

Commodores Comment

Welcome to the 2019 sailing season which kicks off with our usual work party at Skene on Saturday 2nd March at 10am. Please come along to help get everything ready for the start of sailing the next day, Sunday 3rd March, with the usual 2 races starting at 2pm. Hopefully weather will be better than this picture of Skene racing from a couple of years ago.

2019 sees a major change for us at both our locations, as the new bypass will make access to both Skene and Stonehaven much quicker than if you had to travel across town previously. Hopefully as a result we will see more of you out on Wednesday evenings, which start on Wednesday 3rd April. We will continue to meet in the Shepherd's Rest after Wednesday racing.

Over the winter break your committee has continued to meet and work on the vision and strategy for the club with the help of Jack Mitchell from RYA Scotland as we aim to provide competitive and social sailing for all ages and abilities.

Of particular focus is making us a friendly, social club - helping to get new members into the club, maintaining our strong juniors' section and encouraging interaction across the age spectrum, plus providing opportunities for members to improve their sailing and racing with novice racing nights and pot-luck Saturdays. Our social events for the season are being finalized with details and dates later in this newsletter.



A lot of effort goes into these and they are based on the feedback we get so please try to support them. Facebook remains our main social media site so please use that as much as possible to post pictures, events or anything you feel like. We are also going to start a WhatsApp group for finding crews – more details to follow.

Our fleet of club boats will be available as usual. These are free to use in your first year of membership with a small charge thereafter so if you have friends who are interested in sailing they can start cheaply by using these – please encourage them to visit the club and hopefully join.

Look forward to seeing you on the water and have a great 2019 sailing season.

Francis

2019 Club Committee



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Sailing Season 2019

Don't forget to bring your strimmers and other useful tools to the work party on Saturday 2nd March starting at 10am.

The Sailing Programme is up on Dutyman as is the Duty Rota for you to volunteer for duties at a time that suits you. You can choose your own duties but Dutyman will assign you a duty if you have not volunteered before Feb. 28th.

I'm not putting race marks out at Skene during March as a trial to see if laying marks on the day leads to more flexibility that better reflects the strength of the wind and more accurate course setting. There will be two race marks in each of the RIB's for the OD and his/her crew to lay appropriately. We will review after a month.

Junior/Youth Series

ASYC has a number of talented young sailors who we rarely see at the club because of their commitments to RYA squad training and national series/ events. This year we are experimenting with a Youth/ Junior series of twelve races (six Sundays) through the season, with the hope that this will be attractive both to those young sailors and to the more experienced sailors in our Junior lessons programme.

This is open to any club member up to school sixth year at the start of 2019, or if not at school 18yrs old or less at 31st Dec 2019. Those competing will join the normal club racing, and their results will be extracted from the club racing results.

4 discards, and the results are on a handicap basis. Overall prize and Junior prize (age 15 or under at



31st Dec 2019) will be awarded along with some spot prizes depending on numbers. Please see Hamish McCulloch for further details. Dates for the series are:

Race 1: 5th May	Race 2: 19th May
Race 3: 16th June	Race 4: 14th July
Race 5: 11th Aug	Race 6: 8th Sept

Potluck Saturdays

We'll be doing Potluck Saturdays again this year. This series is designed for novice helms who wish to acquire some gentle racing experience in a two man boat with an experienced sailor as tutor. It will take place on Saturday afternoons through April and May 4th and 18th. If you wish to take part then email me at john_deacon2011@hotmail.co.uk giving me the dates that you CANNOT do and I will draw up a rota. Experienced sailors – please let me know if you can volunteer, again with the dates you CANNOT do. The series is free and open to members. We will be using the club boats so the two man boats will not be available to hire on these dates. The more boats that turn out means better sailing for everyone so let's make it a good season.

See you on the water.

John

Constitution – Planned Update



Our constitution is looking a little dated in some areas, and crucially it lacks some of the governance and equal rights clauses that fit with our approach of being a progressive and inclusive club.

