



MNSC *roundup*

Newsletter of Middle Nene Sailing Club

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RYA

March 2016

A message from the bridge



Hi All,

Hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to your new year. The winter work teams have been busy and you will all see the improvements when you next visit the club – lots of cleaning, new floating jetty, weed cutting and replacing sleepers, to name but a few.

We saw an awesome start to this year with the prize giving where we rewarded our wonderful club members with trophies, wine and a fantastic evening. There are lots of racing improvements this year and we really want to focus on encouraging sailing and

racing with new and existing members.

We are also applying for some grants this year for a play area and improvements to the clubhouse, including toilets and changing rooms, so keep your fingers crossed we are successful.

If anyone would like to get more involved in the club, particularly around our youth members, please let us know – you should easily be able to pick committee members out as we've just ordered some hoodies, so we are even more obvious!

Look forward to seeing you all at the club and out on the water – and helping keep our club the wonderful place it is with your laughter and sporting prowess.

A very happy commodore,

Julia x

Invite friends and neighbours to the **Open Day on May Bank Holiday (Monday 2nd May)**



Last year we had a great event with lots of activities on and around the lake. All this was not only good fun for everyone, but also a very important drive to find new members and promote our club within the community. This year we will try to repeat last year's success and again, everyone's invited to join in. Please enter it in your calendar and plan early by inviting friends and family, kids from school and colleagues from work in good time. Reminders and more details will follow via e-mail and in our Facebook Group.

**Please note:
All Sunday racing now
starts at 13:30.**

This year's important dates

Sun March 13th - Sunday Series starts

Sat April 9th - Fitting out meal

Sat/Sun April 9th/10th(am) - Enterprise Open (Combined Nimbus & Midlands Area Championship)

Thurs April 14th - Thursday Series starts

Sat April 23rd - Charity Fund Raising Dinner

Mon May 2nd - Open Day

Sat May 28th - New Members' Day

Mon May 30th - Camp week fun

Sun June 5th - Four Hour Race

Sat/Sun June 11th/12th(am) - Enterprise Masters Championship

Sat July 2nd - Picnic in the Park

Sat July 16th - Sail for fun day

Sat Sept - date tba - Visit from Middle Nene Cruising Club

Sun Sept 25th - AGM

Sat/Sun October 1st/2nd (am) - Flying 15 Open Meeting

Sat Oct 15th - Autumn Dinner

Sat Nov 5th - Bonfire Party

Sun Nov 6th - Frostbite Series starts

Sat Dec 10th - Extravaganza

Sat Dec 17th - Children's Christmas Party

Sun Dec 18th - Past Sailors' Punch Party

Sat Jan 21st 2017 - Prize Giving Dinner

Some of these dates/events may change and there will be other activities set up during the year, so keep an eye on the notice boards, Facebook Group, Twitter and website, so that you don't miss out!

2015 Prize-Giving and Dinner



A delicious dinner and a jolly good Prize-Giving. First Steve and Ann, plus their tireless team of 'galley slaves', presented their guests with a carefully prepared culinary delight Italian Style, which was enjoyed by well over seventy people. This was followed by a light-hearted prize-giving, which rewarded all those sailing challenges the members had endured over the previous season. Matt had created an audiovisual show, which brought back some lovely sailing memories and listed all the deserving winners.



...and the 2015 Winners were...

