



MNSC *roundup*

Newsletter of Middle Nene Sailing Club

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www.middlenenesc.co.uk

RYA

April 2013

Message from the bridge

Dear Members,

It's a pleasure to write the opening of our newsletter. Many thanks to Wilf for taking this on and doing such a great job in editing it for us all. Well done, Wilf! It really is brilliant. Firstly I must say that it's a great snapshot of how much is going on at our club. We hear lots of bad news stories in the press at the moment and this newsletter shows just how much a relatively small and committed group of sailing enthusiasts can achieve.

Middle Nene is a very special club in many ways. We are probably as far from the sea as is possible, own and look after an amazing piece of the English countryside and make really good use of it in many ways. We also have thousands of local people who love and use our lake and its surroundings, which brings challenges at times but is a vital aspect of our club being part of the local community as well as a centre for our sport.

Your General Committee have assessed how we are doing in line with other sailing clubs and our conclusion is that we are bucking the national trend! We are getting as many new members as we are losing in difficult economic times and we're also finding new ways to keep our income stable and work for our members all the time. Other clubs are losing members and struggling to pay their leases. Matt Yallop reminds us we are similar to other clubs in falling racing numbers and through the excellent members' open forums that Matt Yallop has arranged you have given us ideas of how we can help you to get on to the water confidently and safely and get out racing. Dave Boyers has done a great job in gaining us a grant from Sport England to buy new training boats. I look forward to seeing these on the water, attracting people to our sport and becoming members of MNSC. David Oakley and Matt Yallop are working with Dave to refresh our training offer so please see if this helps you get out on the water and also encourage new people to start sailing.

We have had a challenging winter weatherwise in finishing all the necessary maintenance work and there are still jobs to do. We have a small group of very dedicated people (you know who you are!) who turn up during the cold, wet weather and work exceptionally hard to keep the

club and its equipment in order. A huge thank-you to you all and it was great to see some new faces this year. We really need more of us to spare time to get involved in this and we are open to ideas so that we can make this happen. As the saying goes "every little helps". It allows us to keep our costs to a minimum and can be fun too!

My colleagues on your General, Sailing, Training, and House Committees would shoot me if I didn't make a plea for volunteers to help on these groups. They make our club what it is and we really value everyone getting involved where they can. It is our club and we all need to do our bit to keep it going. There are many ways you can be involved, either by giving us your feedback and ideas or giving up an hour at an event to help out. We have two open days to run this year. Why not invite all your friends and neighbours and give an hour or two on the days to help out?!

I also want to publicly thank Mike Seville, Glyn and Frank Boydell for their outstanding work on the Committees over the years and welcome Roger Lewis as Harbour Master and Stuart Adams as Membership Secretary.

At the moment we have vacancies in some important positions for running the club, including New Members' Secretary and PR Secretary. If you think you can help out here, please get in touch. We are open to offers of help and you will be supported in carrying out these roles. We would love new faces to join the team.

This is your newsletter and we have included a letter from a new member giving his impressions and views. I think that it is really important that we seek, listen to and value your views, so please put pen to paper or email me to let us know what you think and help us improve our club for you.

Well, the sun must return soon so I look forward to seeing you at the club and on the water. Please put the impressive social calendar that Kim Hall and her team has arranged in your diaries and come along, enjoy and support these great events.

Happy sailing!

Mike Fargher
commodore@middlenenesc.co.uk



Important dates for the 2013 season:

(All dates are subject to change; further dates to be added. Please check regularly at www.middlenenesc.co.uk)

April

Sat. 6th Enterprise Open
Sat. 6th Fitting Out Meal
Sat. 20th AWS Youth Regatta

May

Sun. 5th Charity Regatta
Mon. 6th Open Day
Sat. 11th RYA Training 1 Level 1/2
Sat. 18th RYA Training 1 Level 1/2
Sat. 18th Asymmetric Open (pm)
Sat. 25th New Members' Day
Mon. 27th Camp Week

June

Sat. 1st Ladies' Training Day
Sat. 15th RYA Training 2 Level 1/2
Sat. 22nd RYA Training 2 Level 1/2
Sat. 22nd Ladies' Race Day
Sat. 22nd Over 60s Race