So your committee, working with the RYA, plan an update this year. We will target approval of the revised constitution either at the AGM, or possibly call an EGM to be held straight after the Stonehaven work-party on 1st June.

Looking forward to providing further updates here

Hamish

2019 Membership

Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership, we have over 100 members already re-joined for the coming season. The earlier we receive membership renewals the easier it makes it for the 2019 season planning. For members looking to re-join, renewals were due on the 1st February and the membership form can be found on the club website under the joining section.

Can all members check and update their own information profiles on dutyman. We appreciate

the membership form will have your latest information on it but it is helpful if you can keep your own dutyman profile update (email address, mobile & boat class/number etc).

Other than that membership is similar to previous years and the fees remain unchanged from the 2018 cost.

If you have any questions around membership, please drop me a line at:
niel001@btopenworld.com

Finally, I write with great sadness of the passing of Anne Malcolm. Anne was commodore during the 1994-1995 season following Peter's stint 2 years earlier. Anne was an accomplished golfer and was well known on the curling scene, judging in several winter Olympics. Peter & Anne retired to Largo in 2011 but always kept in touch with the club & their friends in the North East.

Sailing was and still is a huge part of this families life and our thoughts go out to Peter, Gillian & Neil.

Niel

Fancy doing more than just sailing?

Why not come along to this seasons social gatherings? The dates for your diary are:

27th April - Know your rules night. ASYC Clubhouse

22nd May - After sailing BBQ, Loch of Skene

19th June - Nearly midnight sail, Stonehaven

28th September - Quiz / Bingo Night, ASYC Clubhouse

30th November - Dinner and dance & Prizegiving

Hope to see you there

Nadia

Junior Sailing Lessons 2019

Registration for Junior lessons is now open. If you have not already done so - register **NOW** or wait at least another year to join the fun and games.

The new sailing season is just about to start. So, time to contact us at: asyctraining@gmail.com to enrol any juniors who are interested in lessons. Fun on and off the water. RYA certificates, learn how to sail a boat, capsize it and make friends. Join in with racing.

Lesson dates

The block of 9+1 sessions start on the weekend of 20th/21st April. Sessions run on either Saturdays or Sunday between 10:30am and 13:00, culminating in the Junior regatta on Sunday 26th May followed by the move to Stonehaven. The last session before the summer holidays will be on 22nd/23th June. There will be a further session on 24th/25th August (after summer holidays) to encourage all to join in with club racing. The block of 10 lessons will cost £120 to keep our ageing fleet of club boats going. Juniors have to be ASYC members (Junior membership £35).

All the sessions are taught by volunteers. These sessions would not run without their boundless enthusiasm and hard work. We ask that parents remain on site during the sessions and help run the sessions. I need willing volunteers to drive/crew power boats, be beach master, help launch boats, look after the galley and keep the club boats in tip top shape (any offers?). We also hope to offer some parent sailing alongside the Juniors this year, utilising our larger club boats. However, this will be weather dependent and at the discretion of the Senior Instructor on the day – we need to ensure that safety cover is adequate for the Juniors and all helper positions are filled. More information on this at a later point.



Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, but preference will be given to returners and last year's club members, but we find places for new members too, so don't be shy putting your name forward, even if you are not a current club member. We try hard to find a boat for everyone who applies.

The summer week is scheduled for 12th-16th August (followed by the club Open regatta on 17th/18th August). This will cost £100 per nose this year. Registration for this will be in May – we will try hard to fit in as many kids in the Junior lesson program as possible – just need to find enough boats, RIBs and instructors.

The Parental Consent form for the junior lessons and the Membership form are on the asyc.org.uk website.

Deadline for lesson registration: 9th February 2019, possible extension till 16th.

