



Norfolk Punt Club

Spring Newsletter 2024



As I write this Spring Newsletter the sun is shining and the daffodils are out, albeit windy and a bit cool. I hope your boats are all being fettled and are going to be ready for the start of the season on Easter Saturday with the Barton Bunny. We hope the weather is kinder to us this year and we can run all racing. We lost so many weekends last year due mainly to high winds, everything is crossed we have sunshine and perfect breezes.

It might only be March, but we have had two Punt Club events this year. At the end of February, we had the annual dinner and prizegiving. Although attendance was a little down



on last year, I believe everyone enjoyed the evening. I was only made aware afterwards of the handing over of the flag's ceremony, apologies that we did not do this.. Not being an old standing member of the club, and recent years not being "normal", traditions like this may not have been passed on. We will endeavour to put this right in the future.

The second event was a rules evening with Mike MacNamara, with a cheese platter at half time. We also had friends from other clubs who joined us, which was a good for us to show off the Punt Club with a great event. I think it is safe to say we all learned something (and were concerned about how much we didn't know) and were astounded at how big the three-boat length overlap at the mark was for a White Boat. The length of the hall, as it turned out.

At the time of writing, there have been two successful work parties. The first cleared the BTAC field of brambles and undergrowth and the second was breaking up an old raft and erecting the new officers box steps. A huge thank you for all those helped, this work is so necessary to get us ready for the season.



The club rescue boats have been anti-fouled, serviced and repairs carried out. They are now ready for use.

The duty rota is now open for business and is filling up slowly. If you have a particular date on which you would like to do a duty please contact Joan Dickie ASAP. Unless we have sufficient people to do duties, especially OOD, we may have to cancel racing; it has hap-

pened before. We are a small club and everyone needs to play their part, however small; it all makes a difference.

To date have had 48 responses to the club survey and we will be reporting on the results very soon.

The Flags and the Committee have been busy over the closed months and an update is overleaf

Dinghy Park

As you all know the flooding has been extreme this year and the dinghy park has suffered very badly. Simon has been working all winter with Di from BTAC to find the best way forward. We have a short-term plan to use the bottom of the field where we used to park as a dinghy park. BTAC are allowing us to use their slipway so the walk is not too bad.

We are working with BTAC for longer term solutions.

Please do not bring your boat to the field until you have been given a berth number by Dick Roe, moorings@puntclub.co.uk. All road trailers must be taken away from the field.

New Bits

We have one shiny new raft and another being built. We now only have one more of the flat rafts to replace. If you would like to sponsor a raft please let us know and we will have a raft in your name.

We also have some new steps for the officer's box. The old wooden steps were rotten and very slippery and dangerous when wet. We now have non-slip metal steps so hopefully they will last a long time and Alan won't fall down them.

If you haven't seen it, we have a new, very large, container. This is to replace the small container which was donated by Simon Daniels and has been invaluable. The new container has shelves along its length so sails and spars can be stored easily. We all need to work hard to keep the container tidy.

We are having new piles installed once the pontoons are out on the broad. We hope the work will start straight after the tow out, but is unlikely to be finished by the Barton Bunny. The piling rig, etc, will be moved out of the way for this event



Website

Val and Alistair have been working on the website to make it look more modern and easier to find information. Now this work has been undertaken we need to keep the website up to date, therefore we are looking for a Webmaster.

We would like to find someone who would be able to keep the documentation on the website up to date.

- Filing the newsletter on the website so we have a record for people to look back on
- Keeping it up to date when documents change, e.g. sailing instructions.

Saturdays

We are looking to provide some training on the Sunday tasks that will hopefully help those of you who would like to get involved but are a bit unsure of the processes and procedures. These will be very informal sessions and will cover what happens in the box, what the rescue boats are required to do for course setting and the tea hut duties.

If you would be interested in any of these sessions please feel free to contact Kate on commodore@puntclub.co.uk. OOD is nowhere as bad as you might think, please come and give it a go!

Buddy system

As a new initiative for the 2024 season we feel we need to support new members better. We are looking for people who would be willing to buddy a new member.

If we have a list of members willing to be a "buddy" we would try and match the type of sailing the new member is looking for with the most suitable current member. The "buddy" would be there to help new members navigate the quirks of the Punt Club. We would only pass on a telephone number for the initial contact and then it will be up to the buddy on how they take this forward.

As we only have a few new members each year no-one will have more than one new member to help.

If you would be willing to be added to the list please email commodore@puntclub.co.uk.

Buoyancy aids

We would like to keep some buoyancy aids on the pontoons for those who forget theirs

and/or those who get roped into jobs they were not expecting! If you have a buoyancy aid in good condition and would like to donate it please could you give it to one of the flags. We are looking for all sizes.

Volunteers

We are also looking for willing volunteers to cover certain jobs to support the committee. These are roles that do not require you to be on the committee, and can mostly be done remotely.

Sailing secretary

We are still looking for someone (or could be two people to help share the load) with knowledge of the sailing calendar to take on the overseeing of the documentation of anything connected to the sailing.

Ensuring that the Green Book people have the information they require

The correct documentation is up to date for the open meetings

The relevant documentation is sent to the correct people for any events of which we have club representation, e.g. Ramuz Trophy and the youth regatta

Ensuring trophy documentation is kept up to date

Deputy bosun

We would like someone to work with the Rear Commodore and the bosun to look after the club boats. General sailing boat knowledge would be good but not essential.

If you are interested in either of these two roles please contact one of the flag officers or email Kate at