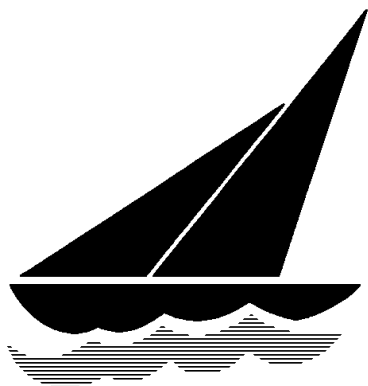


NLSA Newsletter – May 2009



Welcome to the Spring newsletter. There's plenty going in the next few months, so read on! Of course the other way you can stay in touch is to check out the latest on the website – www.northlondonsailing.org

And a gentle reminder for those who have not yet renewed their membership: this is your last newsletters until you do; and it is about the time of year that Steve bars anyone from sailing unless they are on the new members list. Membership forms are available on-line.

Also a request from the newsletter editor: if you would like to write something for the newsletter or provide photos then please let me know. Contributions of a nautical theme are always welcome, whether it be something you've done with NLSA or independently, or something that you would like to organise for members.

Tuesday evening sailing

Tuesday evening sailing is back. It's a great way to relax after a day at work, so do come along from 6 till 8 every Tuesday evening.

Canoe Club BBQ and open paddle

The Castle Canoe Club is holding an open paddle and BBQ at the Reservoir on Sunday 31 May. They have very kindly invited all NLSA members to join them for the paddle and/or BBQ. If paddling please be there by 10.15am.

The BBQ starts at 1.30pm. Remember to bring a burger and whatever else you would like to eat! If the weather forecast is bad, the BBQ may be transformed into an indoor buffet, so it may be worth bringing buffet-type food as well if the weather looks bad.

Brightlingsea

As anyone who has been before knows, a weekend at Brightlingsea is a fantastic opportunity to meet other members and go on short voyages rather than just tacking back and forth across the same stretch of reservoir for a couple of hours! There is always a rescue boat to supervise everyone and an experienced sailor in each Wayfarer. There are a couple of great pubs very close to the Old Custom House for you to try out at the end of the day.

And it's great value. Ordinary weekends cost £55 per member (£75 non-members; £40 young members) including all accommodation and most meals.

Dates are listed at the end of the newsletter – for those who are keen to get going, please note the next weekend is 22-25 May. It is possible to get there by car (we try to arrange lifts for anyone who doesn't have a car) or by train and bus/train and cab.

If you would like to attend one of these weekends, please send an application form and cheque to Christine Williams (forms available from the Reservoir on Sunday mornings or from the website). Alternatively call Christine for further information.

Brightlingsea Family Weekend

The first family weekend at Brightlingsea took place last June. This was a great opportunity for some of the younger members of the Association to discover the delights of Brightlingsea on a weekend specifically aimed at them and their parents.

We are repeating the family weekend this year on 26-28 June. If you are interested in coming along with family then please contact Caroline Brown.

Racing: upcoming events

There are several exciting ideas in the pipeline at the moment if anyone is keen to rise to the challenge.

First, we are looking for volunteers to race in or help out at the annual "round the island race" at Brightlingsea. This takes place on Wednesday 19 August and involves a long day, first sailing to the start line close to the Dabchicks club house, before circumnavigating Mersea Island and finally sailing back to Brightlingsea. Anyone taking part will need to arrive the day before, and ideally be willing to stay in Brightlingsea the night of the race as the finish may be quite late. Teams of two normally compete, sailing the NLSA's Wayfarers (though there could possibly be 3 to a boat). Anyone interested (whether you have someone to sail with or are looking for someone) please contact James

Falle. Prior Brightlingsea experience is preferable for everyone, and compulsory for the helm (*Ed - if you haven't sailed there yet, then there's time to book on a couple of weekends before August!*).

Liz Robson is looking at the feasibility of arranging a race day against the club at King George Reservoir. Look out for possible announcements at the Reservoir...

If you feel you need a little more practice before committing to either of these, then look out for impromptu racing that Geoff Philby is organising when there are enough enthusiastic members on Sunday mornings.

