



Pin Mill Sailing Club



December 2009 Newsletter

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Commodore's Report

For this edition of the newsletter I have decided not to pen a separate Commodore's Corner, instead I have sent in to our editor a copy of my report which I read out to the committee and members at the recent AGM held in the Club house.

Members, a warm welcome to you all and thank you for attending your Club's Annual General Meeting this evening. It has indeed been an interesting first year as Commodore, quite fun, at times frustrating but overall extremely rewarding.

Back in early December I penned my first Commodore's Corner for the newsletter. My opening sentences were given over to offering our membership a little insight into me, my background, and also to introduce the committee members who would be looking after the welfare of this Club for 2009.

To help put a face to the committee I also proposed we hang a picture board displaying our photographs, best side of course, along with our job titles which you will no doubt have noticed hanging in the entrance hallway. These initiatives, although small, would I felt, help break the ice for our members and guests, providing a point of contact when visiting the Club. Something I feel is very important when first impressions count.

Also in that newsletter I spoke of my desire to encourage and promote our Club and it's events to our existing and potential new family members. 2009 was for me going to be a time to start to lay the building blocks for the future of this Club.

Nearly twelve months on I feel my wish is becoming a reality with this area of the membership gradually increasing and becoming more and more involved with using the Club and joining with its activities.

Diary



Saturday 12th December
Shanties and Ditties

Sunday 13th December
Christmas Lunch – *fully booked*

Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve Carols

Saturday 26th December
Boxing Day – Dancing and singing with the Morris Men (and Women). Refreshments.

Wednesday 31st December
New Year's Eve Supper
Music and Dancing
Booking by Tear-off slip

Saturday 9th January
Fred's Quiz Night

London Boat Show
At Excel 8th - 17th January
More inside

Sunday 17th January
Dance Practice for Burns' Night

Saturday 23rd January
Burns' Night supper
Tear-off slip inside

The next Newsletter will be in January. Contributions please by 24th December to: circular@pmsc.org.uk Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EZ

However, it would be wrong of me to stand here and say that implementing some of the new initiatives has been all sweetness and light. It has not, with such a varied membership range there was always going to be the odd upset, but rest assured these issues are easily overcome by applying a little common sense, respect and understanding from us all. With these ideals in place and adhered to I confidently predict 2010 will be an even more enjoyable year for all sectors of our membership.

This past year this Club has offered members a varied programme of events to participate in and enjoy whether on land or sea. Too numerous for me to mention in one go so I shall leave it to the various Club secretaries to speak individually about their years events following this summing up.

Each year, the Club tackles a project or two. In most cases to keep the structure or fabric of the building ship shape. This year was no different with the galley area being the target for refurbishment. The vast majority of the work being carried out over two weekends in May by numerous volunteers and tradesman. There are still one or two minor bits to complete though due to the onset of the sailing season and for some of us at the time fitting out, these will however be completed over the winter period. Thank you to everyone involved with the project.

Projects for 2010 are still under discussion and nothing will be decided until new committee members have taken office and got their feet under the table or bar so to speak and had a chance to add their input.

This year was going to be the year when Pin Mill was to be treated to major repair and upgrading works to the hard. Sadly with the way of many projects of this nature it is a case of one step forward and two back and I guess a shortfall in the funding has contributed to the delay in starting. We are forever hopeful but just in case please keep the 2nd April free and a garden spade handy for The Annual 'Grindle Dig.

To help the Club grow and become a key part of the local community I am always keen to explore all avenues. One of which over the coming year is to work closely with the management of the Butt and Oyster in promoting and staging joint projects which will benefit both parties and the community alike. Please bear in mind this is at a very early stage and a few more logs having to go on the Butt fire before a programme is published.

I am also keen to work with other clubs up and down the river and am currently talking with like minded people at the RHYC regarding very affordable junior dinghy sailing for next season. More details of this can be found further on in this newsletter.

