

# Neaps February 2012



## Commodore's Corner

### **Commodores Corner February 2012**

Welcome Members to the first Neaps of 2012.

It has been a sad start to the year with the passing of Brian Darby, our Club President. Brian had been a member of Eyott almost from its inception in the early 1950's and was instrumental in the running and governance of the Club for a number of years. Brian was a fitting president and was always on hand to provide a friendly face and advice to members and visitors alike, presenting the friendly and family-orientated nature that exists at Eyott. Despite his increasing years, Brian still managed to continue sailing well into his 80's and remain competitive! He certainly showed everyone that you are never too old and was a firm advocate living life to the full. He was certainly an inspiration. I am sure that I speak for everyone at the Club by saying that he will be sorely missed and fondly remembered.

It is hard to believe that it is almost 12 months since Alan Copson ventured north to start his new life in Yorkshire to be closer to his family. Alan contributed greatly to the Club for more than 20 years and in recognition of this the Committee decided in 2011 to make Alan an Honorary Member, which I am sure members will welcome. Hopefully, Alan will make use of his membership and join the fleet on the water whenever he is visiting the area.

Although the recent snow was a reminder that winter has not quite left us, there have been signs that the Spring is fast approaching, which means the 2012 season is nearly here. Therefore hopefully you are all starting to think about dusting off your sailing equipment and readying yourself for the season ahead. The Firstling is on 25<sup>th</sup> March this year – which is actually the start of British Summer Time, so psychologically you should be feeling a little warmer and eager to take to the water after a long winter lay-up. Some Eyott members have already been warming up for the new season by taking part in Upriver Yacht Club's Warm-up Series so by the time March is here I suspect that they will already be sailing in shorts and t-shirts as temperatures reach double-figures! It has been encouraging to see that Eyott members have been making up a significant proportion of the fleet in this series and this bodes well for the continuing success of Eyott and our relationship with Upriver (and other) clubs. We had a fantastic Spring last year that encouraged a good fleet of sailors in the early series and let's hope we get the same this year.

I am pleased to report that the Committee was reappointed at the AGM and will continue in their roles during 2012. As a reminder, your Committee is:

Lee Stentiford – Commodore

Liesl Hadley – Vice Commodore & Treasurer (and Membership)

Alan Brunning – Rear Commodore

Des Massey – Secretary

Nigel Darby – Sailing Secretary

Andy Dale – Assistant Sailing Secretary

Jennifer Brunning – Social Secretary

Robyn Hadley – Public Relations

John Caton – Ordinary Member

Les Newman – Ordinary Member

As a result of a proposal raised at the AGM, we have now introduced a single-class of adult membership that covers all adults and children (up to 18) within the household, but also covers children up to the age of 11 in the extended family (e.g. nieces, nephews, grand-children, etc). This has been introduced to encourage easier access to the Club for youngsters and get them into sailing. I hope that members promote this to their extended family and use this function of their membership to its full potential so that we can establish a strong fleet of young sailors. The Junior and Associate memberships still remain if these are more appropriate for particular circumstances.

A major piece of work at the Club will commence in the spring with the replacement of the sea wall directly in front of the Club House. Alan Brunning and Les Newman have been instrumental in obtaining a grant from South Woodham Ferrers to cover these works and the necessary Planning consents are being progressed. We will be employing a contractor to carry out the heavy works, however if you would like to lend a hand please contact Alan or Les.

We will continue to actively promote and advertise the Club to a wider audience in the hope that we will be able to attract more sailing members. We will be looking to publish a series of regular articles in the Focus and also associated publications in neighbouring areas to hopefully catch the eye of sailors looking for a club. Michael Ettershank has been developing the website ([www.eyottsailingclub.org.uk](http://www.eyottsailingclub.org.uk)) during 2011 so that this now provides a wider array of information that will be of interest to members and the wider sailing community. The site now includes links to the RYA, The Met Office, Wind Guru, CHA and the various Class Associations for boats sailed at the Club – all useful information and a hook for sailors who may not be aware of Eyott.

This just leaves me to wish you all the best for the 2012 season and I look forward to seeing you at the Club in the near future.

### Secretary's Secrets

Well with only four weeks to the start of the season its time to start looking for your kit and boat bits again, where did I put those gloves and what was that job on the boat I promised myself I was going to do over the winter....

Some of us have been sailing over at Up River for the winter where is been very cold but great fun; having to get a bucket of hot water and pour it over the ropes just so I could bend them was a first for me! Lewis has been going very well so will need to keep an eye on him this year and find ways to slow him down. It's good sailing and worth giving it a go if you haven't done it before. We even had Nigel as OOD for a couple of races so they learnt how to set a well thought out course....

