



Pin Mill Sailing Club



JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Commodore's Corner

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2010.

On behalf of all the production team behind each issue I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed and taken the time to read the newsletters over the past twelve months. For the coming year please do find the time to put pen to paper and tell us your sailing stories or gossip; all your contributions will be warmly received.

As you read this article the Club's Christmas events will be behind us, with Christmas lunch, Shanties evening, Christmas Eve Carols and Boxing day all a great success. Hopefully you will also have enjoyed the New Year's Eve party with the sensational B'ooze Brothers taking the stage for the evening, before pausing at midnight for the Pin Mill sky line to be lit up by a no-holds-barred fireworks display to welcome in the New Year

Sadly though, Sue and I will miss this spectacular event due to a pre-planned holiday in the States, but hey ho, I guess we will have to make do with a somewhat smaller display along the water front of San Francisco !

We are not back until the end of middle of January, not too late though to join in with Burns' night celebration on the 23rd January and the inaugural family New Year Party over the lunchtime of Sunday 31 January, details of which can be found in this edition, the web site and Club notice boards.

To help while away some winter Friday evenings why not pop down to the Club and join in a game of Rummy , or maybe join in the driving fun of a Scalectric evening or why not show off your sporting skills by playing an Nintendo Wii !. Again, details of these evenings are available from all good sources.

I am really looking forward to my final year in the hot seat and I am sure this time next year members of the Club will be able to look back at many memorable events and occasions. Please do take the time to support and join in as many of these as possible.

The Humby family would like to wish you all a happy New Year,

Jon Humby - Commodore

Diary



Saturday 23rd January
Burns' Night

Friday 29th January
Port and Rummy Evening

Sunday 31st January
Family New Year Party

Saturday 6th February
A talk by Paul and Ute Jeffries
On their cruise to Australia

Saturday 20th February
70s Theme night with Fish'n Chip
Supper: 19.30 – 20.00

Friday 26th February
Scalectric Evening

Saturday 6th March
Talk by Laurie Mayer on his
career in Journalism

Saturday 13th March
Coach Trip to Chatham Historic
Dockyard.

Friday 19th March
Nintendo Wii night

Saturday 27th March
New Members' Evening with
Mexican style Buffet

*The next newsletter will be in
March. Contributions please
by 20th February to;
circular@pmsc.org.uk or by post
to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham,
Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7EZ*

Bill Fairhead Remembered

Daughter Sally Burge; The early years

Bill was born in Ipswich, the only child of William and Connie Fairhead. He attended Ipswich School and on leaving, followed in his father's footsteps, joining the Navy where he trained as an aeronautical engineer. Early on in his Naval career he married Heather, a teacher, who was also from Ipswich. She followed him around the country dutifully as his naval postings sent him to various locations, including two stints on HMS Ark Royal.

After several more moves the family returned to Ipswich in about 1968 to settle down and shortly afterwards Bill left the Navy to work for the Ministry of Defence. Heather died a couple of years later after a long illness. Bill and his children then moved to Chelmondiston with Bill's mother, in 1972. He joined Pin Mill Sailing Club in 1968

Bill built from scratch a small catamaran which he sailed on family holidays on the Norfolk Broads. He bought his first cabin cruiser, a 20 foot long Felicity, when the family were living on the south coast.

New Year's Gift was another of Bill's creations. The fibreglass shell of the hull and cabin became a permanent fixture in his garage and then the front garden whilst Bill, always the perfectionist, lovingly constructed the inside of the cabin using his considerable carpentry skills. The kit for the mast, including 25 feet of extruded aluminium sat in the lounge at Almond for weeks, much to his mother's annoyance!

Finally this labour of love was completed and New Years Gift had a launch party on the hard at Pin Mill; the beginning of Bill's very happy times sailing from Pin Mill.

Keith Waite

Lt. Commander W.G. Fairhead R.N. Retd. was a local lad. I remember him pointing out to me a very pleasant house on the outskirts of Ipswich, where he lived with his father who was also a Naval Officer. Bill was a very relaxed sailor and great fun to everybody who sailed with him. He sailed his own boat "New Year's Gift" locally and to Holland, but when it came to any port further afield he much preferred to sail with somebody else.

He sailed regularly on Rumtub and even more frequently on Lutra II, when he became a permanent fixture on that boat's seasonal jaunts to Scotland. Bill was always an amusing shipmate. When he decided the time had come to retire from the Navy, the Admiral asked him why he wanted to do such a thing? Bill replied that it all related to his life long quest for a more salubrious life style!

