



## April Newsletter

Here we are again at the start of a new sailing season. It has started slowly, as is usual at this time of year. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April saw 14 boats out on the water, but come the height of summer we will hopefully be matching last year's busiest Tuesday with upwards of 50 boats. Saturday's pursuit race was cancelled due to the weather conditions. Some of you will have received a text message advising you of the cancellation. If you didn't it will be because we don't have your mobile phone number (hint). A message was also posted on the Club's public Facebook page.

I like to think that the reason we get more boats racing with us is primarily because we have such a professional and proficient race team who can provide the kind of racing that our sailing community want. Each of whom has been trained and mentored well, so they know what they are doing, and will go out of their way to ensure a good experience for everyone. I am one of the regulars who work the rota on the committee boat or in the ops room, so I know first-hand the quality of our volunteers. Whether it be race planning, setting the courses, being committee boat, laying the pin or the turning marks, producing the Sailing Instructions, recording race entrants, radio communications, recording finish times, producing results, dealing with protests, monitoring racing, getting feedback from racers... the list of jobs goes on and on. If you get the chance to accompany your skipper on the committee boat when he/she is Race Officer, you will get a fabulous insight into what goes on, or if you would like to come and look over our collective shoulders on race days in the Ops room you will be made very welcome. Why not persuade your friends, families or partners to come and see what we see and watch you come across the line?

I must also mention other volunteers who carry out important backstage tasks we never see, such as fixing blocked toilets, cleaning the slipway, raising money for the new Clubhouse, stocking the bar, making and selling tea and cake on a Saturday, producing business plans, communicating with members and other sailing Clubs, keeping the website up-to-date or even lending us their house so we have a quiet space to get the results sorted on the last day of Falmouth week, and a whole array of tasks I don't even know about.

So why do we do it? I can only speak for myself. There is something special about an environment where making money is not the highest priority. It is not important how rich you are, what your background is, where you work, what your

political views are or where you come from. I like to be part of the FSC community, (especially interesting as I don't even sail), where for a few hours here and there life can just wait, (yay – no Brexit). I have made lots of wonderful friends all of whom are very supportive of each other, offering help and guidance when needed. And let's face it, where else would you rather be on a fabulous sunny day than on the Flushing coastline, or bobbing about on the Carrick Roads?

So a big thank you to everyone at Flushing SC who gives their time to make the Club a good place to go, whether you sail or not.

### **And in other news.....**

- ✚ A big thank you to retiring committee members Bob Chapple, Dave Owens, Mike Swingler and Malcolm Clark for all the work they have done as members of the FSC Committee over the last few years. I can assure everyone that each of them is still doing sterling work behind the scenes for FSC. You can't escape!
- ✚ A big welcome to John Hicks and Geoff Davies who are the newest recruits to FSC Committee. They can both be seen most weeks out racing in *Rampage* and *Scorpion* respectively. We thought by way of introduction we'd let each of them tell you a little about themselves.

### **John Hicks – FSC Sailing Secretary**



I started sailing Mirrors. (We built 4). If you lent a boat to Henry Ferris's sixth form sailing week you got a week off school and was an 'instructor'. I learnt more than they did. Moved on to Fireflies and Lasers. Did a bit of team racing. Later on bought a 505 at 2am four miles out on a Coal Face. After a break of several years Rod and I bought a J24, and another newer one. Then a Corby 25 which we still have parked up. Then Jeff said buy a Half Tonner as the HTC is in Falmouth next year. That resulted in *Rampage*, a Briand Carbon prototype from 1985. Mumm 30 rig on it had so terrified the previous owner they had cut the main off at the first reef (It crash gybed dramatically and regularly). So 3D scanned the hull and moved mast back, added laminar flow keel, longer rudder, new engine and sail drive, bulkheads, mast base, new mast, electrics and reconfigured the rig, opened out the cockpit and optimised it for IRC. Learnt a lot doing that with help from FBC, Paul Pullen and Jack Gifford. Really enjoy regatta racing in closely matched fleets. It's great having a regular keen crew who work the boat well and are willing to try new things.

### **Geoff Davies – Committee Member**



Watch out for next month's Newsletter to get Geoff's introduction.

### **And in yet more other news.....**

- ✚ We are 5 races into the sailing season already, if you still haven't completed your [Race Entry Form](#), click and print.

- ✚ The year of Club Lottery is coming to an end in May and as it has been so successful it is planned to carry on with it for another 12 months. If you would like to continue to take part, or in fact join the scheme if you missed out last year, please send your £50 to Barry or pay next time you are at the Club.
- ✚ Our [Club Website](#) has recently been updated, (thank you Malcolm). Please look it over. It is still fairly new so comments are welcome.
- ✚ Most of you will have picked up a copy of the 2019 Sailing Instructions by now. (If not, they are available in the Clubhouse). Could I ask all of the Race Officers to check their contact details and let us know if there are any errors?
- ✚ A lot has been going on behind the scenes. The Committee was very encouraged by the support you all gave us at the AGM in our plans for the future of the Club. We have now submitted our application to become a CIO, (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and are delighted to say it has already been accepted by the Charities Commission. We still have work to do but thank you Gaye for all your work so far.
- ✚ Those of you who haven't been to the Club recently won't have picked up your Membership Cards. Don't you fret. They shall be with you over the next week or so. Please support the Card sponsors and if you purchase anything from Mylor Chandlery & Rigging remember to wave the card at them and they will support us even more.
- ✚ The Club also has a 'closed' Facebook page. If you want to join it, you have to be invited. Message myself, Gaye Slater or Malcolm Clark who can issue the invitation.
- ✚ The Club Wi-Fi password has been changed. It is now: **f7627c4439**  
  
You can also find it printed on your Membership Card.
- ✚ Check out your GPS. If you have an elderly GPS you may find that it no longer works properly. The problem is a bit like the 'Millennium Bug' where an incremental counter essentially resets itself to zero, and the device thinks that it's back to 1980 (wish I could do that). Just check it out before it catches you out. The device might think you are somewhere in the Pacific. Of course, real sailors don't use new-fangled gizmos: they guess when it's noon and get their trusty astrolabe out (sextants? too modern!).

Sue Clark