A week ago we held the annual Dinner & Dance; I say dance somewhat loosely as by the time we had eaten and played silly games it was well after eleven o'clock. Well done you to the hardcore dancers who remained until the early hours, your dance floor antics where to be admired but definitely not copied.

I am by nature rather self critical and having put together the Dinner Dance am aware that on the whole the event ran well but there does remain some areas of this year's event that can be improved. For those of you here this evening who attended I and the social team for 2010 would value any feedback you may have, good or bad so as to assist the planning for next year's dinner.

Before closing I would ask you all to join me in saying thank you to the Hon Secretaries who are stepping down from their roles this evening and entering a well deserved retirement from Club matters.

Assistant Sec – Penny Jones
Bar Sec – Simon Everitt
Social Sec – Eileen Madden

I would also like thank the members who are stepping down from the various sub-committees, in some cases after many years service and to all the volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes throughout the

year, the Club would not function half as well without you.

Now, not wishing to appear forward before coming to item eleven on your agenda I would like to take this opportunity to welcome four new members to the committee team, Hon House Sec – Cathy Abbott, Hon Bar Sec – Karl Pardon and Nigel Bailey and Charlotte Norman, Committee members. I must also thank Sara Hopkinson for stepping up to the post of Assistant Secretary and to Terry Sporle for taking on the role of – Hon Social Secretary.

Finally, I am sure you will agree it's always a pleasure when friends and fellow Club members get the recognition they deserve for the hard work and dedication put into our pastime of sailing. Here at Pin Mill we are very lucky to have two members who have achieved just that:

Each year the RYA provides a number of categories of awards of which the LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is just one. Put forward for the awards this year by the Royal Ocean Racing Club and by Neptune Water Sports Centre respectively were Fiona Wylie and Mick Leverit. On behalf of RORC and the RYA I would like to read out a brief summary of Fiona's achievements:

Fiona has a long and distinguished record in the world of offshore racing as a competitor including 17 Fasnets. She has put a great deal back into the sport through voluntary work within various clubs and organisations has been a race officer for the RORC for the past 20 years, is an active member and past committee member of PMSC, part of the race team for the Felixstowe regatta and was involved with RYA Sailability for nearly ten years. She is also currently RYA Eastern Region Vice Chairman.

Now on behalf of Neptune and the RYA a brief summary of Mick's achievements:

The longevity of Mick's commitment to the Neptune Centre and the contribution to the development of the shore based facility is outstanding. His input has made a significant

impact helping Neptune to become a thriving, highly successful and modern sailing establishment. Mick has always encouraged the ethos of introducing sailing to young people from all walks of life.

Committee and members, please show your appreciation for both Fiona and Mick, winners of the RYA lifetime achievement award.

Thank you.

**Jon Humby
Commodore**

Don't Forget to Book!!

New Years Eve Party

*With dancing to The B'ooze Brothers
And Supper
£5.50 per head*

Book by tear-off slip **Fireworks at midnight!**



Correction! London International Boat Show (8 to 17 January 2010)

Sadly, the November PMSC newsletter item relating to the special rates for PMSC members wanting to visit the London International Boat Show contained some incorrect information. Please note that the code you need to quote when ordering tickets either on-line or by telephone is **LJG37**

Also, you can now choose between two types of ticket – after entering the above Booking Code on the LIBS official website, or when telephoning the LIBS ticket agency, you will have the following options:

£11.00 – Admission and a **Free Drink** - any day **including Preview Day**

£10.00 – Admission - any day **including Preview Day**

Website bookings – www.londonboatshow.com

Telephone bookings – 0844 209 0333

IMPORTANT NOTES

Tickets can be purchased right up until the last day of the Show

Free Drink: a voucher will be sent with each purchased ticket which can be redeemed for a pint of beer or larger, a glass of house wine or soft drink at the Clubs & Associations Bar which is situated next to the Classic Boat Feature in the North Hall.

Group Bookings: the above telephone number and website are for orders of less than 10 tickets in any one transaction. Orders for 10 or more tickets (still at the same price & with the free drink option) can only be made by phoning National Boat Shows group booking ticketing agency on 0207 014 8444.

