

The Friendly Sailing Club

Special Points of Interest:

- [Junior Sailing](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Improver Days](#)
- [Prize Giving](#)

COMMODORES' RAMBLINGS.

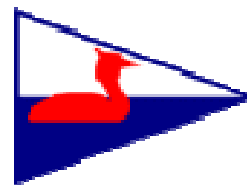
Well, the season is over and our usual February workdays are upon us as we prepare for the new season. Please do give your time to help your club - workday attendance is part of the conditions of your membership.

The committee, with help from a number of members, have been busy planning the coming year and the calendar is included with this newsletter. New this year is the inclusion of Junior / Improvers racing most Sunday's throughout the year. We do want to encourage more members to participate in the racing - it's a great way to improve your general sailing skills and you'll find the regular racers are actually a friendly bunch! Robin George and Simon Knatchbull have been encouraging our youngsters to do more regular sailing and have been successful, with some juniors racing well into the winter - fantastic. Having skipped last year we are

hosting one of the Topper Traveller events this year (March 21st) and we are hoping to raise a junior team for the MK Cup later in the season. Good work by all concerned. We have changed the nature of the Splash Days that featured in previous years and you will see we now have three "Improvers Days" in the calendar. Each of these days will be managed by a nominated member and will have a clear publicised plan of activity designed to enable members to improve their sailing. We are also planning some evening socials, more details to follow...

The next club social event is the annual Prize Giving and Barn Dance - more details in this newsletter. Please book early as places are limited and we also need to organise the catering.

Happy sailing,
Cliff



*Better a bad day on the water
than a good day in the office...*

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DUTIES.

Greatmoor has no paid employees. All the work in the club is done by the Members. This ethos of self help is the basis of the club and all we ask of you is to support your fellow members by doing your duties when requested. Remember, the people who organise the duties are also volunteers and are putting a lot of their own time into the club, so please support them whenever possible. Being a self-help club helps to keep the costs down, so please see your duty contribution as part of your membership. We do strive to give club members as much notice as possible for duties. This is a complex task but every effort is made to ensure that your duty allocation is fair. This process is reviewed regularly to include a range of tasks that will provide a useful service to the club. Please make every effort to ensure your duty is covered and, if you have difficulties, you should try and arrange a swap with someone else on the rota list. Should this prove impossible you should inform the appropriate rota organiser.

SO, WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING ON THE COMMITTEE THEN?

One of those questions that is very much easier to ask than to answer. I suppose that three or four years ago, I knew enough to suspect that the Sailing Club Committee did not consist of a few middle-aged men in blazers burbling on about how the sailing isn't as good these days as when they were lads. I was dimly (to my shame) aware that a certain amount of work went on in the background to make sure that the club kept on running for its members. I had been Scout Leader already, so I had a very vague idea of what was involved, but I have to admit that I didn't know the half of it. The reality is: not a single blazer between us, a fairly balanced gender mix and far too much to do for us to be able to waste time pontificating at committee meetings. Most of us are not, or scarcely middle-aged and by no means all of us are racing sailors. The committee is made up of the many unsung heroes (male and female) who contribute a lot of time towards keeping things running. To be fair, there are more unsung heroes than committee members, but your committee is the group of people who have offered themselves to share the responsibility of keeping a small business humming along smoothly. Some of them bring their own specialist skills with them, but many bring just a willing pair of hands (and brain) so that we don't have to spend too much of members' money getting things done.

Here is a guide to just some of the posts within the committee:

There are several specific posts, with specific duties, and first, among equals of course, is The Commodore.

The Commodore is the chair of the committee and coordinates the rest of us, so he or she has a role similar to that of a Managing Director and is adept at prodding us into actually doing the things we have said we will do. The committee contains some retired people, but a lot of us are still gainfully employed, and we sometimes struggle to find the time to keep up with our club duties. A nudge from your commodore is not quite the same as a reprimand at work!, but combined with a guilty conscience about tasks left undone, it usually provides sufficient incentive to make the extra effort required.

The Vice Commodore, that's me, well the job description was blank when I took on the role but primarily it is supporting the commodore and other flag officers where necessary.

Rear Commodore (Premises) is responsible for keeping the clubhouse in a reasonable state of repair as well as stocking the bar and freezer. Tony Green has been trying to escape from this for years but we daren't let go a man whose beer selection skills are legendary! I believe it is not quite a full-time job, but given our members' and visitors' skills at busting things, he is kept quite busy. Tony has been key in progressing the rebuild for which we are eternally grateful.

