



February 2009

"Snow is only frozen water" - Jack O'Neill, inventor of the wetsuit commenting on the new phenomenon of snowboarding.

Proving that DBSC members don't just curl up and hibernate when it gets cold on the Forth, the recent snowfall tempted a posse north to Glenshee for the day.

Fraser Harrison, Ines Raessler and Glen Halstead, (all Zero Proof) and James Allan (Les Beez Neez) all took to the slopes to shake off some winter blues. Not alone in their efforts who did they bump into in the carpark? None other than Ian Renilson fresh from a trip to France. It was a great day with blue skies and no wind, which those who know the Scottish mountains will appreciate is very rare. In a sterling effort they covered over 16 miles of slopes in a solid six hours of action tackling all but three of the runs in the area.



So - winter isn't that boring for a sailing club. What have you been up to? We know the Cuthbert family are currently field testing the new Neilson sailing and windsurfing centre in Dahab, Egypt. We also know that some of our young guns are active on the RYA squad training. So why not tell us all about it? This newsletter needs to have input from the members of the Club. It's great to have so much material coming from the Flag Officers and I hope you will agree Clive's efforts in this department are making a big difference, but it's not all about what we are doing at the Club, there's plenty that active members do away from the Club too.



If you can type a paragraph in an email then you've already written something. Add a photograph and you're guaranteed to have an article - it's really that easy. Send it to Clive and suddenly we have a newsletter!

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Powerboat training

RYA Safety Boat Course 14/15 March – for those with RYA Level 2 and some recent driving experience.

RYA Level 2 Course – no previous experience necessary. Date TBC

For further details and to register please email training@dalgetybaysc.org

Next issue

If you can spare a bit of time to write a short piece for the Main Sheet or have some photos that could be used We would be delighted to hear from you.

Please send your material to Clive Franks at marketingofficer@dalgetybaysc.org

The next issue of the Main Sheet will be distributed mid March 2009.

Junior members meeting Sunday 22 February – 3.30pm in the Clubhouse

This is an open meeting for all junior members and is your opportunity to influence how the Club looks after the interests of it's younger members. Come along and have your say.

DBSC EGM Saturday 28 March – 12.30pm in the Clubhouse

Decisions on capital expenditure and financial arrangements for the future. Detailed proposals to be circulated prior to the meeting.

What's Going On?

Some young talented sailors from DBSC have been braving the cold to improve their skills this winter. Both Alastair Higgins and Lorna Watson are aiming to take part in the Regatta Fleet at the 2009 Optimist Nationals. It is great to see that so many of our younger members are furthering their talents by travelling to other clubs and venues both for training and racing. Good luck in the year ahead!



The date is set for the EGM – 28 March at 12:30 in the Clubhouse. Preparations are under way and we plan to provide the membership with sensible options. You will recall from the AGM that capital expenditure was to be evaluated and decided upon at the EGM. Looking at our finances in great detail has been very interesting indeed. We have been exploring options such as cost reductions like closing the Club on certain days to the other extreme, introducing charges for activities that we may all pay for right now but may not necessarily use. There are arguments for and against pretty much everything we have investigated. I am by no means suggesting that these are the options which will be presented for, at the time of writing, the financial group of members are deliberating. You will have a comprehensive information pack distributed very shortly so that there is time to digest the proposals prior to coming to the EGM for the vote. I look forward to seeing you all on the 28th.

I received a letter recently asking me to comment on the impact on sailing activities at DBSC once the commencement of the new Forth Replacement Crossing gets underway albeit this is not scheduled until 2011 on the current timeline. If you wish to comment or get any further information then please visit www.forthreplacementcrossing.info.

Your new Committee are beaver away to provide you with all the latest, and up to date information. Clive has successfully managed to get regular reports submitted which he proof reads and prepares so that James Allan can put the professional look on it with the content all being supplied via Clive, thanks to Clive and James for this monthly publication to keep us all in the know.

I have seen increased activity this past month at the Club as lots of you are showing keenness to attend sailing discussions and information evenings like the RNLI safety chat on 29 January. It is great to see the Club busy which is what we need if the membership wish to keep the facility open all year round. Have you put 28 March in your Diary yet for the EGM?

Can anyone assist with re-plastering of the Galley Ceiling? The date of the first work party of 2009 is noted later in this issue so if you have the skills for any of the jobs we need to get done pre-season then please come along. I am sure the soup and home baking will be enough to tempt you down to assist.

