

# SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS ASSOCIATION

WINTER NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY, 1976

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## EDITORIAL

How quickly the new season comes round again. It seems like only last week I was saying cheerio to many of you at Plymouth and only yesterday that I was putting the boat away for the winter, and now already I have to think about turning the car out of the garage to house 'Snow Goose' while she has her annual refit. Before I forget it - A Happy New Year to you all and may the weather in 1976 be as good as it was last year.

There will be six open meetings this season, as well as the National Championships at Worthing from August 8th to 13th. Happily none of the opens clash, although there will be plenty of scope for those who like towing at the end of June and the beginning of July with three meetings in four weeks. Opens are great events. There is nothing like sailing in strange waters and enjoying the hospitality of other clubs who are all very friendly. One really gets the best out of sailing by meeting old friends and rivals. Most members are within a few hours' drive of at least one other club besides their own, so why not resolve to venture afield this year - I promise you that you will enjoy yourself. Some wives and families travel as well and it all makes for a very pleasant weekend.

To add interest to the opens circuit there is the Dolphin Trophy presented annually by the Class Association to the helmsman who puts up the best overall performance at open meetings. Points are awarded based on the number of entries at each meeting and there is a bonus for visitors. The present holder is Class Secretary Peter Scovell, who won it in 1975 by the very narrowest of margins.

A notable event in the history of the Seafly Class has occurred with the transfer of the copyright from Stan Herbert to Arthur Edmunds. Stan designed and developed the Seafly from the original lines by John Kelly of a 'hard chine' Merlin Rocket, in the early sixties. In the years until he sold South Devon Boatbuilders in 1969 over 300 boats were built, some of them in Canada, Australia and other parts of the world. In the seventies, the numbers have risen to around 500. Stan not only built the Seafly, he also sailed it successfully as the early records of the Association show. He has always followed the progress of the Seafly very closely and maintained a very strict control on its development, firmly believing that the strict one design concept should be preserved. Although no longer the owner of the copyright, I am sure he will still retain his intense interest in what he - and all of us - consider to be the best racing and family dinghy in the world.

The annual review of sailing dinghies in a recent issue of the yachting magazines made most interesting reading. For each class the total number of boats built and the entry for last year's Nationals were given. For the Seafly, out of 485 boats built - quite a few of which are abroad - 49 attended the Nationals; well over ten per cent of the boats in the U.K. No other class of comparable size could better this proportion.



The CCPR Dinghy Exhibition will be held on 20th and 21st March. The venue has been changed to Pickett's Lock at Edmonton, London, N9, which is going to make it much more difficult for visitors from the south coast. Let's hope those living north of the Thames will turn out in large numbers and make the venture a success. The Seafly Association will have a stand as usual with a new Zygal built boat loaned by an owner and it is hoped to see a good number of our members. Ted May and Harry Venables will be glad of offers of help to man the stand.

Next Newsletter will be in June. This issue contains very few contributions from Fleet Captains and I do ask all of you to let me know what is going on in your neck of the woods so that we can keep up the interest in the Class. Contributions by mid May please.

Alan Green

#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

All members should by now have renewed their subscriptions for 1976 - they were officially due on 1st January. No doubt some of you will have overlooked this in the general rush of festivities, so if you have not already done so please get your cheque book out and send £2.00 to Derek Hawes at the address at the head of this Newsletter. Expenses are inevitably increasing all the time, and with the mounting cost of postage, printing, stationery, telephone calls, etc., the Association needs your subscription to keep it in the black.

#### SEAFLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1976

SEAFLY WEEK 1976 will be held at Worthing Y.C. from 8th to 13th August. In charge of racing arrangements will be Eddie Dunhill, a sailor of vast experience who is also an RYA Principal Race Officer. He has promised Olympic courses with long legs and true windward starts are assured. Races will start at 1100 each day and at the end of the week the tide will permit a second race should an earlier one be postponed. Sunday's race is a practice and the other daily races are each for a trophy and count towards the Championship. An innovation this year is the Canberra Trophy presented at Plymouth last year by Peter Fullagar on behalf of the Australian Seafly Association, to be awarded to the winning club team.

Worthing Yacht Club will have their new clubhouse open in time for the week and the club bar will be available every evening. A full programme of social events is being organised, culminating in a prizegiving on Friday evening, with either a dance or disco.

Accommodation of all types is plentiful in Worthing but as it is a popular holiday resort it is advisable to book up as soon as possible. The 1976 Worthing Holiday Guide and lists of hotels, boarding houses, flats and caravans etc., may be obtained free from the Amenities Department, Town Hall, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1HQ. A copy of the guide and the accommodation lists is being sent to each Fleet Captain.

Entry forms will be available in due course from Fleet Captains or Alan Green, 5 Cradock Place, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 2QA.



## SEAFLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1977 ET SEQ.

The Association Committee has successfully negotiated with Brancaster S.C. in North Norfolk to hold the Nationals there in 1977. This is an entirely new venue and was suggested by the enthusiastic Seafly Fleet at nearby Blakeney who have done so much to further the Class and it is hoped to attract new interest in the area. It is now up to the rest of the membership to support the Blakeney members and the Committee in this venture into new waters.

A number of members feel that we ought to broaden our horizons still further and consider holding the nationals at other new places. One has to plan several years ahead, particularly where new clubs are concerned, and if anyone has any concrete suggestions or contacts please let our chairman, Ted May, know immediately so that the opportunity of choice can be given to all. His address is 36 Fairfield, Christchurch, Dorset.

Clubs which have held the Nationals in recent years are: Seasalter (1970 & 1974), Royal Western Y.C., Plymouth (1971 & 1975), Worthing (1972 & 1976) and Highcliffe (1973).

Highcliffe, who have been inconvenienced by us changing our venue in 1977, have very kindly offered an opening in their busy programme for 1978. They feel, as a club with a large Seafly Fleet, that they would like to give us first choice. However, other fleets are knocking at Highcliffe's door and they would like to know our answer very soon as it is unfair to keep other classes waiting. So please let Ted May, or Secretary, Peter Scovell, know if there are objections to Highcliffe in 1978 and if necessary we will hold a postal ballot. Certainly 1979 will be on the agenda at the next A.G.M.

It should be remembered that Seafly Week is not only for the sailors but also for their families, and therefore a holiday resort is ideal for the wives and children or it is likely that Dad will not be able to go at all! Bear in mind also duration of tides, launching facilities, space for 50 or more boats, car parking, and adequate club facilities.

## ZYGAL BOATS

Arthur Edmunds of Zygal Boats has now acquired the copyright of the Seafly plans and designs for wood and GRP. and is now the sole professional builder in this country. Zygal produce boats in GRP. only but Arthur Edmunds may be prepared to consider allowing amateur builders to construct home built wooden boats. Bearing in mind the problems which arose in 1975, boats must be HOME built and they must conform strictly to class plans, class rules and building instructions. It is hoped shortly to be able to clarify the building instructions along with salient measurements.

Anyone contemplating building at home should contact Arthur Edmunds at Zygal Boats, St. Peters Road, Whitstable, Kent, tel: Whitstable 2531.

## CARDIFF DINGHY EXHIBITION

The Seafly Class was again represented at the Cardiff Dinghy Exhibition last November. Drina Nunn of Highcliffe kindly lent her boat, the first Zygal Seafly which many admired at the Crystal Palace last year. Chairman Ted and Denise May gave up a weekend to run the stand with several willing helpers from South Cerney and they report some interest in the Seafly in that part of the world. The Association as a whole must be very grateful to



those few dedicated souls who 'man' the stand at exhibitions, which provide the main opportunity to attract newcomers to the Class.

#### CCPR, DINGHY EXHIBITION, PICKETTS LOCK.

The 1976 Dinghy Exhibition will be held on 20th and 21st March at Picketts Lock, Edmonton, London N9 - not at the Crystal Palace as in recent years. The Class will have a stand as usual and it is hoped that a member will provide a Zygal built boat for display. Anyone who has some recent photographs or is able to do an hour or two on the stand is asked to get in touch with Ted May or Harry Venables. Your assistance will be very much appreciated.

#### BURNHAM ICICLE

Ted May asks the editor to say that he regrets that this year the class did not enter for the Burnham Icicle. This was certainly not for want of volunteers. He offers particular apologies to National Champion David Tarrant and his wife Elizabeth of South Cerney who were all geared to go, but due to personal difficulties he was unable to make the necessary entry in time and therefore spoiled their weekend. For this he is sincerely sorry.

#### STANLEY JOHN HERBERT - DESIGNER AND BOATBUILDER EXTRAORDINARY

The following tribute to Stan Herbert, who recently sold the copyright of the Seaflly to Arthur Edmunds and retired, has been received from a close friend. The writer also expresses his own personal views on the One Design concept.

"It is on the occasion of Stan's promotion to Senior Citizenship that I write these few lines to congratulate him on behalf of the Seaflly Class on reaching his seniority and for his significant contribution to our combined enjoyment of the best all round sailing dinghy in the world.

Stan was totally involved for about twelve years until semi-retirement overtook him and he was forced to sell South Devon Boatbuilders at the end of 1969. When I use the term 'totally involved' I use it in the context of fatherhood, the control and development of a Class Dinghy being rather akin to the bringing up of a sometimes unruly family. There were times when we all, severally or individually, wanted to 'improve' the Seaflly and on these occasions there were some stormy scenes as 'battling' Stan tried to impress on the rest of us the importance of rule observance.

If you will allow me to express an opinion on this point, I have always agreed with Stan that anyone who wants to bend rules has no place in a One Design class, but should take his innovations into a Restricted class. After all, in theory, every One Design dinghy should be the same and therefore the best test of competence of helmsman and crew.

