



MNSC *roundup*

March 2018

Newsletter of Middle Nene Sailing Club
Meadow Lane, Thrapston, Kettering NN14 4QL, Tel. 01832 732871
www.middlenenesc.co.uk

Commodore's Message



Dear members,

I hope you all enjoyed your winter break and are ready to get back on the water for another great year of sailing. Our early founders' do-it-yourself philosophy has been evident in the spirit of our members over the winter works period. The committee and many volunteers have been working hard to keep things shipshape for the new season. Improvements have been made to upgrade the clubhouse and site electrics. Plans are still in

motion to create a new slipway near the entrance of the club and I was very pleased to see our youth members helping out with painting numbers on the new racing buoys. As always I wish to give thanks to the members who give up their time over the winter and throughout the year to keep our club running.

We celebrated the club's racing achievements at the annual prize-giving in January. It was fantastic to see so many people receiving their awards for last year's racing programme. I must mention the great success that has been made with the single-handed fleets. Thanks go to Ian Burns and Wilf Kunze for their hard work in both the Solo and Illusion fleets. I look forward to seeing these fleets continuing to grow not only in racing numbers but in fleet spirit.

Due to the success in the racing programme format, the sailing committee have decided to continue with the same set-up as last year. The only difference you will notice is that we no longer publish in the handbook who is on duty during the year. This is an ever-changing rota that is now run through Dutyman alone. Copies of the most up-to-date rota will be on view in the clubhouse and members are encouraged to access Dutyman to confirm or swap any allocated duties they may have.

Dutyman is also the tool we use to contact members about club activities, so if you have not yet been set up or wish to volunteer for duties, please get in touch by emailing - sailing@middlenenesc.co.uk

The club handbook is still a very useful tool for reading up on this year's racing, training and social events. Both the Training and House committee have been working hard to pull together super events, so please do get in contact and book your places.

All that's left for me to say is enjoy 2018 and I look forward to seeing you all down at the club and out on the water.

Matt Yallop, Commodore

This year's important dates

- Sun March 11th** - Sunday Series starts
- Mon April 2nd** - Easter Trophy / Charity Race
- Sat April 7th** - Fitting out party
- Sat/Sun April 7th/8th (am)** - Enterprise Open (Combined Nimbus & Midlands Area Championship)
- Thurs April 19th** - Thursday Series starts
- Sun April 29th** - Sprint Series starts
- Mon May 7th** - Open Day
- Sat May 19th** - New Members' Day
- Sat May 26th** - Camp week fun
- Mon May 28th** - Scott Wheel
- Sun June 3rd** - Sun Series / Asymmetric Special
- Sat June 16th** - Sat Series / Solo Special
- Sat June 9th** - Saturday Series starts
- Sat June 30th** - Family Disco
- Sun July 15th** - Anniversary Cup Pursuit
- Mon Aug 27th** - George Finch Pursuit
- Sat 8th Sept** - Visit to Middle Nene Cruising Club
- Sun Sept 16th** - Edgar Cooper Tankard
- Sun Sept 23rd** - AGM
- Sat October 6th** - Autumn Dinner
- Sat/Sun October 6th/7th (am)** - Flying 15 Open Meeting
- Sat Nov 3rd** - Bonfire Party
- Sun Nov 4th** - Frostbite Series starts
- Sun Nov 11th** - Frostbite Series starts
- Sat Dec 15th** - Extravaganza
- Sun Dec 23rd** - Past Sailors' Punch Party
- Sat Jan 26th 2019** - 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, and website, so that you don't miss out!



With the Prize-Giving Dinner on 27th January 2018 another good sailing season came to an end. Following a delicious meal prepared by Ann, Steve and their team, Matt presented the trophies within a lively slideshow and the evening finished with a friendly meeting in the bar, where results were discussed and new challenges for 2018 worked out. Below are a few pictures to remind everyone of that very enjoyable evening, plus a list of last season's winners.

Overall, there was good participation in the racing season, with the Solo fleet showing growth and high presence. The Flying 15 also had an increased number of boats on the water with several new sailors joining and the RS200 fleet remained at high levels as in previous seasons. The Illusions, which only started in 2016 at the club with two boats, could up their numbers to five and brought competitive racing to the slow handicap department.



...and the 2017 Winners were...