Rear Commodore (Social) is responsible for anything that involves a group of members. The RC has to organise all our social events and when David Charles stood down, I have to say there was a sharp intake of breath around the table. Then low and behold Sandy put her head above the parapet and we have not looked back. Sandy has proved very adept at organising some very well attended social events—long may it continue.

This is a sample set of some of the personalities on the committee, I'm sure you would get bored if I continue....

Yes, the committee meetings do seem to take longer than they should (and when we've identified the committee member responsible we shall take severe steps!), but I share the duties with a very pleasant and dedicated group of people who work extremely hard, and I am proud to be a part of it.

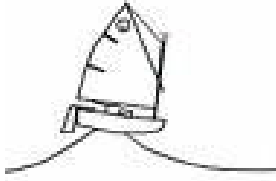
David Whatley



THE JUNIOR FLEET

GMSC Topper Open Meeting

Saturday 21st March 09



GMSC will host a Toppers open meeting in March, the event is part of the Eastern Travellers series. This is a great opportunity for all Great Moor juniors to try an open event without the hassle of travelling. For those without their own Topper we have a number of club boats which can be hired, although I suggest you book your boat early. Full details for the event will be published on the junior forum before the end of January.

We hope to organise a race training session before the open meeting to help get you back into sailing after the winter break. As well as racing skills it will be an opportunity to have your boats checked and the rigging optimised. Watch the junior forum for dates.

Champion Club

The Champion Club programme will be finalised in the next few weeks, once issued the dates will be published on the junior form.

Regular Racing/Sailing

New for 2009. We will be adding at least 2 Junior Races in the Spring/Summer series and 1 in the winter because of Rugby! These races are at the same time every week and are to get you all sailing and improving together. Look in the calendar for races marked **IJ** or **PH**.

Robin George

Junior Fleet Captain

Workdays

To progress the clubhouse refurbishment and other work around the site the following workdays are offered as dates for your diary:

Sunday February 8th
Saturday February 28th

All workdays' start at 10 am
Lunch is provided for the workers

There are still quite a large number of tasks to complete the clubhouse refurbishment and keep the general maintenance tasks in hand around the site.

Tasks – Haul out powerboats and clean, Work on pontoons, Ground-works around site, Work in and around the clubhouse and general club-boat maintenance.

For up to date detailed lists of tasks planned see the GMSC website www.greatmoor.org.uk, follow the link to the Forum then scroll down to the [Work Day Planning](#) section – **there is a separate listing for each day.**

NOTICES

PLEASE KEEP YOUR BERTHS TIDY

In the coming months the rain and warming weather will result in some rampant nettle and grass growth. Some of the berths last season were surrounded by 3' high undergrowth. There are two lawnmowers and fuel available for members to use, in the Drott Shed. There is also a strimmer available — ask any committee member for it. Please use the equipment carefully and look out for loose rope, wire, chain or posts it does not do the equipment any good. Bring your own shears and jungle survival kit if your berth is one of the worst.

If you have sometime the grass by the entrance needs a regular cut. If you have the time we have a sit-on mower that you can use, after instruction.

If you encounter any problems with the equipment, please notify either David Childs or Tony Green, their contact details are on the notice board in the clubhouse or e-mail them via the website.



*“the kitchen
should be left clean
and with all
crockery etc tidied
away”*

USING THE KITCHEN

Members are kindly reminded that the kitchen should be left clean and with all crockery etc tidied away. We have had a problem with mice, and occasionally ants. By ensuring that work surfaces are left wiped, and all washing up dried and stored away we will minimise future outbreaks. We have re-cycling boxes for plastics, glass, cardboard and paper; again please ensure that items placed inside are rinsed out first.

DUTIES AND WORK PARTIES

Attendance. All members, (in good health and physical shape) agree when they join and renew their membership, that they will undertake their duty. GMSC has a long tradition of family friendly sailing, available not quite 24/7 but at least 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year. On Sundays and other selected days, our members expect there to be another member present to cover the safety boat, so that they can take to the water in the certain knowledge that they will be given assistance should they need it. We have made the Rota as simple as possible, and duties may be swapped. We are reviewing the duty system to make contacting other members easier.

