



Telltales

Issue 14

March 2011

Diary dates

Sunday 6 March - racing starts again.

Weds 16 March - Boat building and repairs talk from Hartleys Boats.

Saturday 19 March - OOD training at the club - 10.30 - 1.30pm

Saturday 9 April - Fitting out supper from 7.30pm in the clubhouse. £5 for pizza, quiz and good company!

Check out the website for course dates and remember to book early!
www.attenboroughsc.org.uk/training_course_dates_2011.htm

Have you paid your membership fees yet? Contact membership@attenboroughsc.org.uk

SAILING IS BACK!

After the longest winter break in living memory, sailing is hopefully back at Attenborough on Sunday 6 March. We haven't sailed since the 21 November due to the cold weather and winter break, giving 15 sailing free weeks for many of us.

The Sailing Committee has used this time to review the sailing activities at the club and come up with a number of changes that we hope will make sailing and racing even more enjoyable this season.

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On Sunday 6 March we will see the start of the Snowdrop Series, with races starting at 14:00hrs and 16:00hrs; the series will continue until 3 April.



First OOD team!

First OOD team of the year are Jon Adams, Mark and Dennis Bell, Steve Boon and Julie Rust. Everyone else should have been notified of their duties via the Dutyman system. Remember if you cannot do a duty please try and swap on-line first.

Bronze, silver or gold fleet?

The main changes to the race programme are the introduction of Spring, Summer and Autumn Series to replace the rather mis-named Summer Series of previous years. For the Spring and Summer Series we have introduced Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets for the first race of each day. Bronze is similar to the old Rookie series, whereas the Silver fleet allows

improved competition for those in mid-fleet (see page 3 for more). For the Autumn Series, (the four weekends in October) everyone will race together.




Trailer tags

As part of the site tidy up, the trailer store has been cleared. There are many trailers there that do not belong to current members and we need to remove these to make a more usable space for members.

If you have a trailer in the compound that is not stored on your boat plot, we need you to identify it so it does not get 'cleared away'. Labels have been provided in the starting hut; please could you write your boat details on and attach it to your trailer with the tag provided.

Thank you!

	Trailer Tag
Boat Type.....	
Sail No	
And/or	
Boat Name	

Sailing is back.... (continued)

Wednesday nights

The ever popular Wednesday night sailing is as before although we have managed to squeeze in an extra date in September. It was unfortunate the application for floodlighting was rejected.

Regatta changes

We have also replaced the Junior, Master, Novice regatta with a Club Regatta. In the past this event has excluded many members who were not eligible for any category. The above categories will still be involved together with gold, silver and bronze fleet racing. Food and music will also be laid on.

Tripartite

In late June, the club will host the Northern Tripartite competition which involves Attenborough, Swarkestone and Sutton-in-Ashfield clubs. This year Girton Sailing Club, near Newark will also take part. This will be a major event with over 30 boats racing and I am pleased that Brian Dennis has volunteered to take charge on the day.

Junior sailing

Training, social sailing and racing sessions will be organised for juniors. A meeting for interested children and parents will be held in late March.

Club sailing instructions

The club's Sailing Instructions, which with the International Sailing Rules, cover racing at the club, have also been completely revamped and an overview can be found on page 4.



Training events

A number of training events and talks are being organised (see page 5). We are also keen to help improve knowledge of the racing rules. The club [website](#) has a lot of information on these and each month we will have a Rule of the Month in Telltales and from next month a rules quiz question with a prize.

Website

Details of all sailing activities can be found on the club website under [Racing](#) and [Cruising](#) headers, whilst the [Resource](#) section includes useful articles on the rules, learning to sail, etc.

As a contingency for further cold weather we are evaluating the possibility of ice yachting, using the homeless trailers cluttering the club for boat bases. If you have any suggestions of your own please let me know!

Finally on behalf of the sailing committee, whether you are cruising, racing or training I hope all members have an enjoyable time on the water and afterwards in the newly refurbished clubhouse.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Fleet Racing

A few changes are afoot to improve Sunday racing in the Spring and Summer series.

The Silver Fleet creates a new competition for sailors who regularly finish in the middle of the fleet. The Gold and Silver fleet will start the race together and everyone will get an overall result but in addition, the Silver fleet boats will have their own series results published.

The Bronze Fleet retains the option for the least experienced racers to compete in a race with a separate start and less pressure from trying to start with the more experienced sailors.

It is hoped that this new competition will encourage more club members to turn-out on Sundays to race, improve their racing, measure their progress and try to become their fleet series winner.



Gold Fleet

The Gold fleet is determined by analysis of last season's race results. The analysis identifies all helms whose personal handicap is within 5% of

their boats handicap. This automatically selects the fastest sailors. In addition, anyone who has won a major club series or has won the Silver fleet within the last two years is in the Gold fleet.

Where data is not available from the previous year, for example for new members or someone in a new boat, then the Sailing Committee will consider the helm's known racing record to determine their fleet.

The Gold fleet will be published on the club notice board (and on the web) before the start of the race series to which fleets apply and will not be changed during that race series.

Silver Fleet

Anyone that is not in the Gold fleet is eligible for the Silver fleet.

Bronze fleet

As the Bronze fleet provides a separate race start then helms eligible for the Silver fleet that have never won the Bronze fleet can select to switch to the Bronze fleet race simply by entering on the day.



Cruising

Casual sailing will continue to be run on Friday evenings whilst also adding Saturday into the mix this season. Friday sessions will begin on 8 April, from 5.30pm onwards, with Saturday sessions running from 9 April between 12noon and 4pm, continuing each week until 17 September. At these times club facilities will be fully open and available for use.

