



Civil Service Sailing

Volume 50 No 2

March 2013

The March edition already and with it some strong winds to start the new season! This edition includes our AGM information - the Annual Report for 2012 together with the Treasurer's Report and Accounts. Further information on these can be found online (CSSC online/sailing/news or follow links from our club websites.)

Remember that we have our Inter-Departmental Offshore Regatta (IDOR) coming up from 20-24th May at Cowes.

For dinghy racers, 29 & 30 June sees our National Dinghy Championships hosted on Southampton Water by Netley Cliff SC. Top class sailing and hospitality. Join us this year?

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Our recent General Committee meeting got off to a good start with a presentation by our Commodore Graham Dalton to Joan Jones. Joan and her late husband John, were founder members of CSSA and LSC. John, a LSC President.

After John died, Joan continued her long support to both Club and Association, inter alia, by providing the refreshments for our GC meetings. Sadly, as she approaches 90 years of age, she feels she has to retire!

With thanks and in recognition of her service to the GC, Graham presented her with a gift for her garden.



The theme of volunteering was repeated by the visit of Hedley Featherstone of CSSC to the GC. Hedley is conducting a census of volunteers across CSSC. Members may expect to hear more on development and use of volunteers in the future as an important part of the new CSSC structure. Contact :- hedley.featherstone@cssc.co.uk

CSSA Skippers Day – November 17th 2013 – a date for your diaries.

We are holding our next, ever popular, offshore Skippers' Day on Sunday 17th November 2013 in the Clubhouse at Littleton Sailing Club (Littleton Lane, Shepperton, Middx, TW17 0NF).

The Skippers' Day is for all CSSA Approved Skippers, and this year we are extending the invitation to all CSSA members who hold any of the RYA Skippers qualifications.

The day will be a mix of updates, discussions and sharing experiences on some important topics – as well as an opportunity to get together with some old friends and make a few new ones.

We have already had some suggestions for topics – from close quarter manoeuvring and techniques for downwind sailing to the challenges of trans-Atlantic racing. We also want to share some of the latest thinking on all things offshore – navigation, safety and lessons from recent events. But what we really want are your suggestions on the things that you would want to share, explore, and hear more about.

Commodore's Corner

A note from our Rear Commodore (Dinghies)

FAREWELL & THANKS

My tenure is up as Rear Commodore (Dinghy), so it is time to say farewell and thanks.

It has been an interesting few years, and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the role. I wasn't sure what I was letting myself in for when I volunteered, but I was made to feel very welcome by the Flag Officers and other General Council members. I was also fortunate to have Peter Chapman available to give advice.

I soon learned that the GC meetings were major events, with big agendas and many attendees. Luckily the dinghy-related matters were familiar territory for me and not particularly time-consuming. But the Vice Commodore and Hon Secretary in particular certainly have their hands full in running these meetings!

The main responsibilities are ensuring that the Victory Trophy (team racing against the three Armed Services) and Dinghy Championships are held each year.

Littleton SC hosts the Victory Trophy and does a brilliant job. I managed to field a full CSSC team each year, and in 2012 the team won the trophy for the first time in 30 years. This is probably in part due to the fact that I was not in the team that year! I am hopeful that the CSSC team will retain the Victory Trophy in 2013.

Numbers attending the Dinghy Championships weekend at Netley Cliff SC have been quite constant in the range of 30 and it remains a fantastic event. A lot of organisation is needed, and Fishers Green SC members have also helped by filling some key roles. I plan to continue attending the Dinghy Championships. I may never win it, but taking part is fun and the social side is brilliant.

I also have happy memories of visiting Jumbles SC in 2012 to open their clubhouse extension. My name is now on a plaque on the wall there, so I can truly say that I have left my mark!

Happy sailing!

EDDIE POPE

RC(D)

Skippers' Day continued

Please register your interest and e-mail your suggestions for topics for the day to Len Creswell, our Sea School Principal, at: -

CSSA.seaschool@yahoo.com

We'll let you have further information and updates in the next issue of Civil Service Sailing.

Len Creswell

Letters to the Editor

" It was sheer delight to see the photo of the winning! I repeat winning! Victory Trophy team on the front page of the magazine. Colin Dobner, sometime team captain now Race Officer, knows how hard we tried over more years than we care to remember and, strangely enough, how we managed to enjoy the event despite the lack of success.

Colin will know that we scoured the British Isles, put advertisements in class magazines and sent messages by whatever means to anyone thinking of leaving University and joining the Civil Service.

It paid off in that wonderful year 1982. May I quote from the obituary to Sir Frank Cooper which was written by Peter Chapman in the February 2002 magazine: -

"A highlight of this period was our Silver Jubilee Year, 1982, when he presided over our celebration dinner at the Royal Thames YC and welcomed our Guest of Honour, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, attending as President of the Civil Service Sports Council. The Association also marked that year by winning the inter-service Victory Trophy event. He was very pleased when the Trophy was delivered to his MOD office, and asked that it be placed at the centre of the table ready for a Chiefs of Staff meeting."

We must let this success go to our heads and be followed by many others. Congratulations from someone, who for so long, devoted so many column-inches of Civil Service Sailing to finding new ways of saying how we so nearly won the event."

Ted Giles

CIVIL SERVICE SAILING ASSOCIATION – 55th AGM

Members are invited to attend the 55th Annual General Meeting of the CSSA, to be held in the Elizabethan Room of the Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ, at 18.00 hours on Thursday, 11th April 2013

AGENDA

1. Presentation of awards and trophies
2. Commodore's address
3. Minutes of the 54th AGM
4. Minutes of the SGM held on 26 April 2012
5. Adoption of the Annual Report for 2012
6. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the 2012 Annual Accounts
7. Election of Officers and Committee Members
8. Appointment of Auditor

After closure of the AGM, members are invited to raise any matters for discussion. The General Committee have convened an SGM to immediately follow the post-AGM discussion, the agenda is included in the March 2013 (Online) issue of CS-Sailing. A free buffet will then be available.

* Election of Officers and Committee Members - continued overleaf

CIVIL SERVICE SAILING ASSOCIATION - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – 11th April 2013

There will be a Special General Meeting of the Civil Service Sailing Association on Thursday 11th April 2013, immediately following the AGM, to consider the motion published in Civil Service Sailing (March Online Edition) in the name of the General Committee.



The Civil Service Club is situated at 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, off Whitehall and close to Trafalgar Square. Nearest public transport - Charing Cross mainline railway station and Underground (Northern and Bakerloo lines), Embankment Underground (Circle and District, Northern and Bakerloo lines), and buses that run along Whitehall.