On one of our early trips west-about to Scotland at a place north of Fairhead off Belfast, Bill met up with a new Northern Irish friend, Mister Phil Williamson. They got along together like a couple of houses on fire, and Phil was part of the crew on every Scottish trip thereafter. Early one morning off Aberdeen I was on the foredeck changing headsails when Phil's persistent muttering distracted me. Bill had just come off watch so the sail change was a little overdue. Phil was perfecting his rendition of each and every possible and impossible pronunciation of Bill Fairhead's favourite word "Gin, jin, dzgin", etc. etc. One morning we were forbidden to sail until Mr. Fairhead had been ashore to buy a bottle of his favourite brand. On his return we were ordered in aircraft carrier fashion to "Slip and Proceed". On one fine Pin Mill morning Bill decided to go down to Frome in Somerset to see the Fleet Air Arm museum. On his return I asked him if he had seen any old aircraft of the type he used to maintain on H.M.S. Ark Royal? "Yes", said Bill, "I saw a lovely one!" adding modestly, "It was, of course, one of mine".

The Commodore, John Humby, and many many other members recall Bill's many trips to Goes, the Hippopotamus Song and his other diversions. Bill Fairhead was not a man to be easily forgotten. Our hero had a very flash style of dancing. He flashed about hither and thither, flash, flash, FLASH. (John Sergeant of the B.B.C. was nowhere near it.) Sadly Bill also appeared to have two left legs and various ladies who might prefer to remain anonymous found this a little inconvenient. They usually finished up lying flat upon their backs in some dim and distant corner of the dance floor with Bill sprawled on top of them!

Not everybody knew that their favourite Lieutenant Commander had a model railway set, but I was summoned up there one day and invited to set the show up. By the time I had finished it ran up and down minor gradients, through a selection of rural scenery and zigzagged in and out of various tunnels of cleverly situated holes bashed in the interior walls.

At about this time one of his girl friends developed a scheme to turn the great man into a multimillionaire. The first move in her plan involved Bill. He would have to sell his house and move in with her. "I cannot have that!" said Bill firmly "Whatever would happen to my model railway set?"

As I said Bill Fairhead was not a man to be easily forgotten.

Francis Madden

Our first recollection of Bill - over thirty years ago - was to be stuck behind that sedately moving Ford Popular on the way to Manningtree to catch the train to London where, as a quite senior naval officer, Bill performed various nefarious duties in defence of the Empire. But he more than made up for that by buying the G & T's on the train home.

Bill was a hugely popular Commodore in the mid eighties throwing himself into - and leading - the lively social life of the Club. There is a fine photograph of Bill dressed up

with a huge Rudolf red nose at the children's Christmas party! Less obviously, he and Patrick Sinclair started the long and ultimately successful battle with Ipswich Borough Council over moorings charges.

Perhaps his most enduring legacy is to have established the continuing precious relationship with Goes and those living round the quay where he was effectively adopted as an Honorary Dutchman! His attempts to teach us the words of the old dutch folksong "Der Klok van Arnemuiden" met with only partial success, but his own somewhat raucous rendering was memorable, - if sometimes a little off key. What was never off key was his signature tune and Pin Mill anthem "Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud". And some of us will never forget the tune of 'the Hippopotamus Song' ringing out across Goes from the carillon in the bell tower.

That brave little boat "New Year's Gift" went everywhere. Hospitality on board was legendary - helped in quite large measures by the huge bottle of gin bolted to the bulkhead in a barman's optic! Often its voyages were recorded in fine drawings and watercolours. Bill was quite an artist - as the distinctly atmospheric picture in the clubhouse of the Good Ship struggling into West Vrieland harbour in a near gale in the summer of 1985 bears witness.

It was hard that Bill's latter years were so dogged with ill-health, but he was blessed with a loyal and dedicated family to whom our hearts go out. We at Pin Mill are privileged to remember that impish smile and irrepressible sense of humour. Thanks Bill.

Renee Waite

One Saturday in the local pub, Bill asked me if I would crew for the P.M.S.C. Sunday race. When we arrived on board New Year's Gift with another of Bill's friends, I noticed the yacht's many bits of string and thought this will be a 'doddle' after Lutra II's heavier sheets and larger winch handles. But,

although it was a calm and sunny day, it was quite hard work. Before we had even left the mooring I was dispatched below to Bill's well-stocked bar to fill glasses from his Gin optic, and of course one measure was not adequate for skipper and crew. I lost count of the trips made to the bar during the course of that race. Don't ask me if we won the race, I cannot remember.