July

Sat. 13th Regional Final RYA Honda Rib Youth Challenge
Sat. 20th Sail for Fun Day

August

Sat. 3rd Picnic in the Park
Sat. 31st RYA Training 3 Level 1/2

September

Sat. 7th RYA Training 3 - Level 1/2
Sun. 29th AGM

October

Sat. 5th Flying 15 Open
Sat. 19th Autumn Dinner

November

Sat. 2nd Bonfire Party
Sat. 23rd Extravaganza

December

Sat. 14th Prizegiving/Christmas Dinner
Sun. 15th Punch Party

Welcome from the Editor

When I joined the club three years ago, I started sailing with Bob Frankham, an excellent sailor and long-standing member of MNSC. He gave me a good introduction to the club and I got to know the lake in his FF2213. Then, when Bob was no longer well enough to sail, I took over his boat and I also volunteered to take over his role as editor of the newsletter - in part to uphold the tradition and in part to 'do my bit'.

Now, after a while of contemplation, here is my first attempt and I hope that you enjoy reading it. This issue highlights a few aspects of club life last year, plus current plans for the new season. We called it '*roundup*', because it is meant to summarise the current goings-on at and around our club. We are planning to produce a '*roundup*' three or four times a year, depending on events and in addition to the regular e-mail updates you already receive. The roundup will be available as a PDF download and there will be a few printed copies for those members who don't have access to email. One copy will be displayed on the clubhouse notice board.

Of course I am not able to create all the *roundup* content of by myself - each and every member is invited to send in his or her contributions. This could be personal experiences, reports of Open Meeting visits to other clubs, sailing tips, holiday suggestions and whatever else you might consider of interest. Just send me an email or a conventional letter. Don't worry about format or typing errors - I have volunteered my wife to proof-read all texts before they are published. If in doubt, give me a call. Photographs are, of course, also most welcome, and again, the easiest way to get them to me is via email.

'For Sale' or 'Wanted' adverts are also a free service. But the plan is for the *roundup* to remain non-commercial. So it's members-to-members only.

I look forward to meeting you on the water and hearing from you with your news and pictures.

Happy Sailing!

Wilf

(E-mail: wilf.kunze@gmail.com
Tel. 01536 484 905)

Online "DutyMan" duty roster - what it means

Last summer we introduced a new online duty roster process known as "DutyMan". This system is largely automated and offers major benefits for all, including considerable savings in terms of postage, stationery and volunteer time. Now members' confirmation of individual duties, swaps and other changes is much easier, and transparent for everyone to see: just click on the links at the MNSC website to see the roster.

Of course, key to the success of all club events is the support of members helping the roster process work smoothly. Our club is run by volunteers and doing a 'duty' is part and parcel of membership at Middle Nene SC. Indeed without the support of members, the Club could not function. It is also a good opportunity for inexperienced members to be involved in running the races and getting to know first-hand what happens in the box.

As ever, if any MNSC member is unable to do his/her duty, it is the member's responsibility to arrange a swap. This can of course be done in any way possible, by phone or individual personal arrangement, but the online roster means that it is far easier for members to communicate with each other and agree swaps. It is also a lot easier to find swap partners at 'your' duty level.

Members without email accounts are equally accommodated because paper rosters are still available and included in the annual handbook.

For any questions about the new roster process, contact Stephen Brown at the Club or by email to the dedicated address mnscduty@gmail.com

DutyMan: what the symbols mean



This duty can be swapped. All duties are swappable unless

- The duty is in the past, or
- The duty has been set to unswappable by your DutyMan administrator, or
- The person doing the duty does not have an email address



The person scheduled to do this duty wants to swap.

If you would like to swap your duty with this one then request a swap by logging in and going to [Request a Duty Swap](#).

If you do not want to swap but you are prepared to take on this duty then log in and go to [Volunteer](#).

You can turn this symbol on and off for your own duties by logging in, displaying a duty in the roster, expanding it by clicking ▼ and then ticking [Swap Wanted](#).



The person scheduled to do this duty wants to swap but they do not have an email address. If you would like to swap your duty with this one then contact your DutyMan administrator who will be able to action the swap for you.