The Clubs raft is yet again being maintained with essential repairs being carried out at very low cost, often free! The ramp up to the Clubhouse is to be prepared and painted in the near future and work continues with the new tender store on the south side of the top boatshed. The grass cutter is getting some essential maintenance carried out in this quiet growth period so that it should be ready to keep our grounds neat for years to come.

Thanks to everyone who provides their time to do odd jobs and essential maintenance, without this level of membership participation costs would be considerably higher. This brings me back to the work party, please do support this activity as it takes plenty of volunteers just to organise it so with your help we can reduce the workload for everyone. Even if you can only spare an hour, it will be appreciated. Everyone is welcome and this is also an excellent opportunity to meet fellow members and new friends.

Andy Marshall
Commodore
commodore@dalgetybaysc.org

Committee 2008/09

Commodore
Andy Marshall
commodore@dalgetybaysc.org

Vice Commodore
Stuart Moss
vicecommodore@dalgetybaysc.org

Rear Commodore (Sail)
Ian Renilson
rearcommodoresail@dalgetybaysc.org

Rear Commodore (Shore)
Matt Thomas
rearcommodoreshore@dalgetybaysc.org

Shore Secretary
Glen Scott
shoresec@dalgetybaysc.org

Rear Commodore (Social)
Sandy McPhail
rearcommodoresocial@dalgetybaysc.org

Rear Commodore (Training)
Gill Wright
rearcommodoretraining@dalgetybaysc.org

Secretary
Bill Lawrie
secretary@dalgetybaysc.org

Treasurer
Willie Allan
treasurer@dalgetybaysc.org

Assistant Treasurer
Charlie Stobbart
asstreasurer@dalgetybaysc.org

Membership Secretary
Hugh Ross
membership@dalgetybaysc.org

Marketing Officer
Clive Franks
marketingofficer@dalgetybaysc.org

Rescue & Safety Officer
Fraser Jarvis
rescueofficer@dalgetybaysc.org

Training Co-ordinator
Brian Greer
trainingcoordinator@dalgetybaysc.org

Training Team
training@dalgetybaysc.org

Moorings rep
Charles Stobbart
mooringsrep@dalgetybaysc.org

Keelboat Racing
Donald Adrian
keelboatracers@dalgetybaysc.org

Boat Storage

As many club members may be aware we have a huge amount of unused, unmarked and un-maintained boats on our club grounds. Following a walk around the grounds with the Harbour Master and Rear Commodore (Shore) recently we identified at least 30% of all the boats (keel & dinghy) are not being regularly sailed.

The Boat Storage Policy is available to view on the website and clearly states that the Club is not a boat storage facility and parking spaces are only available to correctly marked, active boats.

Once all membership forms are completed and returned by the end of January the Harbour Master will have an up to date list of all members' boats and will be able to compare this to all the boats parked on the Club grounds.

If your boat has not been active over the last year or is not displaying a 2008 boat sticker please expect to be contacted by the Harbour Master in the near future to discuss reasons for, or alternative arrangements.

If you are a boat owner please take the time to read and understand the Boat Storage Policy, as the Management Committee will be actively ensuring that it is adhered to going forward. Remember: -

- Sail it (or have a valid reason for not doing so)
- Remove it
- Or pay for it

Stewart Moss
Vice Commodore

vicecommodore@dalgetybaysc.org

DBSC Consultation Process

As I hope most people are aware by now, a consultation process is being held to improve participation at all club events – principally sailing, since we are a sailing club.

This is proceeding well – we have now had 2 meetings and are collating data from a questionnaire that was circulated with membership renewal notices. To date 84 survey returns have been received. There is also an ongoing discussion on the internet at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DalgetyBaySC/> - please register and join-in the discussions (a summary of the latest comments is given below).

The latest step in the consultation process was a meeting held on Saturday 31 January to review the findings of the surveys, and help guide the planning for the 2009 season.

This was attended by 25 people from a wide cross-section of sailing members, and the Summary of Survey returns was used to guide the debate.

Discussions were interesting and wide-ranging, and the general theme was:-

- Develop more Training, focussed to the needs of the members
- Increase social activities linked with sailing to provide a more enjoyable overall experience
- Introduce 'special events' and link these to socialising
- Develop a generally more 'clubby' atmosphere
- Try sailing all-day with separate morning and afternoon series

The issues from the Survey Returns were divided into 2 categories: -

- A. Basic Proposals – new proposed ideas, which were all favoured to various degrees
- B. More Contentious Issues – changes to the existing set-up, which were more hotly contested

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Club branded clothing

Club branded clothing is available in a wide selection of garments.

