



The Christmas and New Year festivities are now well behind us and we look forward to another year of good spirited and hard fought races at the Broads club. I think all members will agree with me that the Christmas dinner was again a great success and that we were very well looked after by the restaurant staff. We have another full programme of racing for the IOM, RM and R6M classes of yachts and the 2014 Race Calendar is associated with this newsletter.

*Now some important dates for your diary;*

- a) **On 29th and 30th MARCH; Norwich Model Yacht Club** are hosting a two day **Radio Marblehead Ranking Event** at their Whitlingham Country Park venue. Saturday 29th March includes the Eastern District Championship which has more traditionally been included with the Broadland Trophy at Filby. Sunday 30th March includes the Whitlingham Trophy. Individuals are free to enter both days or either one and full details can be found on the eastern District website. Entries to Vinnie Zammit. I hope that some Broads club members will support this event.
- b) **On 6th April;** we are hosting the **Shearwater Trophy** open event for the **Radio Six Metre** class and I hope for a good entry from Broads club members.
- c) **On 26th April;** is the **2014 Eastern District Workshop** which this year is being hosted by the **Harwich and Dovercourt** club. Please note that this workshop is specifically tailored to those fairly new to the sport so if you have been sailing for more than a couple of years or so and are confident with the racing rules and so on it is unlikely that you would benefit much from attending. Previous workshops have been a great success and places this year are limited so if any member would like to attend please let me know asap.

Don't forget to check the Race Calendar each week to see when you are due to be race officer. If you are ever unable to fulfil this duty you must first try to arrange for a substitute and advise David, our Race Secretary, accordingly. If you are unable to arrange a substitute you must tell David. A copy of the Guide for Race Officers' was associated with the previous newsletter, please read it and familiarize yourself with what is required so that when you do your stint you know what to do.

Today, Tom kindly brought a set of scales along to Filby and checked the weight of a number of one metre boats. Interestingly only a few weighed correctly with some being a bit underweight and some over weight by a considerable margin. Don't forget that it is the responsibility of the owner to keep his or her boat within class and if you change to a different winch, servo or battery you must check that the boat still weighs what is required by the class rules and this applies to all rigs - not just the number 1 rig. The numbers 2 and 3 rigs will require a considerable amount of weight to be added in the bottom of the mast to ensure that the correct weight is maintained. If your boat is overweight you are sailing under a handicap and if it is underweight you are gaining an unfair advantage over other competitors.

We are now back to regular racing informally on Wednesdays and in accordance with the race programme on Sundays. Turn outs have been very good recently and I hope that as many members as possible continue to support the club in this way. Even if the weather is too bad for sailing it is enjoyable to meet up and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee in the comfortable surroundings of the restaurant.

That's all for now so fair winds and good sailing.

Pete.