



SIGNAL!
MSC Newsletter

Spring
2014

Commodore's Report



Welcome to the 2014 MSC sailing season!!

Just in case you have not been to the club lately, we are experiencing the highest water levels in years; unlike a lot of people around the country we see this as a good thing. It means the shallow island has gone and our sailing area has increased, however it does mean our race crews have to get wet to reach Thumper.

Already I am into my second year as commodore and as of today we have not got a vice commodore, so I am asking one of you to step forward, it's not as bad as you may think and it certainly gives you the chance to give something back to the club and help keep us as successful as we are.

Projects this year!

- Continue to clear the trees from big lump.
- Replace the pontoon for the double-handed boats.
- Remove some trees between the club and the gravel workings.
- Concrete areas of slipway for both single-handers and double.

Obviously this will require your help so watch out for work party dates!!

Your support will also be required for our annual Open Day on May 5th; this is our chance to show off our club to potential new members. Please advertise the event wherever you can. Don't forget our memberships are due for renewal at the end of this month, as normal email notification will be hitting your inboxes very soon.

Thank you for your support and enjoy your sailing.

Barry Wicks
Commodore

Dates for your diary! MSC Social Highlights

Fitting Out Supper - 12th April

Come along to the Fitting Out Supper on the 12th April in the Club House, a great way to start the season off.

Spit Roast Chicken served with fries and salad

followed by a choice of Scrumptious Puddings

We will also hold a RAFFLE on the night so come prepared to win some great prizes.

Tickets will be on sale behind the bar on Thursday nights and Sundays from the beginning of March.

Summer Hog Roast - 7th June

After the success of last year's Hog Roast we couldn't resist booking this again. We've requested the warmest weather and will stock up the bar and welcome one and all to one of the events of the summer.

This is a great event for all racers and social sailors and their families to come together and enjoy an evening at the club. As always we will be inviting all the new members to come and meet and mingle so please come down and support the club.

Saturday Social Picnic - 16th August

We will also be holding a Family picnic/BBQ in August where you can come along and cook up your own delicacies and join up with families and friends. The Bar will be open throughout the day and we look forward to seeing plenty of members and their friends. With over 100 people down last year this is certainly a great event.

Sailing Captain's Report

Well, what a difference from this time last year!! In 2013 hardy (or maybe just foolish) sailors battled icy/sleety/snowy conditions whereas this year it feels almost tropical by comparison and our lake has almost turned into an ocean! If the levels continue to rise we'll be able to race against Cookham Reach SC at the weekends!

On a more serious note though, the high water levels are causing problems with access to the pontoons and some areas around the site are extremely slippery and are likely to remain so until we have some extended dry weather, so please TAKE CARE!!!

With the newly enlarged lake, removal of the trees from Big Lump and recent good winds there has been some excellent sailing recently, with courses that simply couldn't have been set with the shallows that we're so used to. The Winter Pursuit has continued uninterrupted and our thanks are owed to the numerous race crews who've battled high winds and water levels to run races over recent months. The Winter Pursuit ends on March 30th followed by a prize-giving in the bar at 1.30pm, so please try and be there if you can.



Prize Giving and Nibbles
Sunday March 30th @ 1.30pm (After Racing)

If you've sailed in the Winter Series or Winter Handicap please come along and celebrate the success of the winners!!



Looking forward April is the month when the club really comes back to life, so get your diaries and look at the calendar on the website as there are loads of opportunities to sail and all the extra water will be available for us to enjoy for some time yet!

Some highlights are:-

- Saturday Social Sailing resumes on Saturday April 5th for anyone to come and enjoy the lake and improve their boat handling skills.
- Albacore Open is on Sunday April 13th
- Thursday evening sailing restarts on April 17th, with a 7pm race start for anyone who'd like to spend the evening in some (very slightly) less competitive racing.
- Over Easter there is a special "Easter Egg" race on Easter Sunday 20th April. No prizes for guessing the prizes, if you see what I mean!
- Comet/Miracle Open on Saturday 3rd May

In fact, the Early May Bank Holiday (3-5th May) is packed with opportunities to while your time away at the lake. Not only will the Comets and Miracles be showing off their skills (and Spinnakers), but there is regular racing on Sunday followed by the club's annual Open Day on the bank holiday Monday, when we ask all members to come and help show our club off to potential new members! Let's make it a day to remember!