Parking in the area is VERY difficult. There is underground parking in Trafalgar Square. For further details on the Civil Service Club, go to: - <http://www.civilserviceclub.org.uk/location.htm>



CSORC has advised the General Committee that their Annual General Meeting will take place at the Civil Service Club, immediately following completion of CSSA's business on 11th April 2013. Online -go to; csorc@madasafish.com

NOMINATIONS FOR CSSA GENERAL COMMITTEE wef APR 2013

The following Nominations for the posts shown have been received.

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Commodore	Note 1		
Vice Commodore	Note 2		
Rear-Commodore (D)	Iain Mackay (Note 3)	Graham Dalton	Rob Stephens
Rear-Commodore (O)	Trevor Drew (Note 3)	Graham Dalton	Rob Stephens
Treasurer	Brian Grubb	Rob Stephens	John Figgures
General Secretary	John Figgures	Rob Stephens	Brian Grubb
Membership Secretary	Ken Pavitt	Rob Stephens	Brian Grubb
Safety Officer	Vacant		
Offshore Secretary	Ian Mason	Chris Malone	John Figgures
Dinghy Secretary	Vacant		
Training Officer	Len Creswell	Peter Burry	Chris Malone
CS-Sailing Editor & PRO	David Richards	Rob Stephens	John Figgures
Members (<i>max of nine</i>)	David Hartland	Ken Pavitt	David Haward
(for IDOR)	Nick Rees	Trevor Drew	Chris Malone
Divisional representatives	Representatives for each club and division are appointed by the club and division.		
CSSC CE (Simon Lee)	Ex-officio appointment		

Notes:

1. The Commodore was elected by the General Committee to serve for 3 years from the 2012 AGM.
2. The Vice Commodore was elected to serve for 3 years. His term of office will be concluded in April 2014; he will not be eligible for re-election.
3. The Rear Commodores are elected for a period of 2 years and are eligible to be re-elected once only for a further period of 2 years.

TREASURER'S REPORT and ABRIDGED CSSA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2012

2012 Results

1. The Association made a surplus of £2,095 for 2012 compared with £12,293 for 2011 – mainly because of significantly reduced income, as forecast last year. The changed CSSC membership arrangements have made Associate Membership, half the subscriptions from which come to the Association, almost a thing of the past. And as part of a financial package in which the CSSC shareholding requirement for CSSA members was reduced from two to one, the CSSC's membership grant to CSSA changed to a 'per capita' basis. The capitation rate of £12.75 (the same as for grants to CSSC Area Associations) has resulted in a 2012 membership grant of just over £21k compared with nearly £26k in 2011. These two changes reduced CSSA's core income by about £9k - nearly 30 per cent.

2. In consequence, expenditure on grants to the Association's clubs was limited to £3,000, being £2,000 to Netley Cliff SC towards clubhouse refurbishment and £1,000 to Five Kingdoms SC towards the costs of re-rigging its yacht. Other expenditures were broadly comparable to 2011, except that arrears of Stamp Duty Land Tax relating to the Portsmouth Offshore Group site lease were belatedly discovered and £2,848 has been accrued for this in 'Other administrative costs'.

2012 Financial position and highlights

3. The Association's financial position nevertheless remains strong and it has substantial reserves. Financial support for its clubs continues to be focussed mainly on providing interest-free loans, but no new loans were requested or provided during 2012. Some clubs have however signalled significant requirements over the next two years which is why substantial amounts have been retained on deposit. All existing loans are being repaid on or ahead of schedule and there are no indications from any club that this will change.

The Future

4. As well as suffering the reductions referred to in paragraph 1 the Association is likely to lose grants previously provided by CSSC for specific 'representative events'. The Council is phasing out such funding across all Sports and Recreational Bodies from 2013. For the Association this means that financial support for the Victory Trophy (a Civil/Armed Services dinghy match racing competition) and Offshore Racing (for example participation in the Fastnet or other prestigious races) will be significantly reduced in 2013 and in the longer term will probably cease. In 2012 such support amounted to £2,641 and in previous years has been more, so CSSA's longer term participation in these events may be uncertain.

5. There will also be non-recurring additional demands on the Association's finances in 2013. These result from the CSSC's review of CSSA concluded in mid 2012 which, as part of the package of changes accompanying the reduction to single CSSC shareholding for CSSA members, will require all the Association's land-based clubs to pay site rent to CSSC. (Some already do.) The Association is likely to incur legal and other professional fees associated with introducing these rents, which will probably involve the creation of leases. Such fees may be significant and as a result it is possible that the Association will incur a deficit for 2013.

6. The wider introduction of rents will also have a continuing financial impact inasmuch as the CSSC is likely to look to the Association to be guarantor for the payments. Indeed, if the arrangements result in 'back to back' leases between CSSC and CSSA, and CSSA and the Club – as is already the case for the Portsmouth Offshore Group - then CSSA will acquire actual rather than contingent rent obligations. Once all site rental agreements are in place the annual liability - actual and contingent – is likely to be in the order of £150k. Were it not for the substantial reserves held by the Association this would cast a considerable shadow. As it is, the Association is capable of taking on such obligations and the main concern is to help clubs be financially viable so that such calls on CSSA's funds don't arise.

7. To conclude on a more up-beat note, the capitation basis for CSSC's membership grant provides the opportunity to increase it. Clubs have responded to the broadened CSSC membership eligibility and as a result by September 2012 (the operative date for grant computation) the Association's membership had increased from around 1,500 in early 2011 to more than 2100. This should result in a membership grant of around £26k for 2013.

Appointment of auditor

8. A motion to reappoint CW Fellowes Limited as auditor for 2013 will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. Abridged financial statements comprising the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2012 are attached. They are drawn directly from the audited financial statements. Copies of the full (12 page) financial statements - including the Audit Report (which contains a 'clear' audit opinion), Cash Flow Statement and Notes - will be available at the forthcoming AGM. Copies may also be obtained, quoting CSSA membership number, as follows:

By e mail request to grubbs@stcross.fslife.co.uk

By provision of an SAE (A4 envelope) to me at:

64 St Cross Road
Winchester
Hants
SO23 9PS

Brian Grubb

Honorary Treasurer

6 March 2012

CIVIL SERVICE SAILING ASSOCIATION**Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2012**

