

## NEWS FROM THE COMMODORE

It is a mild December day and I am sitting on the Clubhouse verandah writing this introduction to the Winter Newsletter enjoying the seasonal tranquility of Wroxham Broad. No leaves, no sails, bare poles; but the water level is high and so are my hopes for the coming year.

On my first official day, two years ago, I quickly learned that the main vehicles that carry this club through the busy sailing season may be out of sight in winter, but their engines are still busily running, driving the committee meetings and planning the year ahead.

But first, a tremendous thanks to James for his year of stewardship, leaving the club in ship-shape order as befits a 'man of the sea'. Much good work accomplished in many areas and we are all grateful beneficiaries of his diligence.

Whilst I have watched the sailing and social programmes for next year emerge from Geoff and Daphne, I can only presume that they have Swiss clock-making parents as I marvel at the calendar cogwheels of Green Book, White Card, Bistro Nights and Christmas Dinner smoothly engaging - not to mention the intricacies of the Wroxham Week programme itself.

In the meantime, wet berths and jetties are receiving attention from Jim whilst Gilly's training facilities are due for an upgrade to compensate for the loss of her hunky firemen who regrettably have cancelled their training this year.

Speaking of Training and Juniors, welcome to Natalie Chapman-Young who has taken over the Oppie fleet, the basis of our future club membership - so important.

Already my year has started with a real 'BANG' at the Firework Night and possibly a record number of families attending, lured by Poppy's mulled wine, Lyndon's themed music and Jim's band of Pyromaniacs crackling, whooshing and banging like never before.

More recently came Peggy Batchelor's supper, at which an RYA Community Award was presented in recognition of her long and selfless voluntary commitment to the club. Thanks are due here entirely to James for his perception and timing. What a lovely evening with so many appreciative guests, club members and family friends. "What's yours Peggy?" "A small Barley Wine, dear, if you please". It is such a pleasure to be part of her enthusiastic presence; long may it last.



So, into the New Year. Plans afoot, if affordable (please David), for some clubhouse and office alterations / improvements, as well as the training / cadet shed upgrade.

Possibly a new housing for the YBOD mould in this their Centenary year. Be prepared for White Boat celebrations, - so well deserved for this most elegant boat. Watch this space!

A mention of Keith and Jo is appropriate here, giving support to us all from the office; for keeping me on the rails so far and extending encouragement for the busy programme ahead.

I am looking forward to the 2008 season; to the programme of events we have planned and, as a message to us all, promoting courtesy always towards our guests and fellow members on and off the water.

Best wishes for Christmas, the New Year and good sailing at all times.

**Hugh Ferrier**

Commodore

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST SEASON

It seems just a spit since I put my thoughts onto paper at the beginning of my year as Commodore and yet here I find myself as a 'Past' finishing off my thoughts. I know that our Club is in very safe hands with Hugh and Poppy and I wish them all the very best for the forthcoming season.

I have been asked by a number of people to describe how I feel now that my year has come to a close and upon deep reflection the words that come to mind are blood sweat and humour. Blood relates to the time devoted, sweat to the worry over decisions taken and humour – used frequently when all else fails.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year and have been very grateful to all those who helped me with advice, good counsel and the occasional extending of a calming hand in times of stress! Having attended various functions amongst all the other clubs in the area, I really feel that we are all starting to move towards a common ground which is a good thing to help us protect this precious environment whilst enjoying all that is on offer.

I feel very proud to be a member of NBYC and of having had some input albeit slight, into keeping this Club operating smoothly and at a high standard, which I am sure is enjoyed by most of its members.

Enjoy your Christmas and a very happy New Year to you all.

### **James Clabburn**

Past Commodore



## RACING

### **Special Events held:**

The Club has hosted two major events this year in addition to its normal programme. These were the NSBA Youth Regatta and the Yeoman National Championship. Both were overseen, with his usual aplomb, by Robert Self, and were considered by all concerned to be highly successful. This was due, not only to the skill of the Race Officer, but also the Race Team on the day. We are very fortunate to have the caliber of people to run these events and our thanks are due to all who helped.

### **Gold Cup:**

This year the Mixed One Design race for the Gold Cup was beset with difficulties! In an attempt to deal with the ever-increasing numbers of competitors in this event, and address concerns expressed by some senior members, your Racing Committee decided to hold heats before a final. Due to a contentious protest, it was not possible to hold the final on the last Sunday of our regatta week. On the rescheduled day the wind strength made a reef for one class marginally appropriate. For this race a reef for either or both of these Classes would further distort the parity between these boats. Fortunately, after a delay, the wind strength was judged to have reduced sufficiently for all boats to safely sail without reefing. The Racing Committee and representatives of the classes concerned will be reviewing the future of this race in its present form to see what, if any, adjustments need to be implemented.