It has happened in the past that One Design classes have gone under when rules of design, weight and rig have been disregarded or flagrantly altered to give individuals the edge in competition. Many will remember the storm which arose over some such alteration to a very popular design from a well known designer and builder, in the forward under-water sections. Need it be stressed further that this particular design has waned in popularity since that time.

I said earlier that the Seaflly is the best all-round Racing/Cruising Dinghy in the world. I am too enamoured of this boat to see the same thing happening to this Class. Now that Arthur Edmunds is producing only fibreglass hulls the opportunity to alter shape and lines is virtually removed. I personally prefer tree wood for a hull and never did like GRP. But I ask everyone to



stick to the rules on shape and thickness of rudder and centreboard, masts, sails and gear.

What better 'thank you' can we make to Stan than the growth from strength to strength of his brain child. Lang may his and our 'lun reek'."

"Anon"

Although Stan has retired I hope he will be around the Seafly Scene for many years to come and we look forward to welcoming him wherever the Seafly is sailed - Ed.

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#### NEWS FROM THE FLEETS

Blakeney S.C. Without doubt the best helmsman of 1975 has been Brian Blogg and there is no doubt that showing the flag as he has done has stimulated great interest in the Seafly Class in Blakeney. Jim Peppitt's crew for last year, Des Holmes, was obviously so impressed by the Seafly performance that he has bought one for himself and talked his newly wed wife into crewing for him. In addition, Vic Birtles has bought one of the latest Zygal boats and will be racing regularly in 1976. Vic, as it happens, is a producer with Anglia Television and with him and Morris Arthur, who has returned to the Seafly ranks, we expect we shall get our share of publicity next year. Dr Cole has also purchased a Seafly, 'Scaramouche' and we expect he or one of his sons will be racing regularly too. Altogether the fleet totals about 13 boats of which we could well expect 10 to be racing at most weekends. For the first time in years, the Blakeney club is putting on Seafly Class racing on three occasions during the summer, whereas in the past only handicap racing has been possible.

Blakeney Open Meeting - July 3rd/4th. First race 10.15 am on Saturday, July 3rd.

Worthing Y.C. With 18 boats already booked in we look forward to another successful season, with the opening of the new clubhouse in May and culminating on the National Championships from August 8th to 13th.

There will be some changes this year. Malcolm Thurgar will be very sadly missed and Chris Andzews has 'gone Laser' but we now have Roger and Fran Cooper sailing Colin May's former boat all raring to go, and Peter Scovell is building a new boat 'Mantis' son David will be taking over 'Tarantula' and Bernard Mills and David Stewart have also joined the fleet.

We hope to be well represented around the Seafly Circuit as usual and we look forward to welcoming a big entry for the Nationals.

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#### WANTED

Seafly - Riches, 11 Bapton Close, Exmouth. Tel: Exmouth 73892.  
Selling Mayfly if required.

Seafly - J.R.Perryman, 6 Burton Close, North Walsham, Norfolk.

Alloy Mast for Seafly - D.Bacon, Norwich 46668.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 1976

20th & 21st March	C.C.P.R. Dinghy Exhibition, Picketts Lock, Edmonton, London, N9.
2nd May (one day only)	South Cerney S.C. Open Meeting
15th & 16th May	Highcliffe S.C. Open Meeting
12th & 13th June	Tankerton Bay S.C. Open Meeting
19th & 20th June	Dtarcross Y.C. Open Meeting
3rd & 4th July	Blakeney S.C. Open Meeting
8th - 13th August	SEAFLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, WORTHING Y.C.
11th & 12th September	Seasalter S.C. Open Meeting.

## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION AT WORTHING

Your Fleet Captain has a copy of the Worthing Guide and lists of accommodation. You can also obtain these by writing to The Amenities Dept., Town Hall, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1HQ. Book now to avoid disappointment.

### YOUR SEAFLY IN GRP FROM:

ZYGAL BOATS, St. Peters Road, Whitstable, Kent.  
Tel: Whitstable 2531.

STANDARD BOAT - GRP Hull with non-slip Decks. Anodised Alloy Spars, IYE Rudder Stock & Tiller. After Main sheeting. Zygol Sails.  
Price, ex works..... £500 + V.A.T.

RACING BOAT - as above with Chute, Centre Sheeting, Power Blocks, Spinnaker and equipment.  
Price ex works.....£700 + V.A.T.

### SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS ASSOCIATION

### RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Please return to the Treasurer:-

D.Hawes,  
The Sheilings,  
Heath Ridge Green,  
Cobham, Surrey.

Class Secretary:-  
P.E.Scovell,  
26 Chestnut Grove,  
South Croydon,  
Surrey, CR2 7LH.

I enclose my Subscription for 1976:

Full membership £2.00 Associate Membership £1.00

NAME..... BOAT NO.....  
ADDRESS..... BOAT NAME.....  
.....CLUB.....

Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to  
'Seafly Dinghy Class Association'.