

SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS ASSOCIATION

NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1974

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EDITORIAL:

Now that Christmas and the New Year have come and gone we can begin to think about plans for 1974. Although at one time the prospects for Open meetings and even the Nationals did not look too promising with the threat of petrol rationing, it now seems less likely that this will happen and I for one am optimistically looking forward to being able to take my boat to as many meetings as I can manage.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find the dates of meetings so far agreed; please make a note of them and resolve to attend at least one or two. The host clubs take a lot of trouble to arrange these events and if you havn't attended an open before, why not make a start this year? I can promise you that you will enjoy it and there's nothing like sailing against other clubs to improve your performance.

The next Newsletter will be in April. Please let me have contributions by the end of March.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your annual subscription to the Association (£1.00d) is now due. Owing to rising prices and the cost of the Seafly Handbook, the Association's finances are now at a low ebb and Treasurer Harry Venables is in urgent need of your support. Please send your sub. to Harry as soon as possible, using the form enclosed with this Newsletter - or if you prefer hand it to your fleet captain at the first opportunity.

SAIL MEASUREMENTS:

An unfortunate gremlin obliterated from the last Newsletter the two new dimensions which have been added to the sail measurement form. These should read:-

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Jib Head to mid point of foot | 4140 mm |
| Length of Luff/Leech of Spinnaker | 4572 mm |

Batten sizes and positions are also defined.

Enclosed is a draft copy of the new measurement form for the use of those who are about to order new sails. A final, printed, version will be enclosed with the Spring Newsletter. The new forms must be used for all sails made after 1st November, 1973.

The new measurement form and instructions have been sent to the following sailmakers:- Lucas, Bowker and Budd, Seahorse, Mountifield and Jeckells. Anyone ordering sails from other sailmakers must make sure that they adhere strictly to the new dimensions and instructions so that the sails will measure, and the "one design" feature is preserved.

C.C.P.R. DINGHY EXHIBITION:

It is sad that the Seafly is no longer exhibited at the annual Boat Show at Earl's Court due to the gradual squeezing out of the smaller boatbuilders, but instead dinghy enthusiasts can look forward to their own show put on by the C.C.P.R. at the Crystal Palace, South London; this year on Saturday and Sunday 23rd and 24th March. This is entirely devoted to sailing dinghies and

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is by far the best gathering of the year.

Dick Flower of Tankerton Bay S.C. is busy organising the Seafly stand and will be showing one of the latest GRP boats, NO.461, recently acquired by Tony Smitherman. So please come along to support the Association and help to spread the word about the Seafly - the best boat on the water. It is an interesting day out for all the family with lots of boats to look at and compare, and several lectures and demonstrations to attend.

SEAFLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1974:

The date: 4th - 9th August, 1974.

The Place: Seasalter Sailing Club, near Whitstable, North Kent.

Seasalter is on the Thames estuary and being north facing the prevailing wind is usually off shore with smooth seas. Boats are parked on the fine, sandy beach and launching is simplicity itself - no ramps, runs, breakers or any other hazards! The clubhouse has all the usual facilities, including a bar, and the ladies committee provides excellent grub. When the Championships were last held there in 1970 the then Commodore and Race Officer, one Stan Walton, was so impressed with us and our boat that he went straight out and bought himself a Seafly. He is now, of course, chairman of the class association.

There is plenty of holiday accommodation in the area. A list of addresses was published in the last Newsletter; further information can be obtained from fleet captain, Jim Wren, 7, Dallin Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, or Harry Venables. Further copies can be obtained from H. Venables or Jim Wren. Camping is free on the Clubs Car Park.

SEAFLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1975:

It is hoped that the 1975 Nationals will be held at the Royal Western Yacht Club at Plymouth from 24th - 30th August 1975. The Association has been very fortunate in securing this venue since the Plymouth clubs have a very full championship season. Those who went to Plymouth for the 1971 championships will recall the exciting sailing in the Sound and the hospitality of the various clubs, to say nothing of the extensive facilities of the City of Plymouth.

HUNSTANTON ONE-OF-A-KIND:

Having spent Werthing Open meeting last September getting used to one another in the same boat (and to such good purpose that they won the first race) Gordon Thomas and Peter Gray from Highcliffe trailed C.444 all of 250 miles to Hunstanton in Norfolk the following weekend to represent the class in a one-of-a-kind meeting.

