



Commodores Comment

The start of the new sailing season is nearly upon us with the Skene work party on Saturday 3rd followed by the first sailing of the year on Sunday 4th. Only a little time left to do all those boat maintenance jobs before hitting the water. Hopefully the weather will have warmed up by then!

This is my first newsletter as Commodore replacing David Parkin who stood down in November after two years. Your committee has had a bit of a shake up with Niel Ritchie joining as Membership and Publicity, Hamish McLulich taking over as Secretary and Gerry Park as Bosun. Ditta Neumann has added the role of Vice Commodore to her role with Juniors. The committee meets once a month and puts in a lot of hard work to keep the club running smoothly.

Every sailing club in Scotland faces the challenge of being an active, vibrant club with a steady or growing membership. ASYC is no different and we are continually looking as to how we can improve the club and attract new members. The membership survey sent out before the AGM gave us some good feedback which we are trying to implement. The key objective for the committee is ***to make the club more accessible, more social, and more friendly leading to more people sailing and membership increasing, resulting in more competitive racing in 2-3 years time.***

With this objective, we are trying a few different things while still keeping the core of the club the same:

The season kicked off with a very successful pre-season social with over 40 members attending a talk by Colin and Anna Ladd on their 5 year sailing trip round the world. We will try to organise at least two other social events during the season apart from the annual prize giving bash. If you have any suggestions please let a member of the committee know.

A Laser 2000 has been added to the club boat fleet to encourage more double handers on to the water. There is also a club boat booking system now live on the website. On Saturdays in April and May we will be running ***pot-luck double hander races***. Experienced racers will be available to either crew or helm double handers (Laser 2000, Fevas, Wayfarers or Stratos) for anyone who would like to improve their racing skills either as a crew or helm. The races are meant to be fun and it is pot luck who you end up with in the boat but if you are interested in tips on how to improve or just want some confidence building before heading out on your own please come along to one of these Saturdays.

Remember, new members for 2018 have free use of the club boats as do under 18s. The club boats will also have new stickers so they are easy to identify as club boats and if you need help rigging just ask a committee member. We want to see the club boats being used and out on the water.

We are trying to improve communication with more use of Facebook and updating the website. Again two way communication back to the committee is also appreciated so let us know your thoughts and ideas.



We are going to try to provide soup and rolls before races on Sundays at Skene at a cost of £1 to encourage sailors to come along a bit earlier and have your lunch before rigging up. Once the Juniors start on the 21st April this will hopefully encourage interaction between the Juniors and the afternoon racers. Once Wednesday night sailing starts why not come along to the Shepherd's rest for a drink afterwards.

Hopefully 2018 will be a great sailing season and I look forward to seeing you all out on the water

Francis Neill Commodore



Skene Sailing Dates for your Dairy 2018

3 rd March	Loch of Skene Work party & Setup
4 th March	Sunday Sailing Series commences
25 th March	Skene Helmsman Trophy
28 th March	Wednesday Sailing Series commences
1 st April	Easter Egg Pursuit Race
7 th April	Saturday Potluck Series commences
21 st April	Junior Sailing Sessions commences
12 th May	Push the Boat Out Club Open Day
26 th May	Skene Regatta
27 th May	Junior Regatta & BBQ

Sailing Secretary's Report

The club had an excellent Skene Season last year with plenty of family sailing, novice racing and well attended race sailing. Hopefully it will be the same again this year.

There will be no Saturday sailing during March but we are introducing 'Pot Luck Saturday Sailing' on Saturdays during April and May. This will, hopefully, involve experienced helms pairing up with members who are less experienced but wish to learn a bit more about racing, and sailing 'double-handed boats'. I will be seeking to pair up members nearer the time. We will use the club's double-handers as well as boats loaned by club members. If you are interested, let me know – john.deacon2011@hotmail.co.uk

On the 23rd June we will be holding a 'Midnight Race' and BBQ at Stonehaven starting at 11.00pm. This will obviously be very much weather and participation dependent – arrangements nearer the time.

The 'Dutyman Duties Rota' has been up and running since the beginning of the year but there are still a lot of vacant duties. The plan is to run the sailing season to the end of September, as usual, but this is wholly dependent on members signing up for duties. Sailing in October and November will be staffed by volunteers, so please don't choose these dates for any of your 'three duties'.



If you haven't signed up for duties yet then please do so. 'Dutyman' will let you choose your own dates up to the end of February, after that it will allocate dates to you.

