

Sailing October 25

Labour Weekend fun day:

It wasn't much fun, see later, though there was a lot of chatting about many different things.

Gerald has returned. He hasn't sailed for several months and his boat wasn't working. We tested and swapped parts until it worked and in the end it was connectors and wiring from the battery to the receiver so that is easy to fix.

Several did try sailing but got stuck. There was a race of sorts as some boats circulated in an area that was mostly clear.



State of the Pond:

In a word: awful. There is not much new growth but the dead stuff from last summer has risen as the water warms up and generates methane.

This is not going away by itself. So we need to have a working Bee again. I have just returned from doing a chain drag as an experiment to see if it works. I got a short length of chain and lots of ropes and went with my son, Andrew, to the pond to see how hard and/or successful it will be.

I was worried that the chain would dig into the silt or simply skip over the weed. It does seem to work, with more people, heavier and longer chain it can be dragged.

Thus I will call for another Work Bee this coming Saturday. Bring rakes as there is still stuff around the edge but the main event will be dragging the chain.

Please respond so I can get an idea of numbers.

WORKING BEE 10am SATURDAY 31st

Albany Ponds

The ponds at Albany are now completed with walkways and full access. There will be a fireworks display there on November 5th.

It had been suggested that they could be an alternate pond for sailing so I went around the area and checked out its suitability. Apparently the IOM boats have also been looking into using them too.

There are three ponds, they started as clay settling ponds before the Albany Megacentre was built. A competition was held a couple of years ago to choose a design for how they would be finished. Now that has been implemented it is too late to get any changes that we might need.

The top pond is too small for anything useful. I got stuck there photographing juvenile swallows.

The lowest pond is the largest, 100m x 90m, but it is quite low down with trees planted around and so would be shaded from the wind.

The middle pond has an adequate size and is not deeply set. The approaches are an easy slope so the wind would not be chopped up.



There are, however, several problems:

There is no access at all around the edge, or anywhere, it has dense rushes and bushes.

No permanent buoys are allowed.

The level will vary to control rain runoff.

There is a RC car racing track 200metres from the pond by the stadium. Interference would be likely and mutual.

Next Week:

WORKING BEE 10am SATURDAY 31st

SPRING Series flight 6 Sunday

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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