

Woodham Ferrers Waterski Club

waterski, wakeboard, kneeboard



In January the Telegraph was reporting that Britain was facing one of the coldest winters in 100 years with temperatures plummeting to minus 16 degrees Celsius. They were half way in their predictions as the coldest recorded temp for this year so far is minus 8 degrees c, still extremely cold. Apart from petrol prices and free time, weather plays the largest part in our skiing calendar and we are very much holding thumbs that the weather is kind to us skiers this year.

There has been a lot **less** skiing this winter and I can personally confirm that the water is beyond just being cold "it burns" not covering the extremities takes you close to hypothermia I'm sure, nevertheless we shall persevere.

Enough of the cold though, its time to shake it off and get our boats serviced, remove mould and dust off the ski's as it's almost time to join up for another fun filled year of water sports.

We have already been willing the summer along by painting and de cluttering the wetsuit lounge to make space for more and easier use of this facility. We are currently looking at proposals to install a bi-fold door in this area which will keep out the cold or wind but let in more light, the hope is that we can find more uses for this room. The BBQ's have been cleaned and serviced, broadband is now installed in the Clubhouse which has already proved popular with iphone and other mobile users. In the next weekend or so we will begin maintenance on the large pontoon which will hopefully result in extending its life a little further.

The "small pontoon" as you may know has been under review for some time now with the view of extending it to accommodate two additional spaces for ski boats. This review has now gained momentum and we hope to have an update for you very soon as to when we expect the upgrade to take place, we are very much pushing for this to happen this year.

The men's showers will soon have dividing screens installed as well as a lighter coat of paint in an attempt to "freshen" things up a little. We are looking at a general upgrade of all the facilities in the club house and will keep you posted on progress and viability of the upgrades. It would be helpful to get a few ideas and a bit of feedback from our members who make use of these facilities of what you think can be improved, you can do this by using the contact form on our club website www.wfwsc.com.

This year under the direction of Mark Plaster we hope to introduce a "Ski Clinic" for all members who wish to improve their skiing by taking casual instruction from other members in a "shared knowledge scheme", more details of this will emerge after the 1st of April when our official season begins.

This year also sees the introduction of the most improved junior and senior water skier for 2010 as judged by Mark Plaster, Leah Cook, Sue Morrell, Kim Rowswell and Tim Cook. The finer details of how this competition will proceed will be available on the website in due course.

We are hoping to make contact with all our voting members this year with the idea of reaching out to those members that don't get contacted directly via email and texting because there was not an allowance made for these additional contact details. This has now changed and we ask that Boat owners, Spouses and crew member ensure that we have received your contact details to keep you and your families up to date with club news and events.

Since the resurfacing of the Yacht parking bay next to our wash bays, the bays flood much quicker than they have in the past. We are in the motions of finding a solution to this problem but we ask that when using your hose pipe, you fit a nozzle which can be turned off when not needed. Not only will this save water but it will not exacerbate the flooding of the bays.

There will soon be a few new additions on our website. For Crew Members wishing to share their contact information with boat members looking for crew, we have all been short of crew at some point, hopefully this new service will help lessen that problem. The next is the posting of minutes from the monthly committee meetings, this will give members an insight into the running of the club and hopefully encourage feedback and ideas, please note that sensitive information will be censored for individual protection.

There is a busy year ahead of us which will involve a bit of manual labour but will improve our club greatly, it would be fantastic if you could volunteer on some of our planned projects for this year, just to lighten the load a little. I will be sending texts out when these projects are set in stone and a simple reply text to the number given will get you on the work list.

Having been out only twice this year it became immediately apparent how much we had forgotten about boating and skiing, this is not to say you will suffer the same forgetfulness but it's just a gentle reminder that it may be good practice to scribble a quick check list of things which need doing before launching and skiing. Additionally you may also want to ensure you are physically prepared to ski by doing a few stretches and warm ups as you don't want to injure yourself pre season.

The joining weekends are now upon us with the first this month on the 28th Sunday. We have additional help and systems processing memberships so we can guarantee to have you processed a little quicker this year. You will have received your letter and Membership Forms from Gary Morrell already so please ensure you bring them in completed, if there are errors we will print out a new form for you to complete.

We hope to see all members renewing their memberships and enjoying the events and summer ahead this year.

Peter Holman
Communications