/8 September.

Finally, we agreed at February's Fleet gathering that we would consider lengthening some of our afternoon series racing this year, to occasionally take us further downstream and into some of the creeks (depending on prevailing weather/tidal conditions of course).

Off the water

On the social side, we hope to be able to take up Tom Wareham's kind offer of a visit to his museum, which I failed to organize last year. I will discuss further with Tom, and advise further details separately by e-mail.

We will also be considering a motor activity event with John Hewat, followed by a BBQ, at some point in the summer months. Again, I will discuss this further with John, and advise further by separate e-mail.

The possibility of land yachting was raised at the Fleet gathering, so we will explore further that possibility too.

We will be arranging a Fleet BBQ one evening during the summer, and we have provisionally planned this for the evening of Saturday 1st June (to be confirmed by e-mail).

Finally

I do hope everyone gets to thoroughly enjoy their 2K sailing at the Club and beyond this year.

Please do get in touch with either myself or with John or Paul if the Fleet can be of any assistance to you at all in terms of your sailing/racing or in any other way. Nothing pleases me more at Club level than seeing, and/or being able to assist in, improvements to sailing/racing abilities, both at individual level and collectively as a Fleet, and to see people enjoying their sailing with greater confidence and competence.

I look forward to seeing you all at the club and out on the water some time soon, though it is quite likely that I will have already seen many of you before you get to read this article.

Colin Treadwell

Laser 2K 22258

Open Day 2013

This year's Open Day falls on Saturday 18th May and we are promoting the club to anyone who wishes to join our sport or simply move from another club or get back in to a boat. The success of the last two years Open Days has seen over a hundred visitors and we are hoping for more this year. The success of the Open Day is proportional to the assistance of the club members as we need a number of roles to be filled to help with the running of this event throughout the day. If you can assist for an hour or all day, we would really appreciate it.

If you can assist in anyway, please email info@wilsoniansc.org.uk and we will let you know what's required.

We also need advertising of the Open Day and have created a poster that could be put up in the work place, schools, colleges or even doctors surgeries. You can download the poster by clicking the Open Day banner on the website homepage which will take you through to the Open Day page. Under documents, you can download the file 'Club Open Day 2013 PDF'.

Thank you to everyone who has offered their services (either part or of all day) for this year's Open Day. We still need members to fulfil a number of duties on that day, namely RIB crew, helms, house assistants and general greet and meet. If you can find time to help on the Open Day, please email info@wilsoniansc.org.uk



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Store images showing: outboard motors, a display counter, and shelves of rope.

Cockham Wood Fort

Launching from the beach you cannot have help noticing the remains of Cookham Wood Fort towards Hoo. Not much remains now but a stroll along the beach for closer inspection shows the strength of the construction, sadly now nearly eroded away by tides and landslip.

Cockham Wood Fort was built (along with the long demolished Gillingham Fort) as a result of the embarrassing Dutch Raid of 1667. It was designed by Sir Bernard De Gomme, Chief Engineer to Charles II to help defend Chatham Dockyard from an attack by enemy ships sailing up the River Medway. The fort was completed by 1669.

The fort had two tiers of gun platforms built into the hillside. The lower platform had positions for 21 guns and the upper platform had room for 20 more. Some of the guns for the fort came from Cooling and Upnor castles.

