



Pin Mill Sailing Club



JULY 2009 NEWSLETTER

For all the very latest information, visit the website at www.pmsc.org.uk

Commodore's Corner

Hon House Sec Position.

I shall start my column this month with an appeal. For some time now the position of House Secretary has been vacant and is currently being looked after by one or two of our stalwart members who are kind enough to bridge the gap until somebody comes forward.

To ensure that the smooth running of this important section of the Club's organization continues I would very much like this position filled as soon as possible. The role is not arduous, more of an organizing one really with plenty of helping hands always available. You would be working alongside the other Hon Sec's of the Club in putting together our catering events held throughout the year and also for making sure our bright new galley continues to be bright, well stocked and tidy.

This Club, over the years, has been built on the generosity of its members volunteering for these positions. Please let this continue, give our stop gap volunteers a much needed break and consider applying for this role.

For a full job description and a friendly persuasive chat please do not hesitate in contacting either our Hon Sec Romy Blackburn, me or one of my fellow Flag officers, Lee Foster or Rick Kirkup. We very much look forward to hearing from you very soon. Ok, that's the appeal over with. I shall continue this column with a short bullet point round up of Club news and going's on.

- Bar prices. Some of you will have no doubt noticed a small increase in a selection of our Bar prices – Spirits, Soft drinks, Canned / Bottled beer & Ciders. I'm afraid with the ever increasing cost of stock, running costs etc these increases were inevitable. Up to this point Simon and his Bar committee have so far put off an increase on the draft Beer and Lager we serve but please be aware that from the 4 July the cost of your favourite pint will go up also.

Diary



Saturday 18th July

Barge Match

Friday 31st July

Evening series Race 2

Saturday 8th August

Cruise to Chatham

Friday 14th August

Evening Series Race 3

Saturday 15th August

June and Ward Cups Race

Friday 28th August

Evening Series Race 4

Saturday 29th August

Bank Holiday Mystery Cruise

Saturday 5th September

4Clubs River series Race 3

Saturday 12th September

66th Annual Regatta

Sunday 13th September

RNLI Race

The next newsletter will be in September. Contributors please by 27th August to; circular@pmsc.org.uk or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7EZ

- Bar opening. From the 5th July the Bar will revert back to closing at 22:30 on a Sunday evening. Also, while on the subject of closing I have asked that Jo and Angela close the bar promptly at the advertised time of that particular session. This will enable the Ladies to close the bar, cash up and leave for home at a reasonable time.

Also I know there are members who like to have one for the road and enjoy the permitted drinking up time and nine times out of ten someone will have a key for the front door for locking up. But as so often happens we forget to bring one, so to overcome this and to avoid the ladies waiting to lock up there will be a marked key available from behind the bar prior to the shutters going up. I do request though that the key is posted back through the letter box for collection the next day.

- Friday early opening.

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who has supported and helped with this initiative. All in all it has been extremely successful, with many new faces seen on the premises enjoying our Club and more welcome revenue passed over the bar.

However, not wishing to put a damper on things we have had one or two teething problems, so for the enjoyment of all members and guests using the bar on a Friday I would like to clarify the original expectations that were agreed before and during the early weeks of this initiative.

- The Bar / Club would be open from 17.15 approx to 20:00 for everyone to use and enjoy.
- Between these hours youngsters would be very welcome to come to the Bar to purchase soft refreshments and snacks.
- After 20:00 youngsters would not be permitted to approach the Bar, unless accompanied by a parent / guardian. If the youngsters wish to remain within the Bar area itself after this period they must be fully supervised at all times by their parents / guardian.
- If the youngsters wish to use the Games room for Table Tennis, or use the blackboard etc, a parent must supervise them at all times and be responsible for leaving the room in a tidy and presentable state.
- The Snooker table should not be used unless over the age of 14 yrs. Youngsters playing outside on the Club lawn and boundary must be supervised by their respective parents / guardian for their own safety. Under no circumstance should climbing on or through the perimeter safety fencing be allowed. We have had some very near misses, let's not have an accident we all regret.
- The BBQ is available for members / guests to use.
- At the end of the evening the BBQ must be wheeled back to the rear of the Club and left in a tidy/ clean condition and any BBQ tools washed and stored in the box provided ready for its next user.

Now, I hope you all agree these very simple rules will help enhance your visit and other members' visits to the Club on a Friday or any other evening.

Please remember PMSC is a Club for every member of any age to come and enjoy. Please be respectful and responsible during your visit.

**Jon Humby
Commodore**

Welcome Aboard

Welcome to our new members;

Stafford and Valerie Taylor, and their children Amy and Luca from Ipswich. They sail 'Sophie', an E Boat.

David Slater from Hertfordshire. He sails 'Indecision', a Jaguar 25.