Unfortunately facilities and organisation were somewhat lacking and the courses set favoured the multi hulls. Rather disappointing to travel 500 miles for unsatisfactory sailing but at least the Seafly was demonstrated and the association must be grateful to Gordon and Peter for showing the flag.

BURNHAM ICICLE 1974:

Despite fears of a petrol shortage we had two representatives at Burnham again this year. Morris Arthur and Mac Hambling from Blakeney sailed C.205 "Mistrale", while Malcolm Thurgar, crewed by Chris Britten, took C.119 "Joy" up from Worthing.

Malcolm Thurgar has contributed the following account:-

Saturday practice race started at 2 p.m. with a force two southerly a 2 - 3 knot tide, and a fleet of 85 boats on a 100 yard starting line. The start was chaotic with about 70% of the fleet starting at the windward end of the line in slacker water and plenty of hot language!

The trapeze boats started at the leeward end with clear wind and a broader reach across the tide to the East buoy.

"Yours truly" started in the middle of the line with maximum tide, and on reaching the first buoy we were surprised to find we were second to last. The next leg through the finish line to a Northerly buoy was still a close reach and most helmsmen kept in the middle of the river to make use of the tide.

From the North buoy we had a short 270 yards beat across the river to the South buoy, with a spinnaker reach along the South bank to the first buoy.

The next two laps were identical to this, conditions favoured the faster boats with the Flying Dutchman coming first, and third, with 505's taking second and fourth. Seafly 205, Morris Arthur crewed by Mac Hambling was 63rd, and Seafly 119, Malcolm Thurgar crewed by Chris Britton 75th.

Trophy Race Sunday - The Trophy race is divided into three groups, trapeze, non trapeze and single handers. Group one's start was at 11 a.m. with ten minutes between groups.

Sunday's race started with a force four Southerly and a 1-2 knot tide, the first group had a general recall, then they were off to a good start, the first leg being a reach up river to the South buoy.

Our group had two recalls with the wind swinging round to North and dropping to force two before we all started.

The Seaflys made poor starts and had to fight through the slower boats to the South mark with the usual helmsman's language at the mark! It was a reach across the river to the North buoy, back past the clubhouse to the East buoy with most of the helmsmen reaching across the river to the South bank for slacker water.

Morris Arthur (C.205) stayed in the middle of the river and found a helpful patch of wind enabling him to plane with spinnaker and make up a dozen places.

The next two laps were less eventful with the wind dropping to force one North West, on the last reach to the East. This turned the last leg into a beat (one and only!!) with the boats being taken sideways faster than they were able to sail forwards.

The first three places were taken by 505's with Keith Musto - Flying Dutchman 4th, and Pat Blake winning group two in a borrowed Merlin Rocket being placed 34th overall. The group three winner R.Elliston - International Moth was 53rd overall.

Seafly 205 was 47th and Seafly 119 was 66th overall out of 90 starters. Of the 37 entries in group two C.205 was 12th and C.119 25th. There were 35 starters in group one and 18 in group three.

NEWS FROM THE FLEETS.

Very little news has been received from fleet captains and the following notes are based on information reaching the editor from various quarters.

Blakeney: I hear on the 'grapevine' that Brian Cooper has sold his boat 'Mistrale' to Mac Hambling and that he and Morris Arthur may be leaving the class.

I hope this is not true, but in case it is I think this a suitable opportunity to thank them both for the support and help they have given to the class in the last three seasons. There is no doubt that by their efforts they have done much to improve our standards and have set an example for us all to emulate.

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They have also made great efforts to establish the Seafly on the East Coast and lets hope that the enthusiasm they generated at Blakeney will spread further afield. We shall miss them at the Nationals but look forward to meeting other old friends from Norfolk.

Blakeney Open Meeting is on 29th and 30th June.

Highcliffe: Britt Hand is said to be changing his boat and going over to glass fibre; Peter Gray kindly took his boat C.423, over to Cardiff for the Welsh Dinghy Exhibition and showed the flag. It is also rumoured that Alan Yates may be retiring from the fleet captaincy.

The Seafly fleet has increased to 42 boats at the last count.

Highcliffe Open Meeting is on 7th and 8th September.

Seasalter: Preparations are well in hand for the National Championships from 4th to 9th August. In anticipation, I hear, several boats will be sporting centre mainsheets this year, so it is obvious that there is plenty of keenness there.