	2012	2012	2011	2011
	£	£	£	£
Income				
CSSC membership grant	21,038		25,717	
CSSC events grant	7,442		9,416	
Associate membership subscriptions	26		4,444	
Training income	-		-	
Interest on bank deposits	1,393		939	
Other Income	(3)		11	
	<u> </u>	29,896	<u> </u>	40,527
General expenditure				
Committee costs	3,033		3,144	
Other administrative costs	4,508		1,604	
Functions	708		1,183	
Grants funded by CSSA	3,000		4,324	
Training expenditure	802		1,210	
Magazine	6,970		6,364	
Advertising and publicity	517		559	
RYA subscription	450		430	
Loan default provision	-		-	
Trophies and citations	371		-	
	<u> </u>	20,359	<u> </u>	18,818
Events expenditure				
Offshore racing	1,505		3,000	
Dinghy championships	1,997		2,799	
Victory Trophy	1,136		1,153	
Interdepartmental offshore races	2,804		2,464	
	<u> </u>	7,442	<u> </u>	9,416
Gross Surplus		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		2,095		12,293
Loan interest, rents and charges				
HSBC loan interest and charges	5,694		7,075	
Less: amounts recharged to divisions	(5,694)		(7,075)	
	<u> </u>	-	<u> </u>	-
CSSC rents and charges	107,227		109,884	
Less: amounts recharged to divisions	(107,227)		(109,884)	
	<u> </u>	-	<u> </u>	-
Net Surplus to General Fund		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		2,095		12,293

CIVIL SERVICE SAILING ASSOCIATION**Balance sheet at 31 December 2012**

	2012	2012	2011	2011
	£	£	£	£
Loans to Divisions due after one year				
CSSA-financed interest-free loans	88,311		129,365	
HSBC-financed interest-bearing loans	98,000		112,000	
	<u> </u>	186,311	<u> </u>	241,365
Current Assets				
Loans to Divisions - due within one year:				
CSSA-financed interest-free loans	30,844		31,444	
HSBC-financed interest-bearing loans	14,000		14,000	
Chandlery stock	1,270		1,048	
Sundry debtors	120,400		107,149	
Bank current and deposit accounts	192,605		146,194	
	<u> </u>	359,119	<u> </u>	299,835
Current liabilities				
Loans from HSBC – due within one year	14,000		14,000	
Sundry creditors	90,432		74,407	
Corporation tax	348		238	
	<u> </u>	104,780	<u> </u>	88,645
Current assets less current liabilities		254,339		211,190
Total assets less current liabilities		440,650		452,555
Long term liabilities				
Loans from HSBC – due after one year		98,000		112,000
Total assets less total liabilities		342,650		340,555
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
General Fund				
Balance brought forward		340,555		328,262
Surplus for year		2,095		12,293
		342,650		340,555
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Brian Grubb,
Honorary Treasurer
6 March 2013

CSSA ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 2012 SEASON

INTRODUCTION

Summary

Sir Alex Allan stood down as our Commodore in April 2012 and was succeeded by Graham Dalton, currently CE of the Highways Agency and a competitive dinghy sailor.

The CSSC Review was finally concluded in June 2012 and the Association emerged with a clean bill of health, albeit there were one or two areas that could be improved. Membership has continued to grow and the Clubs have successfully managed the transition to the new membership rules.

The downside of these changes has been the realisation that there is no viable future within CSSA for one of its oldest dinghy clubs – Fishers Green. Discussions are being held to ensure the break is as beneficial to all concerned as possible. Similarly, negotiations with CSSC are underway to define the terms on which the clubs at the CSSC owned sites at Netley Cliff and Littleton will continue to use those facilities.

Towards the end of the year, CSSC advised that funding for representative sport would be withdrawn from all sports associations and the implications of this sudden and surprising change in policy are being worked through.

However, in spite of the administrative turmoil throughout the year, sailing has continued apace on all fronts, and with considerable successes – winning the Victory Trophy for the first time in 30 years and a second place in the Two Handed Transatlantic Race being the foremost.

Civil Service Sports Council (CSSC)

Shortly after the CSSC Annual conference in June, Marian Holmes was succeeded as CE CSSC by Simon Lee. Simon has some yachting experience and the annual day sail was used as an opportunity to introduce him to CSSA's off-shore offerings.

CSSC have had some major issues to address during the year, including the loss of many of its member's personal details and the realisation that its financial position needed some significant adjustments in the light of a membership that continues to fall. These distractions have limited the speed with which it was able to address topics of interest to CSSA. However, the Association does recognise the support that CSSC continues to provide for its sailors.

CSSA Membership

The CSSA new membership joining rate continued to be very high for the first half of 2012, then fell off gradually during the second half to a more historical level, giving a total CSSA membership of about 2000 at the end of 2012 of whom 240 were the new category of CSSC Linked members.

Publicity

"Civil Service Sailing" has been published as in previous years with 4 editions available in print and online via a link to the CSSC website. Thanks are due to members who contribute copy and to the webmasters who provide the technical support.

Keeping the Associations' websites and our part of the CSSC site up to date remains a challenge. This should become easier now that we are better linked-in to CSSC's system of updating. Following a survey by CSSC on web use, there may be changes to accommodate in the coming year, but the outcome should see us being better presented on the web. Several divisions, led by POG and CSD, have newly built websites going on-line now and it has been good to see

these webmasters sharing their approach and developing common themes which we can build on further in the future.

Our marketing has improved and the IDOR has been advertised by our magazine, posters, e-newsletters, and both regional and sailing-specific mailings. CSSC has also e-mailed all Departmental Associations on our behalf. A similar approach is expected for the National Dinghy Championships, taking place on the weekend of 30th June at Netley Cliff SC. The expansion of CSSC's membership base to include a much wider public sector, has proved complex for CSSC, however as strategies are developed for those areas for 2013 and beyond we need to ensure that CSSA and sailing are included to the right extent.

DINGHY SAILING

Summary

The 49th Victory Trophy Tournament between three-boat dinghy teams representing the Navy, Army, RAF and CSSC took place in Laser 2000 dinghies in October, hosted by Littleton SC. Conditions were ideal and the event organisation by Littleton was flawless. The event was won convincingly by the CSSC team, which won 8 of their 9 races. The team was again captained by Phil Kirk, supported by Ellen Milner, Sam Brearey, Guy Brearey, Liz Aldous and Rick Goddard. This was the first CSSC win for 30 years, and therefore a reason for great celebration.

Netley Cliff SC hosted another memorable Dinghy Championships over the weekend of 30 June & 1 July. It was good that number of entries increased to 29 from 23 last year, sailing a large range of dinghies. Much credit is due to all Netley Cliff members who contributed to the running of the Championships. The camping field at nearby Netley SC was again popular. On Saturday evening we were treated to a tasty hog roast and a talented band at the club. The gazebo had blown away in the wind so the hog roast was served in the lee of the clubhouse!