James Gladwyn, Sailing Captain

MSC Christmas Series

The 2013-14 Christmas mini series was a great success, with more than twenty intrepid sailors taking to the lake in conditions that varied from fair to wet and windy.

Roger in his Solo took honours on Boxing Day, leading from the front of the thirteen boats that made up the field, but in the larger fleet that took to the lake on the Sunday, could only manage a fourth, with Tim and his Phantom taking the points. With Ian Stone taking first on New Year's Day, the series was wide open – but it was Tim who prevailed, with his best two out of three.

Special mention goes to Leo, one of our junior sailors who raced in his very first proper club race on New Year's Day, in weather that only the very brave (or foolhardy) sailed in. Well done Leo!



From left to right: Ian Stone, Tim Platt, Roger Harford, Leo Wilkinson

Thursday Night Sailing

Thursday 17th April

Mark the date as Thursday night racing returns to the club.

With the longer nights and warmer weather we can return to the water during the week. Come and join in on a Thursday and enjoy a more relaxed race environment.

We welcome our Youth and Juniors and beginners to racing to come and have a blast for around 30 minutes on a Thursday night. Racing usually starts around 7pm with members often staying on to enjoy a meal (at a great price) and a drink at the bar.

If you've not come down on a Thursday night then come down and have a go. Its a great fun with often as many as 20 boats out for a blast round the buoys.

MSC Open Day 2014

Bank Holiday 5th May

Last year's open day saw sunny warm weather for those who were able to attend. Please spread the word on this fun family day out and bring in lots of new members. This is a great opportunity to share some time with family and friends as well as get out on the water. We are running a BBQ and the bar will be open!



Saturday Sailing - Starts 5th April

What is it?

Your time to use the lake for any sailing you care to do with the knowledge that a rescue boat will be on standby, and with experienced members on site to offer help if needed. This is especially suitable for young families, children, and beginners.

Who can do it?

Any club member
A guest of a club member
A prospective member,
Any age, or any experience.

When can I do it?

Saturdays mornings and afternoons, May to October inc. from 10am, to 4pm, on dates as indicated on the club events calendar. Starting from the 5th APRIL 2014.

How much does it cost?

Just your time, unless you hire a club boat, then a fee is payable.

	Half Day (up to 4 hours)	Full Day (over 4 hours)
Topper / Topaz / Optimist	£5	£10
Laser (Standard/Radial/4.7)	£10	£15
RS Vision	£15	£25

Fees are due before use of the boat begins and should be paid to the duty officer. Only members can hire boats and there must be at least one member using the boat (including juniors).

How do I do it?

1. Come to the club on the Saturday anytime of your choice.
2. Check in at the club house with the duty officer.
3. Choose a boat, and buoyancy aid, or use your own, and have a sail.
4. Bring a picnic, and make a day of it.
5. If you need help, ask.

Join in the fun, and get the most out of your club.

Water, Water Everywhere

Regular attendees to MSC may have noticed that the water level of the lake has been higher than previously. While not of the legendary 1974 levels – rumoured to be right up to the veranda of the clubhouse – the rising water level has made for some interesting conditions. It is now possible to launch a boat from the boat park, and at least one intrepid member has been seen doing so (Brian Jones, take a bow!)



Not only have a number of dinghies been moved to save them from floating off onto obscure corners of the lake, the higher than expected (or experienced) water levels have made accessing the pontoons an exercise in agility and the water-tightness of footwear. No longer quite as firmly anchored as they once were, the pontoons are at the mercy of the strong winds that have accompanied the rain.



That they remain roughly accessible, the club would like to thank the intrepid SOAPs who staged a daring rescue of the east pontoon after gale force winds had caused it to loosen from its tenuous moorings.

Water, Water Everywhere



With Malcolm at the helm of Thumper, Brian and John muscled the pontoon to a point where they could toss a mooring rope to the waiting hands of Derrick, who with the aid of Cyril, managed to secure it to the wall, ready to be used the following Sunday.



