



ANNANDALE SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Lochmaben

March 2005

It has been a busy winter at the club and I am sure you will notice some changes when you return this season. A major task has been building the extension to the boathouse. We hope this will be completed by the end of March and it will make a tremendous difference to our club.

So far the work has been undertaken by a small group of members who have contributed an immense amount of time and effort to the project. I'd particularly like to extend thanks to John Hugo, Duncan Greenhalgh and Mark Greenhalgh who have spent numerous days at the club knee deep in mud, water and being spattered by unmentionable substances. There were a few complications with the foundations and the time given by these members has solved these effectively.

The blockwork should go up fairly rapidly and once this is completed, more help will be required from the members to finish the boathouse. Details of work parties will follow, but please support these if you are able and we may have an excellent new facility by the start of the season. John Hugo and Colin Midgley have been instrumental in the entire project since we first began planning and I thank them sincerely on behalf of you all.

Included in this newsletter you will find the first few weeks of the 2005 sailing programme. A priority date for your diaries is Sunday 20th March when we will launch the jetty. It is essential that as many members as possible attend - many hands make light work. Another date of importance is Sunday 1st May when we open the club for the public to come and try sailing. I encourage you all to promote this day in any way you are able. Posters will be
(Continued on page 2)

Get Your Gladrags On

GAMES, prizes and lots and lots of chocolate!...All junior members (and parents) are invited to the ASC Easter Party on March 26th, Easter Saturday. The event, which follows on from the hugely successful Halloween party last year, promises to be a fun afternoon and a chance to re-group our young sailors to kick off their 2005 activities.

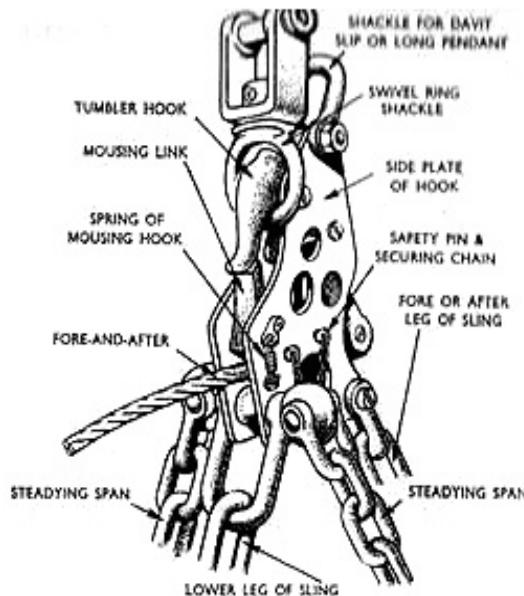
The club will take on an Eastern flavour in April for the first main social event of the year - the ever-popular Curry and Quiz night on Saturday 16th. This has proved such a success in the past few seasons, providing a fun social for members and visitors during the GP14 and Solo Opens. As usual, a variety of mouth watering home-cooked curries will be on offer, followed by a choice of home made desserts. Everyone is invited to bring along their own choice of liquid refreshment!

After dinner it's time to test the old grey matter with a fun, informal team quiz which Duncan Greenhalgh has kindly agreed to organise.

Please come along and bring a friend, any profits made on the night will go into our development fund. Anyone willing to provide a curry to share, please speak to Susan Patterson, Carol Beattie, or Fiona Frost.

Midsummer, and it's time to don your shorts and shades for a Beach Party in the club grounds on June 18th. (Who says you need a beach for a beach party?!!) There will be a barbecue, bar, balloons and bunting and the informal event for all the family will also act as a "christening" for the new boat shed, (especially if it rains!).

The autumn's big fundraising social is still in the very early stages of organisation but will hopefully take the form of a ceilidh. Date and venue to be confirmed.



WHAT'S THIS?

In fact there are two questions - and don't turn the page yet!

- 1 What is it and what's it for?
- 2 Who had the picture and knew?

Answers overleaf.

