

Happy New Year to all of you who I have not yet seen!

The committees have been very busy over the Christmas/New Year organizing events and working on new ideas to encourage members to enjoy all aspects of sailing. The new hand book should be out early next month, but hopefully this newsletter will bring everyone up to date with **forthcoming events**.

### **Sailing Report**

Last year was rather disappointing weather wise, (the commodore had the best sailing of his year this winter on Loch Ness!!) and some of the fun events were not well attended, however we're to try again this year but with a difference. The sailing subcommittee are introducing a Friday Club Sailing programme for six weeks during the school summer term. This is to allow informal sailing of all boat types, with rescue support. The final details are to be ironed out but it is hoped that this will encourage people to have a go in whatever boats are available, to try different crews, helms and generally feel more at home on the water.

There will be mixed cruising events at times through the year and perhaps with the Friday night activities to arrange crews and with better weather (we can hope) more people will enjoy these little jaunts.

The racing programme is looking good. The dinghy regatta and it will be a Fireball Traveller event and RS 200/300/400 and 600 Scottish Championships and the club is also hosting the West Patch Cruiser Regatta 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> August. Both of these events will be supported by the social committee, i.e. there will be a licensed bar, so even if you aren't sailing there will be two good weekends for 'Sailing Craic' so come along.

The idea of global warming has been accommodated too, as there are proposals to extend the season into November and December with a winter series, and a Cold Turkey Open on December 27<sup>th</sup>..... take out shares in dry suit manufacturers!

The committee is enthusiastic again this year and want to encourage SAILING in all its forms. Please remember to put your name down if you want to crew or need crew at any time this season and let's hope we all get some pleasant sailing.

### **DIARY DATES**

#### **Social programme**

**Social events are advertised in the press, the club newsletters and in the clubhouse window and are often associated with major sailing events. As many of the social committee are regular sailors, they are also available on other occasions to provide access to soft drinks and snacks from the bar. Any help with setting up, serving, and clearing up afterwards and music is always greatly appreciated. If you can help with cooking/catering - particularly for the Regatta and Annual Dinner (desserts) please contact Helen (01381 600539) or Val (01391 620746). Our thanks to all the people that have regularly helped over the past years.....**

**Wednesday 26 February 7.30 pm Wine and Cheese Evening with a chance to meet mystery guests ... from RYA and Gael Force 10 and other local clubs ...sailing talk galore !!**

**Sat 26 April 7.30 pm Start of Season Curry Night.....come and enjoy a range of curries from Gabi's Tandoori of Avoch, and extras from our resident team, get warmed up, and create some wind to start off the sailing season !!!!**

**Finally The Winter series is upon us again and both David Watson and myself will be looking for crew for these weekend events. They start at 12.00 on both Saturdays and Sundays, and offer a chance of some great early season sailing. They are only running for the next month so please contact either for a chance to take part. (even if only for one outing!)**

**Best wishes for the new season**

**Ewen Smith (01349 877694)**