



February 2017

With Christmas and New Year celebrations finished for another year and the end of the sailing season we all thought that BSC had shut down for another winter. That was until the East of England tidal surge.

The Christmas lunch prepared by Glynis and her helpers was fabulous as always. Dave & Melanie's sing a long was as usual a huge success. 2016 was the 20th anniversary of this event and they still managed to get us leaping out of our seats with the '12 days of Christmas'. With the interpretations of 'a partridge in a pear tree' taking centre stage, BSC has never seen so many flappers! Thanks to all of those who go to make this such an enjoyable part of the BSC Christmas.

Looking forward to 2017 and starting in February there is an extensive Social programme set for Friday nights which includes fun social nights, talks on sailing, OOD training and even more sailing! We have a club that is situated in an envied location so why not make use of it and try out a few Friday evening events - at high tide there really is nowhere in Brightlingsea better to be!

Club News

Dutyman Rota 2017

All active members over the age of 16 are asked to do 4 duties a year. If you haven't put your name down yet could you please do so because imminently the usual forced allocation will be applied to those members who have not volunteered for their required number of duties. [Click here for dutyman and follow the link at the bottom of the page.](#)

If you sail a class of boat for which BSC hosts an open meeting, the Sailing Committee have requested that you do 5 duties with the additional duty being for the open meeting allocated to your class to fill.

Asymmetric fleets are allocated The Fireball, Merlin and GP14 open meeting on the 3rd/4th June.

The Fireball & Merlin fleets are allocated The Laser, OK and D-Zero open meeting on the 16th/17th September.

The Laser fleet is allocated the Asymmetric Open meeting (B14, RS200, RS700, 4000 & 2000) on the 7th/8th October.

Safety boat duties

There are club members willing to do safety boat duties but are not trained to drive a RIB and lack the experience of being a crew on a safety boat. If you do your safety boat duties with your regular sailing partner, and you are both capable of driving a RIB, please think about separating yourselves and taking a less experienced member with you as a crew. The more people we can get out on RIBs the better.

Missing VHF's

Several of the Club VHF's have gone missing. Please would everyone who has used a VHF this season double-check their bags and pockets to see if they have accidentally taken one home. If you do find one please email Vice Commodore Sailing Martin Worth on ferretb14@gmail.com.

Tidal Surge Update – Thursday 12th Jan – Sat 15th Jan 2017

A tidal surge coupled with force 8 winds was forecast for the East coast including Brightlingsea on Friday 13th January at the midday high tide (12.27pm). The club was flooded in December 2013 and this time we were taking no chances.

Thursday 12th - saw club members brave the cold, snow and icy winds in the evening to start the first phase of sandbagging. The Brightlingsea Fire Service very kindly chipped in and lending a hand ,in fact several hands, to help to raise everything that was on ground level including the fridges and freezers in the galley!

Friday 13th/early hours Saturday 14th - Thanks to the power of social media and email well over 60 people turned up on Friday morning for emergency sandbagging and damage limitation work. The wind was bitter and it had started to snow again but the beach was a hive of activity with members and friends. Sand bags were being filled at such a rate that they ran out and had to send for more, twice! Boats in the back dinghy park were being tied down and anything that was on ground level was removed. Hot mugs of tea and coffee were being served inside the club (never had tea and coffee been so welcome). By midday the club was surrounded by 750 sandbags and ready to face the elements we had done our best to limit the damage. Then there was the news that the danger period had moved, the strong winds that were predicted were to arrive later than expected. It was now the Saturday early morning high tide (0.56am) that was the one likely to cause damage. Once again the troops rallied and members volunteered for stand-by duties. A bright sunny but windy afternoon gave way to evening and as night fell so did the temperature. At midnight the club was open again with members on hand for any emergencies. Fortunately, the winds dropped and the wind direction changed. The surge came before high tide so did not cause the damage expected, but it was close. A sigh of relief spread through the club and those who had their boats in the back dinghy park. [Click here for photos of the near miss!](#)