Unallocated duty; volunteer required.



You have selected this duty for a swap request. The duty is also highlighted in bold text.

8th/9th September 2012: 29er Harken Grand Prix at Ullswater Yacht Club. The event attracted 19 entries, with representatives from 21 different sailing clubs taking part

Great success for Ed Connellan and Matt Rhodes in a challenging environment



2117 going full steam ahead. Photo: Karen Connellan

A mixed start at the 29er Grand Prix at Ullswater Yacht Club after training for half an hour before the first race, we ended up leading round the windward mark to finish 3rd. However, after a reasonable first beat for the second race, close sailing resulted in Matt being harpooned out of the boat by a long carbon fibre pole, which ended up with an angry crew and the boat turtling, so that used up our discard. We then followed up the day with a 6th and a 8th, also getting involved in a protest and winning ;)

Sunday morning was looking light, and lying 6th overall we knew we needed to do something special to make top 3! The first race of the day began about an hour and a half after we launched due to 2 knots of breeze, then wind began to fill in, meaning we now had 15 knots gusting 20! After another good start, we

were caught by a gust, capsized, but recovered quickly and sailed back through the fleet to finish 5th. Wind was still building and another good

race resulted in getting to 3rd which we held to the finish. One race to go and we were lying 6th overall. It was make or break. Wind was now at its strongest, 20 knots gusting 35. Rounded 5th, and with huge gusts going down, the two leaders capsized, but we kept our cool to the leeward gate with no capsizes, 3rd, we worked hard upwind to gain 1 place round the windward mark, putting us in 2nd, the last downwind to go to the finish. The leaders then crashed out, which meant we had to fend off the event winners, to win the race, so we kept our cool whilst ripping downwind to secure the 1st, putting us 3rd overall.

Edward Connellan

*Detailed results can be found at:
www.ullswateryachtclub.org*



A strong breeze with 20 knots wind, gusting 35. Photo: Karen Connellan

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* will bring a (roughly) quarterly 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: wilf.kunze@gmail.com or tel. 01536 484 905, or just see me at the club (FF 2213). I look forward to hearing from you!



Going foreign

In August 2012 the Yacht Club Breitenbrunn (YCBb) at Lake Neusiedl in Austria was the venue for the European Laser Cup, covering the Radial, 4.7m and Standard Laser classes. And this was no small event - in the 4.7m class alone there were 215 participants from around the world (with a particularly strong showing of the 'local' sailors from Austria, Germany and Hungary) and the three top places went to sailors from Turkey, Singapore and Spain respectively. From the UK there were 13 participants in the 4.7m



class, including our own Daniel Wigmore, who made his way over 1,000 miles to Austria, supported by his dad Simon. And whilst the UK group could not beat the world's elite in this instance, they gave them a good run for their money and had an experience of a lifetime. Daniel for one absolutely radiated enthusiasm when he returned to Middle Nene SC.

Lake Neusiedl, not too far from Vienna, straddles the Austro-Hungarian border, and whilst it covers an area of 315 square kilometres (for comparison: Lake Windermere is just under 15 square kms)

you can walk home from almost anywhere on the lake - the maximum depth is just about 6 ft. In addition to the obvious benefits of watersports, the region is famous for its full-bodied wines and its delicious cuisine. The YCBb, one of the larger clubs there, is well-equipped and even has its own helipad for emergencies.

Official results: http://laser47euro.ycbb.at/uploads/media/boys_finalliste.htm

All three photographs: Yacht Club Breitenbrunn - www.ycbb.at

(Simon and Daniel are now sailing at GWSC - best of luck to both of you and many thanks for all your active support! Ed.)



Impressions from the AWS Youth training on 29th September 2012



January Working Party

A lot was achieved by a large team of intrepid workers. Thanks to everyone who helped!



Letter to the editor

A view of the Club from new members' point of view

We joined the club last year as a family block consisting of myself as an experienced sailor, my wife as a total non sailor, my daughter as a reasonably experienced sailor, my son-in-law and two grandchildren who have never sailed, but have experienced motor boating.

The club is considered to be friendly and welcoming.