Sunday Series Allcomers Sprint

Fast Handicap - Mark Greer, Jim Reid
Slow Handicap - Wilf Kunze

Sunday Series Class

Flying 15 Class - Mark Greer / Jim Reid
RS200 & Asymmetric Class - Ray Greer / Sonia Hansen

Sunday Allcomers

Allcomers Fast Handicap - Ian Burns
Allcomers Slow Handicap - Wilf Kunze

Sunday Sprint Series EOM (end of month)

Fast Handicap - Neil Bartholomey, Emma Brown
Slow Handicap - Ken Ansdell

Thursday Evening Series

Allcomers Fast Handicap - Rob Ashman, Mark Hatsell
Allcomers Slow Handicap - Mike Moore

Saturday Series

Slow Handicap - Mike Moore

Frostbite Series

Allcomers Fast Handicap - Matt Yallop, Katy Brown
Allcomers Slow Handicap - Wilf Kunze

Special Races and Trophies

Easter Trophy - Mike Moore

Asymmetric Special - Mark Hatsell, Rob Ashman

George Finch Pursuit - Matt Yallop

Anniversary Cup Pursuit - Matt Yallop

Edgar Cooper Tankards - Mark Hatsell, Rob Ashman

Crews Cup - Jim Reid

Endeavour Trophy - Adrian Bew

Mary Perkins Trophy - Jamie Nicol

Starting Gun Trophy - Kato Jessup

Blatherwycke Trophy - Ian Burns

Tony Wright Trophy - Margaret Clements

Ed the Duck Trophy - Claire Corbett, Alex Dodds

Sailor of the Year Trophy - Margaret Clements

House Committee Report 2017



2017 at MNSC was dominated by the 70th Anniversary celebrations - and what a great weekend it was! Thanks to a small but dedicated bunch of members a truly memorable event was achieved. Many thanks to Lynne, Matt, Steve and Ann amongst others for the work they put in to make this all happen. It is especially poignant that Mike Seville got to enjoy the event - it meant a lot to him as MNSC's 'Official Historian'. RIP Mike.

The rest of the social calendar went pretty much as usual with most events being well supported. The club felt vibrant and rejuvenated by several new families joining us this year. It's great to have young people enjoying the sailing and the community.

Thanks must go to Peter, our groundsman and superb cleaner. The whole club looks tidy and cared for, due to his hard work.

The Big Day - Thrapston's Mayoress Sam Cribb enjoying the Cream Tea in the Marquee.



Happy chat at the 70th Anniversary event - Mike Seville (right) in conversation with (from left) the Lord Lieutenant David Laing, Club President Tony Watts and club member Mike Goodger.

Hopefully Marion will continue to provide lunch and cakes on Sundays with the occasional evening meal. Many thanks for your commitment, Marion. With Membership Secretary duties as well, you are doing a sterling job and we do appreciate it.

Looking forward to the 2018 season, we'd like to invite members to offer suggestions for social events and to remember that they can use the club for private events. Speak to a House Committee member for details. You will need to have a committee member (from any committee, not just House) to run the bar for you, but not every event requires the use of the bar. It's a great place for birthday parties, anniversary parties etc. Ask Dick and Rosemary, who held their diamond wedding party at the club. It was a lovely event, much enjoyed by family and friends.

As a footnote, the House Committee would like to invite members to join us on our committee in September. We would love new blood! New ideas and more hands would be very welcome!



Jenny, Lynne and Marion enjoying a well-deserved drink after a hard day's work at the 70th Anniversary event.



Mike Seville 1944-2017

I feel that this coming season will be different, because no longer will MAS be there! Last year we saw Mike summon up such extraordinary courage and determination to fight his illness, such was his commitment to the activities he loved. Foremost was his family, then boating, but, whatever he did, he did with great enthusiasm.

His favourite places were MNSC Thrapston and the Norfolk Broads, and his favourite boats were the National 12 (by far!) and then possibly the Flying 15. Mike actively participated in the running of the club for forty years, taking over the role of harbourmaster from his father and becoming Commodore in 1992/93. This was a very special year as it was when our negotiations to purchase our site were concluded and we owned our sailing water. Not even the Royal Yacht Squadron can match this! Thereafter, Mike as Harbourmaster took a leading role in most of the many projects which enhanced our "lake" and turned it into what we enjoy today.