Thanks again to all who helped save the day.



With water levels at over a metre higher than last summer, and the possibility of more to come, we await further developments, and a good summer's sailing.

Photos: Chad Fitzgibbon

Youth and Juniors

Youth and Junior Spring sailing sessions start on March 1st 2014 and are open to all Maidenhead Sailing club children 8 years and up who have at least an RYA Stage 1 or equivalent, conditions not being so conducive to the novice sailor. Parents must be present, or complete a form beforehand appointing someone to act in loco parentis.

We start at 9am, aiming to be on the water by 10am and off by 1pm. Children should register and pay on arrival before getting changed. Wet suits or working drysuits are obligatory this time of year, and remember that temperatures will be very low even if it is sunny; additional multiple thin layers such as thermals and thin fleeces, plus a hat and plastic bags inside boots and rubber gloves on hands are recommended to keep warm.

As well as the above sailing clothing, make sure that the child brings a towel and a full set of warm dry clothing, including footwear, to be left in the changing room in case the child takes a dip. Parents please read the notice about Weil's disease (outside the changing rooms) and make sure your child takes a shower if they capsize.

Importantly, it is the responsibility of the child and their parents to ensure the boats are de-rigged and put away before leaving at the end of the session; also with the de-briefing changing etc. we normally finish well before 2pm, but it is best to either bring a packed lunch to munch on in the de-briefing, or to have lunch at home afterwards.



The Sailing Committee at the club has reviewed the fees: each session will cost the price of the boat hire plus an additional £1 per sailor to cover drinks and regatta prizes. Note: where a couple of sailors share a two-handed boat, the boat hire is to be shared between helm and crew.

This means the fees are as follows:

Optimist	£6
Topper	£6
Topaz (single-handed)	£6
Topaz (double-handed)	£3.50pp
RS Vision (double-handed)	£8.50pp
Laser	£10
Own boat	£1

Youth and Juniors

If a child wants to work towards RYA stages, then an RYA logbook will cost a one-off additional £4. Log books must be kept safe and brought with the sailor to each session so that progress can be recorded.

In addition, any sailor who attends all the sessions will be awarded a free Maidenhead Sailing Club hoody, to be presented at the regatta on April 19! This is strictly a one per child offer, so if another is needed, parents will need to purchase it.

This Spring, sessions will be every (not alternate, as previously) Saturday from March 1 to April 19. Buckets and sponges (and a change of dry clothing – children will invariably get wet) will be needed for the very first session, so that the boats get a good clean before taking them out on the water. Parents – bring your wellies!

Youth and Juniors - Sailing Dates for 2014

Spring 2014

Every Saturday from
March 1st until April 19th - Regatta

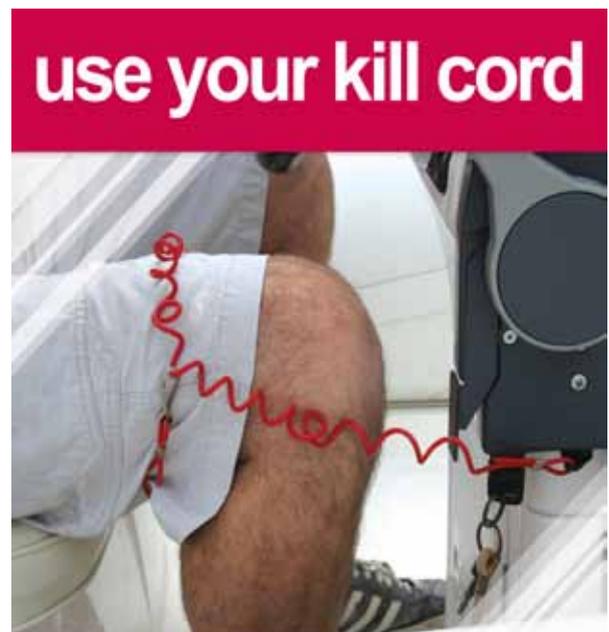
Wednesday nights start
30th April – 23rd July

Autumn 2014

Every Saturday from
September 27th until
November 22nd – Regatta

Contact: Joanne Barnes
josiemarley@hotmail.co.uk
07957 871252

If you feel you can spare a few hours to help out at Youth and Juniors then please come along on the day or get in contact with Joanne via her details above. We've expanded the program this year and really hope that we can attract a wider sailing group of all ages.



