

Vice-Commodore's Report

Hi All,

Anyone who made it down to the lake in December would have been greeted with a fantastic view over the frozen surface, with snow covering the trees and bushes of the islands, all the boats covered in a thick blanket of snow. It was a truly magical sight.

Now that the ice has finally melted we can begin to make preparations for the resumption of Sunday club racing in February. For those hardy winter sailors, it's time to dig out the dry suits, gloves, hats, boots etc and get out on the water. Please check the Dutyman roster system to see if you have any duties in February or March.

Speaking of the Dutyman rosters, it's that time of year again when I get to go slightly crazy as I try to make the duty rosters fit everyone's preferences. You can make my life a great deal easier by going to the Dutyman website, signing in, and expressing your preferences for at least 3 possible dates that you would be prepared to be rostered a duty. You can also indicate which weekends you are unavailable for duties. Rest assured you will only have to do 1 duty in the next six month window.

By the end of January, I will have the new club calendar and the Dutyman system will have all the available dates ready for your preferences to be entered. You will have 2 weeks until the Monday the 14th February to enter your bids.

Please see the step by step guide to Dutyman Roster Preferences on the next separate page.



Finally, a reminder. The **club AGM** is going to be held on Sunday 13th February. Please do make an effort to attend and support your club. There will be several trophies awarded and you might be one of the winners!

Best wishes for the New Year.

Morgan Secker, Vice-Commodore

Wraysbury Lake Sailing Club

**AGM and Prize giving
2.00pm**

Sunday 13 February

**Follows Nick King Trophy
at 10.30 am**

Dutyman Roster Preference Guide - Morgan Secker

Preference Window is from - 1st February to 14th February (Midnight)

Duty Period - **27th March 2011 to 30th September 2011**

Dutyman Website - <http://www.dutyman.biz/dmmain.aspx?id=W0001449>

1. Log into Dutyman using website above and your password (or click on log in reminder)
2. Start by checking your member's profile in Dutyman. Use the 'Profile' tab at the top of the page to amend your contact details and your optimum duty type as required.
3. Next choose **at least 3** preferred dates (Don't panic, you will only be required to do 1 duty every 6 month period). Use the 'New Duties' tab to click on a date that you wish to be on duty. Under the green tick, you will then need to click the box for your preferred duty type ie SOD or Galley (This should be the same as your optimum duty on your members page under 'profile'). Don't worry if the number beside the tick shows others have bid for that duty as it gives me more flexibility.
4. You may also choose dates to avoid. Under the same 'New Duties' tab, click on a date that you are not available for. You can then click the box next to the red cross. You can do this for up to **3** dates.
5. Important - You must click on **SUBMIT** before exiting page
6. Do it now to avoid disappointment!
7. Any problems with logging into Dutyman or entering preferences, please contact me at wlscvc@gmail.com or 07748 987178

Morgan Secker.

Fondue Evening

Saturday 5th February

You are invited to come to our Wraysbury Lake Sailing Club
Fondue evening.

Members guests are welcome.

Supper will be a choice of Cheese Fondue or Bangers and Mash
followed by desert.

The cost is £10.00 per head (£7.00 for Children)

The bar will of course be open throughout the evening.

If you would like to come please email Anna Whitfield asap

(Anna.L.Whitfield@btinternet.com)

Let's Double the Membership! - Alick Munro

What have Rotary, Buddhists, the Church of England, tennis clubs, minor football clubs and sailing clubs got in common? People can't be bothered to come and join. Instead they'd rather watch the telly, shop, do their e-mails, phone their mates, go on Facebook, cook, garden, maybe go to major league football. Some are in jobs and happy homes and knackered. Some ain't and are depressed.

Right now membership of WLSC is falling. We may struggle to justify the major investment that is needed for maintenance of the clubhouse. We need to think outside the box and we need to dig deep into our own human resources to keep this club going. There is a heritage to maintain. For the sake of the regiment..... Let's discuss this at the AGM. We could do with a recruitment and public relations officer on the committee. But that doesn't mean that nobody else is responsible:

Where's the market for a sailing club with a superb site, delightful members, a decent clubhouse and facilities?

