



## **RBOD April 2021 Pre-Season Briefing**

Happy Easter...The new season is almost upon us.

Let's hope it will be as near normal as possible. The programme attached shows that we have a full sailing and social season in place, subject of course to unforeseen restrictions

To help kick off our season, the clubhouse is due to reopen on Friday evening 16<sup>th</sup> April for Happy Hour in the courtyard. On Saturday, for lunch and après-sail drinks on the sun terrace. There is also a Sunday roast. Steve says: "Please book to ensure an outside or inside table"

We hope to have 4-5 boats racing on that first Saturday. This should escalate to 10 plus boats on the moorings as the season gets going. So far, these should include: White Rose, Red Jacket, Blue jacket, Beryl, Aquamarine, Phalarope, Mandarin, Gannet, Simonetta, and Whimbrel.

The Doctors Jug will only consist of 2 races this year starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. The main seasons points will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May.

We are delighted to welcome to the fleet Emma Pitcher with her team on Simonetta. The Pitcher family have a long tradition in RBODs and it is marvellous to see them back. The Pitcher Cup dates to 1933 and Fred Pitcher originally commissioned No. 3 Lavender Lady, now known as Gannet.

Also taking Whimbrel and no strangers to the Burnham sailing scene, are Digger Harden and Mike Schneidau. As many of you will know, they will fit in just fine with the RBOD party scene, as well giving us some great competition.

There are a few new things to remember this season. Due to Covid restrictions the RB start line will be used by all the Burnham fleets, every weekend until the 21<sup>st</sup> June. We are grateful as ever, to Alison and David Osbourne with the help of Lizzie Wastnage, for running the race box so efficiently.

For reasons beyond our control and far too complicated to go into here, the fleet will be adopting a new class/signal flag. Henceforth it will be the naval numeral 4. There is an obvious similarity to the V flag. Hopefully you can spot the difference.



Mel has attached the RBOD checklist, which needs to be completed and returned to her before your boat comes to the start line. There may be some boats that need measuring, this should be done before their masts are stepped. Rory McNamara (Class Measurer) will be available until the end of May before he goes cruising.

Next year is our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and judging by our 80<sup>th</sup> in 2012, it should be a very special celebration. We are looking to encourage new owners and charterers to fill all 22 boats once again. We would welcome hearing from anyone who would be interested in getting involved with a boat. The class owned boats are already being beautified for the occasion.

Here's to a fantastic 2021 season. Filled with champagne sailing and great parties. We deserve it!!