It's there to protect you



www.rya.org.uk/go/killcord

Farewell to Brian Welham

Maidenhead Sailing Club would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Welham for his service to the club since his arrival from Taplow. Not only has he held the august positions of Menagerie Fleet Captain and Results Manager – putting together the method of working out personal handicaps on handicap races to allow lesser-skilled sailors to get some silverware – he has been known to take charge of the Thursday evening series, ensuring that racing is fair but competitive.

For those who don't know, he is a keen Comet sailor (sail number 711), not only found at

the front of the fleet on Sunday mornings, but also flying the flag for the club at various open meetings and Nationals.



There are rumours that he has a unique method of righting his Comet after a capsize – walking up the boom. One or two members swear they have seen him do it. Definitely unique, as I cannot think of anyone else who has tried this method yet!

As a member of Maidenhead Sailing Club's SOAPs, and one of its keenest, Brian is often seen down at the club on Thursdays. Every time I have seen him here, his boat has been ready to sail and he has been drinking 'tea' in the clubhouse – except on the occasions when he has been Race Officer. He will invariably still be drinking tea.

Such has been Brian's influence that two people have to take over his roles at MSC. Chris Herbert has agreed to take over the role as Menagerie Fleet Captain. And for my sins, I have agreed to take on compiling the results, and will now be the one to pester if you think they are wrong.

Again, thanks and farewell to Brian as he heads off to the wilds of East Anglia.

You will be missed

Simon Hall

MSC sails onto the social media scene...



If you are already registered with Twitter, then just add **SL6SailingClub** in the list of people you follow. If not registered then sign up.

Go to <http://www.twitter.com>

Full name: will be your twitter username so visible to other. You might want to consider your privacy by using an alias or something completely unrelated.

Email: is the email address twitter will use to first validate your registration and thereafter for administration purposes.

Password: self-explanatory!

Following and Followers: Well, to be able to know what's going on with MSC Twitter page, one has to "Follow" it.

Through the initialization phase or later, search for **MaidenheadSC** or **@SL6SailingClub** and click on Follow.



If new to Facebook then Sign Up! <http://facebook.com>

Once registered, search for **Maidenhead Sailing Club** as shown below or just type this: <https://www.facebook.com/maidenheadsc>



"Like" the page so that you get live updates.

Select "Timeline" to learn what's going on and take a look at all the past and current pictures in the "Photos" section.



We need 30 likes to get our statistics so please join up

If this is all new to you then we'd recommend checking out the following links;

<http://mashable.com/2012/05/16/facebook-for-beginners/>
<http://mashable.com/2012/06/05/twitter-for-beginners/>

Membership and Boat Park

In the run up to our membership renewals here is a summary of the changes to our club pricing.

We have conducted a survey of other clubs membership fees and it is with great pleasure that I can report back that we are significantly lower than all local clubs and will continue to offer great sailing, socials and events at the most affordable pricing.

2014/15 Subscriptions

Single	£90
Family	£116
Social	£32
Junior	£32
First/Subsequent Boat	£50/40
Junior Boat	£20
Trailer	£10

Boat Park

Given the recent weather it has been necessary to move a number of boats around in order to safeguard property and reduce the risk of boats floating away. By the time Signal arrives with you we hope that water levels will have dropped from this year's highs. However, it is a timely reminder to ensure that your boat is firmly strapped down. MSC is not responsible for providing members with stakes or means to do this and we would implore members to check/test any existing means of tying down boats to ensure that they have not moved during the wet weather or have rusted through.

Boat Tags

We will continue to issue new boat tags for the 2014/15 season. These will be produced following members payment of their subscriptions. Once again I will attempt to put these on members trolleys/boats where tags have been attached before. Please check to ensure that your tags are on your boat as mistakes can happen!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are missing tags or they become damaged or mislaid throughout the season.