As well as the DBSC logo, items can be personalised with boat names, sail numbers etc.

**Contact Gill Wright
wright2gill@hotmail.com
or 07760 262914**

These were reviewed in order of preference from the Survey Returns, as follows: -

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A. Basic Proposals

Training

The survey showed training to be the most important issue to increase participation at the Club. However, training covers a wide range of topics and needs further investigation. The meeting discussed the following aspects: -

- The current Tuesday evening training is one of the most successful aspects of the Club, and it is oversubscribed. In the coming season this training is being developed further to feed the participants more directly towards the main club activity of racing.
- Some keelboat sailors have specific training preferences, such as Yacht Master/ Day Skipper
- For many current club members training means improving their existing sailing skills (in whatever type of sailing they do) – for which the Club does not offer a lot. This could be done with 'proper' training events, and informally between sailors. It was suggested that class captains could be used to assist people in classes to develop their skills, and that would also help develop class racing in favour of handicap racing – which would have many other benefits.
- Training is also a great way to attract new members – which would directly increase levels of participation (and membership income). People around the Bay regularly express interest in sailing, but there is not an easy route into sailing at DB (the training is over-subscribed and has a one-off entry time). We could promote sailing in the DB area to attract new members, but we would not have the capacity to train everyone. It was suggested that we could encourage new members to get their training at Port Edgar by arranging a discount scheme with PE for our members.
- Leading on from the above it was proposed that we should run an Open Day to attract potential new members to have a go at sailing. Perhaps this could be attended by people from PE sailing school (providing extra boats?), to encourage training at PE by potential new members for DBSC.
- Finally, for people who have learnt the basics of sailing it can be difficult to make the next step into becoming an active sailor. It was suggested that we could actively promote a 'dating service' for crews & helms – this could be available on the internet &/or on a blackboard at the Club on race days.

Combining Sailing & Social events

It was generally agreed that the sailing experience is enhanced by having a good social scene after sailing. There were few specific new suggestions, but it was noted that if the sailors were expected to stick around for a while after sailing then better food would be required – otherwise people will quickly go home for a meal and the opportunity will be lost. The bar-meal facilities are limited, but they have recently been improved (give it a try!).

One popular suggestion was to use the Club video camera during club racing and show the film after sailing in the bar – this could combine a social and training opportunity.

Since changing to a Saturday was not a particularly popular suggestion, perhaps the most workable suggestion is to have regular 'special' events (say once a month), which span the Saturday & Sunday and have a social event such as a BBQ after sailing on the Saturday (BBQ would provide additional cooking capacity, and DIY BBQ would minimise the resources required).

Special Events

Various 'special events' were proposed for the Survey and all were popular, some more than others. Basically the feeling seemed to be that we should try some and see how they go – which 'special events' are selected may depend more on what can be implemented and who is prepared to organise events, rather than which got the most votes. So if you want something done – volunteer to help with it.

Personal Handicap System

The personal handicap system was proposed (again) through the Yahoo Discussion Group (see comments). It was agreed that it may be interesting to have a personal handicap system going on in the background, but that it should not be the primary scoring system, and it must either be really easy to operate or (preferably) someone must step forward to

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implement and manage the system. However, it is important to note that a personal handicap system is not a high priority issue and should not divert attention from the more important issues to be addressed.

Club Atmosphere

It was generally agreed that participation would improve if more of a 'clubby' atmosphere were developed, by things such as: -

- Better communication & an ongoing consultation process
- Breaking down barriers to participation (eg make it less onerous to do Club duties; make Club boats easier to access; make key people in the Club more accessible & recognisable – photos/ badges, etc)
- Create work parties to tackle key tasks and encourage participation
- The discussion forum on web site should be more open and readily accessible to members (good examples are ELYC; Laser4000; & PEYC?)

B. More Contentious Issues

The only proposal for change that was really popular from the survey was to make weekend sailing all day with separate am & pm series. We will therefore try to give it a go – although perhaps not initially for the whole season. This could be tied-in with improving social interaction by providing time between the am & pm series to allow 'bar-time' for lunch. This trial would best be carried-out in the Summer when the weather is good, otherwise am sailors may be too cold by the pm race to bother sailing.

Sailing on Saturday was clearly popular with some people, but equally it was also unpopular with others, and largely one balanced the other. This confirms experiences of at least one other club. Perhaps we could have some Saturday events this year and review progress again at the end of the 2009 season.

Thursday evening was preferred over Wednesday, but not by enough to make it worth changing. Again this should be reviewed at the end of the season.

