



NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Comments

We have certainly got off to an exciting new year with a rush of new boats ordered after the kick-start from Brain Wells and Peter Smiths purchase of 154.



Another Sandhopper on the way.

This has bought a number of issues to the fore, not only those related to some parts of our measurement rules raised by the builder and the Squib RYA measurer, but also how to keep the momentum going. It certainly would be nice to see another fleet appear.

However more important is the need to keep control of the Class and to ensure the existing boats are not disenfranchised by the new ones.

To this end the committee is united whilst it still needs to see that the rules are reviewed to make the boats as attractive to new Sand-

hopper buyers as possible. This may well see some additional fittings allowed, such as a genoa cunningham, which are already being fitted to a number of existing boats. (See Iain Abbot's report).

Clearly the Committee has a busy year ahead if we are to present to the next AGM the rule amendments necessary and I thank them the

work they are doing and need to do. If you have any comments on these issues please let a Committee member know. Our next meeting is in July.

You should be receiving this in time for the Nationals at Maylandsea where by all accounts there will be an excellent turn out. Lets hope for some good weather. We will then look forward to the TBYC Open in July.

Peter Freshwater "Freshsands" S155

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Sandhopper Events 2002.

May 24-26th. Nationals at Maylandsea Bay

July 27th-28th TBYC Open.

August 24th.-31st Burnham Week

24th. November AGM MBSC.

Sandhoppers on the WEB

www.sandhopper.org.uk

We have set up a small site to provide a window for anyone wanting to know about Sandhoppers with links to TBYC, MBSC and Parkers. Any members who would like to make suggestions to how we develop the site please let me know. We certainly need good photos of new Sandhoppers.



Contact@Sandhoppers.org.uk

The early season Sandhopper scene at Thorpe Bay Yacht Club

Looking through the window , typing a few happenings at TBYC ,trees bending in a sharp Northerly wind ,and icy rain drumming against the window ,it seems more of an end of season report than one that suggests a dose of post race sunburn ,little more than a few weeks ago ,at the start of our expected 02 season .

March saw our Sandhopper Dinner very well supported with over sixty , enjoying superb food by our resident Chef supreme Phil ,and unusual , hilarious entertainment by Sophisticats ,the Noddy sketch and Blackbeard and his conscientious crew being memorable .Everyone won a prize on the raffle ,and one hopes the paint brushes ,masking tape and gloves came in really useful .Lovely to see those from Maylandsea who attended ,and also those older ex Sandhopper sailors who always seem to have an adventurous Sandhopper story to tell ,a trip across to Calais and Stan Starkeys infamous cruise to Burnham ,were fascinating..

Whilst on the subject of food , Sandhopper supper nights on the last Friday of the month ,are quite excellent ,good food and company assured ,and all MBSC members would be most welcome ,phone me and we can make a reservation .

On launch day ,we all got off to a flying start ,quite literally ,on the forks of two all terrain tractors that launch the Sandhopper fleet at TBYC these days .We are quite simply the envy of the Cruiser fleet here ,in this respect , and 26 Sandhoppers were launched in an hour and forty five minutes with little fuss .Tea and bacon rolls at the bo'suns hut got everyone chatting in the warmth of the afternoon ,mainly regarding the amount of variations

one can have on spinnaker pole launching systems ..

The racing scene has been well supported with regular turnouts of 9 -15 boats ,at least 8 different winners in all the warm up and spring races , indicating a higher level of standard throughout the fleet (or lot's of new sails) .Phil Crawford tending to show the way (particularly with pole launching systems in one race) ,but Martin Eyres 'Zues' showing promise with Ken Herve or Gordon Sanders steering ,Peter Thompson in 'Squiffy' reading conditions and tactics to University Challenge standards ,and Brian Wells and Peter Smith's 'Blue Jacket'indicating that the new Parker Sandhoppers are very well sorted indeed .

Excesses of wind and not enough have seemed prevalent ,particularly whilst the 420 indicator was held , during normal club racing ,when some found themselves drifting onto the olympic course ,to be met by distinguished verbal greetings .

At least 9 of us are looking forward to the Nationals at Maylandsea ,and hoping for some great racing and good conditions .Look forward to seeing you there .

David Johnson 'Little Wing' S150
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Join us
TBYC Sandhopper
night 2nd Wed of
Month

TBYC Sandhopper
Supper night Last
Fri of Month .
All Sandhopper
owners welcome
Book to dine

We are getting stronger at Maylandsea.

When asked to contribute to the Sandhopper Newsletter I thought it might be a to reflect on where we have come from and what next. So here is my brief history of Sandhoppers at Maylandsea since it all started in 1973.