Rolfe Kentish from Cambridge.

Hugh Cullum who lives in the Barbican in London, and sails 'Wombat', a Hunter Europa.

Welcome to the Bar

From Friday 10th July the Club will have a new helping hand behind the bar for the remainder of the summer working the early session on Fridays, some Saturday evenings and helping Jo during Sunday lunchtimes.

Stefan Kemp, currently studying at Durham University, will be helping us out behind the bar until his return to Durham and his studies in September. I am sure you will join me in wishing Stefan a warm welcome to the PMSC.

**Jon Humby
Commodore**

SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW (11th – 20th SEPTEMBER 2009)

By invitation of John Goode, PMSC members, along with their families & friends, may again take advantage of a heavily discounted, no-strings ticket offer that includes admittance on Preview Days at both Southampton 2009 and London International Boat Show 2010. Even better, everyone who takes up this offer under the PMSC banner will also be entitled to a free pint of beer, glass of wine or a soft drink during their visit to either show.

Tickets can be ordered directly by individual members using the unique PMSC reference code (**SJG37**) either over the Internet or by telephone – but please keep these arrangements for the against £23 on Preview Day or £18 on other days) and the free drink (circa £3.50) are only available to the strictly limited number of organisations that have been invited by John Goode

IMPORTANT NOTES

Tickets cost £11.00 and are valid any day including Preview Day

Telephone bookings: 0844 209 0333

Website bookings via:

www.southamptonboatshow.com

When ordering, quote special PMSC reference code: SJG37

The above telephone number and website are for orders of less than 10 tickets in any one transaction. Orders for 10 or more tickets at a time (still the same price) can only be made by telephoning National Boat Shows group booking ticketing agency on 0207 014 8444

Ordering using the above reference code will produce tickets that are valid for 'Preview' day (11th September) or any other day of the show.

A single transaction fee of £1.25 applies whether ordering one or any greater number of tickets, which can be purchased right up until the last day of the show.

Because it could take up to 7 days or so for them to arrive by post, tickets purchased shortly before or during the show can be collected on arrival from the advance ticket box office at the main entrance. The best option, for those ordering tickets over the Internet, is to use the website's 'Print at Home' facility.

Youngsters under 15 years go free (up to two per accompanying adult) provided tickets for them are requested when ordering adult tickets.

A voucher will be sent with each purchased ticket, which can be redeemed for a drink at any of the refreshment outlets surrounding the Guinness Village in the Solent Park area of the show. The above drinks offer only applies to paid for tickets (i.e. not to free tickets for under 15s or those issued on a complimentary basis).

**Rick Kirkup
Rear Commodore**

Smacks Race 2009

We have just enjoyed the 4th annual Smacks race over the past weekend. Once again it was hailed as a great success with 14 craft entered and completing the course in fine style.

With the course set, and the outer mark being Medusa via Stone Banks and Outer Ridge the race officer and his team prayed for a breeze to set in. Oh how they prayed, and as with all good Christian sailors there prayers were answered as a steady breeze set in right on queue for the ten minute gun.

Bona just managed to take line honours with the fleet close behind beating their

way down towards Collimer. Pioneer, who was blanketed by the trees at Clamp House for a while, soon caught a breeze and set off in hot pursuit of the fleet with the PMSC crew working hard. Well, most likely the ladies were making the tea!

Now the nervous wait began for the race officer. Was the right course set, was it too long, would the breeze hold, would he be able to focus on the finish after spending the afternoon near the Club bar anxiously waiting for the first vessel home.

Well with all the confidence of a still upright seasoned race officer the finishing horn was sounded for the Smack Ethel Alice at 15:55, closely followed by Primrose and the Mayfly. Following a steady stream of finishers the Quiz bought the race to a conclusion finishing at 18:08.

The evening party was soon in full swing with the Bar open and trading briskly and the BBQ hotting up. The prize giving at 20:00 saw the Smacks 'Mary' and Mayfly awarded 3rd and 2nd place respectively with the overall 2009 winner of the Joe Dunnett Trophy being 'Primrose.

Well done to those three, but I'm sure all the competitors will agree that the day and the event itself was the winner as it turned out to be one of those perfect sailing days to cherish.

I must finish by thanking everyone involved in organizing, helping and participating in this year's event; it would not happen without you. Thank you, and here's looking forward to next year when we hope to see Gus Curtis and 'Gladys' on the start line and I do have an idea on how the 2010 race can be even more spectacular.

**Jon Humby
Commodore**

NAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

Please note that the date of this year's competition is Saturday October 22nd and not as given in the Almanac. Even though it's months ahead, it's not too soon to be thinking about it. The forecasters keep telling us it's going to be a good summer, so there should be plenty of opportunities to take that winning shot, on or off the water.