First there's members' mates: every member is asked to invite down a couple of people a month to appreciate the ambience, and share the experience on the water.

Then we make up a package of information on paper, and slides and video and we seek to attract the following:-

The healthy kids: Keenies from the club make themselves known to the local educational authorities and schools. They visit the local schools and explain the principles of sailing, show videos of the Oppies, talk to the PTAs, invite folk to open days and to take up day membership so they can try out the club dinghies under the watchful eye of safety boat skippers on a Sunday afternoon.

The silver sailors: Keenies from the club get in touch with the active citizens in local authorities, human resources people at major businesses, business clubs etc. The agenda is the same as above.

The mixed up kids: Keenies from the club get in touch with mental health trusts, and social services departments. The initial agenda is the same, but these kids need mentoring, supervision and support from a responsible individual when they visit the club. This involves criminal record checks, and all sorts of supervision from officialdom.

Sailing therapy: This involves taking a pride in helping people back to full functioning following a difficult period in their lives. Keenies get in touch with local groups of Mind, Depression Alliance, etc. The agenda is much the same as for the others, as well as discussion of coping in social environments, enduring fear, building courage. These people will benefit from a supportive friend at the sailing club.

Do you have any other ideas for attracting members and participation at WLSC? Please bring your ideas to our AGM on **Sunday 13 February** - or email your suggestions to any member of the committee.

Optimist Fleet Update - Andy Newton

The main theme of this piece is “get involved”. Put another way, “let’s make it happen”. Let’s see how we get on.

Main Events

Oppie Camp, our Oppie Open and Pirate’s Day all worked really well again in 2010. The dates for these in 2011 have been set so please get your diary device out now and write or key these in:

Oppie Camp: Sat. & Sun., Apr. 30th and May 1st

You’ve probably heard that thanks to Wills and Kate, Friday Apr. 29th will be a Bank Holiday, in addition to the normal Monday, 2nd. Hence we can potentially add activities at WLSC on the Friday too. Please note though that we NEED a VOLUNTEER to organise this year’s Oppie Camp to make it happen.

Oppie Open: Sat. June 11th (a week earlier than in 2010). Please book that date for WLSC as we need a team of at least 20 to make it possible.

Pirate’s Day: Sat. Sept. 17th That is back a week from last year, giving us all more time to prepare after the summer holidays.

I’ve written to Paul Robson at the RYA and reserved both the Oppie trailers for the above dates when we’ll need them, i.e. Apr. 30th, May 1st and Sept. 17th.

An early date yet to be scheduled is Oppie fit-out when, if there is interest, we can include another ‘buy or sell an Oppie’ event. OK, so what about the rest of the year?

Summer half-term ICS Training Course

We’re close enough to an agreement to announce an exciting new development for Oppie training at WLSC this summer. Some of you know Jae Willis who runs International Competitive Sailing, known as ICS (<http://www.icscourses.co.uk/>). Jae and his parent’s before him have been running Easter sailing courses at Papercourt SC for over 30 years. Many of WLSC’s most successful young sailors are graduates of ICS courses.

This summer half-term for the first time Jae and his team will offer a course at WLSC. Final details and terms have to be confirmed but the outline is:

- 4 day course from **Tuesday 31st May – Friday 3rd June 2011.**
- IOCA and RYA training guidelines are followed.
- Depending on demand, all skill levels will be catered for.
- Each day runs from 10:00 - 18:00.
- Parents need only to drop kids off before 10:00 and collect after 17:30, except on the Friday when they’ll be encouraged to come and watch the sailing from 15:45.
- Maximum skippers on the course will be 40, with registration open to the public and run by ICS - but 10 places will be reserved for WLSC members **if registered by Sunday May 8th** – a week after Oppie Camp.

The course fee will be in the region of £240 per helm.

The timing of this course is also **perfect** for participation in our Oppie Open, one week later. It would be great to see a large group of our young sailors take the course and then kick-off their open sailing careers on home water the following Saturday.

As I’ve hinted, agreement on the above is provisional at present – and the actual running of the course will depend on the level of registrations. When agreement is confirmed I’ll email out all the details. I welcome any comments any members have on this. Many thanks to Lesley Hall and Anna Whitfield who have provisionally agreed to act as WLSC Club reps for this course – helping Jae find his way around and as a point of contact for emergencies.