I sailed with Mike for fifteen years; it was great fun, we never fell out, except on one occasion on the start line when I missed the toe strap and finished up in the water! We sailed "by committee", which is possibly why winning results were mostly "just out of reach".

I feel truly privileged to have known Mike, and apart from anything else, I greatly value all that I have learnt from him about boats, boating and sailing, but mostly I miss him! And many members benefited from his knowledge, which he gave so freely.

He leaves his wife Janet and his three grown-up daughters.

Tony Watts
President



SOLO FLEET NEWS

The Solo fleet continues to expand and a warm welcome goes to our newest members Ray and Iolanthe. This increase makes us the second biggest fleet at Middle Nene with 12 boats on the books. If we can get sufficient numbers on the water for racing, then we will merit our own class starts in the Sunday racing programme. The forthcoming season is looking like it will be a great one for Solo sailors, so encourage everyone to get back on the water as soon as possible. As always if you want any help with rigging, boat handling or getting you out on the water, then let us know.

Ian Burns
Solo 4311

NB - A note for your diary - Solo Special event on Saturday June 16th with BBQ to follow in the evening.



ILLUSION FLEET NEWS

We have been making good progress both in increasing the fleet and winning trophies, and not only in the slow handicap series either. Last year Mike Moore took home the Easter Trophy and we also logged some good places in other pursuit races. The Illusions are the best evidence that close, highly competitive racing in all weathers can be had in the slow handicap fleet, and we are in the process of preparing another boat which will be ready to enter the fleet in late spring. If you are interested in getting an Illusion, please let me know.

Even if you would just like to see what performance and exciting racing these small single-handed keelboats have to offer, please speak to me or any of the Illusion sailors, so that we can organise a test sail.

Wilf
Illusion 89

JUNIOR SQUAD NEWS

With most of the young sailors from the earlier part of the decade having grown



up and progressed to greater things on and off the water, in 2017 a new Junior Squad was started and thanks to the full involvement of the parents/guardians, we have made excellent progress in getting kids on the lake. Whilst junior sailing in 2017 had a more playful character, as the kids are gaining in confidence and strength 2018 will focus a bit more on racing and boat handling skills. In this we will be relying on our Training team led by Alex and Claire, and once again, family support will be greatly appreciated.

Off the water, the Junior Squad had a very well-supported and successful working party, getting the marker buoys ready for the new season, painting the wooden benches and helping in many other ways with the jobs on hand. Another pre-season highlight of the Junior Squad will be the visit to the Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace, for which eleven juniors and eight adults have signed up. For several of the kids this will be their first visit to such an event, and the chance to meet up with Olympic Gold Medallist Saskia Clark will be a special highlight.

If you are not yet part of the Squad but would like to join in, you are cordially invited. You don't need to have your own boat, and all that's required is that you have RYA Level 1/2 or equivalent skills. Please speak to Wilf or send him an email: prsecretary@middlenenesesc.co.uk



Start racing and have FUN!

Over the years the Class racing has diminished and for the most part we have a collection of boats sailing against a handicap. Even those in a supposed class are sometimes isolated and that is No FUN.

I asked a fellow sailor why he did not race? He replied "I only sail for FUN!" As a regular racer I wondered why I do it and it's not because I don't enjoy it, that is for sure. The thing about racing is not the winning; it's about the improving. If you want to be a better sailor and improve your skills to be safer and happier, come and start to race. These days I don't often win, but I compare where I am against the other boats on the water. I set myself small challenges to stay in front, catch or overtake (if possible). I may not achieve it, but at least I tried my best to do so. A win is special and a good friend of mine always said "Winners are Grinners".

The camaraderie with fellow sailors increases the more boats are on the water. The better the camaraderie, the

more FUN you have. There are always reasons as to why you don't race, but please don't think that it's not FUN is one of them. If you need any help with your boat or encouragement to have a go, then please feel free to give me a call or see me down the club. I hope

*The thing about racing
is not the winning;
it's about the improving.*

my FUN can be shared with as many club members as possible on a regular basis, so we can all have even more FUN together. For the very first time, probably in 20 years, I will miss the most FUN of all, and that is being in the first race of the season, as I

booked a holiday before they decided on the 11th of March (gutted). I already booked a return flight a day early to ensure I could start on the 18th! Don't wait for me, have a great start to a new season and whatever floats your boat, have FUN ☺

Keep smiling!

