

Woodham Ferrers Waterski Club

waterski, wakeboard, kneeboard



Finally after a long cold winter, sunshine and warm weather are making an appearance and our ski season is now well under way. A warm welcome to all our new members and a **welcome back** to all our existing members. Thank you to all those who attended the joining weekends, we had a great response to our messages and you all kept us very busy on the joining days.

For those members new to WFWSC, I would like to draw your attention to our website www.wfwsc.com, where you will find up to date information and also archived newsletters from last year which may give you an idea of what we get up to as a club during the year.

In your joining packs you will have received stickers, keys and information booklets, we ask you to please have a good read of the information booklet as it contains all the information you will need to help you operate safely and within the byelaws of the club and the Crouch River. We are still having a problem retrieving last years keys from members so please make an effort to return these keys to any committee member as they cost the club close on £10 per key, this year we spent £300.00 on replacing the unreturned keys.

In the previous news letter I mentioned a number of items being actioned, here is a quick update on progress so far:

- The men's showers have been thoroughly cleaned, lighting updated and the dividing screens installed
- The main pontoon has had worn cleats replaced and fenders refastened, further maintenance will be planned later in the season as required
- The small pontoon has had the missing fender replaced (seems to have worked loose again) and worn cleats replaced, installation of buoyancy drums is planned to make this pontoon more stable.
- The broadband access code is 58bc32624c and the SSID is "BT Home Hub" (for now) Soon to be WFWSC

There are a number of items on the agenda which are still ongoing, they include the renewal/extension of the small pontoon. This project is gathering pace daily, there are now five members working on this project and we hope to have quotations and related costs finalised so the committee can decide whether the project can feasibly go ahead this year or the next. The flooding of the wash bays is still very much on our agenda and is now being passed onto the Woodham Water Sports Association sub committee for discussions and hopefully solutions. The committee has for now put the wet suit lounge door installation on hold until next year when it will be reviewed once again.

Now that we have a healthy list of members, all those interested in having their contact details made available to boat members looking for crew can do so by replying to communications@wfwsc.co.uk. Facebook is also a good way of making contact with other members in the club and you can manage your own personal information there. There is a group on Facebook called "Woodham Ferrers Water Ski Club" with approximately 30 or so members already.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is to establish a Coastguard Rescue Station in South Woodham Ferrers and have been in contact with our friends the Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club and ourselves. Dave Boughton is the South Essex Sector Manager for HM Coastguard and has asked for local volunteers to become part of a team of Coastguard Rescue officers who will respond to coast and sea rescue emergencies on the rivers Crouch and Blackwater. If you are local to South Woodham Ferrers (10 mins from the station) and are interested in

joining as a (CRO) Coastguard Rescue Officer then please contact David on 01206 385 208 or 07785963886.

Your safety and enjoyment of our club and it's facilities is of utmost importance to us. I mentioned before that safety information and rules are contained in the information booklets you received when you joined a few weeks back. We know and understand that in the first few outings after a long break, members may be a little rusty in remembering how to operate safely and remembering the rules of our club and the river byelaws. If you feel you need a short refresher then please contact any committee member, they will show you the ropes so to speak.

All those members signed up to take the SBDA (Ski Boat Drivers Award) course in the middle of May, please could you ensure you are getting enough practical experience on the water as this will help in passing your practical test on the Saturday following your theory test on Friday night. If you require assistance from a committee member to practice the basics and format of the test, then keep an eye out for boats with the double "00" numbers i.e 001,002,003 and so on, we are here to help. There are many members booked on this course so the more prepared you are, the better for everyone. To get a head start on the theory, you can download or read online, the SBDA booklet which is located here on our website http://www.wfwsc.co.uk/sbda_candidate_manual.pdf. If you have not yet booked your place then please contact our SBDA coordinator and principal, **Leah Cook** on **07946 427 591** or email on leah@wfwsc.co.uk

As a committee we are very keen to hear feedback from our fellow members as to how things could be improved for the benefit of our sport and members. If we are doing a good job, we would like to hear from you that we are on the right track. We don't mind how small the idea or suggestion as it gives us a platform to work from in delivering a better experience and in keeping with the times. You can contact us using the contact form on the website or by emailing communications@wfwsc.co.uk.

Happy Skiing

Peter Holman
Communications Officer