Coach Trip to Chatham Historic Dockyard

On Saturday March 17th the Club is hiring a coach to visit Chatham Historic Dockyard. The cost of the coach will be £14 per person and entry to the museum is:

Adult £10
Concessions £8.50.
Child £7

The coach will pick up at 08.00 hrs near the Red Lion and the return journey will start at 16.00, giving you a few hours to enjoy several hundred years of Naval history and shipbuilding. Have a look on their website www.chdt.org.uk and see what there is to look forward to.

Places can be reserved by sending your phone number/email address and a cheque for the Coach *only* to Val at the address on the front of the newsletter.

Forthcoming Events

On Saturday, 9th January there is a Quiz Evening being organized by Fred Everitt. Burns' Night is on January 23rd (book by tear-off slip), and remember that on the previous Sunday 17th after lunch Eileen Madden will be holding a Scottish country dance practice in an attempt to offset the inevitable chaos on the night.

On Friday 29th January there will be a Port and Rummy evening, and on the following Sunday 31st there will be a family New Year Lunch Party starting at 12.30. where you can

expect *Bangers and Mash, Hot Dogs and Ice Cream*, and the fun and games will include *Polo on a Rope, String Boats and Brick Walking*. Contact **Gemma 01473 780560** – all welcome.

Then on to Saturday 6th of February Paul and Ute Jeffries will be giving us a talk on their adventures in 'Damarri'. They left Pin Mill in November 2005 and travelled across the Atlantic, through the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal, across the South Pacific to Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and on to Australia.

On Saturday, 20th February Mandy Summons is hosting a 70s Theme Party with Fish and Chip supper. A booking form will soon appear on the Club notice board and it starts at 19.00 for 20.00.

More fun and games on Friday 26th February with a Scalectic Evening and Friday 19th March with a Nintendo Wii evening. and

On Saturday, 6th March there will be a talk by Laurie Mayer on his career in journalism, and on Saturday, 13th March a visit to Chatham Historic Dockyard (about which more information in this newsletter).

And finally, for New Members' Evening this year we will be treated to a Mexican Food Buffet prepared by Jane and Ivan Chevovs.

Hot off the Press! Some dates for your 2010 diaries

Barge Match	June 19 th
Smack Race	July 24 th
Regatta	September 4 th
4CRS	May 15 th
	June 12 th
	September 11 th
	September 25 th

Subscriptions Due

The General Committee would like to remind members that the Membership Subscriptions for 2010 are now due. We still provide the best value for money on the river, not to mention the best venue. So if you haven't already paid up please don't forget – we'd hate to lose anyone overboard!

LAST OCEAN PASSAGE IN TOKOMARU

Hoping to catch the S/E monsoon, we left Port Cochin in India for the passage to the port of Salalah in Oman 1400 miles across the Arabian Sea. For the first two days, we romped along, heeling and bucking into winds forward of the beam and thought, 'Here we go again! Another rough ride.' Then came a beautiful night, barely a murmur from the sea, and life became relaxed and comfortable again. But relief soon changed to worry, as the calm continued day after day. We carried 260 litres of diesel (half of it in jerry cans on the deck), enough for 500 miles, only a third of this windless passage. Ghosting along on a flat sea and making the most of light winds Tokomaru (a heavy old Westerly Conway) could achieve 2 knots on the merest breath, with the wind vane just able to hold a course. Dolphins sometimes broke the monotony, the whole sea coming alive from horizon to horizon as hundreds of dorsal fins sliced the silk-smooth surface. The more energetic ones came leaping across to play in our bow wave. If they were feeding, this made the fish jump and the flying fish take to their wings, and then boobies and terns came swooping down to join a spectacular dance of survival. However, this didn't happen very often. Most of the time it was like a desert and after two weeks of crawling across the Arabian Sea, yard by yard, we were getting frustrated and demoralised.