As for the 750 sand bags, the sandbags were emptied and the sand put back on the beach by volunteers the week after on Saturday 21st January. The bags are stored should we need them again. Thanks to all of those who helped. For photos and more info on 'Operation Sandbags' see the facebook pages on the website .For those of you who would like to find out more about storm surges, [here is a link that hopefully explains all.](#)

Getting the club ready for the start of the sailing season

Please note that here are 3 work party dates scheduled for Sundays in March this year prior to the start of the sailing season. More information will be sent out nearer the time but please make a note of the dates - March 5th, 12th & 19th. We have jobs inside and outside the club as well as on the committee boat and RIBs to complete so the more volunteers the better so do please join us!

2017 Brightlingsea Tide Table

The 2017 Tide Table is now available from the Harbour Office.

New Friday Night Social Programme –pizza making, talks and more sailing

The Social Committee has planned a number of social events for Friday evenings (see below for full programme). Kicking off with a Pizza Making bake- off on 10th Feb the programme also includes a Quiz, an OOD night with supper (max 20 persons) and a Race rules night with supper(max 30 persons). There are also plans to get Mark Rushall author and coach to the Olympic and Paralympic teams as a guest speaker for a ‘Tactics talk’ and when the evenings get lighter it is hoped that we can get Mike McNamara in for a session on trimming and sails with practical demonstrations outside.

Also planned for May when the days start to get warmer and the nights lighter are ‘Friday Fun sailing nights’ which will be run by Craig Bond in addition to Tuesday cadet nights.

Everyone is welcome.

The nights are scheduled for high tide evenings with the first session hopefully taking place on Friday 19th May.

Social events will be advertised well in advance so keep an eye on the website, facebook , Buzz and the noticeboard in the entrance of the club.

Friday Night Social Calendar February & March

10th Feb 7.30pm Pizza Making Bake- Off men v women.

There’s still just time to book in and join us tonight to try your hand at spinning a pizza base and creating the best pizza topping ever! All ingredients will be supplied and at the end of the evening we shall see the 1st BSC Pizza Champion. There will be a charge of £5.00 per person. Please enter using the [online](#) booking form. The Club bar will also be open so even if you don’t want to make pizza come on down and help with the judging!

17th Feb Club bar open no event planned

24th Feb 7.30pm Nigel & Jackie’s Winter Quiz

Get a team together and come along and pit your wits against other teams at The BSC Winter Quiz. Teams can be of up to 6 people and entry fee is £6.00 per team. Light snacks and nibbles will be available and the bar open. Please complete [the online booking form](#) or alternatively just turn up with your team.

3rd March 7.30pm OOD & Assistant OOD Training Night including supper (optional).

Dave Charlton will be running an informal introductory session on the computerised start system. He will take you through the starting system for class, handicap and pursuit racing before opening the session up to give everyone hands on experience. The session will also include information on other OOD duties such as selecting the correct course, radio communications with the patrol boats, results admin, etc.

There will be a one pot club supper available mid evening between sessions and the bar will be open. As there are only 20 places for this session it's advisable to book early to avoid disappointment (if there is sufficient demand we will run a second session). There is no charge to take part in the session, but if you would like supper the cost will be £5 (this is an option on the booking form).

To reserve your place [click here and complete the online booking form](#)

10th March 7.30pm Race Rules Talk (Dave Chivers) including supper (optional)

International Judge David Chivers will run a fun, interactive session on the key racing rules and bring you up to speed on the changes in the new Racing Rules of Sailing introduced on 1 January 2017.

Audience participation, role playing and a Q&A session at the end will help you to understand how the rules work in practise in our racing area.

Everyone participating is asked to bring with them either an copy of the new 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing or the RYA's Handy Guide To The Racing Rules 2017-2020 - both of which can be obtained from the [RYA's Online Shop](#).

The bar will be open and a one pot club supper on offer mid evening between sessions. The session is free but if you would like supper the cost will be £5.00 There are only 30 places for this session (although we will run a second session if there is the demand). So be sure to book early. This session must be booked in advance so please click here to register.

