

With the end of February in sight it's time to start thinking about the new sailing season. The calendar for this year is now available on the club website so check it out and get those dates into your diary now!

Membership Matters

Thanks to all those members who renewed promptly. You should have received your new membership card and boat stickers this week.

Now an apology. In previous years Family members have been issued with their own membership card. Unfortunately due to a system glitch these couldn't be produced in time to be included in the pack. Rest assured that if you opted for Family membership they are still in our records. If a family member specifically wants their own card let me know and I will endeavour to produce one in the next few weeks.

Finally, renewal time always sees us losing a few members. This year is no different, with people giving up sailing or moving their boats away from the area. To ensure we can maintain a lively and active club it's important to keep our membership levels up. So it's up to **you** to promote the club at every opportunity. If you've pontoon neighbours that aren't members then bend their ears!!

Roger Davis – Membership Secretary

Forthcoming Events

Fitting Out Supper - Saturday 19th March

Watch out for the email about the Fitting Out Supper to be held at The White Hart Hotel, 55 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1XE (7pm for 7.30pm) You'll need to email your menu choices and names of those coming to Graham Eaton (g.m.eaton@icloud.com) no later than Friday 11 March.

Hope to see you there!

Next Skills Forum - Tuesday 8 March

This last forum of the winter is a talk on the weather by Lee Blacknell, Second Coxswain of Newhaven Lifeboat. This should be a really informative session so please do take advantage of this kind offer by Lee. **Meet at Newhaven Lifeboat House on West Quay at 7:00 p.m.** There will also be an opportunity to have a look over the newly refurbished Lifeboat. Contact Maurice on 07740 638420 for further details.

Frostbite Race 20 March

The Frost Bite race will take place, subject to the weather, on 20th March with a 12:00 noon start. The start line will be a transit due south of the lighthouse on the western arm of Newhaven Harbour. The exact course will be notified by e-mail nearer the day with a final confirmation on Channel 77 at 11:30 on the day. Contact Maurice on 07740 638420 for further details.

Simpson Marine

Simpsons chandlery at Newhaven Marina are planning a big promotional event over the weekend **19 – 20 March**. We're told that significant discounts will be offered on various items. Full details will be circulated to members when they become available.

And on a similar theme this just in from

Peter Leonard Marine, Denton Island

“Our boat jumble this year is on the **20th March**. Gates open at 9am. We have a lot of jumble this year and will also be running special 1 day promotions in our chandlery.

Also, please remind your members that we offer a 10% discount off normal RRP prices to all members.”

Recent Events

Skills Forum 9th February

This event was not a usual Skills Forum, but a visit to the new University Technical College in the newly renovated Marine Workshops by

the swing bridge in Newhaven. Thirteen members enjoyed a tour of the college and short talk by the Principal, Jonathan Clarke.

It was agreed that it was a fantastic building and a wonderful place for young people to learn. Do have a look here: <http://www.utc-harbourside.org/> to see all about it.

Lousiana Lightning – 13 February

An excellent turnout of members, joined by several members from Newhaven Coastwatch, enjoyed a great evening of country/rock music with dinner. Thanks to all concerned for setting up, running the bar, raffle etc.

Buddy Sailing

Richard Mitchell, the scheme coordinator, will be stepping back for a while as he is about to undergo an operation. I'm sure you will join us in wishing him a speedy recovery.

So, if you are a buddy skipper, please please help to keep this very successful scheme running in his absence by taking out buddy sailors when you can.

And whilst on the subject, you will notice we've scheduled a couple of dates in the sailing calendar specifically for buddy sailing. These are in addition to the ad hoc system skippers currently use. We hope that by putting dates into the diary it will help skippers and buddies plan availability.

Rampion Windfarm Updates

Construction is now well underway with a lot of vessels and platforms on site. It's vital to keep up to date if sailing in the area as exclusion zones are in operation.

Nigel Cooper has provided a report on the latest situation and it's available on the club website under the News tab. It makes for very interesting reading.

Also, related activity in Newhaven Port is producing a stream of Notices to Mariners that are also available on the website.

Sovereign Harbour Buoyage

Trinity House, the official deep sea pilotage authority, has given Premier Marinas permission to deploy a special mark adjacent to the wreck of the S.S. Barnhill, to act as an alert for sea traffic

Blimey, it's only taken 60 years!! (Ed)