Under 16's go free: up to two free child tickets can be ordered with each purchased ticket. Regrettably, the above drink offer does not apply to free child tickets.

Single transaction fee of £1.25 applies whether ordering one or any greater number of tickets.

Postal Delays: because it could take up to 7 days or so for them to arrive by post, any tickets purchased shortly before or during the show can be collected on arrival from the advance ticket box office at the main (DLR station) entrance.

Happy Boat Show visiting!

Rick Kirkup
Rear Commodore

Quiz Night 9th January

Message From Fred:

I note that the above is billed as "Maritime". I have noticed in the past that a large number of participants are social members and I am concerned that such a quiz might be a 'turn-off'. I propose to incorporate maritime and general knowledge (usual format). I will have the usual 3 rounds of 20 questions each to be followed by 5 maritime questions. I will

preface the whole quiz by inviting teams to opt-in to the latter part. That way I will be able to gauge the interest therein.

The real purpose of this message is to ask that an item be included in the December circular to forestall the impression that one needs to be a 'mariner extraordinaire' to compete.

Please indicate - Teams of 4 - Entry fee £4 per team.

I will be full of jet-lag on the day, having returned from Canada the previous day, so I am starting to compose the questions this week.

Fred Everitt

Youth Sailing Project.

As I mentioned in my AGM report I have been speaking with the RHYC regarding a project they have started which is called 'On Board'. This initiative is primarily aimed at 8/9 year olds upwards who have some basic sailing experience.

'On Board' is not set up to be formal training sessions with strict routines and emphasis on racing but more about having fun in dinghies with the assistance of instructors and parents to help.

The team at the RHYC have warmly invited our younger members along with their parents to come along and join in the scheme during 2010 and have kindly agreed to offer the same rates as their members, approx £5.00 per session.

The proposed dates are to run from early May through to the end of October. For those of you who may be interested in this initiative please speak to me as soon as possible so I can give the RHYC an indication of numbers.

Please call me at home on 01473788806, at work on 01473780206 or by email at j.humby@mdlmarinas.co.uk

Correction

In the last edition Astraea was credited with winning the Quest Cup. She did in fact win the Tempest Cup.



A Merry Christmas **From the Editor** to readers of, and contributors to, *The Newsletter*

And thanks to the following:

<i>Jon Humby</i>	<i>Printing</i>
<i>Lee Foster</i>	<i>Website</i>
<i>Marjorie Carter</i>	<i>Delivery</i>
<i>Renee Waite</i>	<i>Delivery</i>
<i>Helen Evans</i>	<i>Delivery</i>

Sailing Report 2009

This year the Club put on six racing events, not including the Barge Match. Shotley Sailing Club officially joined the 3 Clubs River Series, making it the 4 Clubs River Series. After a poor start, in which our own hosted race had to be abandoned for lack of competitors, enthusiasm for the series picked up later in the year. RHYC won the Evening Star Trophy and PMSC nearly came second.

The June and Ward Cups race attracted no entries. For the Dinghy Regatta we, again, rented a fleet of six Topper Dinghies from the RYA. Thanks to Ian Saunders for collecting them. The Club has also 'found' a safety boat to assist with dinghy events. The turnout for this event was once more disappointing despite beautiful weather. There were no entrants for the Friday evening series.

The Smack Race, run by Jon Humby and team, was very well attended and again the Club chartered the smack Pioneer for the day.

This event now features firmly in the Old Gaffers' calendar.

The regatta continues to be our most popular event of the year and was very well attended under a bright blue sky. The RNLI race the next day only attracted two entrants. My thanks to the following Race Officers and assistants; Nigel Bailey, Will and Suzy Patten, John Sparks, Rick Kirkup and Fred Everitt. For the barge match and for the first time the Club chartered the barge 'Victor' and a crew of ten enjoyed the gusty conditions and a spectacular win.