My daughter and I purchased an RS 200 and we found that, on the whole, we were made welcome mainly because of the fact that we had a boat and any new boat in the club would attract the other members especially as we were experienced.

My wife however found the opposite. I had left her on her own for about half an hour whilst I did some other things. She was seated at the tables by the club house where there were many other members and, in spite of that, she told me that no one spoke to her and was totally ignored. This was a day, with a BBQ, for welcoming new members. After that, she has no interest whatsoever in coming to the club even for social events.

My son-in-law, being very extrovert, had no problems as he usually speaks to people before they speak to him. He had never sailed before. My granddaughter, who again had never sailed, took part in the sailing from the word go so she did meet more people that way. It also turned out that she knew another member as they had been at school together.

My grandson has only been down to the club once and that was on a quiz night. We have yet to get him involved.

Basically as I see it, unless you are a sailor, it can be difficult. An existing member told me that he had experienced the same as I had done. So, yes, the club on the whole is friendly, but we need to welcome the non sailors and they are usually part of sailors' families, but do not want to talk sailing all the time like the rest of us. The support of our non sailing family is very important to us sailors, well it is to me...

Gerry Burnham

Streamlined procedures and an invitation to newcomers to join in with the racing

27 members joined our Rear Commodore Sailing Matt Yallop at the Open Forum which was held on 7th March at the clubhouse. In a well-prepared presentation Matt introduced the details of the 2013 sailing calendar, including all changes to the starting procedures, special events and cours-

es (see key charts below). The main objective was to make the programme as versatile and attractive as possible and to encourage getting people on to the water. Kim Hall briefly summarised the events on the social calendar.

In a lively Q&A session Matt explained all details of the new plans and mem-

bers had the opportunity of putting their names on the lists of training candidates and/or helpers. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the MNSC website.

Congratulations to Matt and his team for a well-designed concept!

New starting format - Sunday

Sunday Series - Time of Starts and Flags

Time	Series	Classes	Flag	
11.45	Morning	Allcomers	Fast h/cap	K
11.48	Morning	Allcomers	Slow h/cap	J
14.00	Class H/cap	Flying 15	Num 1	
14.03	Class H/cap	RS200/Asymm.	Num 2	
14.06	Allcomers		Fast & Slow	K & J
15.45	Class	Flying 15	Num 1	
15.48	Class	RS200/Asymm.	Num 2	
15.51	Allcomers		Fast & Slow	K & J

Lasers and Solos are now in the Allcomers Start – Prizes will still be awarded to the top Laser and Solo at the end of the year. They also are competing for the Menagerie Trophy.

Sunday Sprint Series

- Sunday Sprint racing will comprise a single series: 4 races (2 sets 2 back to back): **allcomers** start. The number of results to count shall be one more than half!

Sunday Sprint Series - Time of Starts and Flags

Time	Series	Classes	Flag
13.30	Sun Sprint - Race 1	Fast/ Slow h/cap	K/J
B2B	Sun Sprint - Race 2	Fast/ Slow h/cap	K/J
15.30	Sun Sprint - Race 3	Fast/ Slow h/cap	K/J

Special races

Ladies Race

Three Allcomers sprint races, all to count, with first start at 13.00 2nd at 14.30 and 3rd at 16.00 each race to last approx 45 min for mid fleet boat's. Overall winner to hold trophy for one year and to have her name engraved on it.

Over 60's Race

A morning allcomers race for the over 60's. Race starts at 11:00. The winning team to hold the trophy for one year and have their name engraved on it.

RACING COACHING

Race Coaching can be provided for both adult and junior members who wish to learn the fundamentals needed to get started in club racing.

Courses will be organised depending on interest and will run on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer and in parallel with the Basic Sailing Taster courses. Please contact the Training Secretary if you are interested. A basic training fee will be required to help cover costs.

IMPROVING YOUR SAILING

Youth training will be undertaken on Saturdays in March and October 1pm to 5 pm and Thursdays April through to end of July 5 pm to 7 pm as well as 3 additional race camps – for further details please see Training Notice Board.

RYA LEVEL 1 AND 2 SAILING COURSES

We will be running three 2 day RYA courses to Level 1 and/or 2. These are run on Saturdays 09.00 – 17.00 hrs. Course 1 is May 11th & 18th, Course 2 is June 15th & 22nd, Course 3 August 31st & September 7th.

