

Comment

Busy times. At the time of writing my boat is in Holland and I must get back to it. So please forgive me if this issue is a bit thin or scrappy.

In this club there are many unsung heroes organising and supporting a continuous string of events and programmes. Ken Steggall used to pay special tribute to them in Bowsprit and I have been rather lax in this area. But just read between the lines of the reports in this issue and think about the work and commitment that lies behind them. And they don't seek any reward, other than their own satisfaction at seeing people, now including many children, enjoying themselves.

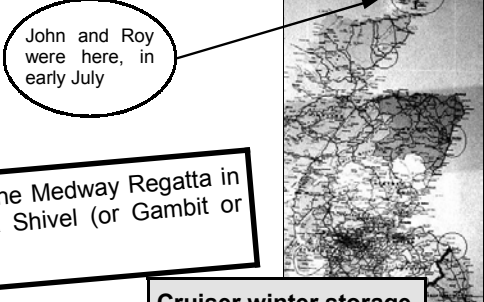
And then there are other people who are good for the club because of the sailing they do and the inspiration that gives to others. In particular right now I would single out John Buxton. Without any fuss and certainly not inviting any publicity, he quietly slipped Grey Goose's mooring a few weeks ago, and with Roy Read set off to sail around England. Those who had heard of this wanted to give him a send-off but he sneaked off. We must get them when they return. Anyway his tacks were so big that the first one took him to Amsterdam. Next he was reported to be progressing up the Northumbrian coast, and very soon after that he was in Scapa Flow, so now it's no longer around England, but around Great Britain. Well done John and Roy. Cyril has put a map of GB up in the clubhouse so that their progress can be tracked.

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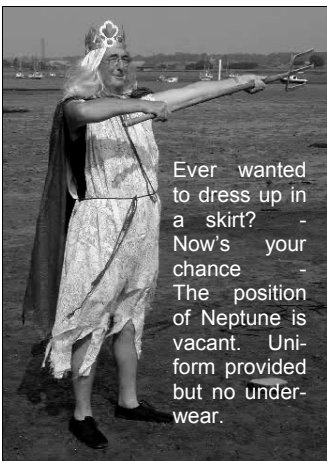
Bar Helper Required - Lifting crates, cleaning the cellar etc. Please contact Pete Shakespeare

Nick Poole placed 3rd in the Medway Regatta in his new boat Shot off a Shivel (or Gambit or something)



Wanted - One Neptune

(See Commodore's Comment)



Ever wanted to dress up in a skirt? - Now's your chance - The position of Neptune is vacant. Uniform provided but no underwear.



One of the perks - moonlighting at Gretna Green

Cruiser winter storage

- see page 7



Shut that Gate!

Please always shut the gates to the compound particularly when no-one is about. Trespassers are only trespassers if the gates are closed.



Commodore's Corner



Hi everybody, welcome to another edition of our club magazine Bowsprit. Where do I start as such a lot of great things have happened

this summer and it's not over yet?

Club activity has been rather hectic as of late and as they say, "you only get out what you put in" and a lot of people have put a 'helluva' lot in. Initially I would like to thank all the members that have helped with the various activities ranging from the Beer Festival to Sail Training/Junior Events to the Open Day.

The Beer Festival was very successful and demonstrated a spirit of joint working between us and the pubs/clubs involved. I know there were some concerns initially and I hope we proved that with sound planning such events could work.

The commitment and attention paid to junior members has also been fantastic and again thanks to all those on the sail training committee namely Sarah, Pete, Sharon and Robin who have spent an amazing amount of time organising events. Others to

mention are Paul Padgett and Richard Martin who have helped with taking the safety boat out and providing a vital back up service.

The number of children participating in formal training is approximately 30, which is amazing. At the end of the summer we will be planning for next year hopefully coming up with ways as to how we harness those children who now have the sailing bug and wish to continue developing their skills. I know that a number of adults have also expressed an interest in sail training as well

The foundations of the Junior Cadet club are there with two events being held this year featuring activities both on and off the water.

I know that other local clubs have cadet sections and we will be learning and picking up ideas from them.

The other successful event was the Open day in June when over 40 people had a taste of going out on the river. The youngest was 2 weeks old and the oldest was 90 years of age. Again member response was amazing.

The forthcoming year has already set its challenges. The English Nature Agency has declared the River Stour as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and we have until August to respond to this declaration by "convincing" them that our activities are not damaging to the environment. David Shipley and David Morris are working closely with English Nature on this aspect.

Another challenge is that Dusty Miller is retiring, as Neptune and therefore we need a replacement for the mud sports at the Regatta in August. If you are interested in taking on this vital role then please let us know!

Finally as you make your way through Bowsprit other articles will fill you in on what else has been happening and also inform you about activities throughout the rest of the year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer

Pete Shakespeare.

Cover picture: Edward Heath sailing Mojo off Dovercourt last summer. Mojo is of course owned by his twin brother Brian Bateman, your social secretary.

Bowsprit is published three times a year by the Stour Sailing Club, 10 Quay Street, Manningtree, Essex, CO11 1AU, tel. 01206 393924
Website: www.stoursailingclub.co.uk contains full information on the club's facilities, activities and contacts. Please send letters and articles to the editor c/o Stour Sailing Club at the above address, or email to robert.coles@lineone.net.