Stuart McAdam
Membership Secretary

MSC Training

New year, new skills? Or just need to keep your hand in at skills you already have but gotten rusty at?

Maidenhead Sailing club, being a RYA-approved training centre, offers club members all of the RYA training programme in Sailing and Power Boating. Sadly, because of the way the club is constituted, MSC is unable to offer training to non-members, but we always welcome new members, and discounts are available if one of our sailing courses is taken at the same time as joining the club.

If you need a little extra, MSC is introducing Skills Development sessions to allow you to practise such skills as mark rounding strategy, controlling boat speed, and advanced sailing skills, including sailing backwards and man overboard.

RYA First Aid training is also available for members, run when a course can be filled.

Courses usually book up early. To secure a place, contact our senior instructor, John Williams. If you have any further questions, John is very happy to have a chat with you, so please call him on:

0118 9733 981 / 01344 414224 or email him via the MSC website.

2014 course dates

Race Crew Power Boat refresher	5hrs	Starting on Sunday 12th January
RYA PB2 Courses	2 Days	TBC advised Likely to be February
Youth and Junior Volunteer Day	1 day	
RYA Assistant Instructor Course	2 day	17th May
Members refresher	1 day	17th May
RYA Start Sailing (Adults and Juniors)	2 Days	31st May and 1st June
RYA Start Sailing Optimist Course	2 Days	21st June and 22th June.
RYA Start Sailing (Adults and Juniors)	2 Days	12th and 13th July
Skills Sessions Saturday pm	On demand	
RYA PB2 Courses	2 Days	On two Saturdays
RYA Safety Power Boat	2 Days	November TBA

2014 Training Course Fees

Course Course Fees for Club Members		
RYA Start Sailing (adult) -	2 days	£120
RYA Basic Sailing with introduction into racing (adult) -	2 days	£120
RYA Young Sailing Scheme stages 1 and 2	2 days	£80
RYA Young Sailing Scheme stage 3 with intro into racing	2 days	£80
Start Racing		TBA
RYA Power Boat L1/L2 and Safety Boat		£40
First Aid	Free for club members	

Change in MSC Bye Laws

Members are advised to note that, after consultation with members, the MSC Bye Laws have changed with regard to Item 2: Winter Season.

The rule is now as follows:

“Anyone going onto the water (including the pontoons) must wear adequate personal buoyancy and suitable protective clothing. In general, it is recommended that wetsuits/drysuits are worn when sailing or in a rescue boat between October and April.”

Also, a reminder: **cars are not allowed in the dinghy park areas.**

Barry Wicks

Updated MSC clothing - perfect for 2014 and beyond

Following the changes to MSC's logo, there is new clothing available. Wear the club with pride.

Currently available in navy, the prices are as follows:

Adult polo shirt	£15
Adult t-shirt	£12
Child t-shirt	£9
Adult hoody	£20
Child hoody	£17

**ORDER FORMS ARE BEHIND
THE BAR**



Maintenance of Sailing Water at Maidenhead Sailing Club

I start this brief with an apology as it seems selfish to worry about our sailing waters when many local people are facing personal or family catastrophe due to the exceptional rainfall.

However...

Regular sailors will know our water is well over a metre higher than last summer, and if the meteorologists are right, we have far more rainwater yet to come.

Normally at this time of year we are planning to deploy dye to deter weed growth but presently that is on hold as two possibilities need to be anticipated. The first, possibly not very likely, is that we will have a rerun of the 2002 flood whereby our entire site was inundated and, should we have dye in the water in those circumstances, it would all be swept away. The other possibility is that the water might stabilise somewhere just a little lower than at present, which will mean as the path through the water is much longer, solar radiation is vastly attenuated (compared with last year) before getting to the bottom resident plants, thus leading to the quandary of the need to use more dye to compensate for the increased volume, or to keep dye volume as 2013 in the expectation that evaporation will simultaneously decrease water depth (hence volume) and thereby increase dye concentration. The decision as to preferred course of action can be delayed a little as the water is not yet at 6°C (the temperature at which most pond weeds begin to propagate).