Winds remained strong over the entire weekend, enough to deter several helms from launching and resulting in numerous capsizes. But the safety arrangements proved more than adequate for the task. The 2011 winners Paul & Julie Rayson from Fishers Green in their Merlin Rocket retained their trophy. They were followed home on handicap by Laura Glover of Littleton in her Laser 4.7, then James Mead and Lucy Evans of Fishers Green in their Albacore. The Littleton Bell (best aggregate score of top 6 boats in same Club) was retained by Littleton. Prizes were awarded by new CSSA Commodore Graham Dalton.

Fishers Green Sailing Club (FGSC)

The early part of the year saw and Tom Gillard and FGSC Sam Brearey travel to Australia to win the Fireball World Championship, having being the current European Champions and silver medallists at the worlds last year. Alex Corby crewed by Rob Keen finished 3rd overall in the Cadet UK Nationals, held in a windy Torquay. Mat Aldous-Horne was the youngest competitor (16) in the National Schools Sailing Regatta fleet and won the coveted NSSA Laser Trophy. The CSSC Dinghy Championship was sailed over the weekend of 30th June at NCSC and FGSC was represented by 7 crewed boats and supporters. The weather was chilly and windy but Paul and Julie Rayson won the event overall in their Merlin Rocket.

The Club exhibited at local Enfield Town Autumn Show, to attract new members to FGSC. This is very much a family focused event and the hope is that we can entice people to the club who might not realised how accessible sailing is or how close Fisher's Green is to their doorstep. The Club also supported a stand at Sailboat dinghy show at Alexander Palace.

A number of training events have taken place throughout the year, focused on Laser dinghies. After racing on Wednesday evening, a number of casual Rules Forum have taken place.

The club is fortunate to have a team of mostly retired people who, on Wednesdays, perform all the general maintenance.

nance and improvement work needed at FGSC. The dreaded pond weed, which last year gave the club severe problems, has been eliminated this year due to a regimented harrowing of the bed of the lake throughout the year. The dinghy park is in the process of being re-organised. Club access was restricted during the Olympic event at the White Water venue at the Lee Valley Regional Park. All public access was closed to the Regional Park. The Club house and dinghy park are situated within the Park and special permission had to be given to club members to ensure sailing could continue.

Hooe Point Sailing Club (HPSC)

There were good turnouts throughout the year for the three yacht race series and the regatta with honours being shared amongst several different boats. The numbers dinghy racing varied throughout the year but increased slightly towards the end of the season with some junior members starting to become more involved. RYA dinghy race coaching sessions were run during the Spring which were very well received by those who took part. A marked improvement in race form was noticed by some members. Members took part in the Port of Plymouth Regatta and supported several major events both ashore and afloat. Members enjoyed limited cruising throughout the South West as far as the Scilly Isles and farther afield to Brittany, and the Channel Islands. The weather curtailed much of the planned cruising but two “cruises in company” to Fowey did go ahead.

The regatta in July went ahead on one of the only good-weather weekends during the year which enabled a full day of yacht racing on the Saturday, including a longer race for the Bill Harvey Memorial trophy. The Sunday included the usual morning of yacht racing and afternoon of dinghy racing with children’s competitions and activities in the afternoon followed by a barbecue.

Over the winter a new concept of a 2nd Tuesday Club Night was introduced which involved outside speakers and club members delivering short sessions on a variety of topics. These events were well received and continued into the winter season 2012/13. A new digital projector and screen has been purchased with assistance from the Plymouth Area Association.

All moorings were again full throughout the year, with an increasing waiting list. More than 65 vessels are accommodated on fore and aft trots, and mud berths. During the summer months upwards of 20 sailing dinghies and small motorboats are stored on-site. Over 60 vessels have been brought ashore for the winter and the storage area is once again full, even with all sailing dinghies and small craft removed from site.

A new five year lease was put in place mid-year which gave the club some security of tenure in the short term. However, the disposal of the MoD site at Royal Marine Turnchapel is proceeding with indications that the site may be placed for sale in September 2013. Little significant work has been done, other than necessary routine maintenance, during 2012 pending updates on the future of the site.

Membership was stable for 2012, peaking at 128 with new members being cancelled out by resignations. The club maintains a healthy bank balance at the end of December 2012, with some 2013 fees still to come in. Reserves are identified for site improvements and mooring contingencies and a separate fund has been created to cover the requirement to hold two years rent in reserve. Fees for 2013 have been held at the 2012 rates following the increases implemented in 2011.

Jumbles Sailing Club (JSC)

Due to membership rule changes by our parent organization the Civil Service Sports Council, the Annual General Meeting for 2011 which should have been held in November 2011 was delayed until February 2012. Despite the CSSC membership rule changes and the impact that it has on our finances, and the expenses incurred due to the building work, our Treasurer considers that we are sufficiently in the black to go into next year with some confidence. This year has been a very busy year, behind the scenes, for members of the committee and the groups that run our club.

The Social Committee has run our non-sailing and even some sailing events from the games night on the 26th Novem-

ber 2011 through to the bonfire party on the 3rd November this year. The club held an Open Day in April.

The Training Section has gone from strength to strength and is able to provide RYA courses and informal training to members at a very modest cost. We have acquired a second Jeanneau Rigiflex safety boat and purchased a new 10 hp four stroke outboard engine to power it.

The Building Section has completed the extension and the club celebrated the official opening of the West Wing by Eddie Pope CSSA Rear Commodore (Dinghy) in May.

This year the club, for its annual sailing and camping weekend, visited Coniston Water and were made very welcome by the Coniston Sailing Club. The club has extended the use of our water to The Lads & Girls Club Atlantic Rowing team for training for their fund raising event. The club again played host to the Lancashire Sailing Schools Association for their annual regatta.

We said a sad goodbye to Shaney Wicks, who was always active within the club and had been with us so long that she was almost a founder member. The committee were also obliged to expel a member.

Littleton Sailing Club (LSC)

LSC continues to provide sailing opportunities on a lake shared with the Civil Service Angling Society. Water, water everywhere! unfortunately we saw fewer boats racing. It is easy to forget that only 18 months ago some boats were regularly touching the bottom of the lake. Deep water and reduced amounts of sunshine at Littleton meant that we were hardly affected by weed, so we still have a great sailing venue.

The club put on a full and very successful training programme with something for almost all levels of sailing. Training is the highest priority activity in terms of attracting new members to the club. We ran two successful open days, and joined the rest of the country holding the RYA initiatives Sail for Gold and Push the Boat Out days. The latter, in July, was also a Taster Day. The clubhouse was dressed 'Olympic style' with bunting and garlands in red, white and blue. Food and drinks available throughout the day were followed by a Hog Roast buffet in the evening. Due to the massive turn-out and the involvement of many members, it was a wonderfully exhausting and truly memorable day. The end of the Twilight series was adorned with spectators' 'tall' stories as members returned from their trips to events around the country. Our youth sailing continues to grow, putting pressure on resources on Saturdays, our busiest day. It is great to see many of older youths joining in the club racing programme.

