



# THORPE BAY YACHT CLUB

## Rear Commodore (Racing) – Annual Report – October 2012

### Club Racing.

#### *Winter/Icicle series*

The Winter Saturday and Sunday Series, from October to Christmas 2011, were very well attended by 34 and 51 boats respectively with most races being able to be sailed. The Icicle series, from January to March 2012, saw 70 boats taking part with all 6 races able to be sailed and completed.

The Frozen Sheets open meeting on 27 December 2011 had 42 boats taking to the water in lightish winds for a midday start in crisp weather. As the 'S' flag was raised at the finish, 2 fleets of the same class were split and therefore did a different number of laps. In dying winds this caused some issues with results. As a result of a review the club will be using the RYA 'Same PN Adjustment' guidance in future average lap trophy races where necessary and this has been incorporated into the Sailing Instructions.

#### *Main Season – what a wet one!!*

As the jet stream has been moved south this was the 'wettest year since records began' - and with the rain frequently comes the wind. But TBYC still got on with our club racing. We cancelled racing on just 5 days up to mid October 2012 – including 3 trophy days (2 of which are being re-raced) and just one series racing day.

The Regatta week-end was again a windy one with the Saturday being cancelled and just a few hardy sailors out on the Sunday but doing 3 races. Well done to all who took part and to the one visitor.

The overall numbers of boats turning out to race in one or more of the series races were just slightly down on last year but the turn-outs on a number of wet days were noticeably and understandably low. Turnout for Trophy Races overall was at least as good as recent years with the number taking part in the popular Yantlet Trophy Race exceeding 50, and 53 sailing the Shoreline Trophy Race - both exceeding last year's numbers.

We had more series races this year as on 3 Saturdays and 4 Sundays throughout the season there were 2 races back to back. This trial seemed generally successful with good turn outs and most boats staying around for the 2<sup>nd</sup> race each time, with good experience in running back to back series racing gained.

The Midweek Series had less than half the usual numbers taking part over the 9 race period – wet summer evenings are clearly not popular

## **Open meetings**

The club had 3 open meetings this year, for Fevas, 9ers and Sandhoppers. Well done to Paul and Bruce Spratt on winning this year's Sandhopper Nationals.

A number of members have travelled to open meetings and championships elsewhere. Some TBYC points to note are:

- Seventeen TBYC Sprint Sailors took part in the Sprint 15 National Championships at Brightlingsea over 3 days in August and were the largest club entry in a total fleet of 83 boats.
- Allen Burrell continued his good sailing by picking up 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the World Finn Masters Championship,
- Nic Barnes was part of the team that won the J80 nationals and came 6th, out of an entry of 76 boats, in this year's J80 World Championships at Dartmouth. Nic also came 2<sup>nd</sup> crewing in his boat in the Hornet's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Championships.
- Congratulations to Dave Hall for winning the K6 Euro Cup in Brunisse – Holland

I apologise if I have left out any notable feats. Well done to all who went and flew the TBYC flag at other clubs.

## **Race support**

The beginning of the year saw the 2 faithful displacement support boats, Seasafe 2 & 3, being fitted with replacement engines by Toby Speller and his team. During the year the General Committee also approved the purchase of replacements for the 2 club RIBs (Seasafe 5 & 7), one being an ex-Olympic RIB. Club racing is now in a position of having all 4 of its support boats new or refurbished which should provide reliable and cost effective support for many years to come.

This has been the first full year of the new Committee Boat. A number of members went on familiarisation cruises in it around the Estuary at the beginning of the year. In addition a race officer training session was held on the boat moored at the slipway one Sunday early in the year. Race Officers have generally welcomed the improved facility.

Fixed Race marks X, Y and Z have not been replaced as they were rarely used. All 11 remaining fixed race marks are now round, yellow 1 metre diameter moulded PVC - so no more annual painting.

## **Race Duties**

Well done and thanks you to all those 275 or so who undertook one or more of the race officer or support boat duties this year. Most are allocated 3 duties a year but there are some who volunteer to do more and a special thanks to them.

The club's roster for race officers and support boat helms and crews was put onto the Dutyman web-based database system in February 2012 covering all racing from the Warm Up Race on 25 March 2012. This has allowed improved management of the duty roster and provided members with additional means for seeking a swop or to volunteer for duties.

Around half of the 275 members who undertake duties have accessed Dutyman to record confirmation for their duties and/or to undertake swopping, volunteering or updating their telephone or email address. Dutyman has the email addresses for all but a handful of members on the roster and all these would have received notification and reminders of their duties.

Over 120 duties have been swopped and around 50 have changed hands through volunteering in DutyMan. This is over 25% of all swappable duties over the 7 month period. Others have been swopped and changed but not recorded in Dutyman. I would like to say a big thank you to John Casson who has volunteered to take on 25 duties through DutyMan this year so far. That's a lot of members who owe John a drink for taking a duty off their hands.

### **Sailing Committee**

I would like to thank all the Sailing Committee members for their help and support this year:

- All the Class Captains for liaising with all sailing members and for input to race management.
- Tony Clark for his work on maintaining the RIBS, RIB launching and helming some 80 times a year, and a number of other tasks.
- Toby Speller for his work in maintaining the 2 displacement boats, preparation of the annual race programme, and many other tasks.
- Jeremy Sandford for undertaking the management of the race results database.
- Mike Thomason for his management of the dinghy park, administering the winter/icicle series, for the sail training courses and many other tasks.
- All Sailing Committee members for sharing and successfully undertaking the Duty Officer role on each race day.

Whilst the Sailing Committee does not have one person allocated to take overall responsibility for the Committee Boat I would like to thank those members who have undertaken or organised various committee boat maintenance aspects this year – in particular ,Toby Speller, Peter Thompson, and Barry Duce.

Also, welcome and thanks to Gary Burrows who took on the role of Sailing Secretary recently.

And thanks to all for supporting me in my role of Rear Commodore (Racing) this year.

*Graham Dare*