Please remember that when we start sailing even if its a lovely spring day the water will be very cold so proper kit must be worn, the cold water soon saps your strength even if only in the water the shortest of times.

I always go around my boat before the first race and after any windy races and tighten all the screws, I bet you will find a couple that need a few turns so worth 2 minuets of you time to save anything pulling out and trashing you race and boat. Another thing I do is always carry a spare piece of cord and shackle with me, I find a lace from a trainer works well just in case you have to thread it through a small hole its easier to do this with a lace. If there is ever any advice or help you need with boat set up or racing then please just ask me or Nigel and we will try to help out even if its just asking why I choose one side of the river to go along.

The first race is on the 25th of March but don't forget the dingy show 3/4th March if you need and new gear as there are some deals to be had on clothing and boat bits.

Here's to a good season with plenty of boats on the water and warm sunny days and good wind...now where did I put that burgee?!

Andy

### Treasurer's Trove

*It is soon the start of the season and also time to pay subscriptions to the club. At the AGM we agreed not to increase our fees but to restructure them. The Harbour Sticker Fee, which is statutory if you wish to use the river, has increased to £20.50 and £6 for junior's aged 16 or under. This will rise to £27 after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.*

*The fee structure for 2012*

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| <i>Annual Fee</i>        | <i>£77</i> |
| <i>Annual Fee Junior</i> | <i>£15</i> |
| <i>Annual Assoc Fee</i>  | <i>£20</i> |
| <i>Summer Boat Park</i>  | <i>£25</i> |
| <i>Winter Boat Park</i>  | <i>£10</i> |
| <i>Trailer Parking</i>   | <i>£15</i> |

*We thought that this year we would trail bank transfer payments to enable members to pay their fees. Eyott Bank account details are*

*Account Number 71314260 Sort Code 77-13-09*

*Please make sure that you use Esc (Your name) as your reference.*

*I would be very grateful if you send me an email to inform me if you have made a bacs payment and on what date. Or alternatively send your subs to Liesl Hadley 16 Shirebourn Vale South Woodham Ferrers CM3 5ZX*

## Social Snippets

### SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Our first social event for the year is the 'At Home', which is being held at our house, 27 Redshank Crescent, this year. If you haven't already told me you are coming please give me a call or email me and let me know if you are bringing a dessert or a salad. Its £4 a head and the club will provide the rest of the meal. Don't forget to bring your own drinks!

### SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

We are having an Indian buffet for this year's Fitting out Supper at the Spice of Asia in the town centre. The cost is £10 each and we require the money in advance. Please either let me or Liesl have it. We will be running a raffle during the evening.

### SOCIAL NIGHTS

This year we will be holding two social nights with the idea to meet at the club at 7.00pm and order a takeaway. We will be trying these out on a Friday night, depending on the number of people we could play games or just sit and chat.

### BONFIRE PARTY

It has been suggested that we have our bonfire party on the Saturday preceding the town's fireworks. That way we will be able to enjoy the display. I will be including a donation to the Rotary Club in the price or you can buy a programme from them when they are in Asda foyer. Let me know what you think?

### RAFFLES

This is a good way to bring extra money into the club. We do buy a few prizes but rely on the club member's generosity to provide more. For our first raffle drawn at the fitting out supper the main prize is a 2012 harbour sticker (£20.50). So that all members can have a chance of entering we are 'opening the raffle' at the AGM. Tickets are £1 a strip or 6 for £5. Please give me a call or email me if you would like to support the club and purchase some tickets before the FoS.

### CANTEEN

Last year we were left with a couple of people owing money to the club for food and drink. This year if you add your names to the pad, please pay up the following race and don't forget to cross your name out.

Jennifer

01245 322282

vejbruuning@hotmail.com or

alan@markbrunning.plus.com

## Brainbox Brunning

### OOD radio

Last year Idris donated a Navico RT6500 VHF radio which he replaced when he 'went digital'. It is fitted into the race box and can be packed away without having to remove the microphone. The aerial connector is underneath the unit but stays in place as we have an in-line connector (television aerial connector) so just disconnect this before you put the radio away. There is no need to disconnect the microphone. The unit is much easier to operate, just switch on using the volume control and use the top grey square button (up arrow) to select channel 37. The squelch should have already been set. If 37 does not come up quickly switch off and on again and it should appear. Otherwise seek assistance.

One word of warning; When putting the radio away please ensure the power cable and aerial tail are not trapped under the radio as this will reduce the clearance to the box lid and may damage the microphone cable.



### **Boat park gate combination padlock**

We have all been using the padlock on the boat park gate. As you know you just have to set the combination then squeeze and release the hasp. Please ensure the combination is well scrambled so after you have opened the gate so when you leave all you have to do is squeeze the lock closed.