Hopefully the weather will get a bit warmer soon so that we can get our boats 'shipshape' and ready for the new season.

Remember, Sundays are for fun and recreation, so use your Sundays (and Saturdays and Wednesdays) wisely – they are a limited commodity!

John Deacon Sailing Secretary

2018 Club Committee

 Francis Neill Commodore Blaze commodore@asyc.org.uk	 Ditta Rose Vice Commodore & Training RS200 training@asyc.org.uk	 Hamish McLullich Secretary Secretary@asyc.org.uk
 Phil Rose Treasurer Blaze	 John Deacon Sailing Secretary Blaze sailing@asyc.org.uk	 Colin Davies House & Grounds RS400
 Nadia Yeamans Social Sec RS400	 Niel Ritchie Membership & Publicity D-Zero Membership @asyc.org.uk	 Gerry Park Bosun



Membership Update

Huge thank you to everyone who has renewed their 2018 Membership - we are now standing at 117 members and counting with daily renewals still being received. There are still some well-known faces missing who I hope to see re-joining shortly. Membership is due in February and the sooner we have everyone's membership in, the easier it is to plan our years activities. If you need any information or help with re-joining please get in touch on: niel001@btopenworld.com

I would also like to welcome all our new members, we have around 20 new members mainly made up of a mix of juniors and family members. We all look forward to welcoming you to sailing at Loch of Skene and please get in touch with myself or any of the committee if we can help with getting you on the water.

Niel Ritchie Membership & Publicity

New Online Boat Booking System



A new online booking system has been setup for booking out the club fleet of boats, this can be accessed through the club website at: <https://asyc.org.uk/club-information/>

Boats can be hired by members when safety cover is available and boats are not being used for training session.

The fleet comprises

- Optimists
- Toppers
- Lasers with both full and radial rigs
- Laser 2000
- RS Feva
- Blaze

There is a charge for using club boats of £5 for a single hander and £10 for a double hander, but new members have no charge in their first year and under 18's are free. Fees should be placed in the BOAT HIRE honesty box located in the kitchen at both Stonehaven and Loch of Skene. All sailors are required to wear a suitable buoyancy aid and be competent to handle the boat in the prevailing weather conditions. Boats are to be returned to their place of storage in the condition that the hirer would have liked to have found it in. Any breakage / loss of equipment should be notified to a committee member.



Meet the club: Saturday 12th May 2-5pm



Once more, we will be joining RYA [#PTBO18](#). A great chance to show off the club and invite friends and family to try out sailing. The club's main asset is its members, so hope many of you can come again to make the visitors feel welcome.

Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust will be on hand to show off their lesson program, as well as kindly lending the club their equipment of boats, wetsuits and lifejackets so we can get as many people on the water as possible.

Ocean Youth Trust is offering sea faring adventures for young people on big, ocean going vessels and will be on hand to answer questions.

Stonehaven Paddle boarding will offer free tries of their SUPs.

As before, this event will only happen with the help of many. From car park helpers, galley chefs, trolley movers and meet and greeters, as well as sailors to take prospective new sailors out on the water and man the rescue boats. Any help is much appreciated. Contact Ditta if you'd like to be involved.



AST lessons and Novice racing

Continuing on from a successful season in 2017, Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust is back to offer more sessions.

Sailing teaching is from beginner to race, optimist to Wayfarer/Laser 2000, a range of boats to fit all sizes of sailors.

Launching Lassies is daytime sailing, there are also lessons on offer after work. The trust also offer after school clubs for both primary and secondary pupils and advanced boat handling and racing.

During the Easter holidays a De-rust stage 2+ is on offer.

For powerboats RYA PB2 and Safety boat courses are on offer and land based courses range from boat maintenance to First Aid and VHF.

So much to choose from: To find out more check out. www.aberdeenshiresailing.org

Novice racing on Monday nights is open to club members against a small donation to AST. This will start 16th April and run till the club moves to Stonehaven at the beginning of June.



Powerboat lessons: RYA PB2 and RYA Safety Boat



Over the winter a fair few sailors have braved the North Sea to complete a two day courses in RYA Safety boat and PB2.

A huge thank you to Alastair MacKay and his team of instructors for ensuring that we have fully trained safety boat crews. It was smiles all round, despite autumnal and wintry conditions during the two courses.

