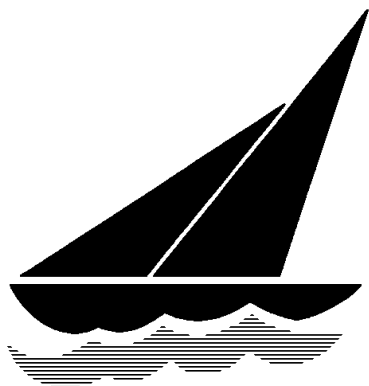


NLSA Newsletter – October 2007



First things first. This is the first newsletter to be distributed by email: if we have an email address for you then we will not be sending it by post. This will cut down on cost, time and paper! Of course if we don't have your email address then you'll receive the newsletter by Royal Mail.

And a reminder that if you still have not renewed your membership, then this is your last newsletters until you do. Membership forms are available on our website at <http://homepages.rya-online.net/nlsail/join.htm>

Now to a few things that have gone on recently and some up-coming events.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

We are keen to make sure that we organise the right balance of events for all members, both on and off the water. If you have any suggestions for future social events, whether nautically themed or otherwise, please e-mail Caroline.

In the meantime here is what is already on offer:

Treasure Hunt, 9-11 November

The annual treasure hunt will be at Brightlingsea on 9-11 November. A fun weekend for all. Contact Christine for more details.

Christmas racing and mince pies – 9 December

Many of us have already enjoyed the racing organised by Kevin and Bernie this year. If you haven't yet had a go, then this will be your chance.

The format will be similar to other races – except that there will only be one morning of racing so winner

takes all. Oh yes, and the prizes will be for the best fancy dress, not the fastest boat! As always, previous racing experience is not required.

Afterwards there will be mulled wine and mince pies to warm the chilled sailors and supporters. Everyone will be welcome for what promises to be a fun day.

Christmas reservoir closure

Please remember that the Reservoir will close for a few weeks over Christmas and New Year. The last sailing of 2007 will be on 16 December and it resumes for the NLSA on Sunday 13 January.

RECENT EVENTS

There's been plenty going on over the summer. As ever, many have enjoyed the regular fixtures, be it Sunday sailing or evening sailing after work on Tuesdays at the Reservoir or the challenges of a weekend at Brightlingsea.

Brightlingsea

There has been a number of successful and well-attended weekends at Brightlingsea this year, with many first-timers coming along. There is no doubt that an intensive weekend down at the coast is a great way to get to know other Association members and to hone your skills in the slightly more challenging environment of tidal waters.

If you didn't try it this summer, make sure you put a weekend in your diary for next year – they're great fun.

NLSA Summer BBQ – 15 July

In stark contrast to the majority of days this summer, Sunday, 15 July dawned sunny and warm. The sunshine and steady breeze meant that we had almost record attendance for the morning's sailing at the reservoir.

Come lunchtime, the crowds (and the clouds) were starting to gather. Thanks to Steve, the barbecues were already stoked with glowing charcoals in preparation for the vast amounts of food which soon arrived. There was a very impressive array of delicacies being cooked, ranging from the good old sausage to stuffed vine leaves. No one's spirits seemed to be dampened by the intermittent showers –

maybe it's just that getting wet is an occupational hazard of being a sailor. When the sky turned a very ominous deep shade of grey a couple of hours later we reluctantly decided that it was probably best to call it a day and made a runner home. Our thanks go to all of you who came and made it such an enjoyable and gastronomic event.

We hope that you enjoyed the BBQ.

Sitting proud on a patch of grass

On Saturday 25th July, armed with a stack of colourful leaflets and one Zephyr! Bernie and Kevin took part in the SportInspired Hackney Festival at Shoreditch Park. The dinghy's bright white sail and anchor were an instant attraction for children and adults alike. It was a great opportunity to everyone to know about the Association's bases: at Stoke Newington and Brightlingsea. Kevin says, "I can see this becoming a regular annual event for the Association".

Autumn Race Series

Thanks to Kevin and Bernie who ran the Autumn Race Series. Again it was well attended and the first timers were particularly welcome.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place on 17 April. Thanks to everyone: it was a well-attended meeting. After the new Committee was elected (details opposite), competitors in the Icicle Series collected their prizes.

OTHER MATTERS

Damage to boats

We are keen to help the Centre ensure that boats are kept in good condition. Obviously that means that we should look after them, avoid sailing into the pontoon etc. But it also means that if we do spot any damage to one of the boats (whether we cause it or it is existing damage) we should report it to the SI on duty. The SI will add it to the Fault Log.

If no one reports the damage then it won't get fixed! Steve promises not to hold the person reporting the damage responsible (within reason)!

Courses at the WRC

Want a change from "just sailing in circles" on a Sunday morning? Why not improve your sailing skills!

The winter period when the West Reservoir Centre is at its quietest is a good time to do just that. If you want to improve your racing or seamanship skills, get a group together and the Centre will run a RYA course just for you. The usual cost of a weekend course is £130 per person but discounts are available to NLSA members so talk to the NLSA Senior Instructor for more details.

Website

Steve Sharples is eager to add to the collection of photos on our website. If you have some good shots, why don't you email them to him.

You may also have noticed that there is a useful race rules link on the website. Use this to test and improve your understanding of race rules. It's a bit more complicated than just "port gives way to starboard"!

Your Committee

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| Chair | Emma Adebayo |
| Vice-Chair | Tim Webb |
| Hon. Secretary | Mary Leaming |
| Hon. Treasurer | Brian Williams |
| Membership Secretary | Tim Webb |
| Social Secretary | vacant |
| Publicity Officer | James Falle |
| Racing Secretary | Kevin Foley |
| Cruising Secretary | Kevin Foley |
| Domestic Coordinator, Brightlingsea | Christine Williams |
| Lettings Coordinator, Brightlingsea | Christine Williams |
| Maintenance Coordinator, Brightlingsea | Brian Williams |
| Youth Representative | Lotte Cutts |
| Adult Rep & Website Manager | Steve Sharples |
| Adult Rep | Caroline Brown |
| Senior Instructor member | Steve Matthews |
| SNWRC ex officio | Steve Ells |

Steve Sharples and Tim Webb are the committee members nominated to represent the interests of windsurfers and members with disabilities respectively

The President, Rod Carr, and the current Vice-Presidents (members recognised for their long service to the Association), were all re-elected.