



Pevensey Bay Sailing Club

# AQUILA

[WWW.PBSC.EU](http://WWW.PBSC.EU)

**MAY 2013**

## COMMODORE'S COMMUNIQUE



Hopefully by the time you read this Aquila we should have new, more secure, boat house doors. These will be electrically operated which should make them much easier to operate although, before using them, please check for instructions. This should be the last of this year's big projects, however there are still a few little jobs that need to be done around the club; I will leave a list on the white board in the club house. **If you have a few spare minutes whilst you are down please check the list and give a hand, thank you.**

The season has started well with some good numbers racing on Sundays, although we have not yet had the weather for Saturday nights; perhaps this week! Sailing school on Tuesdays have now been on the water along with the Sharks a few times, however the weather has not been that kind yet to the Seals and Dolphins, although it is early days yet. Thursday nights are new this year and have proved so popular with approx. 30 attending, a good mix of new and experienced sailors, boat hire for the night £7.50.

Can I please ask that people using the **members' container, please lock it behind them**, we have had a couple of instances where the outside areas have been locked and then this container opened and left open. Obviously we do ask members to be responsible for this, not just for their own kit security but for the security of others.

Again it is pleasing to mention our young sailors travelling on the circuit, Nikki & Will continue to train and compete hard maintaining their places within the Olympic and Paralympic squads, whilst Olivier Greber has done particularly well in 2 recent events, shinning amongst larger fleets including adults. Olivier will be providing us with a detailed report but is currently taking A levels so this will be a little delayed. Finally we have Lewis Humphries who pulled out some excellent results in the Eric Twiname trophy coming 8<sup>th</sup> out of 83, I am sure we will also hear from Lewis at some point.

This year we have fitted **new race lights** as the old ones had had it. Unfortunately the new lights are themselves causing difficulties, please bear with us on this. We are currently using a mix of lights and flags and planning a suitable solution to the crisis.

Greg mentions the boat park in his article but I will go there too. We had a fantastic team clear the boat park and tidy it earlier this season, we now need to identify boats so that we can move any remaining boats that do not get on the water, making space for the ones that do, and space for the new boats that keep on arriving. Judy started this process recently but it proved too difficult as so many boats have still not got this year's labels on them. Please, please attach your label to your boat asap. Once boats are identified we will then be asking people who are no longer members, or have not paid the relevant boat park fee to remove their boats from the site. There is a formal process for this, if they no longer want their boats or do not respond the club will then look to dispose of them as it sees fit. Surprisingly, many people have already expressed interest in buying some of the discarded boats for renovation and use, **if you have an old, unused boat sitting there, please identify yourself and we could get you in contact with a possible purchaser.**

We have a couple of open meetings coming up in June, your help at the first one (**Contender and National 12 on 8 and 9 June**) will really be appreciated as this is good income for the club at a time when we really need it. The second is one that would be great for more members to get involved in. It is the Cadet Camp

weekend (**29 and 30 June**) where we have cadet training with outside coaches from the RYA alongside our own team on Saturday, followed by a Topper and Laser open meeting which is obviously for all ages! Please come along and get involved whether as a sailor or a helper. The weekend should be buzzing! Karen has arranged a Bar-B-Q Saturday night with activities planned as well. **SEE THE TWO FLYERS WITH THIS AQUILA. Can cadets please pre-register an interest in attending so that we have a good idea of numbers for Saturday!**

Also on **Sun 23 June we have the Federation Race which will be in Hastings** this year. It comprises of Cat, fast, medium and slow fleets. We need to get a team together of at least two boats in each fleet to score. Please, please sign up to attend (weather permitting) as this is such good fun. I did my first Federation race as a novice and actually scored points for the club, so it was a real boost to my confidence. Let's show the locals what Pevensey Bay are made of!!!!

**Duties.** Yes what would a newsletter be without a little gripe about duties. Planning **duties is a mammoth task for anyone and Paul Umney has kindly taken this task on this year, thank you Paul. Please can I ask that members make every attempt to attend their duty and if they can't, can they please use Dutyman to swap the duty themselves. Only as a last resort should they go to Paul for help as he has been overloaded with requests**, I do not do duties myself now, so please do not contact me as an alternative as I will only pass it on to Paul. The worst case scenario is when people do not turn up at all and have not flagged up the problem, which has happened this season. This is disappointing as everyone knows the club is run by ourselves for ourselves, if you want to go sailing someone volunteers to cover rescue boat for you, therefore it is only right that you provide that service back!

**On our new website pbsc.eu you will find an up to date list of duties** to check when you are required to be at the club, you also get reminder emails from Dutyman, if you are not getting these please email Paul who will check your details are correct on the system. The whole functioning of the club depends on people doing their bit. Many thanks to all those who have turned up as planned and to those that have stepped in last minute to cover, it is kind of you to give up your sailing at such short notice.

Wow, I started this newsletter wondering what I could say, but actually there is quite a lot there. Hope I have not bored you all too much. Enjoy the rest!