Neil Bartholomey FF2700
07850 771965



Racing is as much about winning as it is about meeting friends for a drink and a chat, like here at the prize-giving of the Flying 15 Open Meeting 2018.

WORKING PARTIES AND WEED-CUTTING

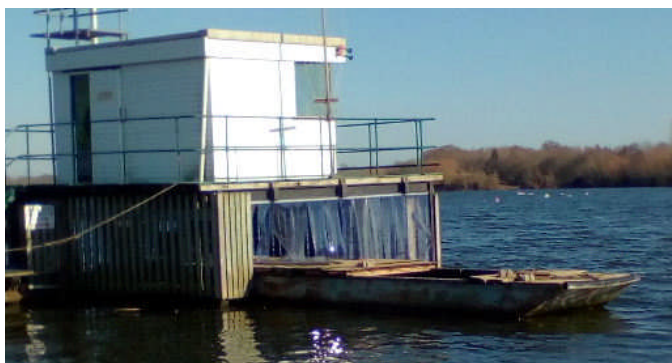
The past few winter months was a hive of activity in the clubhouse, the Giraffe House and the compound. The entire club's electricity has been updated, the clubhouse painted (almost finished), exterior walls repaired and the Beaver brought back into action to resume weed-cutting duties, to name but a few projects. Many thanks to the intrepid cutting teams for going out in all weathers to keep the weed trim!

You will also have noticed the new plastic curtain in the boathouse under the OD box, and the work on the new launching ramp by the entrance gate is making progress, now awaiting the arrival of some heavy equipment to move the very weighty concrete beams into place.

The committee boat has been refurbished, the ribs serviced and the new marker buoys are almost ready to be placed on the lake.

Throughout the working party season soup and other tasty nourishment for the workers was provided by our House Committee!

All this work and much more was carried out by club volunteers, and they all deserve a big THANK YOU!



2018 OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

President	Tony Watts
Commodore	Matt Yallop
Vice Commodore	Neil Batholomey
Rear Commodore - House	Julia Smith
Rear Commodore - Training	Alex Dodds
Immediate Past Commodore	Julia Smith
Past Commodores	
General Secretary	Ian Smith
Treasurer	Neil Batholomey
Membership Secretary	Marion Vessey
Sailing Secretary	Iain Smith
Race Secretary	Ian Burns
House Secretary	Emma Brown
Training Secretary	Claire Corbett
Harbour Master	Steve Yallop
New Member Representative	Pete Tressler
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.

PS - Gary Curtis is 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!



Thanks for these three lovely pictures, Julia!



TRAINING COURSES FOR SAILING



The club offers a variety of sailing courses for adult, junior, and prospective members, whether newcomers to the sport with no previous experience, or those wishing to improve their performance after learning the basics.

SAILING TASTER SESSIONS

The training team can offer Sailing Taster Sessions on request. This can be a 1-1 session with members who wish to up their skill, but do not want to commit to attending a course; these sessions can be hosted using your own boat or a boat from our training fleet. There may be a fee for these sessions depending on instructor availability. The training team are also happy to offer taster sessions for a group (up to 5 children or 3 adults) to ensure they are happy to commit to attending a training course. There will be a fee for these sessions.

RACE 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. Please contact Alex Dodds if you are interested. A basic training fee will be required to help cover costs.

RYA SAIL TRAINING COURSES

We will be running a number of courses which will focus on all sailing abilities. These are run over two consecutive Saturdays between 09:00 – 17.00. There are two sailing schemes which we utilise. These are the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme and the RYA National Sailing Scheme. Full details of the course content is available on the RYA website. A list of the proposed courses can be found below and further courses may be added to the training calendar, focusing on advanced sailing modules.

****Courses will run based on uptake and are available to members and also non-members****

IMPROVING YOUR SAILING

For those members who have attended a training course, to improve your skills we are normally

able to lend you club-owned boats to practise in, for your first year. These boats may only be used with the prior knowledge of a member of the training committee, and will only be available if not being used for training purposes.

To attend any of the above courses you must be at least 8 years old and be able to swim 50 metres in light clothing. All RYA courses are chargeable. Contact the Training Secretary for further information.