In addition to your duty day you must attend one of the four annual workdays. The work parties are essential to keep the club working and looking presentable.

This year the work days are on:-

Sunday February 8th
Saturday February 26th

Saturday October 10th
Sunday October 31st

I would like to close by thanking all of you who do reliably turn up, for making the club such a safe place to sail, and hope that you all have a great season of sailing.



NOTICE OF WORKS

Could all members whose boats are berthed along the top road next to the boundary (F Trott) please be aware that the army will be returning to complete the clearing of the ditch on the boundary fence some time in the summer. This will require all the boats in F Trott to be moved in order that they can get access for a digger.

All those affected will be contacted before the work commences and boats will need to be moved and will be temporarily housed on the bottom car park.



ONLINE DUTY SYSTEM

We are looking at the possibility of introducing an online system of publishing and exchanging duties. This will help to ease the workload on those members who schedule and manage the rosters.

As part of this reform the club may introduce preference forms for galley, rescue support and race officer support. To make this system work we will need up to date contact details. When you renew please take time to update the club with your contact telephone numbers and email addresses.

Any ideas on how we can make the rota better please contact me.

David Whatley

CLUB SAFETY

Sailing is by its nature not a totally risk free activity, but the risks can be reduced by some simple rules:

Make sure your equipment is well maintained and fit for purpose.

When you are on the water, whether it is on a windsurf board, in a dinghy or a power boat, you should always be aware of what is going on around you.

Knowing the basic rights of way, commonly known as Starboard and Windward Boat, will enable you to avoid collisions. In addition, even if you think you have right of way, you must make every effort to avoid a collision.

If you see a capsized boat, keep an eye on the boat to see that the crew is visible and there is no obvious danger. If necessary, assist them directly or ensure a safety boat is attending.

If you are a powerboat driver don't forget that one of your duties is to act as a safety boat in the event of a problem. Do not be so engrossed in instructing, coaching or umpiring team racing that you forget to keep a general eye on the lake.

Remember, one day you might be glad that others were looking out for you, so look out for them.

*"you must
make every
effort to
avoid a
collision"*

EQUIPMENT HIRE

Don't forget your membership gives you access to all the club sailing dinghies for a very reasonable price.

What do we have?

Double Handed

6x Kestrels - great racing and training boats

3x Bosun - they have crossed the Atlantic!

Single Handed

4x Laser 1

3x Toppers

7x Optimists

We also have a number of buoyancy aids.



SAILING PROGRAM 2009/10

THE COMMITTEE

Commodore	Cliff Taylor	01296 770190
Vice Commodore	David Whatley	01494 778290
Rear Commodore (Premises)	Tony Green	01844 216519/ 07776 277533
Rear Commodore (Social)	Sandy Bullivant	07970 110858
Secretary	Liz Shipp	01296 423353
Treasurer	Stephen Lee	01442 874882
Membership Secretary	Andrew Hodge	01844 275393/07831 645050
Training	Tim Allen	01844 238041/07860 354890
Berthing Manager	Leigh Stephenson	07968 723850
Bicester Garrison	Mark Locke	07780 542439

Other Committee Members:

Tony Blair	01865 739165
Brian Cooper	01844 208085
John Wilson	01296 720511
Ian Richards	01869 249852

FLEET CAPTAINS

• Laser	Andrew Clark	01296 730201
• Junior	Robin George	01280 812355
• Handicap	Ian Richards	01869 249852
• Ladies	Kate Allen	01844 238041
• Results	Adam Light	01296 630706

OTHER CONTACTS

• Newsletter Editor	David Whatley	greatmoor@rya-online.net
• Webmaster	Cliff Taylor	cliff@annwebcom.co.uk
• Bosun	David Childs	01296 688374

NOTES

Casual sailing is allowed / encouraged at all times except while racing is taking place during Open Meetings (this year, the Topper Meeting on 21st March and the Laser Open on May 31st).

All members are required to help with maintenance during club workdays. No sailing is permitted on workdays

KEY

P	=	Pursuit	L	=	Laser
H	=	Handicap	IJ	=	Improvers / Juniors
PH	=	Personal handicap			

BIRDS AT GREAT MOOR – AUTUMN/WINTER 2008/9

Well a wet and windy Spring continued through to a wet and windy Summer/Autumn, and that had a dramatic effect on the wildlife around the sailing club.