Courses at Brightlingsea

After gaining RYA approval to run courses at Brightlingsea and the successful Level 2 course last year, we are planning to run further courses this summer. These courses are designed to improve your sailing ability, especially on tidal waters. They are also open to suitably experienced non-members (although members have priority).

The courses will take advantage of the excellent sailing facilities at Brightlingsea and along that area of the coast. They will be run by qualified instructors with appropriate levels of supervision to ensure that you receive the training you need. Completion of the courses will depend on conditions during the weekend. The courses planned are:

Day Sailing (5 – 7 June)

The day sailing course covers the planning of day cruises and includes understanding weather, tides, charts, navigation and safety. At the end of the course you should be able to plan the type of cruise that we sail out of Brightlingsea during members' weekends.

Level 2 Tidal Endorsement (17 – 19 July)

This course covers the basic Level 2 course but is sailed on tidal water. It gives you the opportunity to learn to sail on moving water, which may be taking you away from where you want to go! This course is recommended for those members who would like to improve their confidence in sailing on tidal waters. It is staffed at a higher Instructor-to-student level than the other courses.

Seamanship Skills (25 – 27 September)

The seamanship skills course covers advanced boat handling skills and includes dealing with situations that can arise at sea, such as sailing without a rudder or centreboard and advanced techniques such as anchoring, reefing and sailing backwards. This course will help to

develop your overall sailing ability, especially on tidal water.

The "Seamanship" and "Day Sailing" courses are normally recommended for those who have enjoyed some further sailing since completing their Level 2 and wish to go further in developing their knowledge and skills. You will probably already have some tidal sailing experience, such as on the "Tidal Endorsement" course, and would not require the higher level of individual instruction on the water given in that course.

For more information about any of these courses, or if you would like to discuss which course is most suitable for you, please speak to Steve Matthews. Booking forms and details of cost are online at www.northlondonsailing.org/BrightlingseaCoastalBase.aspx

Cruising weekend

Last October we planned a cruising weekend on the East Coast, leaving from Walton on the Naze (an area made famous by Arthur Ransom's "Secret Waters"). There were sufficient members for us to plan to take two 32 foot boats – kindly offered by Brian and Christine Williams and Mary Jackson.

Unfortunately because of extreme weather (gales for the entire weekend) the cruise was cancelled at the last minute. Unperturbed, we are looking to run a cruise this year and are currently negotiating for availability of boats. If you are interested in coming along, please let James Falle know. Fuller details will be advertised once a date has been decided.

Icicle race series

This year's Icicle Series lived up to its name. Indeed, just a couple of weeks before the first race, the Reservoir was completely frozen so no one could sail! The brave souls who rose to the challenge of the series were nevertheless rewarded with some great and competitive sailing. The eventual winner, returning from several years' absence from the Association, was Simon Moore - well done and welcome back Simon!

Thanks as ever to Kevin and Bernie for organising and refereeing the racing.

Prepping Brightlingsea

A team of volunteers, including some of our members, was busy over the last weekend in March checking over and working on the Wayfarer dinghies to have them ready for the new season.

The building is now looking in good shape thanks to the efforts of our caretaker who has finished the spring-cleaning and to Brian and Christine Williams, the Maintenance and Domestic Co-ordinators for our Brightlingsea base, who went down for a weekend to carry out some essential maintenance. They have repaired and repainted the two small cabins and have successfully repaired the leak from the shower, which was causing water to come through the kitchen ceiling.

RNLI – Sea Safety Check

Those who attended the AGM were lucky enough to hear Nicky Gibb speak about sea safety. A seasoned yachswoman, she reminded us all of some of the simple steps that we can take to minimise risk and ensure a good day on the water.

As Nicky explained, the RNLI on the East Coast alone is called out to hundreds of yachts and power boats each year. Many of the call outs are due to gear failure, even more to grounding due to "navigational error". Most call-outs are preventable, some are less foreseeable but the effects can be minimised by having the right equipment.