Oppie Update ctd

Training, Fun and Work – otherwise known as ways to VOLUNTEER

I may remain nominally our 'Oppie Fleet Captain' but I need to share the activity planning more widely – a bunch of us had a good meeting, in a warm pub in Windsor, back in October where we discussed plans: The keyword is VOLUNTEER. The work needs to be shared out to help make all this happen, or it simply will not. Here is a list of jobs:

1. **Oppie Planning:** Everybody is welcome to join in – that's what being a member-driven club is all about. We need to meet up more often – perhaps every quarter - there is never enough time during an Oppie event. This is really important this year as we have to learn as much as possible from our most experienced Oppie trainers and parents before they're too busy to be at WLSC. Let me know if you want to join in.
2. **Oppie Camp organiser:** We need a volunteer to organise Oppie Camp starting before April – probably from amongst the parents whose kids have done this before and plan to do it again this year.
3. **Oppie Training coordinators:** We discussed plans to make our training more effective, particularly sharing out effort between groups targeting different levels. I believe Rob will take this forward, with help from Howard and Jools. One urgent task is to set training dates to reserve the RYA Oppie trailers.
4. **Oppie Open assistant:** I hope to organise our Oppie Open again this year BUT we need someone who can run it in 2012 to be involved throughout and learn how it's done.
5. **Pirate's Day organiser:** It'll be best to start on this before the summer holidays. Again, I'll show you how I've done it – but I can't organise it this year.
6. There are other jobs, including:
 - a. **RYA Oppie equipment and trailer maintenance** The main activity is the Oppie boat and trailer fit-out in time for the Easter holiday, then keeping an eye on the equipment throughout the year.
 - b. **Communication.** We could make use of social networking sites, such as Twitter and Facebook. In addition we could use more up-to-date content on the WLSC website and input for newsletters. Step forward avid social-networkers before I search you out online!

Questionnaire

We decided in October that it would be useful to run a Questionnaire to have some evidence of everyone's opinions. Jools and Kathryn have made a start and if you'd like to help us set the questions, please drop us a note soon.

Parent and child racing

Looking forward to the summer, I'd love to get a club Enterprise out with one of my boys and race some of the rest of you and your kids around the lake. We can do this several times this summer if we get organised. We need to collectively repair and check over some club boats – particularly the Enterprises and sharing that activity is going to make it much more rewarding than otherwise. We can also set some race dates in advance.

Get involved!

So as I said at the start – plenty of opportunity to get involved. Please drop me an email if you're can help, or give me a ring one evening.

Cheers, **Andy Newton:** 01494 677079/optimist.fleet at wlsc.org.uk

Fabulous Fireworks - Eleanor Holloway

Last November, several Wraysbury families worked hard at the Work Party, clearing and tidying and built an impressive bonfire. The children made a very fine Guy with the help of some of the older pieces of lost property and with Liz Smallwood running the galley and David Holloway as chief pyromaniac we had a pretty good evening.

The fireworks were particularly good - for those of you who couldn't come, make sure you choose Wraysbury for your fireworks party next year - we have a recipe for wonderful fireworks: David and other keen pyromaniacs buy the fireworks, those who don't buy a firework donate to

the firework pot. This means there is no ticket price for the display, and as the firework buyers like to buy the biggest they can find you can guarantee a spectacular evening. The soup and sausage rolls from the galley were delicious and very warming on a pretty cold night.

Watching the fireworks outside the Clubhouse was beautiful, with the explosions reflected on the surface of the lake and all the other displays echoing ours in the distance through 360 degrees. Catharine Paige and David managed to stay on the pontoon and we held our breath as we saw their miners' lamps somewhat close to the lighted touch paper....There was the added excitement of wondering if we would hit a plane!

The fireworks this year was pretty much the last 'social' of the year what with all the snow that fell shortly after and racing dwindling as the mornings got darker and the lake became frostier. The next social is the Fondue evening on **February 5th** - come and enjoy the ambiance and friendliness of your sailing club. Many thanks to **Jenny Smallwood** for supplying these wonderful photos!