See you all soon

Ditta

The Year That Was – Juniors

Last year's Junior season was one of the biggest so far. 41 kids learning to sail in 4 sessions, the most experienced ones training alongside club racing. The adults were delighted to have the kids out sailing. Novice racing in Stonehaven was also very busy - until the kids discovered that club racing on a Wednesday night included communal Fish & Chips in the club house after. The last few Wednesdays saw nearly 30 boats on the water and many more fish suppers.

The summer week was huge. Five groups, 35 kids and many adults and Junior helpers made for quite a spectacle. With glorious sunshine and very variable wind everyone had a ball. Several even went on to compete in the Adult Open regatta the following weekend.

Many youngsters also ventured forth to compete at other Scottish sailing clubs - just have a look at all the reports on the club Facebook page. A fair few of the more experienced Juniors also joined in with the sessions as teachers, the younger kids loving the opportunity to be taught by kids only slightly older than them. 2019 will have even more volunteers. A big Thank you to all - the Junior sessions would be a willy-wally affair if it was not for everyone joining in.

At the dinner dance the following awards were won:

- Junior Novice: Isla Coull & Mac Leven
- Most Improved: Daniel Clarkson
- Kings Trophy (Junior services to the club)
Tom White
- Assistant Instructor: Jackie Reaper
- Junior Race (Best Junior in club racing):
Fraser Cowie

Training for Young & Old

Alastair MacKay organised several excellent **Powerboat lessons** to greatly increase the safety fleet capability - the last one ran in November - more will be planned soon. We will try and organise a session in the early spring - summer, though it's proving tricky to schedule as the RIBs are used so much.

Adult sailing lessons are currently not offered by ASYC, but if you know anyone interested - check out AST <http://www.aberdeenshiresailing.org/> who offer a huge range of sessions at Loch of Skene from April to end June - ranging from after school sessions to Launching Lassies (social sailing while the wee nippers are at school) to adult sessions. Check out their calendar of activity. Should none fit - contact them and they'll design a course just for you. ASYC and AST are working closer together than ever before.

Novice racing is offered by AST on Mondays at Loch of Skene (2. April to 27th May). Charge is £5 per session and ASYC boats can be hired - as well as the extensive AST fleet,

Sailing with Spinnakers session will be offered by Alastair MacKay on Saturday 16th March for anyone interested. More information to follow via Dutyman and Facebook!

More boat specific training sessions are also in the pipeline.

Double hander sailing sessions were very popular last year. In 2019 these will run at Loch Skene from 6th April to 18th May with a more ad-hoc boat allocation on the day. Lots of single handers to choose from and everyone is welcome, experienced and inexperienced sailors alike.

2019 ASYC Dates for your Dairy

	Racing	Juniors	Social/ Other
Mar	2 nd 10am Skene Workparty 3 rd Start of Skene Sunday series		
Apr	3 rd Start of Skene Wednesday series 6 th Start of Skene "Pot Luck" double hander series 7 th Helms Trophy 21 st Easter Egg Pursuit	20 th / 21 st : Start of Junior Lessons 21 st First race in Youth/Junior series	27 th Know Your Rules
May	11 th RYA Push the Boat Out 25 th Skene Regatta	5 th First race in Youth/Junior series 26 th Junior Regatta	11 th RYA Push the Boat Out 22 nd BBQ at Skene after Wed sailing
Jun	1 st : 10am Stonehaven Workparty 2 nd Start of Stonehaven Sunday series 5 th Start of Stonehaven Wednesday series 23 rd Stonehaven Helms Trophy		29 th Nearly Midnight Sail
Jul	20 th : Catterline Race 21 st Ladies Race		
Aug	17 th / 18 th : Open Regatta	12 th -16 th : Summer Week	
Sep	29 th Commodore's Trophy		28 th Quiz/Bingo Night
Oct	6 th Start of Stonehaven Autumn Series		
Nov	tbc Stonehaven packing up Workparty		13 th : 7pm AGM 29 th or 30 th (tbc) Dinner Dance & Prizegiving