### **Future planning:**

Every year the Racing Committee looks at the sailing programme and considers the support it has received from competitors. We are grateful to John and Gwen Talbot who, over many years, have produced a complete analysis of the numbers of boats competing throughout the season in the various races. This provides data for our forward planning. This year's figures show that the trends of previous years have continued. The Racing Committee will be concerned by the general reduction in dinghy racing, and in particular the declining activity in the Norfolk Dinghy fleet. The "Norfolks", as one of our senior fleets, are an important part of the ethos of NBYC, and will continue to be supported. Those of you wishing to enjoy competitive racing in a dinghy should consider trying the Norfolk. As you will know every few years we have to adjust our programme to maintain its relative place in the calendar. Next year is such a year. If we do not move Wroxham Week back by one week, some schools will not have started their holidays. Accordingly, it will be proposed that Wroxham Week proper will start on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008**. We have already liaised with NSBA and local clubs to ensure that there are no avoidable difficulties.

### **Race Team:**

Finally, I would like to thank, on your behalf, everybody who has helped to ensure that the racing at Norfolk Broads Yacht Club has maintained the high standard it sets itself. However, we do seem to rely on the same few people. Unfortunately, several experienced and regular sailors seem reluctant to take the line as Race Officer or assist the Race Team in any other way despite our best efforts to persuade them. Appropriate support and training is always offered and we desperately need more volunteers, especially Race Officers, to "come on stream" for the future of our Club.

**Geoff Evans,**

Chairman of Racing Committee

## FINANCE

The income of the club can be divided into two types – subscriptions and mooring fees are mostly paid at the start of the year, whereas many other sources of income such as bar and catering takings arise over the course of the sailing season.

We are fortunate to continue to have a strong membership, which has resulted in subscription income of just over £100,000 and mooring fee income at a similar level. For the other areas, there is no doubt that factors such as the weather has an impact on attendance at the club over the summer. It is just a fact that not so many of us enjoy sailing when it is cold and miserable and this in turn affects income from catering.

Although many events during Wroxham Week were extremely well supported, income for the eight months to August was 9% lower at the bar and 5% lower for food sales. We are aware that other catering organisations have suffered a much bigger drop in sales over our dismal summer this year, so once again we are grateful for the support of our hardy members. Ticket sales for the Wroxham Week Ball were disappointing and fell for the second year running – an area to be addressed next year.

Our catering costs are ever growing, particularly staff costs and the committee continues to explore ways to ensure that our catering operation continues to be an area of excellence to be proud of, without becoming a financial burden on our members.

Expenditure on the grounds is essential to maintain our enjoyment of the unique surroundings and as ever Jim Gunn has a work programme stretching beyond the coming year.

We have good backing from the office staff and I am happy to report that whilst we may not be able to spend money to suit everyone's wishes, the club continues to enjoy healthy bank balances and remains financially in a good position.

**David Talbot**

Treasurer.

## HOUSE and SOCIAL

The social and catering side of Norfolk Broads Yacht Club has overall had a successful season so far. The weather, whether good or bad, is always reflected in the catering and bar sales. However Wednesday evening suppers and Sunday lunches remained consistently busy. It is difficult to predict the number of people to be catered for and the fact that almost always there is a wide choice of food available for everyone is a credit to our catering team. 'Special Events' organised to offer a bit of variety, were poorly supported and in the end had to be cancelled. However Lyndon's Bistro nights are always in demand and are sold-out almost as soon as they are advertised.

NBYC has again catered for many private functions this year, from small luncheons to large Wedding Breakfasts. Every one has proved extremely successful and we have many very happy customers as a result.

You will have noticed several changes in staff over the summer months. Some of our regular catering staff have now left for University or other exciting challenges. New staff have taken over seamlessly and we welcome them to the team.

The second half of the season sees the House Committee just as busy organising events up to Christmas. Following the AGM there will be an informal supper. Please sign up at the Galley Hatch. It is very helpful to Lyndon's preparation if this is not left to the last minute.

The clubhouse will be decorated in festive style for the Christmas Carvery Sunday Lunch which always proves particularly popular. There is a children's menu for only £5. Lyndon and his team will provide an excellent five-course meal for the Christmas Supper on Saturday evening. Both are ideal early Christmas events for friends and families to get together.

The standard of catering at NBYC is extremely high and offers excellent value for money. Whilst we attempt to offer something for everyone if there is something you would like the House Committee to introduce, please let us know. (I have a passion for Rice Pudding and am hoping Lyndon will produce a bowl for me before the season is out!!).

**Daphne Musgrave**

Chairman of House Committee

## WROXHAM BROAD

The major project for this years winter work program will be the replacement of the short jetty, this is required due to deterioration of the support piling and framework, we have had to make a temporary repair to the flagstaff tabernacle due to rot found in its supports, we will take the opportunity to relocate the flagstaff as it obscures the view of the northernmost start line from the box.

