



South Staffordshire Sailing Club

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Good News Friday - 2nd January



Upcoming Racing and Social Events

Upcoming Events & Socials	
3 Jan to 4 Jan	Work Party Weekend
11 Jan	Icicle Series Race 1
18 Jan	Icicle Series Race 2
25 Jan	Icicle Series Race 3
1 Feb	Icicle Series Race 4
8 Feb	Icicle Series Race 5

Full Sailing Calendar - [HERE](#)

Event Details and race timings - [HERE](#)

Duties this weekend.....

	Event	OOD	Assistant OOD	Safety Boat Driver	Safety Crew
	Work Party Weekend	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A	N/ A
	Galley Supervisor	Galley Assistant	Galley Assistant	Bar Duty	Bar Duty
Saturday	Gill Beddow				
Sunday	Kate Edge	Lee Spencer	N/ A	Martin Evans	Dave Croxford

Work Party - Sat 3rd and Sun 4th January, 9am to 3pm

First of I do hope you and your families have had an enjoyable time over Christmas and take this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Happy New Year.

This is the only weekend in the club calendar when we do not sail, we take the opportunity to do some maintenance and work around the club to ensure the building is kept in the standard we all enjoy. There are also some new projects starting that will prepare us for the future. So, tasks range from taking down the Christmas decorations to concreting a base for the

new gas tank, but lots to do.

If you can spare any time on Saturday or Sunday between about 9.00 and 3.00 your help is really needed, and for those who have not attended a work party day before, there will be light refreshment provided.

Your assist would really be appreciated, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at some time.

Martin Warburton
Commodore

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Tuesday 3rd March, 8pm

We are fast approaching the clubs AGM, which will take place on Tuesday 3rd March. This is the event where I complete my amazing year as Commodore and will hand over to Mike Warbrick (my current Vice Commodore). It is also the occasion where club members nominate the General Committee Officers, who are responsible (with assistance from the Sailing and House Committees) for managing the running of the club.

The current General Committee members are very keen to get input from new or additional existing members who as yet have not got involved in this way. As you know we have a fantastic club and are keen that this continues, you all have a part to play in making that happen. If you would like to take a more active role in running the club and join the committee, in the first instance, please make yourself known to me or another member before the end of January (as there is a formal notice period) and we will explain what it entails.

Martin Warburton
Commodore

New Year's Sale - Bosun's Store

We have some spare fittings to sell off, mainly spinnaker system cam cleats and main sheet jammers. If you are interested in any/all of them, please let me know and we can agree a price, view the parts [HERE](#).

Steve Baker

Best of the Web

If any of you didn't get your presents from Father Christmas this year, it maybe because he took a break from delivering to have a quick sail!



I was out on safety again for the **New Year's Day race** so there are some **pictures** of the action [HERE](#). Congrats Mike and Jane on winning with some very competitive racing on show from the Larks and a good effort from Mark and Seonaid, Nick and Vicky in the GP14s and Graham who decided to brave the white horses in his Solo.

South Staffs has been in the news again in December with an article in the Express and Star about how the boxing day race 'Caps a Year in Style' which you can view [HERE](#). There was also an article about Sarah Norbury's successful year in the 420 which you can view [HERE](#).

2014 was another big year for the club so it is easy to forget everything that happened so for a quick reminder you can **check out our year in Tweets on the website** [HERE](#).

Have you made any **New Year's Resolutions?**! If you need some inspiration I had a trawl of the web and these were my top 5:

1. Always put house/car keys in a sailing bag and never take them on the water with me.
2. Not to argue when the helm shouts rude things at me, but merely to jump sideways to avoid being hit by the boat T-boning us.
3. Recognise that the helm is nervous and lacking in confidence and that is why he shouts uncontrollably.
4. Start better, finish better, sail the middle bit better and capsize less.
5. Ensure enough time before the start of race to inspect and prepare boat, get on the water in time, do the first beat, get the course down (and follow it correctly!).

And finally, some people have reported issues receiving the newsletter so they will now be added to the website every week too, you can find this and past editions [HERE](#).

