

It has been a brilliant start to the sailing season, with the best First period of weather and winds that I can remember. Long may it last, although those that sailed on 22<sup>nd</sup> May might have wished for slightly less wind, but it did make for an exciting spectator sport.



The **Fitting Out** party was, as usual, well attended with many of us looking forward to getting back out on the water. Others, I suspect, thinking where has all the time gone and my boat still isn't ready.

The **Royal Wedding** supper was a great success with over 60 people attending, very cosy in the clubhouse!!.



*If you weren't there don't ask!!*



All who attended had a great time and enjoyed the atmosphere and the party games, for which many thanks to Keith McArthur.

Congratulations to those who made the trip to Littleton for the **Mid Thames Trophy**, we came second to Littleton Sailing Club, their Solos certainly take a lot of beating with six out of the top nine boats being Solos.



The **Round the Island** race and supper was well supported. Those of you who have not taken part in a pursuit race should try to come next year, it is certainly a good way to hold a handicap race and if the conditions are favourable you get to race parts of the river you wouldn't normally manage to do. Thanks to all those who helped cook the delicious supper.

The annual trip up river, the **Sunbury Rally**, had a total of nine boats take part and although the winds were not particularly favourable all managed to get to Nigel and Ellen's garden under their own steam. Thanks to both of them for inviting us to use their garden as a venue for the tea and for their generous hospitality on the day.



The **Duty Officer/Race Officer and Timekeeper training** saw a small but interested audience turn out, my thanks to Tim Harridge and Rob Heath for their talk on best practice for a Duty Officer/Race Officer. Also to Marilyn O'Connor and Mary May for their words on being a timekeeper.

Looking forward we have the **Regatta** over the weekend of 25/26<sup>th</sup> June and we would like some help on the Friday to move boats and erect the marquee, volunteers please contact Stuart Jenkins.

The regatta will have the same format as last year with two races on the Saturday and three on the Sunday, with 3 races to count.

On Saturday there is a hog roast at 6.30 p.m. and children's fancy dress –Circus theme. Prizes will be given for the best outfits of the night.

There is a rumour that face painting will be taking place during the event!

We will be having a “**Senior**” sail on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, I think you qualify as “Senior” if you can attend, whether to sail or to join us for lunch. There is a sail to Sunbury followed by lunch in a local pub. Please let Roger Ward know if you are coming so that he can book spaces for lunch.

Other dates for your diaries are the **Quiz night** on 30th July – thinking caps at the ready.

The **Chichester rally** is on 20<sup>th</sup> August, always an enjoyable day out, if you haven't done it before why not give it a try.

For the Merlin sailors out there, this is the day before the Merlin Rocket Nationals at Hayling Island Sailing Club, so a good chance to get some last minute experience of the area.

Away from Sailing, Roger and Jenny Garlick took part in the London Bridges bike ride **33 miles, 14 bridges and one BIG challenge** in aid of the Stroke Association, their team has raised over £3000, so congratulations to them and many thanks to all who have contributed.

### **Now some reminders,**

We are into the school holiday time when youngsters swim over from the Surrey bank, so please try to make sure everything is put away and the smaller boats are locked.

The Surrey bank seems to be getting shallower and the river is particularly low, so can I ask that if you take either of the two patrol boats over to

that bank you are careful not to ground them. **Garrick in particular will ground and you should partially raise the prop before going near the bank. Benn1 should normally be used for ferrying duties.**

The Club is now the proud owner of the Church land and we hope to improve the pontoon to make it easier to sail onto and for retrieving boats up the slip. The intention is to arrange a summer working party and nearer the time I shall announce the date and look for volunteers, all welcome especially the younger and fitter members to assist with the works. I am assured that no great skill is required, just enthusiasm and a modicum of commonsense.

Watch this space.

In the meantime, there are still many Trailers/Trolleys on the Church land which are not identified, if you do have one there could you please spare the time to go over to the land and check that it is clearly marked. Chris Bell has some labels if you require one for this purpose.

**Unmarked trailers etc. may be deemed as abandoned and steps taken to dispose of them.**

It is now the Club's land and we should ensure it does not become a dumping ground for unwanted items.

May I remind everyone that there is a visitor's book, it resides by the bar and it is a requirement of our licence that visitors be signed in by a club member before they can use the bar.

Also, if you have to swop a duty would you please amend the master copy of the rota which is hanging on the back of the door leading into the bar. Thank you.

Mary and I wish you all the best for the coming summer and would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

## **Stop Press**

**To celebrate becoming owners of the Church Land, we are planning to have tea on the “lawn” (weather permitting) and a glass of bubbly, following the Long Distance Race on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August.**

*Derek & Mary*