### **Key safe**

All the keys for the club and the canteen float are now locked in the key safe that is located inside the first cupboard on the right as you come into the clubhouse. Just press the combination (same numbers as all the others) followed by E (enter button); rotate the silver handle and the safe will open. When leaving just close the door and twist the silver handle to lock it.

### **Over sink water heater. That dripping tap!**

When using the water heater above the sink, water drips from the spout for some time after you have turned it off.....very annoying. I have investigated it but it seems to be a 'feature' of the design. Please do not try to screw the tap even tighter as it will eventually break and the water will gush out rather than drip. Sorry about that folks. I am still trying to find 'root cause' so I can think of a solution...any ideas?

### **Boat Inspection / Maintenance.**

It is time to think about checking your boat to ensure it is in good condition for the new season. Small problems spotted and corrected now will help to prevent boat and gear failure. This will not only make the coming season more enjoyable and safer but could save you an expensive repair. To go into detail on all possible issues would require a book but just use this as a check-list. By looking closely at your boat you may spot other potential problems.

### **Paint**

Is it lifting off or are there dark patches under the varnish? Have a closer look. Press the area with your fingers, does it feel solid? If OK repaint as necessary otherwise you may need to replace some of the wood. If fibreglass, check for crazing in the gel coat below the waterline. It is easy to repair using 'flow coat' but colour matching may be difficult.

### **Hull Condition**

Can you see any cracks in the hull, along joints, floor, buoyancy tanks etc? If you see any problems close to highly loaded places (foot of the mast, rigging attachment, rudder or centre board case) a closer look will be required. Local hand / finger pressure should indicate the extent of the concern. It may be that it only needs some resin or epoxy on fibreglass tape to resolve.

### **Rigging**

Check the rigging and jamming cleats. If there are any frayed ropes or broken strands of wire they should be replaced. A set of Mirror/ Heron mast stays is about £25. If you wanted to adjust the mast rake last year this could be your chance. If you have turnbuckles on the rigging, make certain that you have at least 5mm of thread in each end. Any less and they could pull out. Check that rivets in the spars are in good condition. Lubricate the moving cleats and pulleys. WD40 applied sparingly can make a big difference.

## **Foils**

Look closely at the rudder and centreboard, check for cracks / damage to the surfaces and the security of the fixing nuts and bolts. Do not forget to check the rudder pivots on the transom of the boat and the tiller extension. Losing your rudder will ruin your race and ties up the rescue boat.

## **Sails**

Wash and check your sails, eyelets, stitching and if the battens are in good condition. If the sail stitching is starting to come undone it can quickly be repaired by hand or on a domestic machine. Maybe you could take the opportunity to add some tel-tales to help your sailing.

## **Sheets**

Wash your sheets thoroughly to get all the salt out and restore their flexibility. You may be able to sneak them in the washing machine, use a low temperature wash but don't get caught!

## **Fixings**

Look at the screws and nails on your boat and check they are secure and haven't worked loose. Screws can be tightened and nails tapped back flush with the wood. Remember to add a little bit of paint or varnish to seal them from water.

## **Buoyancy**

Inspect your buoyancy tanks and bags. Make certain that built-in tanks are dry and the hatches, bungs and seals are in good condition. Have you lost any bungs? Flotation bags should hold pressure and have the correct lift for the class. Remember that unless they are correctly secured they could pull away from your boat when it capsizes which will cause damage to both the seats and the hull.

## **Launching Trolley**

Don't forget to make certain the wheels on the trolley go round and are not about to fall off. Use waterproof grease.

## **Clothing**

Check your buoyancy aid as well as the spray, wet and dry suits. Zips can get clogged up with salt and can be difficult to close. Now is a good time to de-odorise your sailing boots for the benefit of all in the changing room! Does the old sailing watch work? If you carry a sailing knife check all the blades can be pulled out easily.

If you have problems there are plenty of people at the club and the committee who are happy to give advice to help you to get and keep your boat in good condition for the new season

Alan (01245 322282)

## Junior Junk Box

Welcome to another year at Eyotts! I can't wait to see some fierce competition on the water this year! It is great to see that Lewis has braved the cold and gone to race over at Up river for the winter, maybe he can give us a few tips on how to keep warm as we start again. I think we can look forward to many exciting camp and activities this year. I have many exciting things which I can't wait to discuss with you all at our first Junior committee meeting.

Best of luck to you all and I will speak to you all soon.

Lets make sure we are spreading the word and getting as many of our friends and families to come and see the club and how great we are!!!!

I also have a new email, which is [robyn.hadley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robyn.hadley@hotmail.co.uk); any communication needs to come through there!

Robyn xx