Conclusion

We will now work on a sailing programme for 2009 that will incorporate as much of the above as we reasonably can – and review the response as the season progresses.

Please contact me – or another committee member – with any further comments or suggestions.

I look forward to a great sailing season at DBSC – and I hope to see you all there frequently – it will be FUN.

Ian Renilson

Rear Commodore (Sail)

rearcommodoresail@dalgetybaysc.org

Training

It's been a busy old time with lots to get sorted for the year ahead. There's been lots of really good feedback from the work Ian's been doing and I'm pleased to see that training is important to the Club as a whole. The next step is for me to find out more specifically what training you want. Some things that have been mentioned are OOD training, some practical keelboat aspects such as night sailing and man-overboard, weekend training days and opportunities to try other types of boats. I'm sure there are loads more, please drop me a note with anything you'd like and we'll see what we can take forward.

Use of Club boats

Some other feedback from the club survey was that members would like to see the club dinghies more readily available and used more often. The boats are available for use by members provided they're not being used for training, and there is rescue cover on the water. We just ask that you contact one of the training team to make arrangements. Please contact me in the first instance if you'd like to use a club dinghy.

Youth Week 3 - 7 August 2009

Youth Week this year will run from 3 -7 August. Details to follow. We're not taking bookings yet so watch future editions of the Mainsheet and website for further details.

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RYA Scotland Annual Awards

Do you think someone deserves recognition for their hard work for the Club? Why not nominate someone for one of the following RYA Awards:

- Club of the Year
- Young Sailor of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Junior Volunteer of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Instructor of the Year

I'm sure we've got good candidates for all of these. The closing date is very soon so please forward Gill Wright your nominations straight away. (Contact details below). All that's needed is details of who you're nominating and a brief explanation of why.

Tuesday Night Training

Registration – Tuesday 28 April 2009 – 7.00pm

The first evening session will be on Tuesday 5 May. Places are available for beginners and novice sailors from the age 8 (age 7 if from a sailing family). Further details about registration night will be in the next Mainsheet.

We have been looking at how the cost of training is covered in the Club and it is likely that we will introduce a charge for Tuesday night training this year. The level has still to be agreed, we'll let you know as soon as it is. In the meantime, if you have any comments on this please feel free to get in touch, I'd be happy to discuss this and get your feedback.

As always I'd be happy to hear from anyone who'd like to get involved in helping out, there's many jobs to be done and you don't need ANY sailing background to be able to lend a hand.

Gill Wright

Rear Commodore (Training)

rearcommodoretraining@dalgetybaysc.org

Work Party 28 February

As mentioned last month, we have settled on a date for the first 2009 work party. 28 February. If you are free and are willing to help out with a range of varied jobs that need done you will be made very welcome.

The plan is to meet down at the Club at 9:30 for 10:00am and we have coffee and rolls for all that can make it. And soup and rolls for lunch.

We are also looking to find a member to step up and let us know if they are skilled in the finer art of plastering, as the galley ceiling is in need of re- plastering. Please if you feel you could help with this then please get in touch.

The jobs that we are aiming to get done and or make a good start on are: -

- Check over the Club boats all masts up and rigged
- Check and clean all the Club RIBs
- Rub down and paint the RIB trailers
- Plaster the galley ceiling (if we can find someone)
- Paint the down stairs lobby walls.
- Clean out training room
- Clean out both boat sheds

Aiming to all be done and finished by 3:00pm in time for pints and watch the Scotland v Italy match. Please get in touch if you are able to come along on 28 February and let me know which jobs you would prefer.

Matt Thomas

Rear Commodore (Shore)

rearcommodoreshore@dalgetybaysc.org

Copies of the new 2009 Forth Yacht Clubs Association Pilot Handbook are now available from the Club bar at a discounted price of £20. This 150 page A4 pilot provides both sailing directions and comprehensive harbour and anchorage plans from Berwick to Fraserburgh, covering both major ports and anchorages for fine weather and the adventurous. The Forth and Clyde Canal is covered in detail, together with its approaches. Large colour plans show depths, approach tracks where critical, shore features and facilities, and most are accompanied by aerial photographs which give an excellent idea of the coastal appearance and any hazards.



Details covered for each port include: approaches with recommended times for entry, hazards to watch, dangerous wind conditions; mooring with depths, VHF channels and telephone numbers; and facilities including water, shops, transport, places of interest and transport. This most attractively produced detailed pilot will add both to safe navigation and enjoyment to cruising in this area, and is highly recommended to members.