On the Cruising side, our two bank holiday trips attracted little interest, though, to be fair, the forecast for the August weekend was diabolical. Three yachts managed the cruise up to London and St Katherine Marina, and three yachts joined the cruise to Chatham.

The Rivers Rally competition and the Log competition both attracted entries, but there were no time-trial entries. My thanks to the members of the sailing committee, and to various advisers for their support throughout the year.

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

Barge Match report

A total of Four Barges took part in the Passage Match, with new entrant 'The Lady of Lea' making her first entry ever as far as we can tell. Starting at 08:00 the first Barge Adieu arrived home in 10 hours 55 Minutes. The whole fleet completed the course in less than 12 Hours. Thanks go to Ian Saunders, James Ackland, and Gravesend Sailing Club for supervising the Match.

During the following week leading up to our match I must have had every fashionable excuse, from the economic situation to the wrong wind and the Barge being in the wrong place; however Swine Flu was not blamed once.

A day or so prior to the Briefing due to the dropping numbers we realised that we were unlikely to be able to run the Classes as normal (that is Bowsprit, Fast staysail and the politically correct speed challenged Staysail). Plan B was evolved.

This was put to the Skippers at the briefing who agreed quite readily to our plan to run a Wooden Class, a Steel class and Class C as normal. This gave us a good spread across each class, and would thus make for good matches for all. However it must have caused some confusion for anybody viewing from the shore trying to match up with the Programme, so apologies for that.

The long awaited first entry from The Webb's 'Melissa', plus 'The Lady of the Lea' meant we had a number of unknowns to contend with.

I must say that Jonathon Webb rang me during the week to confirm 'Melissa's' attendance and told me she was going like a train on her Maiden voyage. This did not help Skipper Gerald Gadd's case at the briefing to be put into Class C as a newbie.

On the Day Force 5-6 moderating later off was Forecast, but just as we had started Class A, (with a little bit of excitement with a Support Boat and a Yacht) an Emergency Forecast changed the prediction to Force 8. This caused some frantic changes of course and the despatching of the HHA St Nicholas to inform them of the change.

Due in part to a serious incident that happened at one of the other 2008 matches, safety and the need to avoid collisions came very much to the fore., with a number of meeting held during the close season. For this reason we decided it was sensible to avoid a tacking match back up to Pin Mill, and shortened the finish line to Buttermans Bay. However the Match that went on between Repertor and Melissa from Collimer to Buttermans was almost too exciting to watch. In the end Melissa took the match on the last tack with a lead of 24 seconds. This bode well for bar profits at the Prizegiving!

Class B (Now the Wooden class was won by Victor crew by our own Members as you will have read in the last newsletter, and Class C by Eddie Smiths Betula, so all in all a good day for Pin Mill, I also seem to recall two of the raffle prizes were won by Members.

Thanks are due to many but to all of Pat Dennett's Helpers in the Galley, thanks for the usual superb spread, to the Raffettes for cajoling money out of people, despite pleas of economic crisis, to HHA and ABP for their support, to Phil and Tanya Chesney for Adax as committee boat and Fraser Yates of the Ipswich Maritime Trust for Tug Boat Fenland, to Mick Lungley for Officer of the day (incidentally this was his 30th Match as OOD for which the Club made a presentation on the night) To Margie for letting him, and finally to the Barge Committee for their support during the year.

Next years match is on June 19th, so back to nearer our normal dates.

In 2011 those of you who buy Programmes each year will have noticed it will be our 50th Match. I am hoping to gain agreement of the dates for this year earlier than normal so that we can plan something a bit special to celebrate , but will keep members updated via the newsletter when I know more.

Julian Ackland
Barge Secretary

William (Bill) Fairhead

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news that Bill passed away on the 29th November. He had been ill and in Hospital over the past month. I guess for many of us Bill will be remembered for his close association with the Goes visits and his many renditions of the Hippopotamus song whilst in Holland and at the Club's Shanties evenings. I am sure there are many members who would like to share a memory or two about Bill; these we will publish in the first newsletter next year.

JH