RS 200

Handicap Trophy
Points Trophy

Katie Jessup, Iain Smith
Katie Jessup, Iain Smith

FLYING FIFTEEN

Handicap Trophy
Points Trophy

Neil Bartholomey, Emma Brown
Neil Bartholomey, Emma Brown

MENAGERIE

Series 1
Series 2

Ian Burns
Ian Burns

ASYMMETRIC

Katie Jessup, Iain Smith

ALLCOMERS

Saturday F/H'cap
Thursday F/H'cap
Frostbite 2015

Roger Lewis
Matt Yallop, Katy Brown
Katie Jessup, Iain Smith

Easter Trophy

Charity Regatta

George Finch Bowl

Edgar Cooper Tankard

Mark Greer, Jim Reid

Mark Greer, Jim Reid

Neil Bartholomey, Emma Brown

Mark Greer, Jim Reid

SPECIAL TROPHIES

Blatherwycke Trophy

Crews Cup

Sailor of the Year

Endeavour Trophy

Starting Gun

Mary Perkins

Ed the Duck

Scott Wheel

Four Hour Race

Dave Jarvis

Jess Fargher

Gary Curtis

Margaret Clements

Ray Greer, Jess Fargher

Toby Hatsell

Stuart and Tracy Chisnall

Rob Ashman, Sarah Chisnall

Ian Burns



The chilled 2-handed fleet at the Steve Nicholson Trophy

A few highlights of the autumn and winter season

West Lancashire Yacht Club 24 Hour Race 2015
Saturday, 12th and Sunday, 13th September, Southport, Merseyside. 63 national clubs had entered up to three teams, with our group Ent 22906 securing a good 23rd place overall and the 9th place amongst the 29 Enterprises. In addition to Enterprises, the fleet consisted of Larks, GPs



and a few Flying 15s. Going by the enthusiastic smiles and the photographs, a wonderful time was had by one and all, with everybody already looking forward to the next event, which will be held on 17th and 18th September 2016. To find out more, visit <http://wlyc.org.uk/24-hour-race>

UK 29er Noble Marine Winter Championships 2016 at Draycote Water (16th/17th January 2016)

The regatta had 47 starters from all across the country in the Adult/Youth/Junior fleets, and whilst Phoebe Connellan and her crew Sophie Otter sailed their GBR 2235 under the banners of our larger club neighbours, we congratulate them on their fantastic 5th place overall!



Photo: Draycote Water Sailing Club

16th Steve Nicholson Trophy Charity Regatta, 30th January 2016, Northampton Sailing Club, Pitsford Reservoir

This was a bitterly cold, blustery affair and a challenging start to the season. The double-handed group had 57 entrants in a very varied fleet, which must have been a



good old challenge for those working out the yardstick ratings. We had two teams participating, with Janet and Nick Scutt (ENT 22702) coming 23rd overall and Simon Childs/Kate Jessup being in position 41. The single-handed fleet had 46 contestants, mostly sailing D-Zeros, Phantoms, Lasers, RS Aeros and Solos, plus a few RS300s and Blazes. There were no entries from Middle Nene SC, but many will know former member Daniel Wigmore who, in his Laser Radial 208659, achieved a great result coming 3rd overall.

On the social front, we had a number of very successful smaller and larger events throughout the autumn and winter, including the visit to Middle Nene Cruising Club (12th September), the Autumn Dinner (3rd October), the



Bonfire Party on 7th November, the Christmas Party (5th December), the Extravaganza (12th December) and of course the Prize Giving Dinner (23rd January). Many thanks to everyone who helped to organise and run these events, especially to the chefs in the galley who managed to produce excellent meals time and time again!

The Working Party Season is still under way

Many jobs have already been done and a great THANK YOU to everyone who has helped. But more work is under way, and if you can spare a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday during the next weeks, please contact Roger Lewis or Matt Yallop.



2016 OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

President	Tony Watts
Commodore	Julia Smith
Vice Commodore	Matt Yallop
Rear Commodore - Sailing	Matt Yallop
Rear Commodore - House	Kim Hall
Rear Commodore - Training	Dave Boyers
Immediate Past Commodore	Mike Fargher
Past Commodores	
General Secretary	Vacancy
Treasurer	Terry Hall
Membership Secretary	Marion Vessey
Sailing Secretary	Iain Smith
Race Secretary	Ian Burns
Training Secretary	Dave Boyers
House Secretary	Anne Jarvis
New Member Representative	Stuart Chisnall
Public Relations Secretary	Wilf Kunze

A full list of all Officers and Committee Members can be found in the Club Handbook and on the website.