She also highlighted a fantastic service that the RNLI offers anyone who has a boat – and it's absolutely free. So whether you are lucky enough to have your own boat or sail on someone else's boat, make sure they know about the **RNLI SEA SAFETY CHECK**.

The RNLI Sea Safety Division offers a FREE Sea Safety Check on your own boat, at a time of your choosing. An experienced Sea Safety Officer will visit you and spend time discussing safety equipment and sea safety issues for your boat and your boat usage.

The Sea Safety Check is not a test or a survey; it is simply an opportunity for you to talk through needs and requirements for your boat. What have you got to lose?

If you are interested, please contact the RNLI direct or see the RNLI website.

Offshore racing

If you are interested in a new challenge, then why not volunteer to crew for someone in their off-shore racing campaign? Often skippers are short of crew, and the premier UK race organisers have a crew register for those who want to volunteer. If you are interested, then why not sign up to the RORC Crew Register: http://www.rorc.org/crew/crew_available.php

Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place at the Reservoir on 26 March 2009. Those who attended were rewarded with an interesting talk from the RNLI (see above) and of course had chance to debate various current issues whilst enjoying a little cheese and wine. Thanks to all who attended.

There are a few changes to the Committee – full details of which are:

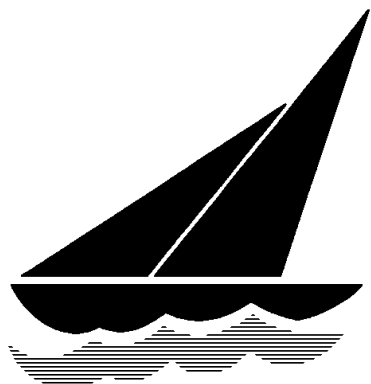
Chair	Emma Adebayo
Vice-Chair	Liz Robson
Hon. Secretary	Mary Leaming
Hon. Treasurer	Brian Williams
Membership Secretary	Emma Adebayo
Social Secretary	Caroline Brown
Publicity Officer / Newsletter Editor	James Falle
Racing Secretary	Kevin Foley
Cruising Secretary	James Falle
Domestic Coordinator, Brightlingsea	Christine Williams
Lettings Coordinator, Brightlingsea	Christine Williams
Maintenance Coordinator, Brightlingsea	Brian Williams
Youth Representative	vacant
Adult Rep & Website Manager	Steve Sharples
Adult Rep	Barbara McFarlane
SNWRC ex officio	Steve Ells

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

Committee vacancy

Sadly, after a number of years organising the Association's racing, Kevin Foley is not renewing his membership of the NLSA and therefore the position of racing secretary will become vacant from the end of May. All those who have enjoyed racing over recent years will want to thank Kevin for his enthusiastic organisation and his humorous race reports ("from two men in a boat").

Anyone interested in taking up the mantle should please contact Emma Adebayo. As the next opportunity to be co-opted onto the committee will be the committee meeting on Tuesday 19 May, please let Emma know as soon as possible. Kevin has kindly offered to help out with a hand-over to anyone who is willing to take over the post.



Date	Venue	Event	Contact
22 – 24 May	Brightlingsea	Members' weekend	Christine Williams
Sun 31 May	Reservoir	Castle Canoe Club open paddle and BBQ at the Reservoir – all NLSA members welcome	
5 – 7 June	Brightlingsea	Course – Day Sailing	Steve Matthews
19 – 21 June	Brightlingsea	Members' weekend	Christine Williams
26 – 28 June	Brightlingsea	Family weekend	Caroline Brown
10 – 12 July	Brightlingsea	Members' weekend	Christine Williams
17 – 19 July	Brightlingsea	Course – Level 2 Tidal Endorsement	Steve Matthews
Wed 19 Aug	Brightlingsea	Round the Island Race	James Falle
11 – 13 Sept	Brightlingsea	Members' weekend	Christine Williams
25 – 27 Sept	Brightlingsea	Course – Seamanship Skills	Steve Matthews
16 - 18 Oct	Brightlingsea	Members' weekend	Christine Williams

Look out for confirmation of details for the following:

- Possible racing against King George Reservoir
- Cruising weekend