Ten days out, we were drifting aimlessly in a flat calm, putting off the moment when we would shatter the peace by starting the engine. Nick was transferring the last of the diesel into the tank when we noticed we weren't alone; there were two or three fishing boats around, and one of them was steadily coming our way. Wearing lungis and looking cheerful and relaxed, they greeted us warmly, calling out 'Whisky! Smoking!' They were from Sri Lanka, hundreds of miles from home. Delighted to have company we greeted them as they drew alongside but Nick (also attired in a lungi) said 'no whisky, no smoking.' To our surprise, they started showering us with presents, - rice, noodles, biscuits, a fine coconut. I felt mean about the smoking but handed over a torch, some dates and some mints which they accepted with pleasure. But they weren't giving up on the smoking.

And then Nick had an idea.. He held up a jerry can. 'Diesel?' No problem in exchange for smoking! A deal was struck, smiles and action all round. They threw a rope to take the cans, cut their engine and started pumping. Meanwhile we were given some advice on fishing techniques (they were not impressed with our arrangements!) and they give us a lure. And so we got an extra 50 litres of fuel and we gave them its value in dollars as well as the cigarettes, - having diesel delivered to your boat in mid-ocean is worth more than a packet of fags. At dusk it was time to part. We pressed on, westwards into the setting sun, feeling more confident with another 80 miles of motoring in the bag. Our friends headed the other way, homeward bound.

At last came a morning when the rising sun was blurred in a dusty haze; we were close to land. But with still 100 miles to go, we were saving our last 10 litres to get in to the big commercial port of Salalah. There were big container ships around now, very disconcerting to suddenly glimpse a massive black hull steaming through the murk. These 'MAERSK' monsters crack along at 25 knots, very scary when you're drifting around in their path. Finally, to our great relief, a sea breeze

picked up. Tokomaru came to life and bustled along, closing with the coast at a respectable 3 ½ knots. By 9.00pm we were entering the busy container port. The Port Authority courteously instructed us where to go, and Omani fishermen leapt from a nearby trawler to take our lines, and then brought welcoming cups of tea. Mohammed, the local 'agent' for yachts, appeared on the quay, tall and beaming in his spotless white dishdasha. In an instant our long days and lonely nights in the empty ocean were forgotten.

From Salalah it was a four day sail to Aden in Yemen, passing through the 'pirate zone'. The many ships overtaking us at night were far more worrying than the thought of pirates, but we arrived in Aden without mishap. From Aden, an overnight passage would take us into the Red Sea. It was a difficult night with the wind dead aft, an increasingly busy shipping lane to our left and the rocky Yemeni coast to our right. The risk of a gybe in the strengthening wind had our nerves on edge. By first light, as we approached the Bab El Mandab (the gap between Yemen and Djibouti at the southern end of the Red Sea) the wind was near gale force. We raced through the channel in minutes to be immediately faced with the necessity of crossing the shipping lanes. There were plenty of ships in both directions and one of them was hooting at us. But Nick kept his nerve and at last we were through. All morning the wind increased steadily with building seas and we careered along with reefed genoa and mizzen as the wind indicator swung between 30 and 40 knots. With all the worries of ships and rocks and pirates left behind it was an exhilarating sail, nothing but sun, sea, the sky teeming with birds and Tokomaru flying towards Africa. All afternoon the wind stayed a good force 6, gusting 7, but it died away in the night and there was a soaking dew. Next morning in glorious sunshine, gentle winds and a smooth sea, we sailed on towards another new country, Eritrea.

Nick Thomas and Liz Vernon

Annual Report of the House Committee

After Andrew Milligan gave up as House Secretary in the early part of the year due to moving areas, the post remained vacant for a while with essential tasks being undertaken by others.

Having been asked to take on the role 'how could I refuse', I agreed to be co-opted as House Secretary. Having only just started, and with one House sub-committee meeting under my belt, I am just getting to grips with what needs to be done. This mainly involves ensuring that enough volunteers are available to support the club's social programme over the Winter, by providing food and refreshments and ensuring there are people available to assist in clearing up the clubhouse after each event.

As you are all probably aware, the big development this year has of course been the refurbishment of the kitchen. One of my key aims is to ensure that the superb facilities we now enjoy are looked after and well maintained. I understand that in the past an annual spring clean has been carried out. However I would like to change this, and introduce mini spring cleaning sessions and ask for volunteers to help at various intervals. This I am sure will make the task a whole lot easier.

So the message is clear - your Club needs you!
There are several ways in which you can help, none of them very onerous:-

1. Help clear up and tidy the clubhouse the morning after functions
2. Help with our mini spring cleans of the kitchen
3. Help with the club functions that need refreshments providing

I would welcome anyone who is willing and able to help. Please contact me and let me know how you would like to help - the more

the merrier and the lighter the load on any one person!

