



January 2009 Newsletter

Happy New Year.....

And 2009 looks like being another exciting year for PSC.....

We are running the second **Tartan Trophy** in the first weekend in May. This event is in support of the John Merricks Trust which supports young sailors, This event will once again be run with the support of tartanmarine.co.uk, and includes Scottish Traveller events for Finns and Tasars. This is a big event for the club, and it would be great to get all members involved either helping to run the regatta, or competing.

Mid August sees us running an **RS 300 Fat Face Traveller**. This weekend will have one day's training with the RS 300 National Coach, and a one day Scottish Championship. This will be great preparation for the UK Nationals at Torquay in September and the **2010 UK nationals which are planned to at Prestwick**. Check out RS300.com to see the new prototype mainsail.

I am planning to have a Laser Training Day in June, and hopefully we can get a great turnout like 2008, and another day that everybody can enjoy. This will be good practice for.....

The Laser / Topper / Optimist Regatta in September. This is the clubs biggest event of the year and is an extremely valuable event for the club to run. 66 entries last year reflect the feeling across the fleets that Prestwick is a must attend venue.

Training is a vital part of the club's activities, both because it generates significant income, and because it provides a steady flow of new members. There was recent open club meeting to discuss how the training benefits to the club can be maintained and maximized. It was generally agreed that the benefits in terms of income and retaining new members will be maximized by having organized activities, including formal training, every Saturday from May through to September. The activities will include cadet racing, race training, cruising, fun days, advanced sailing training, cadet coaching and cadet racing. It is hoped that this will be a great benefit to all club members in terms of club income and increased membership, but it will take a lot of effort to organize and run.

Mike and his team of instructors and helpers already put in a huge amount of effort, and it is time that the whole club started to share some of this. Because Saturday activities are seen to be a vital part of the club's future I am going to extend the Race Officer duty rota to include a single Saturday afternoon duty for all members. This will provide the rescue cover and help that Mike needs. This duty, along with running club races, will be considered to be a commitment for every club member which is vital to support a successful Prestwick Sailing Club.

Informal sailing and coach9ng sessions for all members will also take place on Tuesday nights – details soon.

Thanks to Keith Lyons, Norman Day, Chris Clow, Paul Gilmore, Matthew Wallace, Tom Carey and Donald Bryson lending the muscle needed to get the racing marks ashore. Unfortunately mark 7 was punctured so I need to order a replacement. Ian Ross and David Donaldson are going to get the gear ready and out for 2009, so thanks in advance to them.

I am starting to get the 2009 race calendar and duty rota together, so if anyone has any suggestions please let me know. One thing I would like suggestions for is the Annual prizegiving. There was a lot of effort put into it for 2008, but not a great turnout.....what do you want?

I am also planning some evening sessions in the early season to cover OOD duties and the New Racing Rules.....more details soon.

Neil Beveridge – Sailing Captain

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