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Communication, and related matters

Before going any further, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to James Allan, for the work that he has put in to get the fullest possible and up-to-the-minute, news packed Mainsheet out to you all on a monthly basis: and to Mike Dalrymple for the improvements made to the website – this is an ongoing process which is far from complete as yet: and also to Hugh Ross, who has provided real assistance on the communication front. If any Member has anything that they wish either to go into the Mainsheet, or onto the website, please send it to me at marketingofficer@dalgetybaysc.org: in that way I can coordinate communications, and get them on to the right person or area as swiftly as possible.

Membership Questionnaire: 2008

Most of you will doubtless recall that a Membership Questionnaire was issued early in 2008, but the Management Committee never reported back on the outcome of same. This was largely because the Management Committee lost its Marketing & Communications Officer just as analysis of feedback was being completed. Broadly, from the "tick the box" section of the questionnaire, most people were satisfied with most things, most of the time – but that, in my experience, is usually the way of it with tick-box questionnaires.

I think that the really telling sections were where members were invited to write down their own original thoughts, and in that regard I undernote a table where three or more people commented in the same way:

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Sailing/Training
Numbers falling in racing | (3) |
| 2. | Social/Bar
More social functions need to be family orientated,
Such as family fun weekend | (3) |
| 3. | General
Lacks warmth/over regulated
Needs to be Sailing Club not a Social Club
Communication needs to be improved
Newsletter/Mainsheet needs to be monthly
Website needs improved
Will help if asked – don't want to volunteer | (4)
(4)
(5)
(5)
(4)
(6) |

As I hope you will have noticed, most if not all of these issues are being actively reviewed by the new Committee.

I found it interesting at a number of returns where people said that they were quite willing to help with this or that matter, if asked, but they did not want to volunteer. I am asking Hugh Ross, as Membership Secretary, to review the renewal applications (and all future Membership applications) so that lists can be produced (and updated), so that each individual Officer has a list of people who have indicated a level of interest in his or her given area: then, hopefully, we can reach those of you who have shown an interest in that area, and are willing to

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become involved if asked, but perhaps shy away from coming forwards under their own steam.

Marketing: and the Handbook

Having thrown a lot of effort into communications, I am now starting to look at the marketing side of my role.

In a little while, the 2009 Handbook will be published and circulated to all members. The Membership comes from all walks of life, and whilst direct selling (where one member buttonholes another for the express purpose of selling him/her something) is frowned upon, nonetheless the Membership is an excellent medium for networking. With that in mind I undernote a table of charges should you, your business or any organisation that you represent wish to publish an advertisement in the Handbook. Please either transmit your copy to me electronically (preferred) or send it to me, at my office address as undernoted, and please indicate size of advertisement desired, sending the appropriate cheque, payable to Dalgety Bay Sailing Club, to my undernoted office address.

	Cover/Inside Cover	Inside
Eighth	£30	£20
Quarter	£50	£35
Half	£75	£50
Full	£100	£75

The Handbook is A5 size and around 30-40 pages.

Clive Franks
Marketing (& Communications) Officer, DBSC
marketingofficer@dalgetybaysc.org
Franks Macadam Brown, Solicitors, 117 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1DJ

From the Membership Secretary

Membership renewal proceeds apace with nearly 235 forms returned so far.

There are also a fair number of members who are already paid up for 2009 by standing order but may not have sent in their forms.

As it looks like there are quite a number still to come in would all members please make the effort to complete the renewal process.

If any members have not received or have mislaid their documentation please call 01383 823071 or email membership@dalgetybaysc.org for a replacement.

Hugh Ross
Membership Secretary
membership@dalgetybaysc.org

R.N.L.I Volunteers wanted

The local Branch based in the Sailing Club is looking for your assistance in raising funds for this very worthwhile charity. Why not come along to our next meeting in the Club on Monday 9 March at 8pm and hear how you could help.

Contact Anne: 822479 or Mike: 823279

100 Club January draw

The winners were :-

- 1) £25 Caroline Spacey (100 Club no 95)
- 2) £12 Tom Mead (100 Club no 13)
- 3) £ 5 Rodger Harvey-Jamieson (100 Club no 49)

You will all have been sent a new form for this years 100 Club, please re-join. New members are especially welcome, more members in the 100 Club means more in prize money and more funds for the sailing club. If don't have a form and would like one, or if there is anything you would like to know about the 100 Club please contact

Joyce McConville. Phone 01383 823071 or e.mail membership@dalgetybaysc.org