It will also be possible for you to sail outside these times if you wish - please read the club rules in the handbook regarding sailing outside race times before doing so. If you would like any more information please contact Mark Bell or Steve Boon.

Steve Boon

Race Training

We are running two open training events on Saturday 9 April and Saturday 11 June aimed at those who are keen to race but want to learn more about how it all works.

The training will take you through the basics of racing from start to finish with practical tips and advice for racing at Attenborough. The idea will be to do some talking followed by putting the theory into practice on the water.

They will start at 10:30hrs each day and last for 3 to 4 hours.

April 9th: Rigging the Boat, the Start and First Beat

- Basic (non boat specific) rigging
- Start sequence
- Where to start
- Main rules that apply at the start
- Start practice
- Best way up the first beat (We wish we knew!)
- Rounding the top mark
- Main rules that apply on the beat and windward mark rounding
- On water practice



June 11th: Running and Reaching and Sail Setting

- Review of session 1
- Best route down run or reach
- Main rules that apply including rounding a leeward mark
- Tips on sail setting and trying to work out where the wind is coming from!
- On water race practice (short course, lots of quick races)
- Question and Answer session

If you are interested in taking part, please contact **Nick Marlow or Mike Pritchard**

New Sailing Instructions

We have updated the sailing instructions for 2011 and these are available on the [website](#). We've used the standard template provided by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF). A lot of clubs are using this now so visitors to the club will recognise the format.

The template is designed to take you through the stages in racing, from entry through to results so hopefully it is easy to follow.

In general the update has not changed the sailing instructions but reordered everything more logically, so if you don't have time to read them now then don't worry!

The big change is the addition of an **"Advisory Hearing"** as an alternative to a full protest. This is a relatively new initiative being encouraged by the RYA.

The concern is that incidents on the water are being ignored if neither party is clear on the rules at the time. It is also recognised that there is



reluctance within club racing to go ahead with a full protest hearing.

The purpose of an advisory hearing is to discuss incidents with an adviser and resolve them promptly in an informal but positive way so that competitors understand the rules better. Nothing need happen following an advisory hearing but if one party decides that they are in the wrong then they can choose to accept a penalty of 20%.

To encourage this process it is also important that these hearings are held in private and the outcome is confidential. However, where the parties involved agree, and the situation seems worthy of sharing with others, a simple case study can be produced and recorded on the web so everyone gains a better understanding of the rules through real situations.

Spotlight onrules!

Port and Starboard

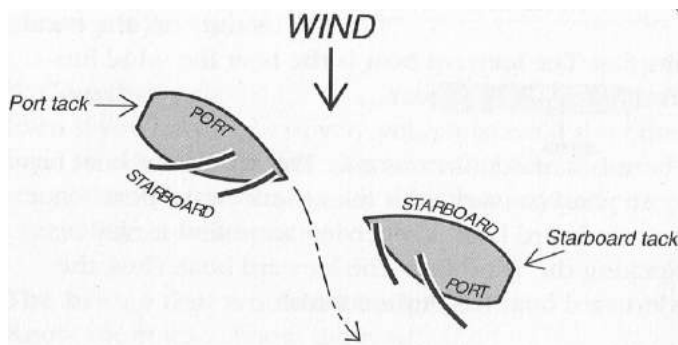
One of the most basic rules is Rule 10:

“When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.”

This rule applies, irrespective of whether you are beating, reaching or running.

How do you remember which tack you are on?

The definition is “A boat is on the tack, starboard or port, corresponding to her windward side.” When you are on the water the easy way is to write port and starboard on your boom so that when the helm is sitting in their normal position on the right hand side of the boat it says Starboard and vice-et-versa. You can even get Port and Starboard stickers for the boom!



So how do you know you are on a collision course?

When you are looking at the other boat, if they seem to be in the same relative position, you are on a collision course. For example, if you are looking through the window in your sail and the other boat does not seem to move out of the window then they are in the same relative position.

What do you do as the port boat?

You have two options, either tack onto starboard or change course to avoid the starboard by, normally, going behind it.

Good Practice

It is not required in the rules, but it is best if the starboard boat does shout “Starboard”. This ensures the other boat is aware of your presence in plenty of time to respond.

As starboard and right of way boat don’t forget that if the port boat fails to keep clear then you need to change course to avoid a collision.

Expert Advice

You don’t always need to insist on your rights as starboard boat. If, for example, you are beating and your course is towards the stern of the port boat and you want to continue on starboard then it may be better to hail “keep going” or “hold you course” so that you can duck behind their stern and continue on starboard.

If you call starboard then the other boat is likely to tack in front of you and this is likely to either slow you down as you head into the wind to keep clear to windward or force you to tack off which is not your preferred course.

Talks

Dinghy Boat Building, Hartley Boats of Derby
Wednesday 16 March at 19:30hrs
Venue: Attenborough Cricket Club

OOD Practical Overview,
Saturday 19 March from 10:30hrs to 13:00hrs
Venue: Clubhouse

Race Training

Starting and First Beat
Saturday 9 April from 10:00hrs to 13:30hrs

Mark Rounding and Sailing Downwind
Saturday 11 June from 10:00hrs to 13:30hrs



Nearly there.....



Outside the clubhouse, more skirting has been added to the pontoons to protect the boats, pontoons have been repaired, plumbing has been fixed and hot water is back in the toilets! You may not recognise the place. Brambles have been cleared, trees have been trimmed and untidy trailers, moved.

An anemometer has been set up on one of the islands to get an accurate wind reading and the committee boat has had a protective coat of paint and mending (so the 'gear' stick isn't in danger of falling off any more!)

A big thank you to everyone who has been down to the club over the last couple of months - you can sit back and relax now (unless you fancy doing some sailing?)