***ELAINE FOWLER***

***COMMODORE***

elaine.fowler@eastsussex.gov.uk



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Join in for up to the minute news, weather, photos and more....

# **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS...**

## **... AND SO DO STICKERS**

Hi there. No new members to report this month, but I'm sure there'll be some after Taster day which is on 25th May.

**Please affix your stickers to your boats** if you haven't already done so. I did have a wander around the boat park at the weekend and less than 50% of craft have current stickers. I did have a bit of a grump on as to why I bothered spending so many hours writing all those stickers out... Boats without stickers and those that aren't seaworthy **will** be moved to make way for those that do go sailing. Boat stickers are in named envelopes at the top of the stairs. If yours isn't there or you'd like to pay your boat park fees please catch up with me at the club or email me. 4griffs@gmail.com

We've had some lovely sails over the last few weeks with something for everyone. The Moth has been flying (thank goodness it didn't break), and Paul is very grateful for all the help given to launch and retrieve his new toy! Our Thursday evening sails have been really lovely (thanks Gary and Neil), accompanied by beautiful sunsets. **If you haven't been down to the club yet, Thursdays will break you in very gently.**

See you on the water (when you've put your sticker on).

***JUDY GRIFFITHS***

***MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY***

01323 325389

(best between 6pm and 9pm)

## **SAILING SECRETARY'S SCRIPT**

Since Easter. I am glad to report that we have enjoyed a few days of reasonable weather and have managed to get some sailing in. We had an excellent start to the Thursday night sailing with one of the hottest days of the year so far and the following week was again great weather. This week's session was a little too windy to go on the water so Gary gave a talk on sailing in tidal conditions which was very informative.

Last weekend saw the Vice Commodore's cup sailed, for those who don't know it is a pursuit race. This means everyone starts at different times depending on their handicap and in theory should all finish at the same time. It was a good day's sailing in a pleasant F3 with an impromptu beer race in the afternoon. I hope those who took part enjoyed the different race format. It was good to see all the crews helping one another launch before the race.

I am also happy to report that we have had several new boats turning up to the club in the last few weeks and now have a fledgling RS200 fleet, with the latest addition arriving this weekend sporting a shiny Purple hull to be sailed by Karen Hilder Julie Watson, which I believe makes them the only all female crew. It is good to see a rival in the popularity of double handed boats in the club and I am sure we all look forward to seeing them on the water soon.

In a few weeks we have **the Contender and National 12 Open meeting - the 8th & 9th of June**. If you are not sailing we always need help with the rescue boats and helping the competitors on and off the beach, Manning the Bar and generally making the visitors welcome. **So if you can spare some time over the weekend please sign up on the white board in the club and offer some help**, it is always appreciated and helps promote our club to the wider sailing world. It is also good fun!!!!

I hope to see you all on the water or at the club in the near future. We have a great club so let's make the most of it. Summer is almost here ???!

***CHRIS CLARKE***

***SAILING SECRETARY***

# BRINGING UP THE REAR

The final odds and ends are virtually complete for this year, decking in front of race office now weather proof with promenade tiles to be laid. Chain link fence still to be completed before we can open up the decking to all. The new roller shutter doors to boathouse are now installed and look great. Some fascias and soffits will need to be redone but can wait till next winter. Let's treat these doors with respect so they give us good service over the years to come.

As previously announced we have carried out an initial survey of the boats in park. It would appear that there are many boats without this year's boat park sticker. There are still some stickers in envelopes in the box outside the race office. **Can you please make sure they are on your boats and any other boats that have not been declared - this is your final warning.**

A warning label will be attached to any boat not displaying a current sticker and will be moved to the back of the park at the end of June which is in accordance with club rule 7.2(i). If after this time no action has been taken the club will try and contact the owner by registered post and a notice posted on the board in foyer.

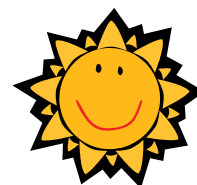
If no response has been received after one month, the club will invoke rules 7.2(ii) and 7.2(iii).

Matt also carried out a survey of the member's container which again shows that there is equipment not paid for. The same rules apply to these as well.

So please let us not get to this stage. **You have been warned.**  
See you on the water.

**GREG COX**  
**REAR-COMMODORE**

# VICE'S VERBALS



The season is now well under way and it is great to see the club in full swing! Attendance has been good, as always weather dependant but the brave or full hardy (depending on your point of view) have seen the water in good numbers.

Tuesday and Thursday evenings have been also been well attended and I hope those that have attended have enjoyed the training. A quick thank you to those more experienced sailors prepared to pop down to help, pass on their experience and to helm for those learning. Without their assistance the evenings will not work.

We had our first social evening, fun had by all and our first impromptu evening bbq over the bank holiday! ... The sailing club covers more than just sailing ... it's such a great place to be, to chill with like minded friends ... we all pay our memberships and only a few use it to its maximum potential. Let's address this and **when we get the weather pop down and throw a stag on the barbie with me and have a tinny or two.**

Lastly, we have some Open events coming up and as always we require club members' help to make sure these events run smoothly. Many hands make light work, so if you are able please help; beach parties, behind the bar, etc ... these all need our attention ... the pay-off is a little revenue for the club and a good knees up on the Saturday evening.