Last, but not least, I look forward to being more involved in the club, and hopefully making a difference.

Catherine Abbott
Hon. House Secretary

Annual Report of The Property Committee

The year to September 2009 was a very successful for the Club in that significant improvements were completed, further details of which I shall come to shortly. There were no serious emergency repairs required, not just by good fortune but by the policy of preventive maintenance that we have adopted over recent years.

As to routine maintenance there has been the usual mix of gutters to be cleared, roof tiles to be replaced, all our outside furniture and foredeck woodwork to be cleaned and re-treated with wood preservative, the flagstaff to be given its annual inspection and overhaul, and gardens to be tended. Internally, redecoration of the foyer and the ladies shower areas. These are just examples of some of the tasks completed on the Good Friday, thanks to a good turnout of members to making this day a great success. Our traditional Grindle Dig was curtailed by the timing of the tide and the continued uncertainty regarding the 'planned' improvements to the Hard, however several Club stalwarts could be seen by 7 am tackling the very muddy last section!

The state of the Hard is something that the Club needs to be duly concerned about, at the moment the concrete and wood edging is deteriorating and nails are exposed, apart from all the other unwelcome 'unlicensed' activity taking place.

The low level of emergency repair costs

allowed the General Committee to allocate funds for a total refurbishment of the Galley. We had estimates for the work to be done by contractors which amounted to approximately £20,000. This could not be entertained so a decision was made to do the work ourselves, end result being an approximate saving of 75% ! Our new Galley is the result of many hours spent in the Spring especially by the Commodore and Vice Commodore, time which I am sure they would have preferred fitting-out their boats ! Thanks go to Jon and Lee for this for we now have a first class modern facility to be proud of.

The second enhancement was the replacement of the Foredeck canopy, the old canvas type material had seen many years of service and was ready to be replaced. After considering all the available options the General Committee authorised its replacement with a polycarbonate material on the grounds of lower maintenance, improved light and weather protection. The work was carried out on two very cold and windy days in March by the Rear Commodore, with the help of local builder Ray Reynolds. Thanks go to Rick for his endeavour with this project.

Other improvements include the replacing of the storage heater in the Bar area, the new heater at a cost of approximately £230 being more efficient and energy saving. In the Clubroom the snooker table was recovered by Tony Norman, I am assured that the table plays perfectly, no excuses now for the players! A photo board of all the General Committee now resides in the foyer. The smoke extractor has been removed from the Bar area. The drains have had their annual flush and inspection by drainage contractors, problems being noticed in certain areas which will require further attention.

The General Committee takes very seriously the subject of fire safety. Under the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order of 2005 all premises have to conform to minimum safety standards depending on floor areas and door opening widths. The Clubhouse floor

area of approximately 110 sq. metres allows us to accommodate a maximum of 110 people seated and 170 standing on the stated guidelines of an allowance of 1 sq. m. per person seated and 0.5 sq. m. per person standing. Guidance was sought by the Committee from Paul Murray, Fire Safety Officer at Suffolk Fire Service to help us with compliance with the Order.

As for our regular weekly fire checks I would like to take this opportunity to thank the bar staff and in particular Angela for her continued diligence in carrying out these important but largely unsung tasks.

Another matter the Committee has been concerned about is the proper use of Clubhouse facilities; it goes without saying that all members know this and I think the old maxim of `leave the place as you would wish to find it` still applies.

This has been my first year as Property Sec. It has not been an uneventful one, and I would like to thank Rick especially for all his time and effort in helping me, to Jon Humby, Lee Foster, Val Stone and the General Committee for their support, to all the `background` helpers, people like John Webb for his patience with the plumbing and many other tasks, Colin Fox for his electrical, to Gus and Phil at Kings, all of who have given their time and skills freely.

Finally may I offer my thanks to the whole membership, to the ones especially who are able to turn out on Good Friday, even for just an hour or so, to keep our Club in `shipshape` order.

Paul Hand
Hon. Property Secretary

Moorings Committee Annual Report

many of the private moorings have been laid and re-laid individually rather than in trots and some are now out of position. This together with the increasing size of craft on the moorings has meant that we have not offered some spaces, in order to maintain a reasonable

amount of swinging room for those already allocated. I am grateful to Gus Curtis, who This year we have been unable to allocate as many spaces as we would wish. Overtime spent a significant amount of time restoring order to the moorings in the area of the Bay Buoy.