These courses are very popular. The current plan is to offer more lessons in July/August when the club returns to its Stonehaven base, but no date has been set so far. These sessions are open to club members only and we ask each participant to volunteer 3 rescue boat duties in return.

RYA First Aid Training

Ann from Ocean Youth Trust Scotland is offering this superb RYA First Aid course in our Stonehaven Club house on Saturday 24th March 2018 from 9:30 to 16:30

This course gives a great insight and training in how to deal with a casualty on board a bigger boat, as well as deal with injuries away from home and how to recognize and treat common life threatening ailments are also covered.

This course is run to raise funds for OYTS, so costs are £35 for the course (£17.50 concession) plus £35 OYTS membership - £70 per participant.

All members and non-club members welcome. Please email Ann on northeast@oytscotland.org.uk to register.





Juniors - Summer Week, Loch Lomond and Lessons 2018

What a fabulous season we all had in 2017. Yes, it was windy and, yes it included flies at Skene, but fun was had by all. A huge Thank You to all the team of tireless instructors and parents who made all this possible.

Summer Week



Now, firmly a part of the Junior programme, the summer week was action packed. Forecast was for lots of wind. While the turbines of Meikle Carewe milled tirelessly, the bay was glassy for the first two days and we ended up playing games and almost paddling to Dunnottar Castle, only to be visited by pods of dolphins and, in Joe's case stinging jellyfish. As the week progressed the swell greatly increased, so the less experienced sailors stayed in the shelter of the harbour, though all did some fabulous big wind sailing in the end. On more windy days we built driftwood boats and made know boards. A huge thank you to all the team who spent a week messing around in Stoney bay. The date for 2018 summer week has not been set - so watch out for emails and Facebook posts. Many RYA levels were attained -the certificates are now in - so let me know if you are still missing your book.



Loch Lomond - RYA Club Trophy and Zone Champs - 23/24th Sept 2017



For the main outing of the year, ASYC Juniors swarmed to Loch Lomond to compete at the RYA Zone Champs (for more experienced racers) and RYA Club Trophy, joining over 100 other boats on the water.

In the Club Trophy event Finlay, Lewis, Hazel, Heather, Shona, Heather, Matthew P, competed using our club boats, giving racing Oppies and Toppers very much a run for their money. Joe and Alastair C. joined the Feva fleet. It warmed the cockles greatly to see the ASYC Juniors not being daunted by the large fleet and work hard to gain their much-deserved places and medals. All the Juniors can be justly proud in what they achieved and many went on to attend RYA academies over the winter.

At the same time Matthew M. competed in his Laser 4.7 and Connor and Sophie competed in Oppies at the RYA Zone Champs. Again, many congratulations to all that was achieved.

A huge thanks to Robyn and Ditta who supported sailors and parents at the event too.



Junior lessons 2018

The season is just about to begin and many sailors are set to return for more lessons and new ones to join the club. Registration is just about to close, so contact Ditta to see if you can still squeeze in. The 10-lesson block will start on 21/22nd April, running till the end of June. As usual, we ask parents to get involved. Several Juniors sailors who used to be part of the lessons are returning to help as assistant instructors, several parents will be teaching too. Thank you to all the volunteers who make these lessons happen. Date for the 2018 summer week is yet to be confirmed.



Special Junior awards



Junior lessons and the Summer week would not happen without many people helping make it happen. Fraser Cowie was awarded the King's Trophy for Junior Services for the club for all his very hard work assisting both during Junior lessons and during the summer week. Gerry Park has hugely helped behind the scenes, keeping our aging fleet on the water, as well as driving powerboats. He was awarded the Assistant Instructor Trophy.



Hazel and Shona won the Junior - most improved trophy for their efforts in both Optimists and Toppers. Both competed at Loch Lomond and refused to be daunted by huge fleets, big swells and winds.

Lewis, inseparable from his green hat, gave many a racing Oppi a ride in his (lead lined) club Oppi at Loch Lomond and is now looking forward to attend academies - a deserved winner of the Junior Novice trophy.



And a last request - save your corks



In an effort, to reduce the use of plastic on Loch Skene and in Stonehaven bay we want to replace the plastic floaties the kids play with by corks as they can biodegrade easily if lost. Bring out your old corks. Not the dreaded screw tops or the equally hideous plastic corks, just the plain old-fashioned tree bark.

So, if you ever needed an excuse for drinking a good tippie here it is. Either give corks to Ditta or bring them to Skene. Any other sustainable ideas are also most welcome.