I suggest we keep a close eye on water levels, rainfall predictions and water temperature in order to determine optimal dye deployment before weed growth gets out of hand.

I have also noticed that Thumper's anchor regularly catches large quantities of previous years' weed, (mostly Nuttals) this weed significantly including new growth, contrary to expectation, as the dredged-up weed generally comes from deep (i.e. dark) and cold water. I have asked CEH (Aquatic Plant Research) for advice.

We have also have reports from the Anglers and Bird Watchers who share our waters, who both report no significant impacts of the dye on pond ecology, particularly animal life. We expect to recommence survey of water and silt depths in the spring towards helping to develop a dredging policy.

Alan Dibble

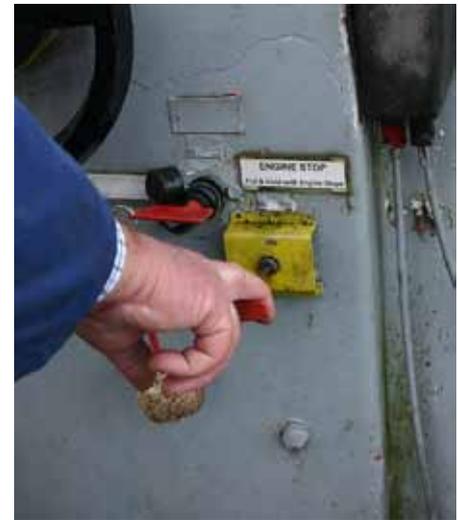
Thumper – Some Operating Tips

Some car brands such as Audi and Renault now feature so called “keyless” entry systems, so instead of inserting a key into the steering lock, one now has a button on the dashboard labelled “START” which you press to start the engine. For some strange reason, one also has to press this same button to stop the engine, so it’s really a start/stop button.



Our launch, “Thumper” has a start button located at the lower right hand side of the instrument panel. Recently, I have observed one or two folk press this button in an attempt to stop the engine as they would in their cars. It’s worth remembering that operation of the starter motor while the engine is running is likely to damage it since “Thumper” has a simple electrical system with none of the safety features to prevent inadvertent operation of the starter motor while the engine is running.

So, the ONLY way to stop Thumper’s engine is to pull out the red T handle on the yellow mount beneath the instrument panel, next to the battery isolator switch and hold it out until the engine comes to rest.



After the engine has stopped, the battery isolator switch (the one into which you fit the key) should be switched OFF, always. Do not leave the battery switched on while the engine is stopped. The horn and bilge pumps circuits remain live when the battery switch is OFF. It’s worth reminding readers that switching the battery off while the engine is running will not shut down the engine but may damage the alternator.

Detailed operating instructions are on the placard above and to the right of the instrument panel. If you would like some practical instruction on these aspects, please let me know.

Malcolm Brown
MSC Powerboat Bosun



Maidenhead Sailing Club Officers

2014/15 Committee Members

General Purposes Committee

Commodore	Barry Wicks
Vice Commodore	Vacant
Hon. Secretary	Julie Maidment
Hon. Treasurer	John Woffinden
Sailing Captain	James Gladwyn
Membership Sec.	Stuart McAdam
Events Co-ordinator	Sarah Mayhew
Communications	Jenni Heward-Craig
E-Communications	Laurent Conte
Safety Officer	Paul Sutherland
Bar & Kitchen Steward	Dave Duncan
Senior Instructor	John Williams

Contact via

gpc@maidenheadsc.org.uk

Sailing Committee

Sailing Captain	James Gladwyn
Race Team Manager	Phil Tindale
Sailing Secretary	Hannah Duncan
Solo Captain	Jon Hirsh
Albacore Captain	Phil Tindall
Laser Captain	Gavin Pidduck
Menagerie Captain	Chris Herbert
Senior Instructor	John Williams
Saturday Sailing	Terry Watkins
Youth and Juniors	Joanne Barnes
Youth and Juniors	David Howell

Contact via

sc@maidenheadsc.org.uk

Other Posts

Harbour Master	Jeff Maidment
Bosun	Malcolm Brown
Training Co-ordinator	Jim Makinson
Child Protection	Sara Stone
Trophy Trustee	Roger Harford

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