Licence fee collections have increased by two this year and the waiting list for moorings currently stands at twenty eight, which is down on last year.

Progress on the proposed improvements to the hard is still ongoing. The necessary licences to undertake the work have now been granted and Babergh District Council have applied to themselves for planning permission. This being an internal application this process will take longer than normal. One potential stumbling point to the success of the project is the ability of the proposed management company to charge for the use of the barge blocks, hard and scrubbing posts Babergh are however in negotiation with Ipswich Borough Council on this point, which it is hoped will be resolved shortly.

Ian Saunders
Hon. Moorings Secretary

Report of the Social Committee

Time, they say, flies by when you are having fun. The same also seems to apply as you get older but, as regards Pin Mill social events, let's hope it is the former! It really doesn't seem like a year ago that I was detailing the events surrounding Christmas 2007 and here we are looking forward to the 2009 festive season.

Christmas 2008 began with our traditional lunch which, as usual, was fully subscribed and much enjoyed by everyone. I am still amazed how Jackie and Jo can produce such good food for so many people. Very many thanks to them and to Ron and Hetty for their excellent table setting. Shanties and Ditties

was the following weekend and as ever High Water Mark performed to their usual high standard encouraging enthusiastic crowd participation. I have to congratulate Mick and Ken on one of their best ever renditions of 'Farmer's Boy' which I think they probably know by now is one of my favourites.

Christmas Eve arrived and there was a huge turnout for Julia and Graham's carol singing and again on Boxing Day for Mick Leveritt and the Morris Men. Very many thanks to all our performers – your efforts are always much appreciated.

Those of us who were still standing came to see in the New Year and thanks to Jon and Sue for organising the supper.

2009 began with Fred Everitt's Quiz Night – another successful evening and later in the month we celebrated Burns' Night and the Scottish dancing display could only be described as magnificent – maybe the sneaky Sunday afternoon practice beforehand had something to do with it.

The first of our visiting speakers this year was Andrew McIrvine, the present Commodore of RORC and former colleague of Imre Vadasz, who gave a fascinating presentation on Nelson's Injuries. Later in the month our Theme Night had a curry flavour and jolly good it was too.

Our second set of speakers consisted of Stuart Grimwade who gave an illustrated presentation on Aspects of Maritime Ipswich and Des Pawson who concentrated on Ropework. A showing of Ha'penny Breeze was organised for New Members Evening which was enjoyed by those seeing it for the first time and those seeing it for the tenth.

Overalls were the order of the day on Good Friday for the annual working party – a good social event as well as getting some jobs done! The Fitting Out Supper marked the traditional end to the social calendar before everyone climbs aboard their boats but as a result of

Rick's successful fund raising day last year featuring the Blooze Brothers he came up with the idea for a Spring Party at the beginning of May which consisted of a lot of music and singing and was much enjoyed by all.

The end of the sailing season was marked in time-honoured fashion by the Laying-Up Supper followed three weeks later by the Photographic Competition which gave a good indication of where we had all spent the summer. Congratulations to Marjorie Carter for not only organising it but also for winning it!

Realising that the traditional Dinner Dance had finally run its course, Jon set about organising something a bit different – a formal dinner in the clubhouse - and I am pleased to say that last Saturday evening was a sell-out! Well done, Jon.

I would like to say a special thank-you to Jon for all his help and support during his first year as Commodore and to wish my successor all the best.

Eileen Madden
Hon. Social Secretary

Annual Report of the Bar Committee

This year has been a tough one for most of us with the current economic climate, but we have done our best to ensure that the value at the bar has remained as good as, I hope you have found, the beer!

My heartiest thanks must once again go out to Jo and Angela for all their hard work, and without whom the bar would be a duller place to imbibe refreshment. We also enjoyed the addition of a new member of the bar team over the summer. Stephan, Renee Waite's grandson, made a capable and willing help on Fridays, Sundays and for the busier evenings.

The function evenings and events have been well supported as usual, and the 'Early Bird'

Friday evenings proved popular with the younger families, with the Bar-B-Q being put to good use, although some of the normal opening sessions have been less well supported than previously.

I must mention this year's barge match. This was made into one of the most enjoyable evening parties that I can remember, by the Webb's newly rebuilt Melissa winning her first match after only 3 shake down sails!

This has been my last year as bar secretary, and, in parting, I would like to offer my best wishes to my successor.

Simon Everitt
Hon. Bar Secretary