



Newsletter

March / April 2019

A reminder - bringing sailing / racing dinghies / tenders back to the club for the season - From Sat 30th March 2019

Dinghies can be brought down to the Club **at weekends only** from Sat 30th March. You will not be able to bring them down during the working week (Mon – Fri inc)

You will need to come through the Contractor's Office compound and in via a new entrance through the fence into our South Compound or through the Western Flood Gate into the Club / North yard. Security Guards have been briefed to expect arrivals but you will need to be prepared to show proof of GSC membership.

The Club Yard and Floodgate Works

Although sharing our Sailing Club premises and adjacent areas with the EA and Balfour Beatty during the flood gates replacement programme is far from ideal for us, it is unavoidable. The EA and particularly the Balfour Beatty Management Team, Operatives and Security Guards are being as helpful to us as they can.

We hope you will all understand and continue to be patient with the situation. If you can see anything that might help, please contact / discuss with **Commodore, Roy Turner or Richard Twyman** in the first instance, so that communications with the EA team can be co-ordinated

Need a New Burgee

The new sailing season is imminent – you've finished the work on your boat and it's looking great – what you really need is a new burgee. Contact Val Green on membership@gravesendsc.org.uk

New for this Season Short Course Racing – Saturday April 20th

Don't miss this new event for dinghies; details are in dates for your diary.

The Reach

The Reach is our in house magazine and the editor Charlotte is seeking contributions to the next edition, they can be on any topic that you like and think may be of interest to fellow members. Send them to editor@gravesendsc.org.uk

Events Calendar

This is now available to download from the website and has been put into a calendar format this year.

Club Wayfarers – Hiring

The charge to hire the club Wayfarers is £15 per session (Race / Dink about / Day Sail) which is excellent value.

Chris Bentley

Chris Bentley's funeral will be on Friday, 5th April at 15.30 at Eltham Crematorium, Crown Woods Way, London SE9 2RF. In accordance with Chris's wishes, a party to celebrate his life will follow at The White Swan pub, Greenwich, London SE7 8UB. Donations to St Christopher's Hospice or Suite 8, Lewisham Hospital.

125th Anniversary Events Updates – Put them in your Diary now.

Saturday 10th August Race to Upnor.

Saturday 26th October – Duck Supper at the Commissioner's House Chatham Dockyard

The club history says that members used to go shooting and retire to consume wild duck at the Lobster Smack at Hole Haven, I suspect there is a little artistic licence in this story as duck should be hung for several days so there may be an element of Blue Peter with here's one we prepared earlier. However, the concept of a meal to mark the end of the sailing season has remained to this date.

Preparations are well under way and this should be very much a high water mark of the club year. We have as our guest Dick Holness one of the authors of the East Coast Pilot a publication that is the bible for East Coast Sailors.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday April 6th - GSC Safety Boat Training Day - 10.30am

Come on down to learn and practise on the club safety boats. Open to all levels, this internal course will challenge our current ability and provide the opportunity to have some fun learning about different safety techniques. PB1&2 direct assessments available – contact for training for more info

Saturday April 6th – Fitting out Supper - 1830

An informal meal in the clubhouse to start the Season. Details Soon from the Social Team.

Thursday April 11th – Knowledge and nosh – 19:00

Race course setting - learning how to set a course may help you sail one! Come down and find out some tactics from Roy Turner, our ace course setter and race officer! Knowledge free – Nosh £3 to £5

Saturday April 20th - A day of short-course racing for dinghies - 11:30

Up to five races in one day, round a tight little course just off the club-house, each race lasting no more than half an hour. The signal for the end of the time limit for a race will also be the five minute signal for the start of the next and so on, producing around three hours of intense but hopefully enjoyable sailing. Mess up one start and another will come along shortly. No discards. The day should provide something for everyone from the rank beginner to the seasoned racer, so make the effort to get your boat to the club, or hire one of the club Wayfarers (Stanley and Jacob have new sails and better genoa sheeting arrangements). Winner collects the Lutchford Cup at the Duck Supper. Oh, and it should be good spectator sport as well. Start time 11.30hrs. Be ready on time – no postponement possible due to the tight schedule (late-comers can still join in later races, however).