Your spicy vicey  
**GARY PEARSON**  
**VICE-COMMODORE**

# SAILING SCHOOL

Our training for this season has now started and is well under way, we have a group of around 9 students on Tuesday nights working towards their Dinghy Level 1&2, and I really appreciate Roger Humphries running these sessions, as without his support we would not have been able to run the Tuesday evenings this year. Saturdays with the Cadets has not started so well, although we have had a tremendous turn out. So far the weather hasn't been kind to us and so they have not been afloat yet. That said some have been driving the new RIB and we had great drama towing a broken down 38ft yacht into Sovereign harbour last weekend, but that's as much afloat as we have managed. I do hope we are not repeating last year. The Sharks, on Saturday afternoons have at least been afloat, and I 'doff my hat' to them for the arctic conditions they have endured which shows their commitment.

I have two housekeeping articles that I wish to raise specifically aimed at the Safety Boat Helms/crews with my power boat instructor hat on. It is with a solemn heart that I wish to highlight these two points, due to the recent tragedies reported in the news that have raised their profile. Although neither are necessarily attributable to the following, there certainly is an element we can learn from:

## KILL CORDS

You will have heard about the tragedy in Cornwall where the occupants of a high performance RIB somehow ended up in the water and the RIB started to circle, which they always seem to do when the helm falls out, and then ran over the RIB occupants now in the water with catastrophic result. Two fatalities was two too many. Although there is no evidence as to what happened until the MAIB report is issued, it could possibly have been KILL CORD related. Consequently all PBSC safety boat helms please.....please .... **Always wear the Kill Cord.** For all of our RIBS, I suggest that this is worn around your thigh, putting around your wrist is okay until you reach out to assist someone and the engine promptly stops. **So around your thigh is good.** Also, when in close proximity to people in the water, **stop the engine** by pulling the Kill Cord off or turning the engine ignition off. It is very easy in the heat of the moment to forget **to put the boat into Neutral**, and I have witnessed this during power boat training, it's easily done. Also during crew/casualty moving around the boat, it is possible the gear selection could be put into gear. I have seen this happen as well during training. End result is a propeller turning close to people in the water. Not good. (I have witnessed several helms fall out of safety boats during high speed manoeuvres at PBSC.)

## ENTRAPMENT

My second highlight, and once again the official inquest will advise us as to the actual cause of Andrew Simpson's catastrophic incident in USA, but entrapment is a life threatening issue. I know that our Trapezing Spitfire's/Hobie 16/RS800/Laser 2/RS500 etc. and other boats are much slower than the 72 foot Americas Cup Catamarans, but all of our fleet at PBSC have the potential to cause entrapment, even little Toppers. I recently watched one of our Sunday races from the beach, the course was big and both safety boats were milling around off Pevensey Bay with no racing boats anywhere around them, however there was both Dinghies and Cats rounding a mark close to the Safe Water mark, approximately 1 mile distant. If any one of those dinghies had had an issue, the safety boats would have taken several minutes to reach the casualties to assist if required. **The RYA suggest that a Safety boat should be assisting a casualty boat within 3 minutes, think about how long it takes for someone to drown..... it's not very long.** Also consider that the safety boat makes better progress running with the waves than against them. The best speed our two Tornados make is around 25Kts, so approximately two minutes to travel 1 mile. You are there to lay the course marks and then provide assistance if required for those in difficulty, consequently you must always consider where you can best support them, it's not always easy !

Both of these high profile unfortunate tragedies will eventually publish the probable reasons for their outcome, but let's at least try and do our best to minimise the untoward happening at PBSC. Also, one for the Race Officers: **there should be one Safety Boat per 10-12 Dinghies afloat**, and the conditions or experience of the racing fleet may dictate higher ratios. Having a second Safety boat available on the crown of the beach ready for launch should be considered with a backup crew available as minimum.

Through Dutyman we roster two safety boats each Sunday, even if not required, however if there are not enough safety boat crews per ratio dinghies/cat, then the racing should not continue.

I am sure that I echo all of our thoughts towards the families in these incidents, and at least learn from the mistakes or events that led to the horrific results. If anyone has any questions or queries with either of these, please come and discuss with me, either at the club or via email.

“OUT”

***DAVE WATSON***  
***SAILING SCHOOL PRINCIPAL***

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## **CLUB WATCH DUTIES ROSTER**

### **APRIL – AUGUST 2013**

The Duties roster for April to August was sent with the March Aquila. You can also check them on the website under “Duty Check”. Or by checking electronically on Dutyman. **But before contacting me, please see this month’s Commodore’s Communique .....**

[pumney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pumney@yahoo.co.uk) or 07508 277375

***PAUL UMNEY***  
***DUTIES MONITOR***