

THE 2013 SEASON

After last year's 40th anniversary celebrations the Haven Series moves into the next 40 years in good shape. In times of falling fleet sizes in other series, our numbers have continued to hold up well. Your committee would like to feel that this is because we are offering in the Haven Series, the type of racing that local competitive yachts are looking for. We have achieved this by retrospectively looking critically at each year's programme with a view to improving the next year's one and also by listening to the feed-back we get from the competing yachts. I would like to thank Tony Carter for his stewardship in achieving that for last year.

From last year's programme, the ten round the cans races over four weekends with the fleet divided into two classes sailing the same course continued to work well. These four racing weekends take place in two tranches – one towards the beginning of the season and the other towards the end of the season in September. This formula appeared to work well and will continue for the 2013 season.

Unfortunately we have lost the services of Peter Martin as our resident Race Officer for 2013 and we are very grateful for his services over the last few years. For this year we will rely on the constituent clubs to provide the Race Officers as we have done so in the past.

Haven passage races continue to prove more and more popular and it was really pleasing to have thirty two boats entering the Britannia Trophy Race to Lowestoft with ninety people for the prize-giving dinner in the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club. The Ostend races have not followed this trend and entries have tended to decline and as a result, your Committee have decided to change the destination of the Stroombank from Ostend to Ramsgate. This will still be a "Cat 3" race. The idea is that we will have a similar prize-giving dinner at The Royal Temple Yacht Club. Hopefully this race will then prove as popular as the Britannia and Crouch races do.

Last year's Haven Barbeque proved so popular that your Committee have decided to repeat it for 2013. Again it will be at the Royal Harwich

Yacht Club on Saturday 8th June, Haven 4 enabling them to show off their new clubhouse.

Your Committee is ever vigilant of the changing scene in off-shore racing and is anxious to adapt to changes whilst still providing a Haven Series that the members of our fleet want. We are aware of the abandoning of PY handicapping by the RYA and the introduction of progressive handicaps and we will consider whether there are any aspects of this that we would wish to incorporate into the Haven Series.

We are also aware of the introduction of MCZs and their possible impact on the Orwell, Stour and Walton Backwaters and your committee will lobby for their introduction to have minimal effect on our sailing. Your committee is also aware that the area of Beacon Hill has been designated as a possible Reference Area and as far as it goes the possible consequences.

We on the Haven Series are proud of our reputation for co-operation between our member clubs, other non-member clubs and other off-shore race series and would support the exhortation from the RYA to foster and strengthen such co-operation. To that end it will be pleasing to see Haven yachts competing in The Felixstowe Regatta and EAORA events.

Your committee is always happy to receive constructive and helpful criticism in its endeavour to provide an enjoyable series.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for all their hard work and in particular your secretary Fiona Meikle without whom none of it would function.

I wish you all the best for a season of good sailing.

Pat York

Haven Series Chairman 2013.