This year we hope to inaugurate a separate junior competition. Note that this will be open only to members' children – and grandchildren – up to the age of 16. Cadet members will of course also be eligible. The rules will be the same: i.e. photographs of boats of every kind, afloat or ashore, or any nautical or watery theme. Look for further details in the September Newsletter.

Marjorie Carter

Sailing

For the May Bank Holiday cruise the plan was to spend Saturday night in Hamford Water and Sunday night at Ramsholt. The forecast was good and, dutifully, there was I in Hamford Water with the beer and the Pringles at the ready and none to share them with save a redshank and a couple of curlews.

I took the opportunity of the quiet evening to try out my new barbeque kit which clamps on to the pushpit. Here's a tip; take the ensign down *before* it catches fire.

The next day I moved on to Ramsholt, where the picture was the same, except there were no Pringles left.

Three boats (Aurora, Celtic Explorer and Lys of Slaughden) made it to the BBQ at

Erwarton Ness, and, together with some land travellers, a jolly time was had.

Another three yachts *Astraea*, *Harmony* and *Aurora* all made it to London in a blistering heat wave and very little wind.

On the racing front; after the first 4CRS race PMSC has leapt into last position. Congratulations to *E Swift* and '*Fiddler*' who has won the Seago Cup. Race 2 was cancelled due to lack of interest, so we have it all to do in the next two events.

Coming up;

Barge match. A place on the *Victor* has become available, price negotiable, contact me if interested.

Cruise to Chatham Historic Dockyard. Come and join this Estuary amble to the Medway. Get in touch if you wish to discuss.

June and Ward Cups race (Club line start and finish)

Bank Holiday Mystery Cruise; with high water at 1929 the Blackwater would appear to be a good destination – but who knows....

4CRS races 3 and 4. We need a good turnout to make any impression on the results. A prize-giving will be held at Orwell Yacht Club after the final race which I hope some of you will be able to attend.

66th Annual Regatta and RNLI Race

Our most popular weekend of competitive sailing. It is intended to run a boat jumble on Saturday afternoon and a BBQ in the evening. Entry forms will be on the Website. Volunteer Race Officers are needed for both races (otherwise it will be necessary to get the press gang out!).

And that's about it!

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

Project Kraken

Project Kraken is a police initiative to encourage those who work or play on the Suffolk coast or rivers to be extra vigilant to counter the threat of terrorism. Through information sharing and awareness Suffolk's waters can be made safer.

The reporting number is 01473 613500 or email;

projectkraken@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

So if you see anything odd, unusual or out of context then get in touch. Further information is in the Library.

In the Library

By chance three books of local interest have been published and copies have been purchased for the library.

The first is a biography of Admiral Saumarez. Saumarez was part of the Saumarez family of Shrublands, Claydon, just west of Ipswich. He became commander of a force based on Gothenburg from 1807 to 1812 keeping the sea route clear to the Baltic, countering French attempts to block it by organizing convoys and using his diplomatic skills in relations with Baltic States to gain their cooperation.

The second is 'The Racing Horlocks' giving details of the involvement of the Horlock family in Barge racing, including that at Pin Mill, from 1868 to 1971. The book includes descriptions of the various barges taking part in the races, names of crew and photographs.

Finally 'Ransome in Russia' is a well written, well illustrated and fascinating account of the career of Arthur Ransome from 1913 to 1924 in Russia and the Baltic States where, learning Russian, he worked

as foreign correspondent for a number of English newspapers reporting on the dramatic turn of events of the Russian revolution and gaining unique access to the principle persons involved in the new Soviet state. Towards the end of this period he lived in Riga sailing on the Baltic first in dinghies, then in Kittiwake, and finally in Racundra to write 'Racundra on the Baltic'. It was also in this last period that he formed an association with Evgenia Shelepina who was Trotsky's assistant and who left Russia to live with him in Riga. They eventually married in 1924. There appears to be a split in the opinion of those responsible for diplomatic relations with Russia. Ransome always maintained he had no political opinion either way concerning the Soviets and his connection with them was valued by some. Others suspected he was a spy and rejected his reports. Returning to England he wrote the well known series of books such as Swallows and Amazons, basing some of them on East Coast waters and Pin Mill.

An extra to Ransome in Russia is Evgenia's account of the October revolution and the surrender negotiations at Brest with the Germans. A 'must read' for anyone interested in the history of those turbulent times.

Tony Cowley

PMSC Spring Party on 2 May – what a day!

Well if you didn't make it to our Spring party on Saturday 2 May, I hope that wherever else you were you had a good time because you really missed a great day! The sun shone and members and guests really got stuck in to some serious fun. Throughout the afternoon Charlotte Norman and her co-volunteer face painters had a constant queue of youngsters wanting to be turned into pirates, animals and all sorts of scary monsters, while Jon

and Sue Humby turned the Games Room into a thriving paper and cardboard boat-building facility to enable kids of all ages to create potential winners ready for launching off the Hard in the Grand Pin Mill High Water Race.