There is a charge for these courses. Please contact the Training Secretary for further information. Courses are open to temporary members as well as members.

To attend all of the above courses you must be at least 8 years old and be able to swim 50 metres in light clothing. You must be a club member (current cost £37 for juniors) and pay a course fee as appropriate, contact for further information on any aspects of training:-

Dave Boyers 07500027518
Dave.Boyers@btinternet.com

Powerboat Training

Structured RYA Powerboat courses are also provided to MNSC members, by our RYA qualified instructor and dates will be posted in the clubhouse and on the website. Courses can be either a full day or over several Monday evenings. Please see the notice on the Training Notice Board in the club house or by arrangement with one of our power boat instructors.

Elementary training will be at a nominal fee to cover fuel, but a charge will be made to members for structured courses currently PB2 course is £40. Certification can only be achieved following successful assessment and previous experience.

Sailing on the Broads

A pleasant group experience

For several members of MNSC it is a cherished tradition to change scenery for a while and cruise the Norfolk Broads. Last year's outing on 22nd September took the group to the river at Martham, near Hemsby, where Martham's Boat Yard provided two day boats. Mike Seville completed the fleet with his own cruiser (the beige one in the top picture below). Heigham Sound and Hickling Broad were the local waters and the smiles in the picture give it away - a most enjoyable day was had by one and all! Thanks to Ken Long for providing the photos.



Ladies' Training Day

Saturday, 1st June 2013

Here's a chance to hone your starting skills and refine your rounding marks just in time for the Ladies' Race Day on 22nd June. This will be both an educational and a social event, with mainly female instructors. There will be a nominal charge (not fixed yet, but expected to be approx. £10 to £15 per participant) to cover instruction and to include lunch soup, rolls and sandwiches.

Please register your interest now, so that Dave Boyers can determine demand and start preparing the event, signing on instructors etc. Put your name on the sign-up form on the club notice board (Training Section) or email Dave at dave.boyers@btinternet.com

RYA Honda Youth Rib Challenge



In the national Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship young Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) drivers can demonstrate their skills with the chance of winning a 4.8m Ribcraft or a Honwave T40 for their club.

On Saturday, 13th July 2013 we will be hosting the Regional Final of the RYA Honda Rib Youth Challenge. Before that, we will hold our local heat to determine who goes forward from MNSC to this event. In all there are 14 Regional Finals and the winner in each age group takes part in the National Final held at the Southampton Boat Show on Sunday, 15th September 2013.

Skill, not just speed

The competition is a time trial around a set of marks - the fastest time wins. The slalom buoys are set 12.5m apart, so that skill and control are the most important factors. Each competitor has two runs, one as a practice and one as a 'hot lap'. Both runs are timed and the fastest time put forward.

Two age groups

There are two age groups: 8-12 years and 13-16 years. This is the age of the entrant at the time of the National Final i.e. for the 8-12 year olds competitors should not have had their 13th birthday before 16th

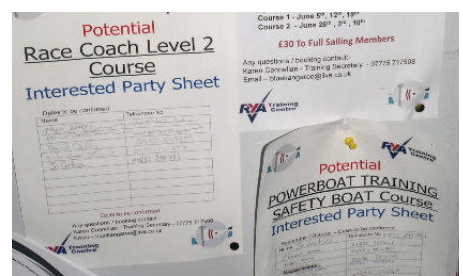
September 2013 and similarly in the 13-16 year old section, they should not have had their 17th birthday before 16th September 2013.

Register now

But first we have to select and train our own entrants to the regional heat and all those who are interested should register their interest **now**, so we can arrange suitable training and practise sessions in the run-up to the event.

The competition is open to junior members of the club and its affiliations (SeaCadets, Scouts, Guides, Oundle etc.). Please contact Dave Boyers either at the club or via email: dave.boyers@btinternet.com

Practice sessions will start at MNSC by the end of April with the express aim of ultimately hosting a champion and winning a RIB for our club!



Sign on to your activity! The club notice board is the starting point for your entry in the RIB challenge and many of the other exciting training options the club has on offer!