

Summer 2014



DOVEY BELL

Ding Dong the Bell is back!

Welcome to the new electronic version of the Dovey Bell (perhaps it should be renamed the Dovey Buzzer.....or perhaps not!).

It's some time since the paper version of the DYC newsletter was last distributed and there's been a lot going on at the Yacht Club in recent months, so we thought it was time to let the Bell ring out once again!

We're now well into the summer sailing season and there's been lots of activity on the water.

As well as hosting events such as Boardwise, the Chelmarsh Weekend and the Supernova National Championships (more inside) there have been both youth and adult sailing courses and a number of social and non-sailing events taking place, including the annual Police Bike Ride.

And in the background, the committee has been working hard to keep the Club in good shape.



The Clubhouse has just had a new lick of paint and coat of varnish to repair the battering it took during the winter storms; Des has been busy repairing the Club RIB and boats to ensure they remain seaworthy for the summer sailing season and we also now have an online event booking system which means that in future you can book and pay for training, sailing and social events in the comfort of your own home without needing to 'sign-up' on the Club noticeboard.

This year's AGM is scheduled to take place at 7pm on Friday 1st August in the Clubhouse and it would be great to see as many members attend as possible, as it's your opportunity to have your say. And remember, social members can attend too (but can't vote), so please do come along.

We hope you have a good summer's sailing and look forward to seeing you either on the water or in the Clubhouse.

DYC Committee

Supernova Success!

The Supernova Class held its 2014 National Championships at Dovey Yacht Club over the weekend of 4-6th July and all involved agreed that it was a great success, for both sailors and the Yacht Club.



If you've not come across a Supernova before, it's a single-handed dinghy with a fully battened mainsail – a bit like an oversized Laser. The class is currently going from strength-to-strength and more than 60 boats competed in the Championships, creating a spectacular sight both on and off the water.



The event was masterminded by Rupert Tildesley who also acted as Principal Race Officer and he ensured the competitors had 3 days of first-class racing. More than 30 club members gave up their time to help out both on and off the water and, as well as racing, the event included a sit-down supper for 80 on the Saturday evening!

The racing on day 1 was confined to the estuary because of conditions over the bar, but apart from a few lake sailors struggling to come to terms with the tide for the first time, 3 excellent races took place.

Races on days 2 and 3 were held in Cardigan Bay under blue skies and perfect sailing conditions. The racing was very competitive and the event was eventually won by Mark Hartley (who also happens to be the Supernova boat builder) who beat last year's champion by just 1 point.



Paul Earnshaw, Chairman of the Supernova Class Association, commented: *"Dovey Yacht Club really went out of its way to host an event tailored to our specific needs. It was a spectacular success in every respect: fantastic sailing, great location with stunning scenery and a really friendly club. We couldn't have been made to feel more welcome. A really big thank you to everyone involved."*

Rupert Tildesley concluded: *"A great job by everyone at DYC; we can all feel very proud of what we achieved. The class has already asked if they can return to Aberdyfi in the future (possibly 2018) and plans are now underway for hosting a similar event, but with a different class, in 2015."*





Chelmarsh & Sutton return to DYC

Chelmarsh & Sutton sailing clubs returned to Aberdyfi for a weekend's racing in May.

The mixed fleet included Solos, Lasers, GP14s, a Laser 2000, Merlin Rocket, Enterprise, Xenon, Laser Fun and a Topper.

32 sailors competed over the 2 days and Tony Hanan, a Solo sailor from Chelmarsh, dominated the event with a first place in every race!

Dovey Yacht Club was represented by Richard Parsons, Robin Druett, Meryl Gover and David Rooley.

The Chelmarsh weekend is a firmly established part of our sailing calendar and everyone is looking forward to its return next year.

Boardwise a big hit on and off the water

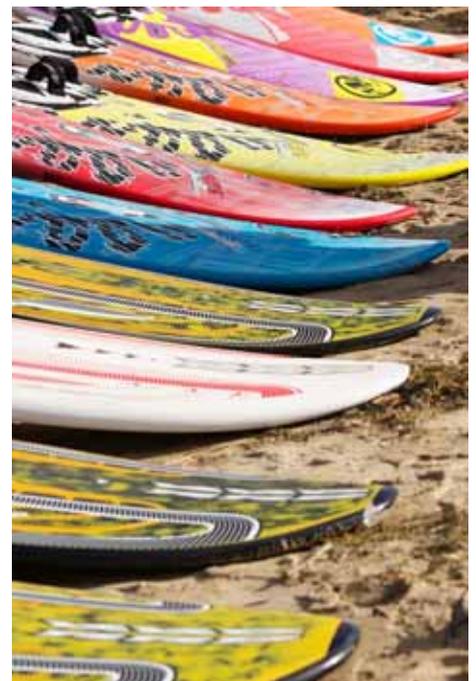
The Boardwise windsurfing event proved yet again to be a big hit on and off the water.

Sponsored by the Cannock based windsurf dealer, the event includes demo days when anyone can try out the very latest windsurfing kit and also a UKWA/BSA slalom racing event.

The winds were lighter than many top sailors hoped for, but it didn't dampen the sailors legendary enthusiasm for partying in Dovey Yacht Club late into the night!