1973. Sandhoppers 30 & my boat 31 were the first to arrive at Maylandsea, followed by Peter Saywell's number 20 on its return from a promotional trip to Malta.

1975 A Sandhopper fleet of three boats was formed with No. 15 as a swap for No 30 with Thorpe Bay, who had now formed the original Sandhopper Class Association. This was the beginning of a close relationship between the Clubs and competitive racing during Burnham week.

1980 Number 22 increased the number to four after Roger Lambourn bought the boat from an owner at West Mersea.

1984 Number 34 one of the Thorpe Bay fleet was purchased by Bill Wright number 30 returned after Jim Miles retrieved it from Pagelsham. This made the fleet up to six.

1986- 1992 During this period there were a few changes of owners with number Tom Dayes taking on No 15, Peter Freshwater No 34 and Steve Evens No 22.

1993. Number 10, the original prototype Sandhopper, was acquired by Bill Wright. Bill refitted the boat out and had the steel bilge plated replaced by Peter Barker at Burnham. We then saw No 29 appear after Colin Lambert, who was then the owner of No 20, followed up an advert buying the boat to sell on within the Club to John Primett. Now we were eight.

1997 The Class Association was revived as the Sandhopper Class British Association. During the collection of boat records No 40 was traced to Beadle and Bill secured the boat for the Club fleet being taken on by Frank Levy. Then we were nine.

1998 After an article in Yachts and Yachting by Steve Evens he contact made with a previous owner of No 28 and traced it to Benbridge on the Isle of Wight when on Holiday. Bill Wright made the trip to get the boat for the Club and Brian Casey become the proud owner and working all Spring scrapping, rubbing and polishing. Now ten.

2002 Number 155. Impressed by the workmanship of the new builder, Parker Sailboats, Peter Freshwater has ordered a new boat, with delivery in May and letting No 34 go to Roger Lambourn who has returned to the Class. Number 157 has been ordered by Brian Casey for delivery in the Summer with his No 28 going to new member Nigel Whitehead.

So from small beginnings we will now have a dozen boats at Maylandsea. All owned by keen sailors racing in picturesque surroundings around Osea Island on the River Blackwater. Yes we can still accommodate more boats and members ! Hopefully this demand for new boats will continue to give optimism for the Class revival against the new design keelboats of today leading to new fleets being formed in other clubs with a need for a shallow draft keelboat with a proven track record.

Len Wright "Sandboy" S31



Join us.
Every first
Wednesday for a
natter, drink and
a bit of grub"
Next meet June
5th

Hon. Secretaries Report

NEW BOATS

For those members not yet aware, at long last a new Sandhopper has been built, and this has led to a further three being ordered.

S154 Brian Wells and Peter Smith "Blue Jacket" T.B.Y.C. This boat has already been delivered and has been sailing since Easter, the finish of the boat is a credit to Parker Sailboats.

S155 Peter Freshwater "Freshsands" M.B.S.C. Should be ready for the Nationals.

S156 Martyn Eyre T.B. Y.C. Build due to start after Parkers next Squib.

S157 Brian Casey M.B.S.C.

MEASUREMENT RULES

During the course of No. 154 being measured by the Squib Class measurer certain points were raised by the measurer that he felt needed clarifying by the Class Association. Therefore the Class Association and its Technical Committee are addressing these points, which will be presented to the members at the 2002 AGM. One item that has been settled already is the question of the rear buoyancy tank. The Squib Class have a full height bulkhead under the rear deck in place of the half height tank as originally designed. The Committee decided as neither type would affect performance the choice of rear buoyancy should be left to the owner. i. e. half height tank as originally proposed or full height bulkhead as now approved by the R.Y.A. for the Squib.

Whilst on the question of measurement rules, the Association Committee would draw members attention to Rule 12(1):(2) in that the fittings listed are the only such fittings that are allowed under class rules. Any fittings not included in this section are deemed not to be within the class rules. It is noted that a number of boats have headsail cunningham equipment fitted which the committee is considering as an option and will permit these this season,

Iain Abott "Kristal" S24

Hon. Membership Secretaries Report.

The response to membership renewals for 2002 has been very good and as at April we have 39 Full members and 16 Associate members. Some boats have changed owners, and with new boats expected in the summer, this should result in additional members. Apart from this, there are one or two stragglers yet to renew - they know who they are!

Overall I am expecting the membership to increase slightly compared to last year.

Brian Whistler "Spindrifter" S38

Editors Comment

Thanks to the contributors to this edition. We aim to have another edition in October before the next AGM in November and would like to see more content so please if you have any interesting views, articles or pictures please send to either direct to me or via Iain. Any format will be welcome.

Peter Freshwater.

Sandhopper Class British
Association

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