17th March To Be Confirmed

24th March To Be Confirmed

Sailing news

Club Sailing Results

Winter Series: 67 boats entered - overall winners were Mike Bees & Martin Worth (B14)

Christmas Cracker: 20 boats entered - won by David Conlon and Sarah Bines (Merlin Rocket). 1st cadets were Rebecca Bines and Connie Hughes (RS200).

Hogmany Race 2016: 29 boats entered - won by David Conlon and Ed Gibbons (RS800)

Away Meetings

Grafham Grand Prix at Grafham Water SC Monday 2nd Jan 2017

Whilst some of us were probably still nursing hangovers from New Year 3 crews from BSC took to the water in the Grafham Grand Prix 2017.

With 192 boats entered and 50 different classes, BSC sailors took to the water for 3 races on a cold but sunny day. The wind was 8-12 knots blowing from the North West. Split in to 3 fleets (fast, medium and slow), BSC was represented in all 3 fleets.

Fast Fleet - Will Sunnocks & Megan Smith (Nacra F16) 4th overall out of 42 boats entered. Results were 2nd, 14th & 6th.

Medium Fleet - Dan Willett & Pete Nicholson (Merlin Rocket) 5th out of 73 boats entered. Results were 10th, 8th & 2nd.

Slow Fleet - John Ball (Solo) 31st out of 77 boats entered. Results were 23rd, 31st & 31st.

Bloody Mary Pursuit Race - Queen Mary SC Ashford Middlesex Saturday 7th January 2017

The Bloody Mary Pursuit Race is the largest inland dinghy race held in the UK open to all dinghy classes with a PY number equal to or lower than the International Topper. As a Pursuit Race with the slowest boat starting first and the faster boats starting progressively later (depending on handicap rating) the Blood Mary Race is in the Yachts and Yachting hall of fame as one of the Top 5 events in the world.

This year 288 boats entered this iconic race and BSC brothers Will & Matt Smith were 33rd !!!

Alton Water Frostbite Series 2017 8th Jan - 5th March 2017

With 2 races per day and due to start on Sunday 8th Jan the races 1 & 2 were abandoned due to lack of wind. The 22nd January was also cancelled as the reservoir was iced over! There are 5 fleets and there are BSC members in all fleets.

Asymmetric fleet RS200: David Conlon & Sarah Bines, Ed Gibbons & Rebecca Bines, Matt & Mark Smith, Oscar Cubitt & Max King, Ben Clegg & Abi Emberskay
RS Feva XL: Josh Davies & Jack Oakley, Matt Taylor & Jack Oakley

Fast Fleet Merlin Rocket: Dan Willett & Pete Nicholson
RS300: Ed Evans

Laser Fleet Steve Williams, Pete Kyne, Gary Pilgrim, Peter Stonebridge, Tom Kyne, Brandon Hastings, Ben Eeles, Graham Eeles,

Medium Fleet Solo: John Ball

Slow Fleet Tera Pro: Brooke Hastings

If there any other BSC members sailing I have not mentioned and would like to be included in the results please email bscbuzz@gmail.com,

To follow BCS sailors at Alton [click here](#). To see the full race results scroll down right hand side of the page and click on next Frostbite series date then click on race results on that page.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 10th Feb	The Great BSC Pizza Bake-Off
Friday 24th Feb	BSC Winter Quiz
Friday 3rd March	OOD & Assistant OOD Training Night
Sunday 5th March	1st Work party to get the club ready for the sailing season
Friday 10th March	'Rules' Night with International Judge Dave Chivers
Sunday 12th March	2nd Work party to get the club ready for the sailing season
Sunday 19th March	3rd Work party to get the club ready for the sailing season
Sunday 26th March	Start of Club Sailing - Ralph Sutton Handicap & Len Cook Tankard

For updates on news and what's going on take a look at [the BSC website](#).

Similarly, if you have any news to share or have something you would like included please email bscbuzz@gmail.com