For the first time the Victory Trophy was hosted in the autumn, this obviously suited the Civil Service team who took a firm hold of the trophy. As always we had a very full club sailing programme including the usual open meetings for Solos and Surrey Schools. Our club members have attended numerous national and regional competitions with some success, including winning the Littleton Bell at the CSSA/CSSC Dinghy Championships.

Membership numbers increased for the first time since the downturn in the economy. The new membership database is a success story. Together with the CSSC membership changes it required additional volunteer effort at the expense of recreation time. All newly eligible LLSC members transferred over to Littleton SC, and all our Associate members joined either LSC as a linked member or joined Littleton Lake SC.

The new Membership, Marketing and Communications Sub-Committee tested some new marketing ideas. To their credit the club continues to attract new members, however at the same time as many of our resident non-sailors have been leaving the club on economic grounds. Then there were others who simply took off around the world in a yacht!

In addition to the maintenance of the grounds, there were two other significant estate activities this year, they were; (i) renovation the diesel safety boats, and (ii) provision of National Grid contractors who cut a huge swathe of trees down and pollarded many others.

In 2013 the club hopes to increase its equipment storage facilities (as more and more people prefer to store gear at

the club) and also aims to upgrade its fleet of planing safety boats. However, much will depend upon the outcome of the 'Rent Review' exercise. The club is facing some large challenges and we must keep adapting with the changing environment we find ourselves in.

Netley Cliff Sailing Club (NCSC)

As the club continues into 2013 a few changes have occurred, firstly as a result of the Annual General Meeting there has been a few changes on the committee. We would like to thank Iain Mackay who has been our Commodore for the last two years, as well as the General Secretary prior to his tenure as Commodore. The new commodore is Peter Robins and the new Vice Commodore is Darren Whitcher. We currently expect 115 members to rejoin and have set ourselves the challenge of raising this to 132 in 2013.

Last year we had a full racing calendar with gallant efforts made by a number of sailors but eventually Richard Randall coming out on top. The cruisers undertook several social events and seemed to spend endless hours in maintenance during the winter only to be foiled by the continuing poor weather into the British summer of 2012.

The championships were a success, partly because of the mixed conditions for sailing as a real test for the competitors, the mostly good weather, the sustained fleet providing some tense and exciting racing and the excellent leadership of race officer David Greenway.

We were also able to conduct training to increase our RIB crews by providing several powerboat level 2 courses as well as safety boat training and short-range marine radio. We are also looking to get some RYA race officer training completed as well as RYA first aid refreshers and some more powerboat level 2's and safety boat courses. This will support the sailing events as well as reducing the commitment of those members who prefer to wave canvas in the wind rather than making noise and smoke.

Rutland Civil Service Sailing Club

We started off with high hopes for 2012. New member enquiries were up and the warm spring brought with it an eagerness to start sailing again. Then the rains came, followed by persistent high winds and we ended up with one of our less memorable summers. But, there were nice days when the mixture of sun and wind made everything right again and at least we had enough water in the reservoir to enjoy unrestricted sailing! The section operates two Squib keelboats on a club basis and restricts itself to cruising and tuition, generally sailing between March and November. The new members did come through but some older members retired, leaving our numbers barely changed. We hope to take advantage of the relaxed CSSC membership conditions and again look forward to increasing interest as the spring draws nearer.

OFFSHORE MATTERS

Summary

As I said last year, "The more things change the more they stay the same". I believe the French have a saying for this but of course they are French. But yes, yet *again* another very successful Offshore season and enormous thanks and respect to so many for contributing and enabling so much, as you will note when you read the individual reports. Singling out CSORC, they have continued to more than come back from the dead – very well done. Also brilliantly done Trevor and Richard – really outstanding achievements including sailing the Atlantic – awesome! My sails to Fareham Creek do not quite compare (in fact not at all!!!!!!) – albeit one required the assistance of an ambulance crew.....I did though once sail across the Bay of Biscay....a while ago now admittedly.....but age doth weary one.....

The CSSA Sea School continues to be under review and progress with Peter Burry (aka Joshua Slocum) stepping down after about 100 years of devoted and brilliant service and Len Creswell stepping into his immense sea boots.

We owe Peter an enormous debt of gratitude. Thank you Sir!

IDOR was again a great success. The new committee under the nominal leadership of myself (i.e. if anything went wrong) but in reality Nick Rees and with great input from all including of course Richard Northover with all his negotiating skills and contacts worked very well as a team including many telephone conferences (at great expense we later found out!). Thank you all and God Bless.

Inter-Departmental Offshore Regatta (IDOR)

This year the IDOR was organised by a committee and a couple of new ideas were tried, including committee boat starts for the short inshore races and the removal of the Friday race from the general run of results so that the prize-giving on Thursday was more conclusive. Although conditions for the round-the-island race were ideal, the weather during the week was mainly “robust”, to the point where “white sails and lifejackets” was signalled on the Thursday. The dinner and prize giving was held in the delightful Royal Corinthian Yacht Club and Matt Adams and his crew from the Met Office walked off with most of the prizes. There were a number of first time IDOR skippers – a good omen for the future.

Channel Sailing Division (CSD)

2012 was the third season for CSD's Dufour 405, Sea Essay. She has remained popular and well utilised by members throughout the season. There was another successful 10 week trip to Brittany with seetime delivery trips from Sea Essay's berth on the River Hamble to Brest and at the end of the trip from Jersey to Hamble. The training programme was well supported as were the various day sail and seetime offerings. Overall finances have remained healthy.

There was an extensive winter maintenance programme, including the need to deal with a number of previously unidentified problems. Due to the hard work of the yacht husband team, Sea Essay was back in the water on 1st February 2013. The season is already well underway with charters and seetime trips, with further training, day sails and seetimes published in the programme.

In 2013 the usual range of training, day sail and seetime activities will be available, together with member charters. The summer cruise is currently being shaped and if you are interested in taking part please contact the charter or crew bureau secretaries. All charter rates and fees remain unchanged for 2013.

Planning has now started for the replacement of Sea Essay, probably from the start of the 2015 season. To see this through there have been a number of changes in the Committee, and the club wishes to record thanks to its outgoing, long-standing committee members, in particular Eric Smith, Martin Bellamy and David Hayward.