First Aid Course for sailors

Sunday 27th February 9.30am to 5pm

Please contact Lesley Hall if you are interested in attending
email: Lesley.Cleves@btinternet.com

Hayling Youth Race Week - Fiona Baddeley

In August 2010 **Jenny & Alex Smallwood, Jonathan, Robert and Peter Baddeley, James Taylor and Jamie Webb** attended the week long fun racing at Hayling Island Sailing Club. Peter was sailing in main fleet Oppies and the others competed in the strong Feva fleet. The week is set at the beautiful sandy beach and club house of HISC situated at the entrance to Chichester harbour.

As well as racing, the week included social activities including the masked ball. The sailors all performed very well in sometimes windy conditions. Robert and James won the Feva fleet and were awarded the Dolphin Trophy.

If you have children and young people who sail different dinghy classes this is a great summer regatta, in a lovely setting with a high standard of racing and a good social programme too. Alternatively, if adults want to race too, the Baddeleys stayed on for Fed week which was equally good providing racing for adults and juniors.

Can you spot them below? - you may not recognise them out of their wet-suits and buoyancy aids!





**Wraysbury Lake Sailing Club
&
Wraysbury Lake Sailing Club Ltd**

Notice of Annual General Meeting
To be held at the Clubhouse - all welcome.

14.00 hrs, **Sunday 13th February 2011**

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. General Secretary's Report
+ Rear Commodore Harbourmaster's Report
4. Treasurers Report, and presentation of Accounts
5. Sailing Secretary's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Any other Business
8. Commodore's Address

A Presentation of Trophies for 2010 will follow the AGM
Please come and support your Club

News from Far Away - Debbie Cooper

Ollie Cooper with his crew, James Poyner (fellow Hayling member) were lucky enough to receive some RYA funding to allow them to compete in the **29er World Championships** held in Mar del Plata, 400km south east of Buenos Aires, Argentina over the New Year. They were one of three GBR boats who travelled the distance.



Mar del Plata and the 29er Fleet

Not to be outdone, the rest of the family decided they had to go too!! With the bad weather and airport closures we were not sure if we would even get out of the UK on Boxing Day, and with a change of

planes in Toronto it was vital we did not miss the connection. A 24 hour journey could have turned into an even longer one! Thankfully someone was on our side and we made it to a very hot and polluted Buenos Aires where we spent two days acclimatising, sightseeing, eating steak and visiting GBR 420 sailors there for their Worlds, before leaving for the coastal resort of Mar del Plata. Mar del Plata is a town the size of Bournemouth with lots of hotels and a great coastline but not much else! The beaches were incredibly packed for the New Year as we arrived.

The boys had all chartered boats as it was easier, so when they turned up at the host club to find three stripped new boats, the boat 'bimbling' began. It took the best part of a day to make them look like a 29er, find a RIB for our coach (Ian Martin) and get out for a sail. That is when the fun started. The waves were bigger than anything seen before in the UK, something that Wraysbury will never experience! Even Weymouth Bay and Chichester bar will seem tame after this! There are some amazing photos and video on the event website (www.29er.org.uk – with a worlds link). The boats were literally flying off the crest of each wave in over 20knots of wind. After the first day of playing around, the American team came in with three broken masts! Another two days of practice and then racing began with sixty boats heading out on two courses. The lucky thing was that from our apartments we could lie in bed and watch the racing.....something I have always dreamed of!!!

The wind continued and the waves got larger and after three days of qualifying races, the fleet was split into Gold and Silver. Ollie and James just missed the Gold so were in a good position at the top of the Silver fleet. One GBR boat made the Gold and the other joined the boys in the Silver. The conditions continued and the photos to tell the story got better. Ollie had one bad day with broken bits on the boat which needed attention as they returned to shore. They had obviously received an enormous bashing in the conditions. As the competition drew to an end they had some better results to finish eighth in the silver fleet and fifth youth boat overall. It transpired that the Argentinians don't sail 49ers....they just stay in 29ers into adulthood so were well able to cope with the conditions. Many were well into their late twenties, much larger and stronger! Still the event was a massive learning curve, a fantastic experience and one

News from Far Away - ctd

which will not be forgotten too soon.