Other work planned is the replacement of approximately 30 rotten mooring posts, a section of quay heading and board walk to the south side of Goose Green and widening of the road surface in the vicinity of the club gate as the new gate is wider than the old one. We also plan to replace some jetty boards with glass fibre grating, the trial area of grating has been successful in reducing the fouling of the surface and also provides a much safer surface to walk on during wet weather.

**Jim Gunn**

Chairman of Wroxham Broad Committee

## NEWS FROM THE TRAINING COMMITTEE

The summer programme has been very well supported again this year. Most of the courses were full and some had waiting lists in case of cancellations. My thanks go to Jenny Whiting who was the acting Senior Instructor all summer. Once again she did a fantastic job with all the other Instructors and Assistant Instructors to help her. I find it extremely satisfying that we are now able to staff all the courses with people who have been through our sailing school themselves and now want to 'put back' into the club, many thanks to them. There is a potential problem arising though, Jenny is no longer a student and needs a proper job (quote from her Mum & Dad!!!), so if anyone has a job they can offer her, but give her the summers to teach at the club, please let us know!!!! Also if there is anyone out there who would like to, or knows of anyone who would like to qualify as a Senior Instructor ready for next summers' course please contact me.

The Dinghy Instructors course means we have 8 more qualified people. It was a great week. Thank to those who had done little or no sailing who offered to come as victims. I understand you all had a good time and went home wanting to get into the sailing spirit.

The Training Committee is working on the 2008 programme. I would like any comments from you re: the Training at the club: what else would you like to see on the programme? Would you like Keelboat courses? Is there anything that you feel does not work, could work better and any other comments. Please let me know. ([gilly@gillyfoulds.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:gilly@gillyfoulds.freeserve.co.uk))

My ears have heard from various directions:-

- That we are not getting enough participants for the racing at weekends,
- There are too many boats about the club not used often enough
- We have problems getting people to volunteer for helping in the box
- We can't go out sailing because there is not safety cover except when racing is on
- Beginner races are sometimes encouraged to leave the pitch as they are getting in the way
- The powerboat drivers do not get a chance to practice

This is Training Committees way of solve these comments:

In future there will be Family Sailing Evenings on Thursdays and Fridays. This is not just for juniors. If some of the more mature members wish to come and have a yacht round, and may be ask questions of the more experienced sailors then this is the ideal time, and you may be asked to take some extra 'small' crew with you as well. There will be rescue cover on the water, a little teaching, and lots of playing. We want this to be very inclusive for all club members.

To show your interest in taking part please let me know your email address. I will be sending an email out each week; you will need to let me know when you would like to take part, and what you would like to do. I can then make sure there are enough adults to help etc etc. We will not only be doing the normal teaching stuff, but would like to get the keel boats out to take you for trips round, some team racing in dinghies and keel boats, a picnic down to Salhouse, treasure hunts, etc etc. Any ideas would also be gratefully received.

Those who are into racing will be given the chance, and in order to make that happen I will need to call on some people to operate the box. An ideal time to get some practice in, so you are able to offer to take a turn on the rota at weekends – feeling confident you will not make mistakes as you have had a chance to practice under no pressure!!!! The evening lessons we have had in the past have been very well supported and very sociable. I am hoping there will be even more members come along to take part. As this will be run by families for the families there will be no charge, but I do hope everyone will offer some help, and thus we will all get something out of these evenings. If you do not feel able to offer assistance because you know nothing about sailing, there will be a bring your own food BBQ which will need a little organisation.

I hope this change will be for the better, and we will eventually stop the questions above being asked.

### **Gilly Foulds**

Chairman of Training Committee

## JUNIORS

Some members may feel that we spend many hours teaching the Juniors at the club to sail etc etc, but where are they at weekends. I know how you feel ..... but .....

These members are flying the NBYC burgee extremely high out on the circuit. At the East Area Zone Championships, Duncan Truswell (RYA Junior Manager) praised NBYC for being one of the best Championship Clubs for producing so many good sailors, which means the training at the club must be at such a level to get so many of our sailors at the top of their fleet. Of course this is not just about sailing either, the social side is extremely important, and making friends on and off the water is a life long gift. The benefit to the club is that the juniors who have been through the 'system' are now coming back to the club and teaching the younger ones. These National Squad sailors have the experience of International Regattas and training from some of the very best coaches in the UK. This will filter through, and we will all benefit, even if it is only to enjoy watching these youngsters sailing from our dining chair when we are too old to participate.

These are just some of the results from the Juniors this season.

