



# “Notes from the Bridge”

Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club Newsletter – July 2018

Here we are, midway through this wonderful summer and the Burnham Sailing Club is thriving. We have seen a lot of new members, especially families, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all. I have to say that my first year as Commodore of the BSC has been extremely busy, we have had lots of activities and events with many still on the calendar and this year we are very proud to have won the HMS St Mathew Cup. A big thanks to our team of Ian Grey, Ian Simons, Ben Harden and Malc Hutchings

## Racing

Wednesday night racing has seen some impressive start lines with many boats across the various fleets. Racing has been incredibly close. Also, it is encouraging to see our junior Optimist fleet starting to grow.

Recently we hosted the Squib fleet for the annual “Jimmy Starling” series – this year it coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Squib fleet. The Squib was designed by Burnham on Crouch local, Oliver Lee, and inspired by Peter Duce who was a lifetime member of the Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club. After the racing on the Saturday we hosted a dinner and listened to an excellent talk by Jonathan Tucker on the design and early history of the Squib. At one point it was suggested that we all start to sing the “Squib Song”, at which point a few broke into “*It’s coming home .....*”



The new accessible toilet project, which has been driven by John Mellard and John Saunders, is now nearing completion and will greatly help our more senior and less mobile members to

continue to enjoy the Club. It has taken longer than expected but good things are worth waiting for!

This year we also introduced a new race for keelboats on the First Saturday of the month - the Saturday Series. This race follows a different format to the usual one in that it is aimed at introducing keelboat racing to some of our younger dinghy sailors. The racing is very informal and so far has been well received. Places are limited but if you would like to get involved in this please contact Sally Harbott for further information.

As mentioned above, we have seen a significant influx of new members, particularly families, and Friday evenings are very busy. We have also seen significant uptake in StandUp Paddleboarding (SUP) and of course the Kayaks.



It is partly with the new members in mind that I would like to remind everyone that we are a volunteer run club and do not have any employees. This is how we manage to maintain very affordable membership fees. As we are all

volunteers at the club I would like to impress on parents and guardians that they remain responsible for their children at all times whilst at the BSC.

Furthermore, as we do not have a caretaker or manager on site and rely on the support and cooperation of our member volunteers, this brings certain compromises that are mainly concerned with maintaining security. As such, the clubhouse and facilities (changing rooms and pontoon) cannot be left open at all times. We are looking at ways at making the facilities more easily accessible to members whilst maintaining security, but it is difficult and we thank everyone for their patience.

As you know, we installed gates to the pontoon last year and whilst not universally popular they are necessary to prevent unauthorised access. As mentioned earlier we do not have staff and cannot supervise unauthorised users of the pontoon and if anyone was injured using the pontoon we, as a club, would be asked what steps have we taken to prevent unauthorised access. Unfortunately the more widely the keycode is known the less secure it is, so can I ask those of you who do know the keycode **not** to disclose it to non-members.

Also, for members who do use the pontoon, please wear a lifejacket whilst on the pontoon.

### **Clubhouse**

I have to say the clubhouse, dinghy park and surrounding grounds are all looking very smart. It takes a lot of work keeping the place neat and tidy and I would like to thank everyone who has helped. Remember this is your club so don't be afraid to help keep it tidy.

### **Events on the horizon**

Our sailing season is very short at present as we normally finish around the beginning of September. We have to stop around this time not because of the weather but because we race on a Wednesday evening and as the nights draw in we don't have time to have sensible races.

However if we raced at the weekend then we would not have this problem and we could carry on racing during September and October. With this in mind we are hoping to introduce some Keelboat racing in the Autumn and if we have enough interested people we will also introduce the same for the dinghy fleets. Watch this space.

### **Calendar**

Our next big event **Burnham Week** running from **25<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September**

This Regatta is organised jointly by the four clubs on the river and each club plays it part in making the event a success. This year we will be hosting the following events.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Quay Day. We will be opening the club and serving cream teas.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> - We are hosting the John Torrance trophy race for the dinghy sailors. Followed by a hog roast and live band

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> we will be having a fish and chip supper followed by the closing fireworks display

**BSC Regatta** 8<sup>th</sup> September - This is our regatta and we expect to have lots of fun events for the younger members and racing for the dinghy and keelboats as well.



Well that wraps it up from me for the moment so I would just like to say thanks for being part of the BSC and I hope you are enjoying your club.

Alan Hanna,  
Commodore