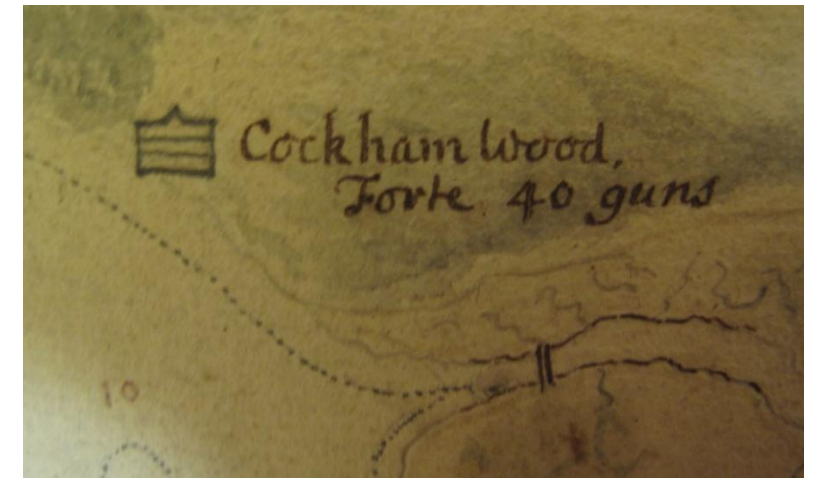
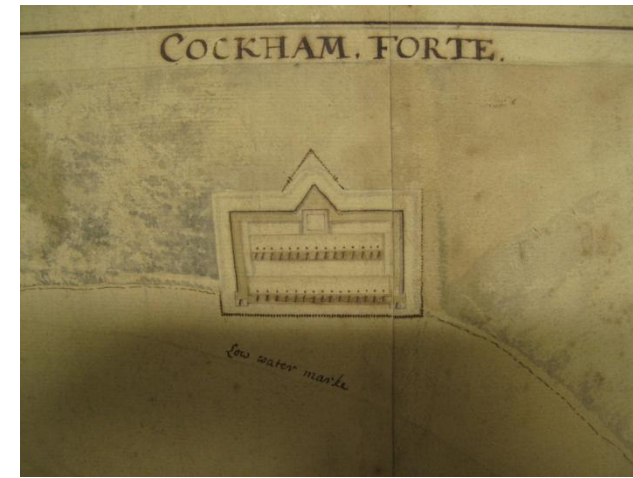
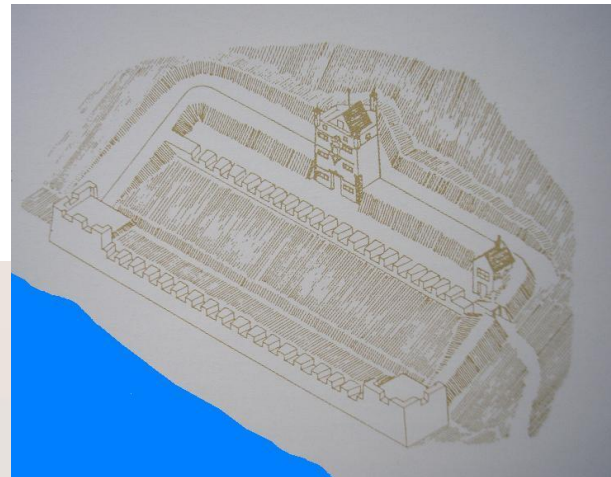
Around the outside it was protected by earthworks and a dry ditch. At the rear of the fort was a ravelin type structure and Guard tower. Also there was accommodation for the Master Gunner. It must be assumed that it would have been garrisoned from nearby Upnor

By 1794 the fort was recorded as falling into ruins, but it still had a Master Gunner up until the early years of the 19th century.

Today parts of the wall and arches of the lower gun tier remain on the riverside, and parts of the ramparts and a small bit of the tower remains behind

Paul Nudds

Miracle 3636



Note from editor:

The above photographs are close ups from a couple of maps held in the Royal Engineers Museum Library and Archive. The Museum holds almost a complete set of maps dating back to the 1700s tracing the development of the fortifications of the Chatham Dockyard and the Medway Estuary.

For more information on these maps, or about the fortifications in the area why not contact the editor during her day job at the Museum! Contact deputycurator@re-museum.co.uk

The best source of information for the Medway Fortifications is a gazette produced by Victor Smith et al. (of which you can buy a smaller book which is very interesting – I think ‘Front Line Kent’ is its title).

Below is an extract from the 1859 Royal Commission map (also held in the archives), which interestingly shows the original preferred locations for the forts which were to become Hoo and Darnet (marked in Red). The green line shows the proposed extensions to the Chatham Lines.



