



COMMODORES REPORT

Before I describe the year in great detail, I would like to wish Mark and Margaret all the best for their future together. Margaret announced, only at the time of writing, that they had both sneaked off (October 30th) to a local registry office and tied the knot.

I know that everyone involved at Dee, will join with me in congratulating them, and hope that Margaret still lets Mark come down to the club, for voluntary activities, and the odd pint.

As usual, at the start of the sailing season there is a great deal of speculation on how the season and club would progress in the coming year. The main aim of 2009 was to ensure the club celebrated one hundred years of existence, and to host the Dart 18 National Championships in August. With no major Dart 18 event planned for Easter, the winter maintenance programme became a more relaxed affair. Dawpool and the Ark had a good 'going over', and it was fantastic to see the various craftsmen perfecting long forgotten skills, around the boatyard, on a Sunday morning. I never realised anti-fouling Dawpool was a long forgotten skill, but that's what they told me!

Anyway, the sailing season began with a 'bang' and it was not long until the Open Day, Junior/Sea Scout open day and Regattas weekend appeared from nowhere. The three day River Dee regatta series organised between Dee and West Kirby Sailing Club was an outright success, with a good turnout of Dinghies and tidal boats, including some of Dee's cruising fleet, but in competitive mode!

In late spring the club began to focus it's attentions on the forthcoming Dart 18 National Championships. We knew this event would make or break the clubs reputation, and planning had been going on for over a year, to ensure the event was a success. On the build up to the event the entire exterior of the club house was painted by willing volunteers, even the 'green container' was painted red, and this still causes confusion to this day!



Finally, the competitors arrived, in continues to go from strength to total 57 boats entered, in what proved to strength. Dee held a successful be testing sailing conditions, but Dee's Northern Optimists Championship in 'legendary status' on the social front, September, which proved that the junior was proven over the four day event. sailors are key to the future of Dee. Dee's 'legendary status' on the sailing The Sailing Committee is looking to front was also proven by James and capitalise on the momentum gained Cameron Douglas, by coming second from the junior fleet and are working on overall, and only missing out on a Sailing Development Plan, in order National Championship status by one for the club to achieve RYA OB point. Overall, the event was a fantastic (OnBoard) status. The aim of On success, even with limited sponsorship Board status is for the club to become a monies, the made a profit of over two recognised training establishment and thousand pounds and everybody went to encourage people of all ages to get home exhausted, but with the involved in sailing. More details will satisfaction that we had actually done it, follow in 2010, but watch out; we will be and done it well! My thanks go out to looking for trainee sailing instructors.

everybody involved in the Nationals, with dedication and commitment; we proved the doubters wrong and had great fun. We need to host the Nationals again, any ideas for a date?

Membership numbers continue to grow, and the cruising fleet goes from strength to strength. Many new members are beginning to realise what a fantastic place the Dee Estuary is for weekend adventures. Cruisers beware, Mike Shillaker is in possession of a new racing vessel, which he plans to campaign in 2010. Mike is very persuasive (hence my role as Commodore!), so cruisers may find themselves being forced into racing around the 'cans' even if they were not expecting to.

Junior development and racing success at a local and national level

I could write another two pages on what has gone on this year. The Commodores report, by its very nature, must be jolly and positive, and I feel that in 2009, there is genuinely a lot to be jolly and positive about. Too many people to list, have dedicated so much time to Dee this year, to ensure we carry on what we do best, sailing. There is still scope to see more boats racing at Dee, and I would pay good money to find an answer to that one. There are plenty of unused boats in the boatyard that need to be on the water, week in and week out! I look forward to my final year as Commodore, and hope the club can continue to build on this year's momentum.

Andy Goudie



Small Cruisers Report

2009 was a good year for the small Cruisers. An increased number on the moorings and more lining up ashore towards the end of the season for use in 2010. By now all the boats are packed away ashore, their season done, with tasks lined up to be undertaken over the winter period.

Thoughts for the next season can also commence (Thoughts let you sit in a warm chair when it's too cold to be outside working on the boat) Gareth and Mark are considering taking one of their boats to Conway and back. Perhaps as a warm up, we could do a fleet run round the corner to off Rhyl and back in, on the next tide. Most of us will be re-launching late April/Early May so one of the first things is to consider some activity around the moorings on the Club open day, we had four boats out for this last year which was good but a few more might be better. See what you can do.

We are asked to attend a couple of the Captains work parties early in the new year, as usual 4-5 people on a couple of Sunday mornings will do nicely. This is something the Cruiser group managed well last year with a full turn out on each of the days, see you there? Dates will be advised.

FLEETS



Juniors

I would like to tell you all that it's been the best year for juniors, I would like to say the weather been fantastic. I would like to say the water at the lake has been just what the doctor ordered and the turn outs have been unparalleled.

Unfortunately the above is but a dream, as you all know the lake was drained for most part of the year and when refilled the weather wasn't brilliant and the turnouts very meagre.

With all the "juniors" growing up and moving on to other classes, and no new ones to follow Saturdays down at the lake are just not happening.

