



POOLE SAILABILITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE, and welcome to the first Poole Sailability newsletter of 2009.

We are still catching our breath after possibly the most momentous year in the history of our Club. The acquisition of our new rescue boat, the visit by the Mayor of Poole for the launch and BBQ, and the gaining of Registered Charity status were memorable achievements.



Sailing Captain

Despite the poor weather, the dedication of our new Sailing Captain Christopher Harvey and his enthusiastic helpers meant more sailing sessions than ever before.

We have a lot to do to make this coming season even better, and we have already started in style. Thanks to a grant from the Valentine Trust we have enough money to purchase a new keel boat to replace our well loved but ageing Seafarers "Crescent" and "Stampede" with something more comfortable and suitable for our members. The committee are working Hard to choose the right boat, and would welcome everyone's suggestions.

DOLPHIN CENTRE WEEKEND



Thanks to so many of you who gave up your time to man the stand in the Dolphin Centre in October we raised over £350 and attracted offers of help from a number of potential volunteers. The new rescue boat and the Wayfarer certainly made an eye-catching stand, even if we did have to replace the Wayfarer mast with a salvaged cut down version to fit into the space. Volunteers are now needed for our next tin rattling session which will be outside Asda in Poole on Saturday 4 April. We hope this will be a good time to attract new sailors, both able bodied helpers and disabled.

LAYING UP SUPPER

Nearly 60 members, including guests from Parkstone Yacht Club, gathered for an enjoyable end of season curry supper at Lake Yard with nautical entertainment from a lively Sea Shanty group that had us all joining in.

Many congratulations to Robert Sabine who was nominated Sailor of the Year, and Mike Watts, the most improved sailing helper. Thanks to your generous support of the Raffle over £100 was raised for club funds.



Robert Sabine receives Sailor of the Year trophy

MEMBERSHIP FEES After a long time without change, we have had to increase our fees this year to cover our ever mounting running expenses. Insurances, fuel, and boat yard fees are just some of the costly items that we have to meet. The committee have agreed that the new charge will be £20 per head for the season. Essential carers, who have to accompany the person they are responsible for on the boat, will only pay £10. Group membership shall be available at a cost of £100 p.a. allowing up to four members (including carers) of the group to attend each session.

We realise that this is a big increase, but we are still far cheaper than all surrounding Sailability clubs, who also make a daily sailing charge. If any member finds they have a problem paying this fee, please contact the Chairman, Chris Thomas in confidence on 01202 849550. Renewal forms will be sent to you shortly.

SAILING DATES

Sailing will start in May with some training sessions for helpers in April. Christopher is busy working out his tides and will be sending you a detailed time table soon. We plan to operate the same telephone booking in system as last year, which worked well.

BIG BOAT SAILING AT PARKSTONE YACHT CLUB



Last season Poole Sailability members responded enthusiastically to an invitation from Parkstone Yacht Club (PYC) to experience sailing on larger yachts. We had a number of successful events when PYC members volunteered their boats and expertise enabling Poole Sailability disabled sailors to participate in big boat sailing. Each event has included a sail outside the harbour (sometimes in quite lively conditions), a novel and exciting experience for many of our members. Parkstone are keen to repeat their partnership with us in 2009 and if you are interested in taking part please contact Christina on 01202 699075.

WHAT'S ON



BARTY'S BARN DANCE Get your dancing shoes and country clothes ready for an evening of fun at the Barn Dance to be held in aid of disabled sailing at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne on 28 February. This is a brilliant evening of family entertainment dancing to the Old Pull and Push. Even if you do not like dancing you will love the music and the humour.

Tickets are £10 each. Please contact Mike Bartlett on 01202 885160 to reserve your place.



SKITTLES CHALLENGE Flex your muscles, it's skittles time. Everyone enjoys this event, which will take place on Wednesday 4 March at the Hamworthy Club at Canford Magna. Arrive anytime from 7pm and you will be placed in a team of four to battle it out for the coveted mystery prize. Admission is just £5 to include your raffle tickets!! This club has free car parking and easy access inside for members with disabilities. It also has a very cheap bar. Sadly no food will be available, so make sure you have eaten first. Our secretary Sara will be there to hand out the new style membership forms and collect subscriptions. All friends and family are very welcome.