Crew Wanted

Crew needed for Osprey No. 1155 for 2013 season.

Lack of time prevents regular series racing but aim to do as many one off races as possible such as Grand Prix, South Kent etc. - Typically 2 Sundays per month. Would like to do Sheppey Island Race again this year.

One or two Sundays per month ideally. Always interested in cruising too!

If interested please contact Richard Metcalfe –
richmet1@tiscali.co.uk or 01732 364940

News

RYA Dinghy Show

Another good show at Alexandra Palace and Wilsonian SC won 10 Rooster life jackets for club that had the most amount of tickets purchased prior to the event. We were also represented by club members on various class stands including Osprey, Kestrel, Wayfarer, Alto, Buzz. There was also comments made by various visitors throughout the day as to the amount of Wilsonian members could be seen with one person stating "You Wilsonian sailors seem to be everywhere here today!".

Duty List

This seasons duty list is now live on the website and can be viewed at <http://www.wilsoniansc.org.uk/members/>

If you need to email the duty secretary, please use the email address duties@wilsoniansc.org.uk although if you are unable to fulfil your duty it is your responsibility to find a replacement. By sending an email to info@wilsoniansc.org.uk we can add your name and duty date to the website notice board requesting a swap although we would like to be notified to the same email address if this has been arranged so that it can be removed.

If you need a crew or helm, want to sell a boat or generally want to advertise something, then the member's notice board on the website can do just that. Please email webmaster@wilsoniansc.org.uk if you would like to add a notice to the website.

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 16 February 2013 AT 18.30 HRS.

Christine Godber (Commodore) chaired the meeting. 46 members were present.

1. Commodore's Opening Remarks:

The Commodore welcomed members to the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Wilsonian Sailing Club. She said that her first year as Commodore had proved eye opening especially regarding the amount of volunteer time that is put in to keep the Club viable and she felt well supported by the Flag officers, Committee and all the members of the club.

She stated that the reports would follow shortly from the various officers and thanked the House Committee for the catering, noting that that there were vacant positions on the General Committee and for a House Secretary in particular and that nominations, or volunteers during or after the meeting would be welcome.

She expressed her thanks to Ken Crundwell (retiring Auditor), Brian Warwick (retiring Site Service Manager) and Gill Warwick (retiring Sales Co-ordinator) for their work over many years and asked that a formal letter of thanks be sent to all. She also thanked Paul Thorpe and Colin Treadwell retiring from the General Committee and asked for a round of applause for all .

She had also attended RYA workshops for Planning and Funding which stated the importance of understanding what the membership requires from the club and the vital need to encourage new members to join the club, find out their needs and how we can help them benefit most from the club. This was particularly important in the present economic climate as we need new members to return after the first year to sustain and run the club providing succession planning for the future.

The RYA funding workshop brought her attention to the fact that this year hails the start of a new 4 yearly funding period from Sport England and hoped to work with Andy Hooper from the R.Y.A. who visited recently, to ensure the Club was a recipient of funds. She also noted that the Club was a Volvo Champion Club, which means we continually introduce sailing to young people and encourage them to progress via race training in a safe and fun environment and but that the R.Y.A and Volvo felt there needed to be a re validating process annually. The club has been invited, and will apply, to retain the benefits of the Volvo Championship status.

The Commodore also announced that, following the Rule amendment at last years AGM that the Scouts and Hoo Ness YC now have 3rd Party Membership and sub lease by Hoo has now been surrendered.

She also mentioned that she was able to attend the RYA AGM in London was most proud to see Terry Eaglestone receiving his RYA Community award from Princess Anne in November. Terry does 40 + safety boat duties in a year and we couldn't run some events without him for which many thanks.

She then ran through some of the positive Club achievements in the last year –
5 National or European Champions

The successful Medway Regatta, Laser 2000, KSSA and Junior open meetings

The Open day with 72 visitors

Sponsorship from MTS, EON, Craft Insure and Hyde Sails

Improved facilities including new Junior Storage cabin, new heaters, low consumption showers, a dishwasher and improved security.