Charlie and Max have been all around the Country attending "Oppie" events so I have not been able to put in as much effort as may be required.

Several older juniors have gone to University or are sailing on Sundays on the tide. Or even better in the GB squads and are away each weekend.

We have had some great summers down at the lake that's why I joined DSC.

If those days are to come back and if this club is to get juniors sailing something is required now. It may need a new younger captain who can "get down" with young dudes, (and be able to text)

It may need mums and dads to make more effort and drag themselves and kids out of bed. It may even need a new day, Maybe Sunday.

On a positive note some of those older juniors, who all started on the lake are now doing brilliant!



Cam and Robert Douglas on Abersoch Beach during Mirror/Dinghy week.



Optimist News

The Oppie squad have had a busy year despite the problems associated with the draining of the marine lake. 4 local sailors competed in the major events, Dee SC held it's first ever Optimist open meeting, 2 sailors have been selected for the Winter squad training, 1 sailor is lost to the Laser 4.7 fleet (and goes into the top 10), 2 new sailors (Robbie and Paul), more Oppies bought from WKSC, Wirral Junior regattas dominated by Dee sailors and the Dee sailors were placed second in the North West Junior Series.

Congratulations to go to James Hazlewood for his victory at the Inland championships, Charlie Ewing for his NWJTT results and gaining a place in the RYA squad, Sam Bain and Max Spedding for winning all the Junior Regattas and Abigail Sanders for completing every race in the Northern Oppy Championships.

Special thanks go to John Oliver, Dave Bain and ex Oppy dads for providing rescue at our Open meeting.

If you are interested in getting your young ones into sailing then please speak to Pete Spedding. The club has several boats that are available for members to use and is planning to run a full Winter training program.

FLEETS CATAMARANS

Dart 18

The Dart 18 nationals were a major focus for the fleet this year as it was the first time they have been held here and what a way to celebrate our centenary year.

The 57 entries included boats from Holland, Italy and France and the entry was up on last year bucking the trend in many classes this year and good enough to be close to the top 20 nationals turnouts.

The strong field included Dan Norman and Mel Rodgers (Sheppey) the defending champions (and former world Champions) and the current world champion Emmanuel Dode (SR Vannes)

8 races were scheduled and 6 were completed in a variety of conditions using windward /leeward courses, set by the local Dee SC team managed by the professionals from Starlight Coaching.

The title was won by Dave and Louise Roberts with Team Douglas a close second but winning the first parent/child trophy. The masters trophy was won by Gareth Owen and Amanda Gadsby

The Dart Nationals was a great success, many thanks to all the hard work from the members. Will Thompson had a good year on the national travellers series just missing out on the overall prize.

This year the Nationals has been the major focus and the spin off benefits have

been 4 new boats added to the fleet this year.

In October we held the first training sessions for Dart 18 supported by the RYA. Next year race training will be our focus, trying to help members of the fleet improve their racing skills.

The fleet is looking forward to the World Championships next year which are to be held at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, the 2012 olympic sailing venue.

Fast Cats

Fast Cat racing got off to an inauspicious start in 2009 with only one boat on the water for the first race of the season in light wind conditions that set the pattern for the year - races cancelled because of the lack of wind and the next weekend a howling gale – Pieter will testify to that we tried for 2 weekends on the trot to sail, when Mike was on his Holidays, and never got on the water once.

A new team joined us late on in the first series, Andy and Liz, who have given everybody, at times, a run for there money on their Hurricane and have taken the trophy for the second series. Rob and Arthur did a few tweaks to the F18 at the start of the season and have sailed well and taken second place.

The Baines brothers now have some direct boat on boat competition and are promising to race more in 2010 gaining a second place in the Wirral Regatta series with Andy and Liz just in front with first place.

The Hurricane has generated some interest in the dinghy park with one or two people, names withheld, showing an interest in sailing a fast cat and residing in the “naughty boys corner”, our commodores label not mine.

Simon has been kept away from sailing, after having a “mid life crisis” career change, which has seen him start up a new venture and has limited his time at Dee - so best of luck.

Best wishes also to Ian Kirk for a speedy recovery and we hope to see you back on the water next season.

Dee SC running the Dart nationals has overshadowed most things this year and

I would like to say thanks to Graham, Nigel and all the fast catters for coming out of “naughty boys corner” and giving up time to help with the Dart 18 Nationals even Richard, who was sunning it up in Oz, crazily dashed back get stuck in - must be mad.

We are going to run some “fun” races over the winter to keep everyone in shape ...So lets all join in and have a laugh.

Dee Sailing Club Traditional Christmas Dinner

Saturday 12th December Reception 7.00pm, Dinner 7.30pm

In our Centenary year the Christmas Dinner, is being held at Sheldrakes Restaurant, Banks Road Heswall. Ticket prices are frozen at a 'recession busting' £23.00 per guest, for a sumptuous four course dinner, at one of the best restaurants on the Wirral! There is a maximum of 60 tickets available, so be quick and purchase your tickets from behind the bar. All tickets must be paid for in advance, and are not returnable. Table plan: minimum of 4 guests, maximum of 10 guests!