Gary Curtis is also looking for extra crews for the Beaver, so that weed cutting can continue during the vital weed growing season. No previous experience necessary - you will receive full training. Cutting is done whenever crews are available and if you can spare time during the week, that would be great!



Important Sailing News

Sunday sailing is due to start this Sunday 13th March. Please note the change to start times and the racing format below -

First Race: 1:30pm back to back with **Race 2** (Sprint Races)

Race 3: 3:30pm (Class Start for FF - RS200/Asymmetric and Allcomers for all others).

Please note that there is no longer a morning race series. For further details, please check the club website or the 2016 handbook (coming out soon).

Always moor the rescue boats bows to the window!

Waves and windy weather as well as the wash of passing motor boats can cause the rescue boats to be filled with water while being moored in the boathouse, despite the plastic curtain giving some protection. The result is that the boats might just not be available when they're needed in a hurry. Would all users of the rescue boats (ribs in particular) please make sure that the boats are facing outwards when they're being packed away in the evening. Of course caution is essential not to damage the expensive and quite delicate engines by bumping into the berthing surrounds in the process. That way the boats cannot be washed full of water and are always ready to go. Thanks!

New member? Not happy with your craft? Try out a club boat!

There are many reasons for members wanting to try out a boat - newcomers might want to find out what suits them best, existing boat owners might want to see how another boat of their own class handles, or they might be looking for a completely different type of boat altogether. This is where MNSC can help with its fleet of club-owned boats, which are available to members. Currently, the fleet consists of:

1 Flying 15	1 Wayfarer
1 Solo	1 GP14
1 Laser	2 420s
4 Toppers	

The boats can be booked for anything from half a day or a weekend to a race series, depending on availability, all on a first-come-first-served basis. There is no cost for one-off borrowing, but you may be invited to contribute to the running expenses for longer-term use. This offer is mainly aimed at new members in their first year (and they will be given priority), but even if you've been a member for much longer and would like to get a 'feel' for another boat, just put your name down and have a go!

To find out what's available, simply contact the Training Secretary Dave Boyers (training@middlenenesc.co.uk) and he will help you find the right boat.



Small or very far away?

Those familiar with the 'Father Ted' TV series will have heard this question before. From this spring, some people might wonder about the same thing, because two new boats will be seen racing in the Slow Handicap fleet (PY1340). These 'Illusion' class keelboats have been accepted on a trial basis to see how they fit into our existing fleet. The design of these craft goes back to the 1980s and was inspired by the 12 Metre Yacht 'Lionheart', which

was to be a challenger in the 1980 America's Cup and they come with three sails and a host of trimming options. Contrary to conventional craft, steering is via pedals. So when you think you're seeing a yacht on the horizon, it may be closer than it appears to be. Currently, Illusions are regularly sailed by three clubs in the UK on the loW, in south Hertfordshire and on Merseyside. If you're interested in finding out more or want to try sailing one, just let me know.

Wilf



Lionheart was to be the British Americas Cup Challenger in the 1980s.

roundup is the newsletter of Middle Nene SC and complements all our other communications, including the club's website www.middlenenesc.co.uk, the Facebook Group and the regular e-mail bulletins. **roundup** brings a review of what has happened in the club, and of what might have passed you by in the day-to-day events. So please send in your news, letters, comments, adverts, holiday experiences and anything else you want to let other members know. Contact me at: prsecretary@middlenenesc.co.uk or tel. 01536 484 9051 look forward to hearing from you! *Wilf*

Another way to keep in touch: Don't forget that we have our own (closed) Facebook Group. Join the group and you have instant access to the latest news about the social life in the club. And if you have your own news or a question - just post it!

**We now have a
TWITTER account:
@middle_nene**



The Flying 15 Open last October

A rather calm event

October 3rd and 4th saw the 2015 Open Meeting in the Flying 15 class. The weather forecast was perfect for sun worshippers, but not so much for sailors. On the Saturday the wind was so fluky that racing had to be abandoned and everybody had time to get in the mood for the delicious Indian buffet dinner

The Sunday was only marginally better, but there was at least enough wind for three casual strolls around the course for the eleven boats racing. Visitors came from Broxbourne (FF 2606 and 3031), Ripon (FF 617) and South Cerney (FF2263). The game of patience was won by Mark and Jim (FF 2433) with Matt and Katie coming second. Third place went to Bob Tate and Mick Musgrove (FF 2606). The next Flying 15 Open will be held on 1st/2nd October 2016 and better sailing weather has already been ordered.