Our dragonflies and butterflies (as well as other insects) have had a hard time of it due to the poor flying conditions. However when the sun did shine it was possible to observe them flying around the site. Interestingly on one work day, where the sun actually shone, both Small Copper and Common Blue butterflies were recorded, neither of which is regularly seen around the club.

Birds in general did not fare any better. The water birds, Coot, Moorhen and Great Crested Grebe did alright, presumably due to the higher water levels through the summer, but for warbler species numbers were well down, presumably due to the lack of insect food for the young.



We ran another ringing demonstration in October which was attended by 5 club members. These individuals were rewarded with seeing a good mix of species close up in the hand and in one 'lucky' individuals case got rapidly acquainted in data recording as we were kept busy by the number of birds and it was all hands to the ringing. We caught an impressive 68 birds of 11 species. The list included Goldcrest, Treecreeper, a late Blackcap, Blackbird and Redwing. The last of these being the first showing of our winter visitors. The other notable species was Long Tailed Tit. We caught so many of these (26) that one of our guests was heard to say that we should rename the lake, Long Tailed Tit lake.

Plenty of other species were around but managed to avoid getting trapped by us and these included Tawny Owl, Snipe and 2 Stonechat.

Also worth noting was the reappearance of 2 kingfisher that have returned to the site in the last couple of months and the not so welcome sighting of a mink. These escaped predators do a lot of damage to wildlife and are definitely not welcome.



The gull roost has built up to its usual impressive numbers with some rarer species such as Iceland Gull being recorded. Of note is the presence of Cetti's warbler and 4 Bittern in the nature reserve over the road. It would be nice if either of these species made the short flight over to visit us.

I am planning to run another ringing demonstration in the spring and will put out information once a suitable date has been identified. I will again advertise with flyers including the one stuck to the bar in the hope that most club members won't miss that one

Ian Burrus

TRAINING



GMSC Course Dates for 2009

Sat & Sun	7/8 March	RYA Powerboat L1 & L2
Sat	16 May	Junior Improvers (if you have been before)
Sat	6 June	Junior Beginners & Improvers
Sat	13 June	Junior Beginners & Improvers
Sat & Sun	20/21 June	Adult Dinghy Sailing
Sat	27 June	Junior Beginners & Improvers
Sat & Sun	3/4 Oct	RYA Safety boat

Please remember that all our courses are weather dependant.

If you would like more information or wish to book a place please visit the GMSC forum, or email training@greatmoor.org.uk

Please note that whilst all our adult courses are open to non members, the Junior events are limited to members only.

If you can't make the main club dates, there are additional opportunities for 1-1 training by personal arrangement with some of our instructors. If you are interested in this facility please contact Tim Allen, who can put you in touch with an appropriate instructor.

INSTRUCTORS – would you like be part of this additional training facility? Get in touch so we can add you to the list.

Additional training course opportunities

Marine VHF Short Range Certificate

This is the "Licence" you need to operated a marine band VHF radio.

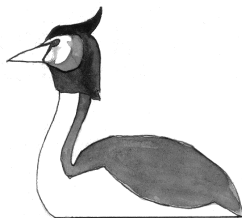
The course is running at the club on Sun 15th February .

For more details or a booking form please ring Tim on 07860 354890 or email watercraft@RYA-online.net.

Day Skipper Theory

There have been a couple of members interested in completing the RYA Day Skipper theory course. This is a 40 hour course taking candidates to a level where they can navigate safely and competently at sea, and is the ideal preparation for the first of the practical Yachting courses. If you are interested in this please contact watercraft@RYA-online.net. Course timings and dates can be decided one we have an idea of the level of interest.

Great Moor Sailing Club



Barn Dance and Prizegiving

To be held on Saturday 28th March 2008 at
Twyford Village Hall 7pm – late

“Pump Action” barn dance band
2008/2009 Prize Giving Ceremony
Food Buffet
Wine Included in Ticket Price

Tickets in advance – limited availability

Reserve your tickets by completing and returning the attached coupon, with cheque to:

Sandy Bullivant, Century Cottage, 100 High Street, Waddesdon Bucks . HP18 0JD

Any enquiries please contact; Sandy Bullivant – 07970 110858- ian.bullivant@virgin.net

Adult @ £18 each U 16's @ £9 each Family @ £46 (Family of 4)
Please make cheques payable to Great Moor Sailing Club

Name.....

Address.....

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