East Coast Yacht Division (ECYD)

ECYD broke new ground again in the 2012 season by cruising the Northern Coast of Spain for several weeks. The planned Ocean Yachtmaster passage had to be aborted due to adverse weather conditions which entailed taking shelter in Dartmouth while waiting for a weather window to continue the passage to La Coruna.

Recruitment efforts continued with Taster Sails at the beginning of the season and the chartering of a boat in August to introduce new members to sailing on the East Coast. The take up of the RYA courses was disappointing but as part of the recruitment drive we will continue to offer these courses.

Maintenance and repair costs were heavy due to electrical problems and the failure of the gear box while in the Channel Islands. The gear box failure led to loss of charter fees and refunds of travel expenses in the heroic efforts to get Freyja back to Shotley for the end of season programme. This took its toll on our financial position and resulted in an operating loss for the year.

The usual two Rallies were held in Spring and Autumn and the AGM was held in November when members get the chance to socialise and meet the wider membership.

CS Offshore Racing Club (CSORC)

The club had a rather quiet year, due to the work and other commitments of our few skippers. This year, our racing season focused primarily on inshore series and the IDOR. However, Club Treasurer Richard Palmer and Club Captain Trevor Drew undertook a gruelling race in the form of the famous Two-handed Transatlantic Race, or TwoStar, from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island. They came in second in IRC, after three weeks at sea, to a rousing reception at Newport Yacht Club. Their blog of the race can be found at <http://jangada-too.blogspot.co.uk>

We competed in two events in the Sunsail series, each weekend's racing comprising three or four races. The fleet of Farr 40s continued to challenge the more novice sailors, as we came 11th out of 14 in the first event, and did no better than 12th out of 14 in the second. As in previous years, CSORC sailors also competed in other racing events. Several members competed in the HMRC regatta in September, the Sigma 38 Nationals and the real "Round the Island" during the year.

The club once again competed in the IDOR, this time achieving a real milestone by entering two boats. CSORC 1, skippered by Nick Bowles and CSORC 2 skippered by Phil Armitage. The highlight was certainly the round-the-island race, and having two boats added an additional and highly enjoyable dimension to the regatta, with some silverware to boot – Phil cleaning up by winning our own trophy – the CSORC plate, along with two third place prizes in the form of the Silver Jubilee Trophy (first IDOR as skipper) and shared the Class A Shield & Cariatid Cup (Pairs) with Neil Wood of HASSRA/DWP. Nick and his crew, comprising many novices, had the great satisfaction of winning the Elite Cup for most improved performance. Nick kept a blog during the week, which can be found at <http://csorc-idor.blogspot.co.uk>.

By ensuring that, for each race, we make a small surplus, we have continued to build a financial reserve to provide deposits for future charters. The club continues its strategy of providing the full range of big boat racing to CSSA members. We have competed in 12 events comprising 19 races.

Five Kingdoms Sailing Club (5KSC)

The 2012 season presented a number of challenges to overcome especially our financial position due to reduced bookings from last season and the replacement of Artful Dodger's Standing Rigging. A key target this year was to increase bookings on last year and we managed to leave only 3/16 weeks un-booked, which was a big improvement over last season. This contributed to an improved financial position and enabled the club to make its penultimate CSSA loan repayment and end the season with an acceptable bank balance.

Our Club Captain, Andy Deyes, retired from the Captaincy in Jan 2012 and was succeeded by Brian Walker in accordance with section 8.4 of our constitution.

Our season began with a difficult delivery trip to Scotland in May. Paul Brereton and his crew made an unplanned stop in Whitehaven for a change of crew due to the weather gods and our entry in the Scottish 3 Peaks race had to be abandoned. Artful Dodger spent most of this season in the Firth of Clyde. Training run by Len Creswell allowed club members to achieve a range of certificates from Competent Crew to Coastal Skipper, again proving Artful Dodger is well suited and placed to provide accessible training.

After a successful season Artful Dodger was due back into her home port of Liverpool but due to the weather gods she ended up berthed in Holyhead, club members made use of the un-expected stop and arranged cruises plus a further Training week run by Steve Wing. She is now back in Liverpool and we have scheduled a number of taster sails and race days for which we are receiving increased interest from our existing and new members with most events fully booked. The season has been a success and we have managed to improve our financial position, in-

crease active membership, and provide an almost full sailing programme.

Portsmouth Offshore Group (POG)

2012 was the first year of the new CSSC Membership qualifications and our membership is now 667 full members, an increase of 27%. This was achieved mainly by permitting our Associate and POG equivalent of Family Members to become full members. However the new rules have also attracted some new members who hitherto would not have been able to join.

All our pontoon moorings, walk ashore and mid stream, were occupied and there were just a few vacancies on our swinging moorings. The club will have 248 moorings for the forthcoming year. The popularity of the mid stream pontoons at Wicor and the size of our waiting list convinced us that we should convert the few remaining pile moorings to pontoon so this is underway in January 2013 in time for the new mooring year. Club reserves were used to fund the £50,000 cost of this operation. The major event of our season was the opening of the 37 new deepwater pontoon moorings at Wicor in March. CE CSSC, Marian Holmes, performed the opening ceremony which was blessed with brilliant spring sunshine. During the year, we have joined with the RNSA and the Fleetlands Angling Club to develop the facilities at Wicor and a clubroom, toilets and dinghy racks have been provided.

The longevity of the pontoons at Weevil Lake, some of which according to marina experience should be at the end of their economic life, has been of concern for the past couple of years. The club has embarked on a financial strategy to ensure there is sufficient capital to pay for this work and also maintenance dredging when it becomes necessary at the end of the decade. Assiduous work was done by the POG Maintenance team which has examined every pontoon and recorded corrosion in the main galvanised beams. This has proved that much of the metalwork is perfectly sound and that it was the woodwork of the gangways that was deteriorating quickly. The trials we have done in the past few years using reconstituted plastic instead of hardwood have now born fruit and work parties have except, for our new(ish) pontoon, replaced all the rotting and slippery (when wet) wooden walkways with plastic at a cost of £30,000. The Maintenance Team are to be congratulated at their energy and ingenuity in this extensive work which has already saved the club over £20,000 and will delay the need for major expenditure on new hardware for many years.

Our New Training Officer introduced a number of courses this year, including shore based RYA courses. The most successful was undoubtedly the innovative Sail Trimming courses in which thirty six POG members crewing eight boats enjoyed some excellent coaching from Rob Gibson, (author of the RYA's Sail Trim Manual) and his team from Poole Sailing Limited. In addition many members attended a sea survival course run by a local commercial trainer. The highlight involved getting very wet whilst boarding a liferaft in the dark and rain. The desperately wet summer did not dampen the enthusiasm for the club events and our full quota of potters, rallies and races were well attended.

