

It is January and another sailing season is nearly upon us but this year we have a major challenge. Over the last few years a huge amount of effort has been put into the club by all members resulting in a terrific up surge in activity culminating in a most successful 2004. Please give yourselves a pat on the back, well done. So what is the challenge? Simple, how do we top 2004?

Touring Events

Well first there are the touring events. We have the oldest catamaran class 49 years young this year the Shearwater, one of the youngest the Spitfire – 16ft of mayhem (Trial Number 712) and the thoroughbred Hurricane 5.9 (well I would say that) visiting. The challenge is to run superb events that advertise our club out in the sailing world. Next year it would be great if we could attract a dinghy class.

Local Club Events

This year more events will take place with the local clubs enabling us to experience larger fleets. The first is the Tythe Barn. This year we are the hosts so let's put the biggest fleet on the water, run a great event and get a boat in the top ten ☺. There will be an inter-club Laser series consisting of two events. The first will be hosted by Felpham and second by ourselves. A new trophy, the Bognor Rocks Trophy, for the cadets of the three clubs will be contested alongside the laser series. The Town Cup, a race open to all the three clubs, will be held from near the pier on the birdman weekend. In addition BRYC have invited our catamaran sailors to compete in the "offshore" races that they intend to run about once a month around the sewer buoy. Details of these events will be available nearer the time.

Our Events

I received various suggestions and advice throughout last year and have adopted those that I think are most workable into the calendar. The underlying structure of series and trophy races remain unchanged. The changes I have made are:

- I have dropped the Topper series as a separate set of events. The initial aim of this series was to provide class racing and this is now available with the Topper, Laser and Dart 18 classes. For each of these classes fleet extractions are possible and there will be a PYC champion named for each at the end of the year.
- Three races will be offered on some of the longer summer days, so instead of leaving the water at three on a lovely summer afternoon a third race will be organised. Not all days are designated as three race days, more may follow next year if they are well supported.
- Different Race Formats. To help ease the speed differences in our diverse fleet average lap time races will be tried out on some days. The aim being to both provide each class with approximately the same amount of race time and to enable better end time estimation.
- Different Course Formats. Much comment has been received about the triangle-sausage course so with some races different formats will be used.
- Cat Cup. If the cat sailors are up for it a cat cup will be held on a Saturday. The Saturday is to ensure that normal Sunday sailing is not disrupted.

Race Officer Training

A series of how to run races at Pagham sessions will be run. The aim being simply to enable all to confidently run club races at Pagham. The first will be on the 13 March at 10:30, please come along and hopefully learn more and probably embarrass the rear commodore sailing with what he does not know. Others will follow.

General Sailing Meeting

A sailing meeting will be held on 20 February at 10:30am. The aim being to elaborate on the details in this newsletter, discuss suggestions and answer other questions if possible.

Boat Park

As you are aware space in the boat park is a problem, so in December the boat park was reorganised and some extra space found. To manage the boat park to benefit all we need your help. If you intend to remove your boat for repairs or you have sold it please tell Andy or myself. If you are intending to put a boat in the park remember to obtain the permit first.

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