Monday April 22nd - The Mentor Series - 12:00

I mentioned this in the last newsletter, this is returning this year and is a short series of races in which we try to pair up newer members helming with more experienced ones crewing. Each set of races is designed to practice a particular element of racing such as starting. Paul Winterflood would like to hear from potential helms and mentors so he can begin to match people up. The first races (1, 2 & 3) are on Easter Day April 22nd.

Sunday April 28th – Cruiser Series Race 1 - 11:00

Now that you have your newly refitted cruiser ready here is your first opportunity to test it in a race.

Saturday May 4th – Cruiser Series Race 2 - 11:30

Now you've raced once and got the bug here's another chance to test your skills.

Monday May 6th - Spring Plate Trophy Race for Dinghies – 13:00

This is a trophy race for dinghies with a rather nice plate (as the race name implies) for the winner to put on their mantelpiece for the coming year.

Monday May 6th – Sail Past – 14:30

Traditionally the sailing season started with a sail past the clubhouse, opening cruise and a formal dinner held at the Rosherville Hotel, all on one day. However, this has now been condensed into a sail past followed by drinks and nibbles in the clubhouse, with this year's sail past time so that all can take part including the trainees completing their course.

Thursday May 9th – Knowledge and nosh – 19:00

Fog! Something we may not regularly consider, but that can be challenging for sailors to come across. One of our most experience sailors, Chris Cook, will be taking us through this! As usual knowledge is free nosh costs £3 to £5.

Saturday May 18th – Dinghy Series Races 1 & 2 – 11:00

Back to back races for the first of the season long series of dinghy races, for the Thrall Trophy. Points are scored by all boats in each race (with the first boat scoring 1, the second 2) with the winner being the one scoring the least over the series. You don't need to do all the races as there is a discard system.

High tide times in italics are after sunset or before sunrise. All times are local. Tides for Gravesend are indicative only and not to be used for navigation.

March 2019	
27	04:48 (5.9m) Wed 17:13 (5.6m)
28	05:33 (5.5m) Thu 18:01 (5.2m)
29	06:35 (5.2m) Fri 19:12 (4.9m)
30	08:08 (5.0m) Sat 20:47 (4.9m)
31	10:30 (5.2m) Sun 22:59 (5.2m)
April 2019	
01	11:31 (5.5m) Mon 23:54 (5.5m)
02	12:20 (5.7m) Tue –
03	00:37 (5.7m) Wed 13:00 (5.9m)
04	01:13 (5.8m) Thu 13:36 (6.0m)
05	01:45 (5.9m) Fri 14:10 (6.1m)
06	02:18 (6.0m) Sat 14:43 (6.2m)
07	02:51 (6.1m) Sun 15:17 (6.2m)
08	03:26 (6.2m) Mon 15:52 (6.1m)
09	04:01 (6.1m) Tue 16:26 (6.0m)
10	04:38 (6.1m) Wed 17:01 (5.9m)
11	05:19 (5.9m) Thu 17:41 (5.7m)
12	06:07 (5.7m) Fri 18:30 (5.5m)
13	07:08 (5.5m) Sat 19:34 (5.3m)
14	08:30 (5.4m) Sun 21:03 (5.2m)
15	10:03 (5.6m) Mon 22:32 (5.4m)
16	11:14 (5.9m) Tue 23:37 (5.8m)
17	12:12 (6.2m) Wed –
18	00:31 (6.1m) Thu 13:02 (6.4m)
19	01:19 (6.3m) Fri 13:48 (6.5m)
20	02:04 (6.4m) Sat 14:31 (6.5m)
21	02:46 (6.5m) Sun 15:13 (6.5m)
22	03:27 (6.4m) Mon 15:52 (6.3m)
23	04:06 (6.3m) Tue 16:28 (6.1m)
24	04:44 (6.1m) Wed 17:04 (5.8m)
25	05:23 (5.8m) Thu 17:39 (5.6m)
26	06:06 (5.5m) Fri 18:20 (5.3m)