Boardwise is a great spectacle and also a chance for dinghy or cruiser sailors to have a go at windsurfing or even paddleboarding!

Never let it be said that sailors only do it sitting down. Some do it standing up too!



Volunteers needed

DYC has more than 400 members, but the majority of the workload always seems to fall on the same couple of dozen hard-pressed volunteers who continuously give up their time for the benefit of all.

So this is a plea for more members to step forward and volunteer to help out in whatever way they can.



It doesn't matter if you prefer to help out on the water, running races or providing safety boat cover, or by pulling pints behind the bar, or by helping to organize and run social events – there's plenty of work for all willing volunteers!

If you don't live in Aberdyfi, there's always an opportunity for you to help out when you do happen to be at the Yacht Club and there's also plenty of scope for social members to become involved too.

I'm sure every social member will agree that DYC is the best bar in the village – well, why not have a go at helping behind the bar for an evening? We have a new easy to use cash till and you simply have to tap a button that says 'pint' or 'G&T' - it even tells you how much change to give, so there are no excuses about not knowing how things work!

Getting sufficient numbers of volunteers has been our Achilles heel for too long and a few more helping hands would make a huge difference to what we're able to achieve.

If you're happy to help, please let any committee member know – your efforts will be very much appreciated.

Fees please !

An ongoing problem the Club faces is collecting fees from members in a timely fashion.

Members are usually sent their annual subscription details during November and, ideally, fees should be paid before the 1st March. Unfortunately, half way through the year we have only received payments from approximately half our members.

I'm sure you can appreciate this makes planning our finances very difficult and it's almost impossible to commit to larger expenditure items when our finances remain so uncertain.

We appreciate that some people may not be renewing their membership for a wide variety of reasons including moving away from the area, job moves or simply losing interest in sailing. If that's the case, it would be really helpful if you could let David Mason, membership secretary, know by sending an e-mail to: davidalanmason@gmail.com or by returning your renewal reminder to him with a note attached.

If you've simply forgotten to pay, can you please pay your membership subscription as soon as possible, as it makes a big difference to our cashflow. Next year, we'll be introducing an online payment system offering more ways to pay annual subscriptions, so hopefully late payments should become less of a problem.

To help ease the transition from junior to adult membership, we've also introduced a Young Persons' category which covers everyone between the ages of 18 and 30. At £55 per year, that works out at just over £1 per week which represents excellent value, I'm sure you'll agree.

On Yer Bike!

The Aberdovey Bike Ride, which first came to Aberdyfi in 1994, descended on the village yet again this year on Friday 27th June, with more than 570 riders finishing at Dovey Yacht Club, having survived both floods and lightning en-route!

But a spot of Welsh weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of cyclists who peddled hard for more than 100 miles between Wolverhampton and Aberdyfi and who are expected to raise more than £60,000 for a range of worthy causes. One cyclist even took part on a penny-farthing!

And with the event being a firm favorite with Wolverhampton's constabulary, it was perhaps no surprise that the bar was almost drunk dry after the event!

In recognition of the support provided for this event by DYC, a defibrillator has been donated to DYC by the police. Having just cycled 100 miles over the Cambrian mountains and through the worst of Welsh weather, it's surprising that this life saving piece of kit hasn't been deemed essential before now!

Bob Usher, who accepted the defibrillator on behalf of DYC, said: *"It's always a pleasure welcoming the cyclists to DYC and, yet again, they have managed to raise an impressive sum for various good causes."*

"The defibrillator is a welcome addition to our safety equipment and it will be located so that it's accessible to everyone in the village."



Ever thought about joining the committee?

Sit on the balcony on a sunny summer weekend and you'll inevitably hear someone say 'Why doesn't the committee do this...or that?'

Well, if you have ideas about what you would like to see happen at DYC, why not join the committee? You simply need to put yourself forward for election at the AGM and ask a couple of existing committee members to propose and second you.

It may sound a bit intimidating but it's not - honestly! The committee is typically made-up of 10-12 club members who are willing to give up their time and effort for the greater good of DYC.

Committee meetings usually take place once a month on a Saturday morning at the Yacht Club. There are both sailing and social sub-committees, so if you prefer to focus your energies either on or off the water, that's fine.

Becoming more involved in the running of DYC is very rewarding and gives you a great opportunity to turn your ideas into action.

So don't just sit and talk about it over a pint, come and sit at the top table and share your thoughts!

Training matters

DYC's training programme has gone from strength to strength during 2014 under the guiding hand of Phil Morgan.

DYC is now a recognised RYA Training Centre and is able to run both dinghy sailing and powerboat courses.

During 2014 a number of successful adult and junior sailing courses have been held, with training for local juniors being subsidised by the Toby Edwards Memorial Fund and DYC. The club has also run Powerboat Level 2 and Safety Boat courses and more training is scheduled for the year ahead.



Anyone interested in learning to sail can still book courses taking place in July and August. Level 1 Start Sailing courses for juniors and adults are being held on 23rd July and 13th August and a Level 2 sailing course for juniors also starts on the 13th August. All courses can be booked via the DYC website, where there is further course information and downloadable joining instructions.