As shore crew and support team we had an enjoyable time, although we did not get to see as much of the country as we would have liked....another visit maybe? It was lovely to be hot after the bad weather back at home and to come back with a tan....what a shame we can't show it off!

If you have time look up the website and read the blog from the event and look at the photos....well worth a peep. The boys had number 13 on their bow!



Ollie and James storming down the waves

Racing Rules for all - Lesley Hall

On January 16th, thirteen keen Wraysbury racers went back to school to listen enthusiastically to Chris Simmons' talk on Racing Rules. Chris is the RYA Thames Valley Region Rules Advisor and an International Judge, National Judge, Umpire and Race Officer.

The photo on the right shows Chris (in the yellow jacket) umpiring a race in New Zealand.



Chris gearing up for his talk. (left)



Impressive concentration from WLSC members, below:



If you go down to the club today.. - Lesley Hall

...you may be in for a big surprise....

The Rear Commodore Harbourmaster and team have been having a tidy up of the boat park so your boat may not be where you expect it to be, nor your road trailer. We have already disposed of several unusable, rusted road trailers & launching trolleys.

In an effort to easily identify your boat trolley &/or trailer I have been attaching white plastic labels to the front of them; if your trolley &/or trailer does not have a label by the 1st April 2011 it may be removed to the impound area to be disposed of later, so please collect a white plastic label from me either before the AGM on 13th February or on 27th February & make sure your boat trolley & /or trailer are labelled.

An area adjacent to the Workshops has been created for rigging boats and Social events, this will be levelled soon.



Your white (honest) identification label

There are also plans to provide an improved area for storing road trailers and, to facilitate this, brambles and overgrown trees are being removed. Any offers of help would be appreciated. We should be able to have quite a good bonfire afterwards!



The lovely tidy boat-park



The geese move in...



Water Water Everywhere.. - Chris Whitfield

..Nor any drop to drink

For many months the club has been relying on Lesley and Charles for our supply of drinking water, ever since the club's borehole supplying fresh water dried up. They have toiled long and hard trucking in supplies of water to keep the tea and coffee urns filled and also ensuring there was enough water for the Galley crew. At the same time they installed a temporary pumping system to keep the changing rooms supplied with lake water for the essential amenities.

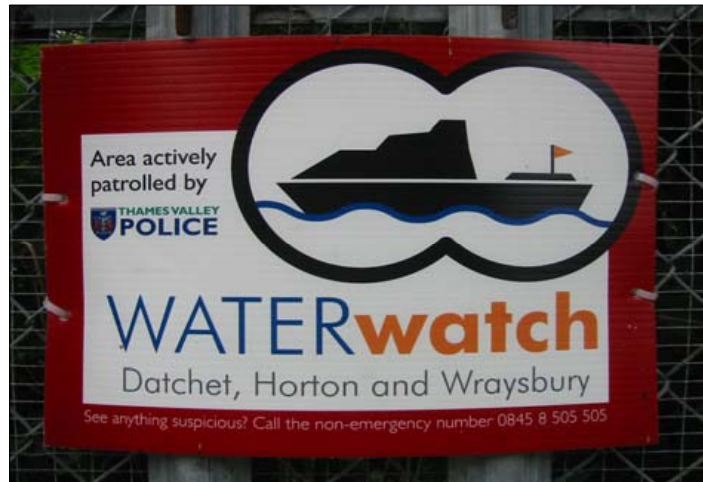
The committee have looked at a number of possibilities to remedy the situation including a new mains supply costing up to £30k or a new borehole costing up to £10k. In the short term it was agreed to replace the existing clubhouse plumbing, water tank, immersion heater and pipes and install a more robust pumped water supply system. This work was mainly completed during October and November and some of you may have noticed that for a number of weeks the taps were again flowing free.

However, like all major engineering projects, there have been teething problems. These included leaking hoses, blocked filters and control systems with a mind of their own. However many of these have now been remedied and we are hopeful that the introduction of a new series of sediment filters will allow the normal water supply to be resumed shortly. We will keep you posted. In the meantime I would like to thank Lesley and Charles on all of our behalves for doing such a sterling job over so many months.