The new Chief Executive of CSSC, Simon Lee visited POG from Sea Essay as a part of his introduction to the CSSA and we understand departed suitably impressed. The Autumn lift out took place on one of the coldest and windiest weekends in our lift out history and all are to be congratulated that the 44 boats were safely lifted ashore.

The one sour note this year has been the fallout from the new CSSC membership. In POG, moorings are allocated on the basis of the date on which people join (the POG No). Unfortunately the CSSC regulations started on 1st August and new members joined then before existing friends and relatives, many of whom had been stalwarts of the club but unable to join as full members, had realized the new scheme could include them as members. It took several Management Committee meetings and an SGM to arrive at a solution that could at least be tolerated by all concerned

EAST COAST YACHT DIVISION (ECYD)



Winter maintenance is well underway although there are still jobs to be done at the time of writing.

The pictures show Mary Reed holding the boat in place and Nurse Sue Mullock kitted out for operation anti-foul. Who said the boys get all the fun jobs!

The **early season's programme** is detailed below.

Freyja departs on her **long trip to the Baltic**



on Wednesday 29th May. There are still a few crew berths available for the leg from Delfzijl to Kiel from Thursday 13th June to Friday 21st June.

The **Cobweb Rally** from Friday 3rd May to Monday 6th May will take place on the rivers Orwell and Stour, and the local sea area. Crew berths are still available for this event that gives the chance to meet other members of the club and practice your navigational and seamanship skills.

To enquire about these opportunities, or to book your place contact John Miller cruising@ecyd.org.uk.

Early season programme				
Start date	Type of trip	Pick up	Vacancies	End date
18.00 Sunday 14th April 2013	Practice Boat Handling	Shotley	4	18.00 on Tuesday 16th April 2013
18.00 Friday 19th April 2013	Available for charter or training please enquire	Shotley		18.00 on Friday 26th April 2013
18.00 Friday 26th April 2013	Start Yachting	Shotley	4	18.00 on Sunday 28th April 2013
18.00 Sunday 28th April 2013	RYA Competent Crew. RYA Day Skipper	Shotley	2	18.00 on Friday 3rd May 2013
18.00 Friday 3rd May 2013	Rally	Shotley	4	18.00 on Monday 6th May 2013
18.00 Monday 6th May 2013	Practice boat handling	Shotley	2	18.00 on Wednesday 8th May 2013
18.00 Wednesday 8th May 2013	Practice boat handling	Shotley	5	18.00 on Friday 10th May 2013
18.00 Friday 10th May 2013	Introductory and Taster	Shotley	4	18.00 Saturday 11th May 2013
18.00 Saturday 11th May 2013	Introductory and Taster	Shotley	4	18.00 Sunday 12th May 2013
18.00 Sunday 12th May 2013	Coastal Skipper	Shotley	4	18.00 Friday 17th May 2013
18.00 Sunday 19th May 2013	RYA Competent Crew. RYA Day Skipper	Shotley	4	18.00 Friday 24th May 2013
18.00 Friday 24th May 2013	Introductory and Taster	Shotley	5	18.00 Saturday 25th May 2013
18.00 Saturday 25th May 2013	Introductory and Taster	Shotley		1800 Sunday 26th May 2013

CHANDLERY - Rectangular CSSA House Flags, Triangular CSSA Burgees

Large (30cm x 45cm approx) = £16.00, Small (20cm x 30cm approx) = £13.00,

CSSA Ties (Polyester) = £10.00

P & P included. Please send your requests & cheques (payable to CSSA) to:

Brian Grubb, 64 St Cross Road, WINCHESTER, Hants. SO23 9PS



CHANNEL SAILING DIVISION (CSD)

“Sea Essay of Hamble”, our Dufour 405 ‘Grande Large; a 12 metre (40 ft.+) cruising yacht with a high specification.

- 3 cabin version offering comfortable and spacious accommodation
- Easy sail handling and fast and secure cruising.

For 2013, CSD has compiled a full programme for a wide variety of activities, from a fun day taster Day Sail, Sea Time

Cruises over a weekend or longer, training courses and examination for RYA sailing qualifications and charter to Approved Skippers. The full programme can be found on the CSD web site; <http://www.channelsailing.org/>.

Day Sails are designed to be a fun day out in the Solent, providing an introduction to the sport. They start from our base at Mercury Yacht Harbour on the Hamble River about 09.00. Depending on the tides and weather conditions we sail until lunch time and then moor up for lunch at one of the local hostelrys. CSD provide a qualified skipper and mate and the clients are encouraged to take a full part in all the activities, helming, crewing, navigation etc. We aim to be back at Mercury in time to clear up and away by 18.00. There are free berths in 2013 on the following dates:

11 April; 8 May; 18 August, 18, 19, 20 September. The cost is £34.00 each for members of the Civil Service Sailing Association or the CSSC. For non members there is an additional £5.00 Day Membership fee.

Enquiries to Colin Smith by Email please : csddaysails@btinternet.com

Seatime 2013 - there are Holiday opportunities aboard Sea Essay for sailing weeks: - Saturday 6 June cross-channel starting France, & Saturday 27 July cross -channel starting Plymouth. Some Seetime vacancies exist but currently only for September & November. For further details please visit www.channelsailing.org or e-mail David Hartland (CSD Crew Bureau Secretary) csdseatime@yahoo.co.uk

Obituary - Jim Naden 1 February 1930 – 15 February 2013

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Jim Naden, age 83, after a short illness.

Jim learned to sail as a young man and was able to further his interest in sailing during his time in Aden in the Suez crises. He was the proud owner of a yacht which was moored at Troon where he was a member of the Troon Sailing Club and later had a yacht in the Greek islands.

Jim was widely known within the Scottish Civil Service Cruising Club and 5 Kingdoms Sailing Club amongst others. He sailed for many years on the West Coast of Scotland, the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Firth of Clyde and Irish Sea. He also made delivery trips to Liverpool, took a group to the Greek islands and attended the Clyde Musters. His last sail was in August 2012 on the Clyde where we had bad weather almost the entire time – even the Hebridean Princess had to seek shelter in Rothesay. However he still loved his sailing that week.

He was a meticulous planner, generous with his time, keen to pass on his vast experience and knowledge and in his view, safety was paramount. His integrity was beyond question, always knew right from wrong and told it “as it is” – even if you didn’t want to hear it!

Jim is survived by his wife Audrey, who will be sailing on his planned charter in June 2013, and his daughters Christine and Janet who grew up on boats.

