

March 2008

**DHEKELIA
SAILING
CLUB
NEWSLETTER**



THANK YOU

February was "work month" and the committee would like to thank all those members who did come down and help (and are continuing to do so). We are extremely grateful. To the rest...well, there's always next year!!

From Alan Skitt: the Chief Instructor

I thought that members would be interested in some changes that have been made to the Bosun Dinghies, as follows:

- They have all been fitted with straight rudder blades so that boat handling, especially in strong winds, will be less of a problem than with the old spoon blades.
- New longer line has been fitted to the Centre Plate up/down haul system and a stopper knot added at each end so that now there will always be some line available to raise the plate.
- Jib halliards are all the correct length so that they will now fit on to the rack on the side of the mast. This will allow appropriate rig tension to be applied even in the strongest winds.

Work on these boats is still needed and your help would be much appreciated

The other club boats, under the guidance of the fleet captains, are in good order and the control systems work well.

With regard to the Rescue Boats, they have been fitted with radios that work, and, with the approval of the Sailing Committee, the ground tackle has been enhanced with heavier anchors and more chain and warp.

Thanks are due to Jim & Iris for supplying the galvanised chain that is more substantial than has been previously used.

This has been secured to the boats with a round turn and two half hitches and a bowline which has all been tided up with special tape. It's not as pretty as a splice but it is safer and more line can be added at any time since there is no load on the bowline.

Plastic Tape

It is a requirement of a RYA Regional Training Establishment that all the split rings/pins that secure the shrouds to the shroud plates are secured by plastic tape. We have been somewhat slow to implement this which is designed to enhance the safety of the boats and crew. Last year, an

Albacore mast was almost damaged because a shroud pin was lost and a member cut her hand on a split ring that was not taped down.

I understand that some members are concerned that the use of plastic tape will lead to corrosion of the plates, pins or rigging leading to a failure of the rig. In view of this concern I have been in contact with Mr Ken Kershaw who is chairman of the RYA Technical Committee. He has assured me that there have not been any incidents of this nature reported to the RYA. This applies to dinghies and yachts sailing in fresh or salt water.

New Rules

The International Sailing Federation (ISAF) is to introduce new sailing rules after the Olympics to take effect from January 2009. The main change is to the situation at leeward marks where an overlap will need to be established at three boat lengths not two as has been the case for many years.

On a helpful note, the RYA is to trial a much simplified version of the rules at some clubs with a view to them being used at club level in the future. Anything that makes the rules simpler and easier to understand for the average club sailor who is unlikely to attend open meetings or championships has my vote.

Alan Skitt

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Joiners & Leavers

Welcome to the new Vice Commodore, Chris Mullins, the new Treasurer, Lisa Brown. Also from the new RIB (PWRR), Ben & Donna Tatem. Farewell to former VC Edward Boag, Andrew & Liz Scott, Sandy Butler, Laddie Lowther, and Tasos Anastasiou

Membership Statistics

Total Membership is unchanged from the previous report, with the number of personal members at 84, this is 7 more than at the same time last year.

Membership Renewals

Thanks to those members who have paid their renewal subs in the last couple of weeks. There are a few members who are now overdue and we would appreciate it if those renewal subs can be paid as soon as possible. Payments by cheque can be posted in a sealed envelope in the mailbox at the club. Cash Payments may be paid in person only, to Colin Leigh, or in his absence, to Chris Dodds or Iris Burt.

Steve Kimberley, Membership Secretary

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Email: membership@dhekeliasailing.com

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SAILING CLUB SHOP

As you prepare for the summer, don't forget we have a selection of DSC T-shirts, polo shirts, hats and sweat shirts in a variety of colours and sizes. Contact Sarah White on 99852837 or 22455092.

Finally a note from the editor...

All contributions for the newsletter are welcome. Please let me have them by the 25th of the preceeding month. Email: editor@dhekeliasailing.com

Rachel Gresswell