TRAINING FOR POWERBOATS

Elementary powerboat training is given on the safe use of all our craft, dates and times are to be arranged locally with Alex Dodds. All new members are encouraged to make use of this training facility.

Structured RYA Powerboat courses (Powerboat Level 2 and Safety Boat) are also provided to MNSC members by our RYA qualified instructors and members will be notified when a course is to be held.

RYA Youth Sailing Scheme

Stage 1 and 2- Start Sailing –
May 12 + 19, June 23 + 30,
August 11 + 18

Stage 3 – Basic Skills (Single Hander)
April 21 + 28, July 7 + 14,
September 8 + 15

Stage 4 – Basic Skills (Double Hander)
July 7 + 14

RYA National Sailing Scheme

Level 1- Start Sailing –
May 12 + 19, June
23 + 30, August 11 + 18

Level 2 – Basic Skills
May 12 + 19, June 23 + 30,
August 11 + 18

Level 3 – Better Sailing
September 8 + 15

For further information on any aspects of training contact:-

Alex Dodds 07510935597

adoddsMNSC@gmail.com

Claire Corbett 07871605574

clairecorbett40@hotmail.co.uk

Any additional training that is organised will be notified by email, the club website, social media and posters at the club.

1953 and 1956

Today, the "Round The Island Race", (that is to say, the Isle of Wight) has an entry of over 1200 boats, between 22ft. and 125ft. in length, with Ainslie-speed catamarans etc. mixed in! The one area not covered is racing dinghies! Far too dangerous today, say Mr. Elf and Mr. Safety!

Back in Coronation Year 1953, the race was much smaller in numbers, and dinghies of 16ft. length could take part. Step forward for Middle Nene young Jim Evans and crew Mike Perkins who, in later years, were both Commodores at Thrapston.

Sailing in Jim's Hornet "Idle Drone", they completed the race. Their position I haven't been able to find, as yachting magazines don't seem to keep archives these days.

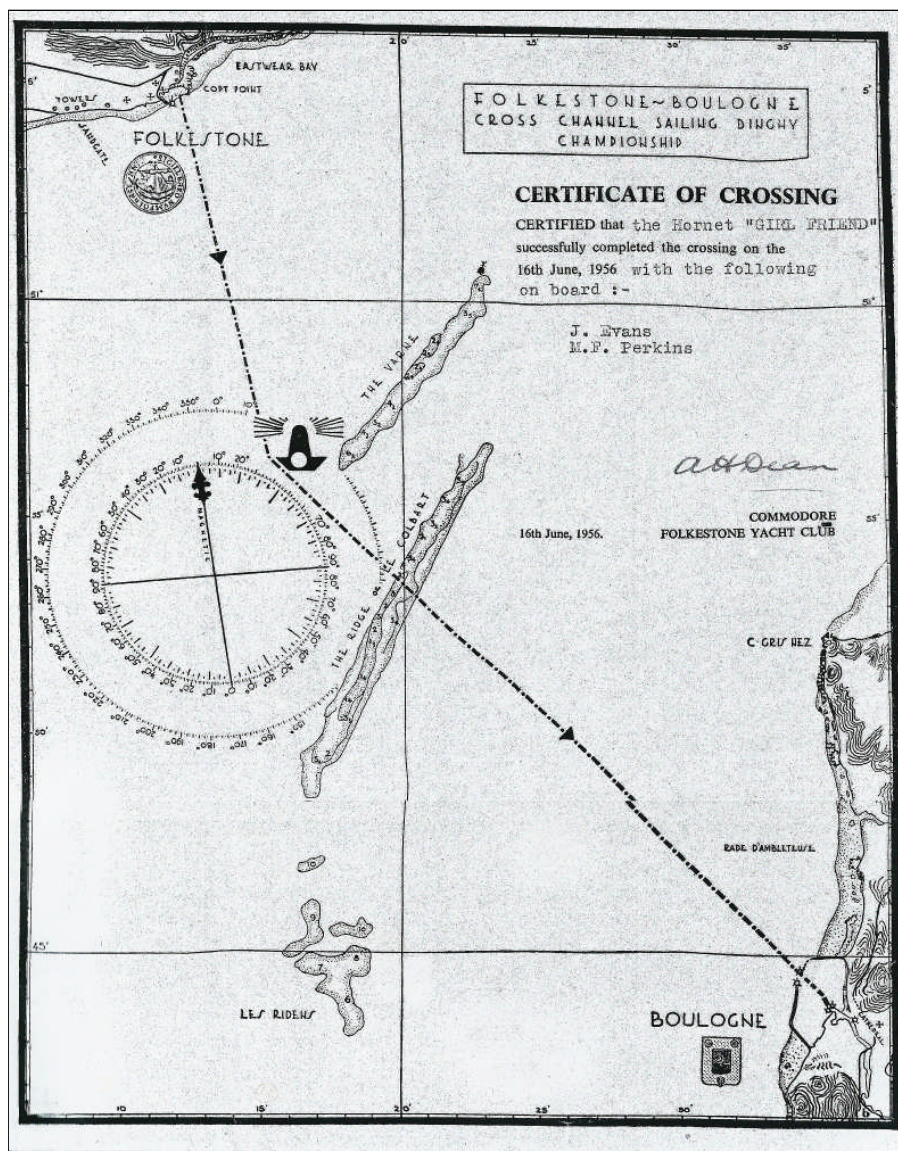
3 years later, the lads had a go at something tougher: The Folkestone - Boulogne Cross-Channel Dinghy Championship. This time in Jim's new Hornet "Girl Friend". Regrettably, in spite of trying, no race report can be traced after 61 years, except to say they finished, and they weren't last! At least we have proof, in the form of a Certificate of Crossing (see picture).