Please continue to share any pictures or ideas you have for future posts - you can post to [Facebook](#), tweet or email Michelle:publicity@southstaffssailingclub.co.uk

Membership Renewals

As with previous years, subscriptions are due by 31st January; please do make every effort to adhere to this date. The results secretary has also asked me to remind all members wishing to sail the icicle series that results cannot count until you have rejoined.

Everyone should have received their personalised membership renewal form - if you have not please email: membership@southstaffssailingclub.co.uk

There is now the option to include an emergency contact on your membership form. This information is optional, but if you do wish to include an emergency contact, the information will be kept at the club to be used in the unlikely event of an accident.

James Croxford
Membership Secretary

Boat and Sailing Fees, have your say!

The Committee recently set up a small working group to consider the question of boat fees. We would now like your views on the suggestions. At present there is no actual definition of "boat fee" in the constitution or bye laws. The committee propose to introduce a bye-law which will make the existence of the boat fee or boat licence clear and set out what it means.

At present the club charges a fee to allow a boat to be sailed at the Club. It is, strictly speaking, a sailing fee per boat and although most members opt to keep their boat in the boat park, the fee is not a storage fee.

The question to be decided is to confirm what the boat fee, or sailing fee, is for, and how it should be calculated.

The Committee recommend that the existing arrangement should continue but with some improvement by making the existence of the fee (or licence) clearer in the rules. While up to now the existence of the boat fee has been clear, the purpose of the fee is not always understood.

The Committee would like to have the views of the membership on these proposals. To view the proposal in full and have

your say click [HERE](#). If you have any feedback By all means speak to me, or other members of the rules working group, Mike Warbrick, James Croxford, or Bill Bradburn. Or speak to any member of the General Committee. Or you can post your feedback on the South Staffs Sailing Club [Group](#) page on Facebook.

Clive Williams
General Committee

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2015 ▫ Advance Notice of Changes to Rules

Now that we have started the New Year the thoughts of your Secretary turn to the AGM. There has to be something to look forward to now that Christmas is over!!

The AGM is your opportunity to see the annual accounts, to hear detailed reports from the club officers and to question them on the club' s affairs. It is also the time when club officers and general committee members are elected.

Now this year to make the meeting even more interesting it is intended to ask for approval to make some small changes to the rules. We will be proposing changes to the procedure for admitting new members, make the posts of social secretary, House Committee chairman, and publicity officer formal elected positions. Up to now these important jobs have been undertaken by members who have volunteered for the jobs and they have been co-opted on to the general committee. In order to recognise the important roles they fulfil it is intended they be elected annually, and therefore be full members of the committee. There will then be consequential amendments to the numbers of committee members required to make a quorum. While it will still be possible for the general committee to co-opt members to the committee it is expected that in future this will only be for a specific purpose limited in time and therefore it is intended to make clear that future co-opted members will not have a vote.

There will be a change to the requirement for the club accounts to be audited, and replace this with the requirement that the accounts be independently verified. In practice this will not alter things but these days the word " audit" can have a special meaning which is not relevant for a modest members club like ours.

There will be a small change to clarify that it is the Sailing Committee which sets the sailing instructions. The existing rule that makes it compulsory for boats sailed at the club to be insured is to be strengthened, although the sum insured remains the same at £2,000,000.

You can view the proposed changes to the rules [HERE](#).

Clive Williams
General Committee

Social Dates

- Dinner Dance - 28th February 2015 (to be held at the Mount Hotel)
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Racing Series Information

No racing this weekend due to Work Party... Icicle Series starts on Sunday 11th January

Icicle Series Details (January & February)

	Total Races in Series	Races to Qualify
PY + PH Race	7	3
Class Race	7	3

For more information on on Club racing, click the following:

[Icicle Series](#)

[Beginners Guide to Racing](#)

Weather Check

Check out the forecasts for SSSC [Metcheck](#) or [XC Weather](#)

Newsletter Stories

Thanks to all of you who responded to our call for content, keep on sending stories in. If you have any comments or information to include in this newsletter e-mail publicity@southstaffssailingclub.co.uk

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