THANKS A LOT

With the large drain on the club's finances, the committee agreed to ask for a wee bit extra this year.

Voluntary donations have been pleasingly generous and a big thanks is due to all who dug deep.

WORK PARTIES

There's a fair bit of work to be done this Spring with the new boathouse and sundry maintenance jobs. While emails will still go to those who get them now, please let Andrew know if you can help, even a little. He'll keep your name on a list and make contact by phone when work's to be done. Phone him on 01461 40581

THE SEASON STARTS HERE

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	COMM BOAT	SAFETY BOAT
MARCH					
Sun	13 th	1300	Junior Squad		
Sat	19 th	1300	Junior Squad		
Sun	20 th	1000	Jetty In		
Sat	26 th	1300	Easter Party		
Sun	27 th	1400	EASTER EGG RACE	A Greenhalgh	D Greenhalgh
APRIL					
Sun	3 rd	1400	Topper Team Racing		
Sun	10 th	1400	Topper Team Racing		
Mon 11 th – Fri 15 th			Easter Training Week		
Sat	16 th	1200	SOLO OPEN MEETING GP14 OPEN MEETING	D Greenhalgh J Hugo	N Smith F Ritchie A Thomson
		1930	Curry Evening & Quiz Night		
Sun	17 th	1100	GP14 OPEN MEETING	D Greenhalgh F Gibson	N Smith F Ritchie L Tosh
		1130	N12 OPEN MEETING		
Sun	24 th	1400	Spring Handicap 1	A Greenhalgh	A Thomson
		TBA	Spring Handicap 2	J Campbell	C Thomson
MAY					
Sun	1 st	1200	OPEN DAY		

Give thanks for Mr Robinson?!? Who he??

Boat launching? No problem – the macho ones use the wet launch and get wet: Wrinklies, and other normal human beings, use the ramps and try to get afloat with dry feet.

But from a ship? Some of you may have seen a liner doing lifeboat drill in harbour. The boat is lowered into the water, those big blocks on the end of the falls are disengaged from the boat's built-in slings – and away she goes.

But in emergency in the open sea? Maybe with a few feet of swell and the ship not quite stationary in the water? Lower the boat into the waves and then try to unhook those blocks without getting a sudden headache or losing a finger? And if the for'd falls come clear first and the ship still has any headway on, then it all becomes even more 'interesting'

Enter Mr Robinson and his Patent Disengaging Gear. A fine pile of apparently Victorian vintage contorted metal and chain – but it works.

At either end of the boat, some of the contorted metal, including an all-important tumbler hook, is secured to the boat's slings and to the falls. Link the two hooks with the chain, tension it, and the hooks remain clipped to the falls – remove the safety pins, release the tension, and the tumbler hooks open simultaneously. How to release? The chain incorporates a bottle screw, for tensioning, and a slip lever for release.

So now: lower the boat until the waves are just brushing the keel, engage the air cooled engine, out pins and "SLIP"! Properly judged, the boat drops onto the top of a wave and is away. Badly judged, the boat drops a few feet into a trough, the crew complain, but the boat still is away.

In either case, give thanks for Mr Robinson!

ALASDAIR COOK

available in the clubhouse.

In terms of sailing, do come and have a go at team racing in the club Toppers. This is a unique style of race that is great fun and introduces a totally new dimension to racing. I encourage all Solo, National 12 and GP14 sailors to support their relevant Open Meeting over the weekend 16th & 17th April. Finally an event not to be missed - the SWSSA Team, Individual and Junior Rosebowl Competitions at Solway Yacht Club on 28th & 29th May. Kippford is a fantastic place to sail and socialise and I do hope we will have a big team there to defend all four titles.

If you have already paid your subscriptions for 2005, your full copy of the sailing programme will be sent to you very soon. If not, please do join us again, let me know if you require a new membership form and I'll get one to you.

I look forward to seeing you all at the club regularly throughout 2005 and I wish you all an enjoyable and successful sailing season.

Andrew Greenhalgh