It was a privilege and pleasure to have known him.

Nancy Shepstone

5 KINGDOMS SAILING CLUB (5KSC)

The northwest yacht division of the Civil Service Sailing Association

Come and book your berth! – pre-season social

Members of 5KSC will be meeting from 2pm on Sunday 21 April at the Harbourside Club, Coburg Wharf, Sefton Street, Liverpool, L3 4BP. Meet your potential crew-mates and skippers. Visit **Artful Dodger** and check out the latest upgrades, find out who has planned what for the 2013 season, pick up hints and tips about facilities and navigation from the crews that went 'there' last season, etc.

Lunch will be available to purchase from the bar in the Harbourside Club. We might even trip out into Liverpool for an evening meal afterwards.

You don't need to wait until the day to find out more about what is on offer. You can visit 5KSC.com to use the on-line booking system or make contact by e-mail crew_bureau@5ksc.org.uk

Sailing aboard Artful Dodger

Crew need nothing more than enthusiasm. Berths are available to singles, groups and families. The Clyde offers a perfect setting for introduction to yacht cruising. 5KSC offer long weekend, full week and longer trips during the summer. RYA Training courses teach you all you need to know to begin yacht cruising.

Skippers wanting to charter **Artful Dodger** must hold at least a RYA Certificate of Competence as Yachtmaster Coastal and be registered as a CSSA Approved Skipper.

5KSC provide the practical training to achieve Yachtmaster qualifications and can advise on where to take shore-based courses.

Yacht familiarisation for skippers (and crew)

CSSA and 5KSC voluntarily abide by the **MCA Code of Practice for Small Commercial Vessels** – this is not a strict requirement because we are not commercial. One of the requirements of the Code is for the Managing Agent (5KSC) to provide a Familiarisation Briefing with the chartering skipper and crew (you) at handover. This is not usually practical for 5KSC given that our handovers are away from base and not even face-to-face between the incoming and outgoing skippers. To comply with the Code so far as we can, you are offered (and expected to

take) a familiarisation briefing in Liverpool. We will be providing demonstrations of:

Lifesaving and fire-fighting equipment

Sea cocks and bilge pumps

Mechanical, electrical and electronic equipment

Routine maintenance requirements

Engine checks – pre-start, running and post-stopping

The method of setting, sheeting and reefing each sail

We will be providing the answers to many questions including: How do I rig the storm jib? How do I use the plotter? What are the best techniques for the anchor windlass? What does a continuously running water pump indicate? How is it best to rig the Handy Billy? What adjustments must I make on the foredeck before using the backstay tensioner? Come and talk to someone who knows the answers to these and many other questions.

If you have any other questions on best use of Artful Dodger's equipment, please send them to secretary@5KSC.org.uk and we'll get an answer for you and show you on the day.

We are also required to show the skipper the whereabouts of the Crew Manual which includes mandatory information including registration papers, insurance policy and certificates, instruction manuals, inventory and contact details for assistance. Any comments to improve the practical value of the Crew Manual are always welcome.

Clyde Muster 8 & 9 June 2013 (TBC)

5KSC and SCSCC (the Scottish Civil Service Cruising Club) are once again planning a Clyde Muster. The date is yet to be confirmed but the weekend of 8 and 9 June is most likely. Anyone interested in joining a crew or entering a yacht should e-mail Captain@5KSC.org.uk.

Sea survival course

Have you ever tried to climb into the life-raft from the water? Do you know how to use flares? If not, the RYA Sea Survival course is for you. A course is available on 13 April near Preston. Dave Messham is coordinating bookings for 5KSC members. – davemessham@aol.com.

Wanted volunteers for winter maintenance - get in touch with Colin Atkinson – colinandgill@uwclub.net and **new 5KSC Committee members and Officers** - express your interests to secretary@5KSC.org.uk

HOOE POINT SAILING CLUB (HPSC)

Just when we thought winter was behind us and amid a flurry of activity to prepare boats for craning back into the water they are now forecasting snow and bitterly cold winds! But at least we can look forward to the start of a new sailing season in the not-too-distant future.

At the HPSC AGM in February we voted in a new Commodore. After three years in the hot-seat Mark Evans has stood down and Bill Gerken now has his hand on the tiller. Full details of the new committee can be found on the club website. The disposal of the land that we rent from MoD is moving ahead and we should know by the end of this year what our future holds. Fingers crossed we will be able to continue to operate from Hooe Point for many years to come.

Our winter program of talks has gone well with a variety of subjects being discussed and presented including sea safety; local cruising; the work of the Border Force and sail trimming. Planning for the next winter program is already well in hand.

This season already looks like being a busy one with some new dinghy sailors joining the club and various plans being hatched for long cruises south and west. Plymouth will see the OSTAR starting at the end of May and the Fastnet race finishing in August. The Port of Plymouth Regatta and Classic Boat Rally will take place from the 20th of July through to the 28th and the National Fireworks championships will again be held here in August. Any CSSA members planning a cruise or holiday in the West Country this summer are very welcome to make use of the facilities at Hooe Point. We have ample parking for trailer-sailors and dinghies during the summer and access to an excellent slipway for launching. More details of the club and contact points can be found on our website: www.hooepointsailingclub.co.uk

LITTLETON SAILING CLUB (LSC)

Dinghy Sailing Taster Day(s) at Littleton Sailing Club

If you fancy a go at dinghy sailing, or you are considering joining Littleton Sailing Club, then this is your chance to come and experience our hospitality and facilities, and of course to get out on the water for a first hand experience. If you decide to join the club on the day then you save yourself the £50 joining fee.

DATE: Saturday 11th May 2013

Two sessions will be run, with timing and activities as follows:

Session 1: 10.30am to 1pm.

- Registration and introduction to the club, allocation of dinghies
- Go afloat for about an hour
- Lunch to follow

Session 2: 1.30pm to 4pm.

- Activities as above but ending with afternoon tea

If you are new to dinghy sailing you will be taken out by an experienced club member in a two person dinghy. For competent dinghy sailors there will also be a number of single handed boats available.

Cost per session is £10.00

More Dinghy Sailing Taster Dates

If you can't make this date there will be further Dinghy Sailing Tasters taking place on the following evenings at a cost of £5 a session.

Wed 29th May

Wed 19th June

Wed 10th July

Wed 31st July

Wed 21st August

For further information and booking please contact Vanda Jowett :- (dinghytaster@littletonsc.co.uk) or go to <http://www.littletonsc.co.uk/pages/tasterdays.html>

CSSA is affiliated to the Civil Service Sports Council (CSSC)

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