South Cerney: No news has been received for some time. Five boats were at the Nationals last year and it is to be hoped that at least as many will be at Seasalter this year. But please let the editor have some news of your activities so that your fleet can be kept in touch.

Tankerton Bay: Dick Flower is busy organising the Seafly Association stand at the C.C.P.R. Dinghy Exhibition at the Crystal Palace on the - 23rd and 24th March and I hope to see many of you there.

Tankerton Bay Open Meeting is on 8th and 9th June.

Starcross: No news to report - please let me have something for the next Newsletter. When is your Open Meeting to be?

Worthing: The fleet is expected to be maintained at 19 or 20 boats this year with several others showing interest. There will also be some new suits of sails from different sailmakers and it will be interesting to see how they compare.

The annual Seafly Supper will be held as usual in February.

Worthing Open meeting is on 22nd and 23rd June - earlier than usual because the tides do not suit in September.

WALSALL SAILING EXHIBITION:

Ken Lofts of Wolverhampton kindly lent his boat C.198 for the Seafly stand at this exhibition. Judging by the newspaper cutting and photograph I have received many classes were represented and there was a good attendance.

It is individual efforts by members such as this that does so much to further the interests of the Seafly Class and the Association is very grateful. If anyone gets to hear of an exhibition being organised in his area please let the class secretary, Peter Scovell, know. If you would be willing to show your boat, so much the better!

The Seafly had a prominent position slap in front of the entrance to the hall, this had maximum impact on the public. We had a lot of enquiries, particularly from people who had read the correspondence in "Dinghy Sailing".

Ted Heywood and some of the Leicester Club came over to give us a brake on the Sunday, it was very welcome.

We had a lot of enquiries for secondhand boats, anyone who is likely to be selling about Crystal Palace time might send their name and price to Dick Flower.

THE SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.

Following her visit to this country in 1972, Daphne Fullagar wrote to Harry Venables last summer enclosing several issues of the Australian Newsletter.

There is an active class association with branches in New South Wales and Victoria, and there are also Seaflys to be found in other parts as well. Distances between fleets are of course so vast that the membership is only able to get together once a year for the National Championships, held either in January or at Easter.

The 1973 Nationals were sailed at the Mount Martha Y.C., Port Philip Bay, Victoria with five races - four to count - spread over a long weekend. Nineteen boats competed from four different clubs. The overall winner was Peter Fullagar of Canberra Y.C. sailing C.260 with three firsts and a second - almost as sweeping a victory as in our own championships in recent years.

The New South Wales branch reported a fine effort by Peter Forster (C.74) and Peter Fullagar in the Cock of Sydney Harbour two-of-a-kind race last May. In a total field of 75 boats the two Seaflys came 6th and 13th overall, beating many trapeze boats on elapsed time. But it should perhaps be mentioned that the Seaflys sailed to a handicap of 96, which the Aussies themselves consider to be too generous.

Daphne concludes her letter by saying that she and her husband are planning a holiday in the U.K. in 1975. They hope to buy a boat and would like to compete in the Nationals, which will be at Plymouth, and perhaps at one or two Open meetings. Needless to say we shall be delighted to see them and have them compete in our events. Could this lead up to a Seafly World Championship in a few year's time!?

EVENTS IN 1974.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 23rd - 24th March | C.C.P.R. Dinghy Exhibition, Crystal Palace. |
| 8th - 9th June | Tankerton Bay S.C. Open Meeting. |
| 22nd - 23rd June | Worthing Y.C. Open Meeting. |
| 29th - 30th June | Blakeney S.C. Open Meeting. |
| 4th - 9th August | NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS at Seasalter S.C. |
| 7th - 8th September | Highcliffe S.C. Open Meeting. |
| Date to be notified | Starcross Y.C. Open Meeting. |

Make a note of these dates in your new 1974 diary so that you won't forget them!

SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS ASSOCIATION - SUBSCRIPTION for 1974.

I enclose my 1974 Subscription of £1.00d. for full membership.
£0.50d. for associate membership.

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to the Seafly Dinghy Class Association.

Name Seafly No.....
Address Boat Name.....
..... Club.....
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Please send your subscription NOW to the Treasurer:

Harry Venables,
Cedrus House,
Dry Bank Road,
Tonbridge,
Kent. TN10 3BS.

or hand it to your fleet captain. Thank you.