**You've all heard of kite-surfing - is this the future of yachting?
Remember you saw it first in the WLSC news!**

Water Watch - PCSO Helen Spalding



What does this sign mean?

Datchet Horton & Wraysbury Water Watch is our local equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch as there is a lot of water in the area. There is a contact list, with landline numbers, kept in the Clubhouse. Should anyone in the club see any suspicious vehicle or persons, then challenge if you think it is safe, or take vehicle registrations, descriptions of the car or person etc and pass to PCSO Helen Spalding or whoever is on duty at Windsor Police Station, details are in the Clubhouse.

How to use the Contacts list:-

The contacts list is there to provide awareness for each Club in the form of a ring round system. Each Club will ring the next Club on the list after them until the message has reached the originating club, who will also contact the Windsor Police and give details. The Club can report the incident by phone or email, depending on the incident.

An example:

BA Silverwing - suspicious vehicle & occupants paying attention to cars in car park, when challenged had no reason to be there and left. BA Silverwing would report to police and then look at the contact list and call the next one down - Wraysbury Lake Sailing Club, informing them, who would then call Wraysbury Dive centre, the Dive centre would then call BDWSA and so on and so on...

Please be vigilant.



Quiz: Can you name this cocktail & do you know who drank it & where?
Answers to **Lesley Hall**

Too much time and money? - Eleanor Holloway



French artist **Julien Berthier** has designed a fully functional boat to look as if it is sinking. The 6.5m (21ft) yacht was cut in half with a new keel and motor added so it remains in the sinking position while being fully functional.

He describes it as "the permanent and mobile image of a wrecked ship that has become a functional and safe leisure object."

Berthier has taken the boat (or should I say half-a-boat) across the English Channel to London and has toured it around Europe, getting plenty of offers of assistance from unwitting good Samaritans, who are presumably either very annoyed or rather bemused by the contraption. Thanks to **Gizmag.com**



Sailing Dictionary

Block: A pulley that connects a snarled line to a jammed cleat.

Fast: Firmly attached, as for example a rope made fast to a piling. Also used to describe a boat that has run aground. Thus, a boat that appears to be unusually slow may in fact be 'fast'. Nautical terminology is full of these amusing paradoxes!

Gear: Generic term for any piece of, often vital, boating equipment that can be forgotten in the backseat or boot of the car, left behind on the jetty, soaked in the bottom of a dinghy, or knocked over the side of the boat.

Jibe (Gybe): Course change which causes the boom to sweep rapidly across the cockpit; also, frequent type of comment made by observers of this manoeuvre.

Keel: Heavily weighted, fin-like appendage on the bottom of a sailboat designed to keep it from tipping over until it is well out of sight of land.

Propeller: Underwater winch designed to wind up at high speed any lines or painters left hanging over the stern.

Racing: Popular nautical contact sport.

Varnish: High-fiction coating applied as a gloss over minor details in personal nautical recollections to improve their audience-holding capacity during frequent retellings.

With many thanks to **Tony Lord**. More in next edition....



It's not all about sailing! This old bike had been in the lake for a while - all manner of ropes and pulleys (and a bit of manpower) were used to excavate this treasure from the lake.

Alex, Ben, Jamie, Jenny, Katie, Christopher and Thomas with their loot.

A good Oppie Team effort - Well Done! - photo **Liz Smallwood**

New Year Diary

There has been no organised racing this January - the new 2011 calendar will be up on the website shortly: www.wlsc.org.uk.

Here are some important dates to start off your sailing calendar:

Date	Wraysbury events (on top of regular races)
5 February	Fondue Evening
13 February	Nick King Trophy and AGM
27 February	First Aid Course
30 April– 1 May	Oppie Camp
11 June	Oppie Open
17 September	Pirates' Day

The next Newsletter will be due in April; please send articles and photographs of all your Wraysbury and other sailing adventures to:

newsletter.editor@wlsc.org.uk

Deadline April 1st please

and I will be happy to include them in the next edition.

or you can call me: 01344 883704 **Eleanor Holloway, Editor**

The Newsletter usually comes out 4 times a year - and is downloadable from the website: **www.wlsc.org.uk**