And then moved on to highlight the publicity for the club including in the local press, Yachts and Yachting and the highlight of a swim with the Vice Commodore and the Mayor of Medway from St Mary's Island to the club.

She also mentioned the funding received in 2012 – £10,000 from Sports England for a new Club Wayfarer and Laser 2000, £200 from R.Y.A. volunteer support and £400 as an Onboard development grant.

The Commodore then outlined the training achievements for 2012 as follows -

Successful Skimmers Junior club every Saturday from April to October – 66 children (44 boys and 22 girls) over the year. Of these 33 were new to sailing. She added that the Club hoped to introduce an Adults Learn to sail to run concurrently, a sort of Adult Skimmers?

Over subscribed Junior Week – 40 participants

8 adults trained on Powerboat courses

4 adults trained and 3 adults achieved an RYA sailing certificate

29 children received RYA sailing certificate

6 pupils members of Hoo School

She concluded by running through the club statistics and outlining the challenges as –

converting Junior parents into sailors and active members

Club officer succession planning

a static full memberships, the need to attract the 18 to 40 age group

the requirement to maintain availability of SI and DI's

to revitalise Hoo Freezer from 2014

upstream slipway and seawall integrity

ageing RIB engines and fleet

the Duty Roster

security

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies have been received from B & G Warwick, M Goodchild, M Fish, K Crundwell, M Groom, T Kift, C Stevens, H & I Foxwell, G Smith, B & J Smith, N Fenton Smith, B Lamb, B Burnell, A & C Wynn J and J Shenton .

3. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting:

On a proposal by Tom Sims, seconded by Mike Gower, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the 2012 AGM were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Commodore.

4. Matters arising:

None.

5. Secretary's Report:

The membership numbers are similar to 2011 with a slight increase in full members and a significant increase in Junior members which, in the present climate, is good news. The provided table gives members the opportunity to analyse the issues but the Club needs to increase its Full memberships and skills to support the number of Juniors and cover the duty roster. The challenge for the future is to convert Junior (and Guardian?) memberships to Full.

As part of a drive to increase skills GCM has agreed to provide the RIB and Safety course for only £50 in 2013 together with the opportunity of an extra RIB duty to consolidate the course with the expectation that this will increase the number of RIB drivers, assisting the scheduling of a full seasons racing.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	New Members 2012	Change 11/12
Members	202	203	208	218	223	215	224		+9
New Members	21	26	26	34	36	37	44		+7
Single	94	96	89	90	99	91	84	6	-7
Family	72	69	74	69	59	51	57	13	+6
Total "Full" Memberships	166	165	163	159	158	142	144		+2
Hon/Life	10	10	11	10	10	11	10		-1
Associate	9	12	10	15	13	10	8		-2
Country	3	2	6	4	4	4	4		0
Junior	3	5	7	15	22	23	31	13	+8
Student	6	4	2	7	8	7	6	2	-1
Postal	5	3	3	3	3	4	4		0
Support	0	1	4	3	3	2	1		-1
Group	1	1	2	2	2	2	1		-1
Guardian	0	0	0	0	0	10	18	10	+8

Junior sailing continued to thrive in 2012 with Saturday Skimmers running from the end of March to the end of October. Four race series were held, each producing a different winner, with an average series entry of 20 boats. Richard Tutt was the overall winner and recipient of the Fall Out Trophy.

As the season progressed, it became clear that there was a demand for informal training for beginners so a parallel group was organised by Lesley O'Rourke alongside the racers. By the end of the season, these beginners were participating in racing.

In August, another successful Junior Week took place for 40 sailors, culminating in a regatta.

Saturday Skimmers resumes the first week of April. In 2013 the aim is to encourage junior racers to join Sunday racing as well, and to offer the opportunity for adult beginners and improvers to come and sail on Saturday mornings. Volunteer support always welcome.

A couple of reminders were given regarding the speed limit and the location of the up to date duty list on the web site. Mention was also made of the extension of the use of email to save postage and increase speed of communication and comments were invited.

6. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer was pleased to report that we maintained a stable position last year even though the surplus is down on 2011 to £4560.59

The Club purchased two new Club boats and the shortfall was covered by income.

A Dishwasher was also purchased which had been part of the original Kitchen Plan.

Taking into account these additional assets - the disposals (we sold a Club boat) less depreciation for the year £9863 the Club fixed assets increased by £4681 to £125156.

The negotiations regarding the Club new lease are ongoing although the Treasurer very much hoped that the matter will be concluded shortly. Consequently the Club did not pay increased rent. The Club did pay £960 to Brachers (*club solicitors*) in part payment of fees at the beginning of 2012.

Funds have been set aside to cover the rent owed and further fees involved in drawing up the new lease. Brice Contingency

3 Dinghy park keys were written off which had not been returned by members leaving the Club thereby reducing the Key fund liability.

Allowing for our emergency fund of £10,000 plus Key Deposits, Brice Contingency, Boat fund, Generator fund £35610 needs to be allowed for before considering any capital expenditure.

The club's application to Sport England for a grant of £10000 towards the purchase of 2 new Club boats was successful and a Wayfarer and Laser 2000 were purchased at a total cost £15904.

The Club sold one existing Club boat (a Vision) for £2500 so reducing the club's contribution (£3404) and hopes to sell another boat this year. As previously mentioned the funds required to meet the shortfall were met from income.

Servicing costs for the Club Outboards reduced, as another company was sourced to undertake this work. The Club did not have to buy a new engine as was anticipated in my 2012 report. The need to replace the sponsors on Kittiwake was identified and the work carried out early 2013 at a cost of £4170. This expenditure will be met from the Boat Funds set aside in the accounts.

After a slow start the kitchen and bar achieved a good result. A surplus of £6217 i.e. 34% profit

The Kitchen Menu changed and seemed to go down well with members with Home made soup a particular favourite The Treasurer did not foresee any increased prices in the Kitchen and Bar at this time. However costs will be monitored and discussed as necessary with the General Committee before any increases are made. The House committee did very well in the absence of a House Secretary and shared responsibility for various events throughout the year, ending with an excellent Christmas lunch.

The Kitchen and Bar not only makes a valuable contribution to Club funds it is a focal point for our members and it would be tragic if the ability to keep this going was lost.

Fuel costs continue to rise, including bottled gas and one gas heater in the clubhouse was replaced by installing two new Electric heaters to reduce gas consumption. The cost of petrol is offset by the Excise Duty refund.

A new trophy was purchased 2012 for the Championship series at a cost of £550 and this is reflected in the increase in expenditure, however spending was still within the £3000 budget.

Membership numbers have held up well but the configuration has changed, with a significant reduction in family memberships over the past few years. Ultimately this has led to a reduction in the number of people to do duties.

This year, to encourage members to train to be Rib Drivers/crew the Club is offering a safety boat course and a power boat course for £50 previously £100 for each course but with an undertaking to do an extra duty to put the training into practice. This will inevitably reduce the Training income but is a necessary course of action for reasons stated

Membership fees have increased by the same amount as 2012. However the General Committee agreed to adopt a method previously practiced, of inviting renewals by the end of January to avoid paying the increased rates. The consequent reduction in income for this initial year will be partially offset by increased Dinghy Park fees from £90 to £95.

In the present economic climate apart from maintenance costs the Treasurer stated she would not encourage any other large capital expenditure this coming year and will continue to keep a close eye on all expenditure.

The Club needs to ensure that we look after our existing members by continuing to offer the best facilities whilst keeping membership fees competitive. This can only be maintained by keeping our existing membership base and attracting new members so please encourage friends and colleagues to join us.

The Treasurer thanked everyone who worked so hard to keep the Club successful and stated that without the various events held throughout the year, membership fees would have to increase substantially to keep the Club viable. (Approx basic cost per month £2000)

The Treasurer also thanked Ken Crundwell for auditing the accounts and announced that after 10 years he has decided to retire from office. The Treasurer looked forward to working with the new auditor and also wished to thank Gill Warwick for banking the weekly Kitchen and bar takings and for looking after the Bosuns Locker. Gill is also retiring this year and hopes to move to new pastures later in the year.