### **Optimist Nationals.**

Seniors (129 competitors).	Tomas Pain 11 <sup>th</sup> (5 <sup>th</sup> GBR). James Rushton 76 <sup>th</sup> . Tom Needham 94 <sup>th</sup> Timothy Thomas 96 <sup>th</sup> .
Juniors (145 competitors).	David Pain. 8 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> GBR). Oliver Chapman 83 <sup>rd</sup> . Jack Rushton 115 <sup>th</sup> . Lawrence Tomas 138 <sup>th</sup> .
Regatta (105 competitors).	Jo Girling 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Ellen Needham 26 <sup>th</sup> . Harri Pain 34 <sup>th</sup> . Poppy Woodcock 54 <sup>th</sup> . Toby Woodcock 77 <sup>th</sup> .

### **Optimist National Ranking Table.** (Total competitors 244). End of Season still to count.

Tom Pain 14<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> in age group), Tomas Pain 26<sup>th</sup>, James Rushton 96<sup>th</sup>, Timothy Thomas 112<sup>th</sup>, Tom Needham 139<sup>th</sup>, Oliver Chapman 151<sup>st</sup>, Jack Rushton 191<sup>st</sup>, Lawrence Thomas 208<sup>th</sup>,

### **Topper Nationals.** (271 competitors)

**Gold Fleet.** Nathan Ackroyd 8<sup>th</sup>, Emily Moore 33<sup>rd</sup>, James Dugdale 53<sup>rd</sup>, Felicity Foulds 56<sup>th</sup>, Anisha Walkerley 61<sup>st</sup>, James Patience 79<sup>th</sup>.

**Silver Fleet.** Anna Ackroyd 4<sup>th</sup>, Cameron Jones 44<sup>th</sup>, Kit Marsden 50<sup>th</sup>, Simon Bennett 75<sup>th</sup>, Benjamin Knight 84<sup>th</sup>.

**Bronze Fleet.** Roshan Walkerley 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Topper World Championships.** (171 entries)

**Gold Fleet.** Nathan Ackroyd 10<sup>th</sup>, Flip Foulds 25<sup>th</sup>, Emily Moore 29<sup>th</sup>, Anna Ackroyd 38<sup>th</sup>, Anisha Walkerley 72<sup>nd</sup>

**Silver Fleet.** James Dugdale 1<sup>st</sup>, Roshan Walkerley 24<sup>th</sup>, Kit Marsden 27<sup>th</sup>, Benjamin Knight 72<sup>nd</sup>, Alex Peck 75<sup>th</sup>

### **Topper Nationwide Traveller Series. (5 sailed 4 to count)**

Those in the top 50 in the country where Flip Foulds 3<sup>rd</sup> (First Girl) Nathan Ackroyd 7<sup>th</sup> Anna Ackroyd 24<sup>th</sup> James Dugdale 49<sup>th</sup>

I hope I have got all the above facts and figures correct – my apologies if I have left out one out.

**Gilly**

## CALLING ALL OPPIE SAILORS

I would like to introduce myself as the new Flotilla Leader for the NBYC Optimist Fleet. A big thank you to Julia Bennett, who has resigned from this post as her son, Simon is now very successfully sailing a Topper and competing all over the country.

My name is Natalie Chapman-Young and I have a son Oliver, aged 11, who races his Optimist all over the country. I also have a daughter Alice, aged 5, who is just starting out with her Optimist and is enjoying using her boat as an extension of her "toy" collection!

There is an enormous range of abilities, ages, likes and dislikes within the Oppie fleet, and what I would like to do is get a feel of what you would like to do and get you all sailing on a regular basis (that does not mean you have to race). There are lots and lots of optimist sailors at Easter sailing school who afterwards just seem to disappear. It would be great to see more of you out on the water having fun once sailing school has finished. Please e-mail or write to me (or ask your mum or dad) to let me know your likes and dislikes, your full name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, age and date of birth, boat name and number so I can keep you up to date with forthcoming Oppie events.

I am going to organise (with the help of parent volunteers!) lots and lots of fun events throughout next season, including, training, fun sessions to include a picnic, treasure hunt and a barbecue. If there is demand I would like to keep in touch through an Oppie newsletter so that everyone can keep up to speed with what is going on within NBYC and the Oppie Fleet in our region and beyond.

I am very keen to hear from all you Oppie sailors who would like to join the Optimist Fleet at Norfolk Broads Yacht Club. There is a small membership fee to join the Optimist Fleet which will help subsidise activities and a quarterly newsletter, although some activities may have to be charged for separately. The annual subscription is £10.00 for the first child and £5.00 for each subsequent child. Please let me know if you would like to join or re-join so that I can send you the relevant form.

If you have any ideas for some fun events please do contact me.

I look forward to hearing from ALL OPPIE SAILORS in the near future and getting a RECORD NUMBER OUT SAILING AND HAVING FUN.

Mrs Natalie Chapman-Young, 127 Newmarket Road, NORWICH, Norfolk. NR4 6SZ  
Tel: 07771 931127                      email: nats50@ntlworld.com