

Pirate News

August 2017

Park Fun Day

In spite of a dire weather forecast the annual Park Fun Day took place on the 30th of July in mostly dry sunny conditions. The poor weather forecast affected the attendance which was down considerably on last year, however there was still in excess of 3,000 visitors. A good turn out of Pirates meant that we put on our usual impressive display which went down well with the general public and we drew substantial crowds through out the day. The Fun Boats did a roaring business and thanks are due to all the Pirates who helped in supervising their operation. We subsequently received thanks from both the APF and DCC for our participation. Photos from the event are available on the website.

Communications

We keep on being told by members that they are not being kept informed of what is happening in the club. This is of major concern to us as many of our members are not regular visitors to the lake and as such miss out on regular verbal updates. We use various methods to try and keep you informed of club news, issues and activities.

1. Pirate news is sent out to all members, who have informed us of their email address, at the start of each month and is our preferred method of communication.

2. We also update our club facebook page as and when events occur. It is also used by individual members to talk to each other. A number of our members have concerns re the use of facebook all of which are basically unfounded if your facebook page is set up properly, Tim can/will give you help in setting up your page and we would strongly urge members to so do.

3. Likewise our website is updated on a regular basis. Post our recent redesign the page is now user friendly irrespective of the type of device you use.

4. Finally we are now posting club news articles on our notice board outside the Waterside Café.

As over 90% of our members have provided us with an email address they should be receiving or at least be capable of receiving news updates. Obviously members need to make sure they check their emails on a regular basis.

The only other method available to us, posting out the news letter via the Royal Mail, would incur a yearly cost in excess of £330 which is totally prohibitive to a club with a yearly income of around £1000.

Club Status

When the club was started it was on the basis that we were a scale model boat club and that remains the category under which we operate within the MPBA. However over the years since, we have welcomed yachts and fast electrics into our ranks. In excess of 90% of the models in the club are scale and this will remain our main area of interest.

Illuminated Lake Display Items

We are in the process of replacing our current illuminated lighthouse and buoys with new more robust versions. They will be constructed in a more durable way, but as such will be more expensive to replace, and will be fitted with far more sophisticated lightening systems. Whilst in the past we have absorbed any damage to the lake furniture we will from now on be charging members for any damage they cause. We plan to have the display material ready for the Stargazing event.

BMX Event Friday 25th to Sunday 27th August

The Derby BMX Club will be hosting the British National BMX Championships in the park over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Unlike in previous years DCC have decided to close Meadow Lane to all bar BMX traffic from 9.00am on Friday till 9.00pm on Sunday. Entry for normal park users (which includes us) will be via the Lakeside School entrance and down the lane to the normal car park which will be closed to all BMX activities.

There will be a steward on duty at the school entry so as to ensure that the BMX people don't try and get free parking in our normal car park, so you'll have to stop and explain to them what you're about. We would advise therefore that you have your Membership card handy to prove that you're legit. On the other hand if you try to enter the park via Meadow Lane you'll be shown into the BMX paid car park and will not be allowed to leave until the days events are concluded, so please abide by this instruction and only use the school entrance. Exiting will also be via the School road so you'll need to take care due to oncoming traffic.

Around 10,000 people are expected to attend so traffic on London Road will be a problem irrespective of how you approach the park or which entrance you use. We strongly advise members to stay away from the lake on the Saturday and Sunday. We will however be sailing on the Monday at the usual times by which time all of the above restrictions will be removed.

Club Merchandise

We are taking orders for club embroidered apparel until the end of August, for delivery by the end of September. Size and price details are available on the website. Please advise David Rodger the General Secretary of your requirements.

The Committee