The Commodore thanked the Treasurer for her report and work invited questions, there were none. On a proposal by C Rodgers, seconded by G Jenkinson the accounts were adopted without dissent.

7. The Sailing Report

The Sailing Secretary reported that entries were considerably lower in 2012 than 2011 with approximately 79% as many races entered and approximately 52% as many boats entered. Only the Early Summer series had a greater number of competitors in 2012 than 2011. He hoped the reduced numbers were due to the poor weather experienced in 2012 but suggested that with modern sailing clothing including dry suits a little rain should not be a deterrent.

He stated that the Regatta was a success with 78 boats entering, 46 from WSC and 32 visitors, just 2 less than last year and both visitors whilst the Laser 2000 open went well with 23 boats competing 10 of which were visitors and a home turnout of 13 out of a possible 15. The 2000 Class Association had reacted positively to the open and on the strength of this the Laser 2000s are returning in 2013 for a training weekend and it's hoped they'll return for another open in 2014.

He reported that the sailing committee decided to retain the china mugs printed with the Club name and flag and a map of the river as the keepsake prizes for Club racing. These were presented to the bulk of recipients at the fleet evenings and were warmly received. It is expected that we will have different keepsake prizes for 2013 and suggestions were welcome!

He stated that the Fast, Laser 2000 and Slow fleets remained broadly comparable in numbers of boats to competing and races entered in 2012 as 2011 but numbers were markedly down for the Medium fleet. The Junior fleet seems to be struggling with only 36% of the number of competitors in the Junior races on Commodore days. However, there were five junior competitors in the Autumn Series as opposed to none throughout 2011. He expressed the hope that we can build on this, especially as the Saturday Skimmers team puts in so much effort to the Junior section.

The Sailing Secretary outlined the Sailing arrangements for 2013 as follows –

The Winter Series is no longer to be an open meeting; this is to reduce the burden on the Club and duty team for an event which has had few visitors for the last two seasons. However, should non-members wish to join us on a temporary membership basis they will be very welcome. The Winter Series is also to be renamed the Frostbite Series. The status of the Frostbite Series will be subject to review as it has previously been a successful event, as will the Grand Prix.

In conclusion the Sailing Secretary thanked all those Club members who have given assistance to him and the Sailing Committee over the last twelve months and in particular Colin Treadwell for his work with the Regatta and Laser 2000 open meeting, Ian Parris for sorting out the trophies, Roy Winnett for his work collating and publishing the racing results, Tony Hunt for writing up the Committee meeting minutes, the Fleet Captains for all their contributions and all those whose efforts make racing at WSC possible.

The Sailing Secretary reminded members that all are welcome to attend and take part in Sailing Committee meetings which take place on the third Wednesday of most months.

The members showed their appreciation for the Sailing Secretary's endeavours over 2012 with a round of applause.

8. Committee Reports.

Bosun's Report

The Bosun stated that he had not a lot to report but, dirty fuel had caused problems all year on the safety boats requiring all carburettors to be stripped – several times. He also reported that the Committee boat had been filling with water and he had traced this to a small crack in the cockpit floor which he had repaired.

He added that Kittiwake had had new tubes fitted, as the old ones had perished, and that it should now give many years of service. The Bosun would also like to thank all the people who helped during the last year to keep the club boats on the water and to Stan Sprot for his work to make the boat house secure.

He stated that Andy Pickrell had taken on the role of looking after the Club sailing dinghies and has made a "fab" job of kitting out the new shed to keep everything in order. Noting that one Topper and an Express dinghy (used for capsize drill by the Safety Boat team) had to be scrapped he appealed for a glass fibre replacement. He concluded by saying that one Vision had been sold, another would be sold and Andy now has a new Wayfarer and Laser 2000 to look after.