Phil Morgan points out that training does far



more than simply improve sailors' skills: *"Running training courses has proven to be a great way to attract new members, who get to sample the benefits of sailing at DYC first-hand."*

"I'm also keen to encourage more locals to join in and dispel the myth that sailing is a sport only for the wealthy minority."

Anyone who has attended a course can then hone their skills by joining in social sailing on any Friday evening, where safety boat cover is provided and experienced sailors are at hand to provide encouragement and guidance, if required. There's also food provided in the clubhouse afterwards.

'We've done well attracting more junior members this year, but it would be good to see a few more adults signing-up for sailing courses' concluded Phil Morgan. "If you're a social member and have wondered if sailing may be for you, why not do a training course and find out?"

Dovey Yacht Club has a proud history of youth sailing, with many junior members going on to compete at the very highest level in their chosen classes.

Youth sailing

That tradition continues and our youth sailors are an important part of club sailing.

Here are some key dates for junior sailors' diaries (sorry....we meant smart phones, ipads, tablets etc).....

Sat 26th July - Picnic cruise – fun trip up the estuary for all abilities, with a packed lunch.

Sun 27th- Fri 8th Aug – Racing every day for those who want it. Jetty jumping for those that don't.

Sat 9th Aug – Fun race around the estuary. Paddles, pulling, pushing, allowed!

Mon 18th-Fri 22nd Aug - Topper sailing every afternoon for all abilities.

6/7th Sept Club trip for juniors to Bala. BBQs, camping etc... all abilities, join DYC junior team!

20/21st Sept - Club trip for juniors to Clywedog reservoir. Camping BBQ, all abilities.

Sat 4th Oct - DYC CYRC Open Topper Event, for all Topper sailors.

Signing-up sheets for both the Bala and Clywedog trips will be put on the club notice board so keep an eye open for them.



DYC 2013
youth
prize-
winners

Book & pay online

That'll do nicely!

Following a suggestion made at last year's AGM, DYC has been testing a new online payment system which enables members to book and pay for training courses, social events and annual membership subscriptions online.

If you go to the DYC website, you'll see a button called 'Bookings' which takes you through to sub-pages where you can book and pay for activities using a variety of payment methods including direct debit, bank transfer, PayPal, cash and cheque.

Josh Cooper explains the benefits of the new system: *"To date, members wanting to book an event or a training course have only been able to do so via a list on the club noticeboard, which is obviously a disadvantage for those members who don't live in Aberdyfi."*

"The new system means members can now not only book events from the comfort of their own homes, but can also choose the payment method that suits them best."

To date, the system has been trialed on a number of training courses, but it will now be extended to include social events and later this year will be rolled-out to include annual membership subscriptions.

Josh added: *"Events will still be advertised on the noticeboard, on the club website and via e-mail. The main difference is that you can now book online. Those members who don't like the idea of going online can still pay by cash or cheque and can ask any DYC member to book an event on their behalf."*

A new computer has been located in the lounge next to the OD box which is available for members' use.

Josh concluded: *"The first time you use the booking system you need to register, which simply involves inputting your name, e-mail address and creating a password. It's very quick and easy and only needs to be done once."*

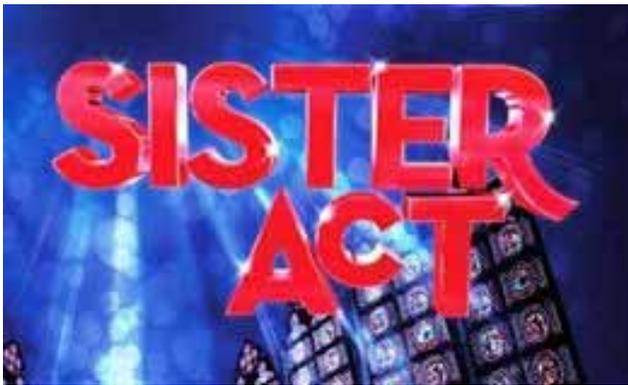
The system is in use by a number of other sailing clubs, who have been very helpful giving DYC feedback and guidance. If you need any help with the new booking system, please don't hesitate to phone either Josh or Rhian Cooper on 01654 767711.



Forthcoming social events

Dovey Fortnight is nearly upon us and there will be a number of informal social events taking place, so keep an eye on the noticeboard for further information.

If you fancy a trip to the theatre to see the hilarious smash hit 'Sister Act' at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on 7th August, you can still sign-up for a place on the coach and a ticket to the show via a list on the noticeboard or by phoning Wendy Usher on 01654 767580.



Tickets cost £26 which includes the coach fare. Please pay John Alcock in advance. The coach will pick up from Neuadd Dyfi at 5pm and Penhelig at 5.05pm.

Other forthcoming events include a Coastal Supper on Saturday 2nd August, Prize Giving on Saturday 25th October and Christmas Dinner on Saturday 6th December. Please keep an eye on the noticeboard, club website and your e-mail for further information.

Got any news or photos?

If you have any news and/or photos for future editions of the Dovey Bell, please forward them to Josh Cooper at josh.cooper@btinternet.com