Memories of a different age.....!

Mike Seville (1944 - 2017)



Mike, seen here as a young boy on board of Lindy, was a regular contributor to the 'MNSC roundup' newsletter, writing articles which often gave us a deep insight into what life was like in the first years of our club. This was his final text.
Thank you, Mike!



Above: The Certificate of Crossing from 1956.

Below: The Hornet fleet in the 1950s at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Burnham on Crouch, Essex. Sailing was a little tougher then, with no drysuits, fleeces, GPS or modern sailcloths. So much greater the achievement of sailing Round the Island and crossing the channel. Photo: RCYC

DUTYMAN, THE CLUB HANDBOOK AND REVISED BYE-LAWS

By the time of going to press with this issue of MNSC *roundup*, most of the duties will have been allocated. Many members took advantage of pre-booking their chosen duty dates in the list on the club-house wall or later online. All those who had not made a choice have been given a date in a more or less automated process.

However, even if you cannot do your allocated duty, there is still the option to swap with another member. This can easily be done by accessing Dutyman, finding your dates (highlighted in red) and offering to swap with someone on the same level (Duty Officer, Race Officer, Assistant). The process is menu-guided and easily handled, even on a smartphone.



RACE OFFICER AND POWERBOAT COURSES

Compiling the Dutyman roster reminded us of the urgent necessity to increase the number of members who can run club racing and help with rescue duties.

As Alex mentions in his article on page 8, courses are planned for members to become competent race officers and rescue assistants who can safely handle a powerboat. These courses are available free of charge and to members only.

Being a Race Officer is a very interesting job and not at all daunting. On the contrary, it's very straightforward and even educational. All active sailors depend on this role and they will be most grateful for your help, even forgiving the occasional hiccup with the starting procedure etc. Please contact Alex, expressing your interest, so that the courses can be scheduled. You are really needed!

Thanks to the latest data regulations, we cannot currently publish members' addresses and contact details in the printed version of the handbook. For 2018 all those personal details are only available via Dutyman, so keep your log-in details handy. We are planning to also create a members' register in a special, password-protected part of our club website. For the time being, it might be a good idea to retain the 2017 handbook for address reference - it will of course not contain any new members, but might come in useful.

As part of the data regulations and the latest rules for the well-being of adult and junior members of the club, some bye-laws will have to be extended and/or amended to allow for the new laws. This process is now under way and members will shortly receive a copy of the updated rules, together with an authorisation form to comply with the laws governing the capture, use and storage of images and personal data.

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 Claire Corbett (training@middlenesc.co.uk) and she will help you find the right boat.

roundup is the newsletter of Middle Nene SC and complements all our other communications, including the club's website www.middlenesc.co.uk, the Facebook Group and the regular e-mail bulletins. *roundup* brings a review of what has happened in the club and what's coming up. 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@middlenesc.co.uk or tel. 01536 484 905. I 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!