Training Report

The Training Principal thanked the Commodore for her presentation of the years training, to which he could find little to add but would wish to inform members that the Safety and RIB course at a reduced cost of £50, for which there were quite a few requests, would have a firm date shortly but would be as early as possible in the season. He had also arranged for a sailing course to commence on the week following the Club Open Day to meet the need of those attending and encourage them to join. He announced that Paul Thorpe will be organising a First Aid Course and, following a request from the floor, a refresher course would also be arranged.

House Report.

The Commodore gave a big thanks to the House Committee for all the meals, events and regular organisation of the food for the club and hoped that the pre AGM meal would be repeated as it was obviously appreciated.

Duties Report.

The Secretary reported the Duty Secretary had commented that there had been some problems with non show and too many on the same day and reminded all that the up to date duty list was on the web site and those requiring to change, or who are unable to attend, must inform the CDO and Duty Secretary. To assist this the Duty Secretary has set up an email address duty.sec@aol.co.uk. The Duty Secretary was also pleased to report that the main season was nearly fully crewed with only 4 RIB and 17 other vacancies but added that the Winter (Frostbite) series will need a change in approach for which he was awaiting guidance from the General Committee.

The Commodore expressed her, and the meetings, thanks for the Duty Secretary's work over the season which was essential for the smooth running of the club.

Publicity and Web site Report.

The Web site Manager reported that there had been a continued growth of enquiries with over 1500 unique visitors in the last year. He had received requests for a crew/helm match system on the web site.

He was looking for more sponsors, additional content and would be stressing the Club Open Day on the 18th of May as publicity was essential to promote the club and sport as, ultimately, members equal income and duties to run the club. He closed by stressing that the success of the Open Day rests with the volunteers who run it, more were requested, and also looked to members to display the poster, that can be downloaded from the web site, in appropriate places.

Maintenance Report.

The Co-ordinator reported that despite low temperatures, icy winds, rain and a heavy snowfall most of the scheduled works were completed. The hired equipment and insurance cost around £700; so it was vital that when delivered it was used.

Fortunately he was unable to hire the equipment on the scheduled date of 19th/20th January and we correctly postponed to 2nd/3rd February. As the Hoo Freezer was cancelled he replaced the abandoned 20th January work party with one on the 10th February.

The costs of the works this year were considerably lower than estimated, Duncan has suggested that we lay crushed concrete over the levelled area in the car park later this year, before the Medway Regatta.

Estimated cost £2060.00, including 5 x20 tonne loads of crushed concrete, geofabric membrane and hire of excavator and roller.

Suggested weekend dates 22nd/23rd June or 29th/30th June. Duncan would require one helper prepared to operate the roller.

Maintenance works included:

- Potholes in the top track filled with crushed concrete and compacted with roller
Duncan levelled the soil in the car park
- Roy Laphorn and David Burfoot carried their annual clearout of the gutters
- The new picnic tables treated
- Martin Brown fitted single control taps to the showers
- Paul Thorpe cleaned and tidied the bar area
- Lauren Campbell, Leah Johnson and Carole Johnson cleaned the kitchen
- Walls and ceiling and wall of stairway painted
- Walls of Committee room painted
- Some block paving relayed under Phil Harris's guidance
- Paving the RIB cage completed by new member Alan Cook
- Stan Sprot and Bernard Smith completing the RIB extension
- The wood flooring at the entrances of the boat house were replaced with concrete - the Tinnams in charge
- The closures on the upstream boathouse have been removed to make closure easier. Both doors painted
- Slipways pressure washed
- Ian Wyatt did his annual cleaning of the extractor fans
- Martin Jessop checked all the electrical equipment and found the electric Kettle faulty
- Andy Hockey with family help installed electric supply to the dishwasher and new electric heater
- Tony Hunt cleared the drainage ditches behind clubhouse and dinghy park
- Andy Pickrell and Peter Horner erected a bund for the Club Dinghies
- John Muster making a new shutter for the race box
- Bob Dutton making a replacement triangle for the start line

Thanks to:

