

Redwing Newsletter

NATIONAL REDWING DINGHY ASSOCIATION

July 2006

Message from the Hon. Secretary:-

Dear Redwing Sailors,
The spring flew by in an instant and we seem to have summer fully underway. The main news to report in this issue is the entertaining and enjoyable weekend regatta held at North Devon YC, Instow 17th and 18th June. Read on for a write-up of this but many, many thanks must go to Mike and Mary-Lou Hick and their fellow club members whose efforts made the weekend such a success. May I also take this opportunity to thank the Redwingers who entered and supported this event that should become an annual fixture.

The next big event this year is the National Championships at Tenby. More of which is over leaf in this letter.

Your Newsletter writer has been suffering from very bad writer's block and a serious shortage of material to put into words.

I would like to inform you that since I am unable to continue I will be standing down as your Hon.

Secretary at this year's AGM to let someone fresh take it over.

Bye for now.

Best wishes and happy sailing,
Bill☺

Fleet and boat news

Looe

It seemed as if the season had got off to a slow start but now Ben and John Crabb in R245 have been finally joined by Geoff Godbolt and Brian Melling in R183, Simon and Marion in R201, Robert Libby and Barry Darlington with R224, Peter Kinver in R205 and Des Hocking and Colin C in R241. However where are you Cecil R246 and Matthew R198?! Roger H has been recovering from an operation and has yet to put in an appearance but hopes to be fighting fit for the Nationals in August. My reporter also informs me that veteran Harold Holmes has swapped the thrills of his Redwing for the more sedate ride of a Mirror

dinghy.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Muriel Adams earlier this spring. Everyone who love and sail Redwings will join with us in offering deepest sympathy to Cliff and family.

Tenby

The small Tenby fleet has been represented on the water by Rolly Squibbs R244 and Mike and Deanna R195. Helen Williams' R221 has joined them down at Tenby Harbour but have not seen much action until taken out by none other than Brian Carvey, on a busman's holiday, for the Tenby regatta on 24th and 25th June. Of Alex MacDonald and his boats R219/95 there has been no sign. Are you back yet Alex?

North Devon YC Regatta 17th and 18th June

Instow

Initially a fleet of five Redwings gathered at Instow for the North Devon Y.C. invitation regatta, three visiting Looe boats R183, R241 and R201 and locals R174 and R211. It was these five who started the first race on Saturday morning against the flood tide in a light westerly breeze and bright sunshine. Instow is on the confluence of the rivers Taw and Torridge and the sailing area is estuarial and hence the race timings were tide dependent. This meant that it was just possible to get a second race in before the water went away to reveal a long and muddy pull back to the dinghy park. R228, having travelled from Pembrokeshire, made it in time to take part in the second race

on Saturday. 'Time and tide wait for no man...'

After a rather excellent barbeque at the club, by Mike and Mary-Lou Hick the sailors dispersed to enjoy the sunshine and a few pints of North Devon's finest.

Sunday brought similar sunny conditions and a little bit more wind to make some exciting and very close racing as local knowledge was pitched against Looe boat speed. Six redwings circulated the course with places constantly being shuffled. However after 4 races the final winners were Des Hocking and Colin Crabb – well done both. Geoff and Brian were second and the Welsh contingent came third. The event was superbly organised and the sailing excellent – This regatta should definitely become an annual fixture.

National Championships 2006

Tenby August 20th to 25th

This year's National Championships at Tenby Sailing Club are looming. In case you need reminding they start on Sunday 20th August. It's not too late to enter now – 'the more the merrier' as they say. You will have a great week both on and off the water. The weather so far this summer has been excellent in Pembrokeshire so there is the prospect of a good week's sailing to be had. Note for visiting sailors: Tenby has a pedestrianisation scheme in operation daily from 11AM till 5PM so it may be a good idea to try and arrive outside these times. However it should be possible to gain

access if you tell the 'guard' that you are taking part in a sailing event at TSC.



And Finally..

We have recently heard from Joe Bondi from 'across the pond'. Joe tells me that he has been having some excellent sails in R230 'Eagle' on the Potomac River in Washington DC, so far this year. He says how much he would like to sail in our fleet and 'Eagle' will be with us in spirit at this year's 'Nationals' – It is a shame that not more boats were built of the batch that were issued to the USA based boat builder to create a local fleet, on the Potomac, for example.

Kevin Williams, our collector of Redwings in distress, has been busy again; After R161 'Mistral' was deemed too far gone to be repaired and was burnt Kevin was on the lookout and has 'rescued' R227 'Catriona' although fairly young she is in a terrible state and will take a fair amount of TLC to get her up to scratch. Kevin recently helped me and 'big' Dave Bowen do an interesting little repair on Dave's boat R178 'Venus':- She had a terrible leak from the lower part

of her centreboard casing which, on investigation, was because the whole casing was detaching from the hog due to corroded and broken holding down screws – in short she was 'nail-sick'. We tipped the boat on her side and removed keel band and centreboard and cleaned the joint between case and hog on the now upper side as best we could. Then we drilled new screw holes to take No.16 by 100mm silicon bronze screws in between the existing fastenings. We then made up a thickened epoxy mix using wood dust in WEST epoxy and ran it into the joint, allowing gravity to fill the gap before we drove the screws home on the upper casing side and left her to cure. Then, the following day we rolled her over the other way and repeated the exercise. The weather was so hot we had to put the epoxy in the 'fridge before mixing it to give an adequate pot-life! The end result is a nice tight and leak-free joint.

Boats For Sale

R77 'Althea-Vega' Built: Pearn. Year: 1948 Extensively refurbished/re-rigged by the current owner (see Redwing Newsletter article) but now looking for a new home. Boat located in St Marys, Scilly. Sensible offers please to Paul Charnock Tel. 01720 423450

R86 'Redbreast' Built: Pearn. Year: 1948 Needs some refurbishment work but a good example of a Pearn-built Redwing. She has sails, mast fittings etc. £100 Boat located in Bodmin, Cornwall Contact: Doug Yates Tel. 01208 264838

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Please send items for inclusion to Bill Dowell.

**'Hell hath no fury
as a (female)
Redwing crew
scorned...'**