The BBQ organized by Catherine and David Abbott - ably assisted by Terry Sporle and Rosie Kirkup - was a huge success with every last morsel devoured by an appreciative crowd of hungry participants. Due to the generosity of various suppliers - notably Peter Hollingsworth who donated all the burgers and sausages for free in aid of the fundraising - Catherine and David's efforts achieved nearly half of the overall total raised on the day.

The activities then moved indoors and Anthony Cullen and Tim Fenton staged a very enjoyable Kids Karaoke - with all participants benefiting from personal feedback on their singing style from Julia Pink sitting behind a Simon Cowell name badge!

Finally it was the turn of The B^looze Brothers - Pin Mill's very own mature (but still moving) Blues Band (no names, you know who they are...) to play out the rest of the evening before a very lively and enthusiastic audience who danced the night away and also made a very healthy contribution to the Club's bar profits!

Thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers who enabled the whole day to be so successful we raised the splendid total of £765 for the Elsie Norman Fund for Acorn House, Addenbrookes.- for more details of the charity's work visit <http://www.sickchildrenstrust.org/>

Rick Kirkup
Rear Commodore

The Round The Island Race

It was way back in 1968 that Ted and I were both stationed at RAF Tengah. In those days the five Service sailing clubs, 3 RAF, 1 Army, 1 Royal Navy, together with The Royal Singapore Yacht Club held a joint regatta, part of which was a passage race around the Island. The distance was about 60 miles with the start just west of the causeway and the finish on the other side of the causeway off the Naval Base. The course instructions were simple: leave the Sembilan islands, Blakang Mati (Now Sentosa Island?) and Pulau Ubin island to starboard, and whatever you do don't end up in nearby Indonesia with whom we were having a little war.

There were 174 starters, the Commander in Chief was in his yacht but the rest of us hoi polloi were in a variety of small boats including GP 14s, Snipes, Albacores, Dragons and Ospreys. Ted and I were in my Osprey, "Waterwitch", equipped with a bottle of water, a chunk of fruitcake and a torch.

The start was at 0400 hrs with the Army shining a searchlight across the Johore Straits to act as the line. It was a good thing that the wind was light as the fleet sailed down the western arm of the Johore Strait because there were no lights on either the yachts or on the many fish traps that were placed across the channel.

As dawn broke so the breeze dropped completely and it became uncomfortably hot as we drifted out into the more open waters on the southwest corner of the Island. At 1010hrs precisely the wind switched on and we were off on a 10-mile plane towards Keppel Harbour with Ted working hard out on the trapeze.

The beat through the harbour nearly proved our undoing. Here the tide runs very fast in the narrow channel and as we

approached Jardine Steps we saw an area of white water that stretched right across the channel. We crashed our way across the first two waves, but before the bow could lift the next wave came green over the foredeck and broke into the cockpit. Somehow Waterwitch recovered and we were through the worst of it. Our wives (Just married) were waving encouragement from the steps but I am afraid we were too concerned with our own survival to notice them, and even after all these years I am not sure that we have been forgiven!

Once clear of Keppel Harbour we were faced with a long beat in rough water along the south coast past Bedok Corner, where the Naval guns had been sited to point the wrong way, and on towards Changi Point. We were some way offshore and well to seaward of the shipping at anchor in Singapore Roads when we were hit by a particularly strong gust. Ted lost his footing on the gunwhale and disappeared from view. There was a great rushing, wallowing sound as he was dragged through the water on the end of the trapeze wire. From the depths there came a cry of "I'm coming back aboard", and with that Ted rose up, arched over and came crashing down into the boat. For a moment I thought that he was going to continue his trajectory through the bottom, but luckily he came to rest in a soggy, gasping heap.

After that excitement, we still had to find our way through the maze of fish traps off Changi Point, but we were now in much calmer water as we bore away past RAF Changi and up the eastern arm of the Johore Strait.

After crossing the Naval Base Sailing Club line we retraced our course to stagger ashore on the old flying boat slipway at RAF Seletar. I am afraid that we did not do very well, our elapsed time of 13 hours 24 minutes 30 seconds put us in 141st place on handicap, but at least we beat the C in C who was 144th. The winner was a Yachting Monthly Senior which got round in just over 16 hours.

How things have changed. We weren't wearing life jackets, there were no safety boats, there was a distinctly unfriendly bunch of chaps with guns on the lee shore just four miles away, we were dressed in shirts and shorts with no protection against the sun, and yet we survived and both of us are still mucking about in small boats 41 years later, although I don't think Ted can do his Polaris act any more.

Roger Evans