- Those members who turned up and got the work done effectively in spite of temperatures around zero and especially those who turned up twice
- Tim Kift who came to our rescue when the generator failed to start due to a dead battery
- Derek Zobel, Jayne Lambert, Jane Drummond, Christine Godber, Alison Williams, Carol Rodgers and Jean Whittaker who supplied and prepared much appreciated hot food for lunch and regularly provided tea/coffee
Jean again provided food for the additional work party on 10th February

Extra thanks to:

- Duncan Griffiths especially for organising the hire of equipment, procurement of materials and supervising the track repair and levelling the soil in the car park.
- Colin Treadwell especially for the insurance of the hire equipment and helping out in supervision of the work
- Tom Sims especially for help and advice in organising the all work needed
- Brian Lamb especially for taking charge of work groups
- Geoff Lambert especially for work involving the boat house, RIB cage and club boats

The Commodore thanked the Co-ordinator and all concerned deserved the round of applause.

9. Election of Officers.

The following nominations had been received –

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Commodore	Christine Godber	Jo Wicken	Paul Rodgers
Vice Commodore	Jeremy Drummond	Christine Godber	Brian Lamb
Rear Commodore	Mike Gower	Christine Godber	Jean Whittaker

Honorary Secretary	Martin Smith	Jo Wicken	Colin Treadwell
Honorary Treasurer	Trish Ayris	Mike Gower	Roy Winnett
Sailing Secretary	Matt Love	Geoff Lambert	Tom Sims
Bosun	Geoff Lambert	Derek Zoebel	Tom Sims
House Secretary	VACANCY		
GCM 1	VACANCY		
GCM 2	VACANCY		
GCM 3	Jean Whittaker	Derek Zoebel	Roy Winnett
GCM 4	Brian Lamb	Roy Winnett	Colin Treadwell
GCM 5	Paul Rodgers	Paul Thorpe	Jo Wicken
GCM 6	Jo Wicken	Trish Ayris	Paul Rodgers
House Committee (6 places)	Jane Drummond Carole Johnson Jayne Lambert Carol Rodgers Alison Williams Derek Zoebel		
Trustees	Martin Fish, Bernard Smith, Roy McLeod, Dave Vettergreen	N/A	N/A

Alan Bailey and Zoe Bailey were proposed respectively by R Dutton and P Heyes, seconded J Wicken and P Heyes at the meeting for General Committee membership and the Commodore proposed that A Wynn be elected club auditor and this was seconded J Hewat. All proposals were accepted unanimously.

The following appointments to Assistant Officer were announced – Jean Whittaker to Sales Coordinator, Ray Craddock to Site Services Manager. Stan Sprot volunteered to assist Ray, the offer was gratefully accepted and he was appointed Assistant Site Services Manager immediately!

As all the Fleet meetings had yet to be completed some discussion took place as to the fleet captains and these were agreed as –
Fast Fleet Peter Heyes
Medium Fleet Graham Jenkinson
Junior Fleet Elliot Eyre and assistant Ellie Kift
Laser2000 C Treadwell though J Treadwell dissented!
Discussions were to continue at the Sailing Committee to fill the Slow Fleet vacancy.

10. A.O.B.

Martin Vinton informed the meeting that a First Aid course was to be run by the Scouts at Whitstable the 17th of March.

The Vice Commodore updated the meeting on the progress of the lease negotiations with the news that the 3rd party membership for Hoo Ness Y.C. had enabled them to surrender the sub lease in April 2012 but that the Club's legal review found that access rights might be compromised by an agreement with Taylor Woodrow. A change had been agreed and once the legal parties had exchanged letters the lease could be signed for 28 years from 2009 and the back rent paid.

A vote of thanks was given to J Drummond and A Clark for their work in progressing this agreement.

J Wicken and J Hewat requested that volunteers for the Warm up Series (starting next Sunday) contact either of them.

Closing Remarks.

The Commodore thanked everyone for coming, expressed the hope that the pre AGM supper would be repeated and wished all a good seasons sailing before closing the meeting at 19.55.