Young Michael on board of Lindy in the Fifties.

Winter Working Party 1950s style

We arrive: grandfather Ernest (the Skipper), father Peter and me, aged 10 or 11 years; the Skipper's Austin Cambridge is parked in Mill Lane, Islip, just above the field gate at the lane end. Skipper gets back in his car: *"I'll turn round now, might be icy this evening."*

Dad collects his toolbag from the boot and Skipper carries a small portable gas stove and water can. We all wear welly-boots and heavy clothing.

Walking past the mill, I have a wary eye open for Charlie Hipwell's red-eyed wild Alsatian, but he's not to be seen.

Crossing the footbridge, there is frost on the footway, so a cold day in prospect!

We cross the field with Stewarts & Lloyd's pumphouse on our right going full tilt. *"Must be busy at Corby to be pumping on Saturday"* says Dad.

Up the muddy slope to the club's rickety gates, secured by a rusty padlock and chain.

Turning just left inside along an ash-bound path, then right at the top of a grassy bank, along the outside of our only club building, an ex-army Nissen hut (NB: if you stand against the bar, you will be about in line with the right hand side of the Nissen).

Once inside, first job is to light the Tortoise stove, our only form of heating. Dad puts in newspaper, sticks cut last week and coke from a sack near-

by. Skipper brews tea on his stove to warm up.

"Today" says Dad, *"we must keep on with building the framework for the garage-forecourt kiosk that Tommy Capps has offered for a race-officer's cabin."*



This is what the Tortoise Stove in the Nissen Hut might have looked like.

Other members start arriving, Frank Ponter and Dick Williams from Corby, Fred Arnold, Bernard Payne from Kettering, Angus Westley, Henry Timpson and others.

"Have you got the kettle on, Ernie?"

The adults set about building the kiosk frame, driving galvanized pipes into the holes dug into the frozen ground. A square of concrete for each pipe, covered with straw and sacking makes them secure. *(This first 'race-box' was sited where the gents' changing rooms are now.)*

I've been trying to dig further foundation holes in the hard ground, but without success. Dad calls over the noise of hacksaws, wheelbarrows and pickaxes: *"Nip into the hut and check the stove is alight. Put some more coke on if it is!"*

It is 2 or 3 degrees warmer there! Coke in, I warm hands on the stovepipe. Steam off my gloves.

Back outside, I slide gingerly down the grassy bank and paddle along the water's edge. Not for long. Half a boot full stops that!

The men stop for lunch and we all sit round the stove planning what's next.

"If we enclose the framework under the kiosk, we can keep marker-buoys, buoyancy weights and such in there."

"I want to build some shelving in here so that members can store sails and kit", says Dad.

Both are agreed and I then help Dad measure up for what timbers will be needed for the shelves.

Frank Ponter asks Dad to measure for timber round the kiosk frame. *"Let me know what's needed for both jobs; I think Dick and I can probably get it from the steelworks."*

By the time we've finished, it is getting to dusk and much colder. *"Ice on the pit by tomorrow"* says the Skipper, as we walk away towards the mill.

"Has Mr. Loakes started varnishing Lindy?" I ask the Skipper.

"I don't know, but if we're quick, we can go and look in his yard now." We drive into Islip, down the hill, left over the river bridge and turn into what is now the Bridge Hotel. This is the yard and HQ of Loakes & Pettit, builders.

Under cover, in a dim corner, there is Lindy, rubbed down but not yet varnished. Dad says *"I wouldn't rush him, if it's going to be as cold as this"*. *"Yes, I think you're right"*, says Skipper.

And off home - another Working Party tomorrow.

Mike Seville