



Lymington Town Sailing Club

COMMODORE'S COMMUNICATION - January 2008

In the absence of a January edition of Telltales, I thought I would write a few lines to keep you up to speed with the activities of our Club. The document will also present some of our members, in particular Simon Ward and Ivor Evans, with a challenging New Year brain teaser as they attempt to spot my typos, spellings and poor grammar.

I hope all of our members had a very good Christmas and I take the opportunity to wish you all a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR and plenty of 'on the water' fun.

AGM

Our AGM in December was well attended and unlike some previous years stimulated some interesting discussion. All three resolutions were lost, but the proposers bowed out with good grace. No other challenges were raised under any other business and the general consensus was that members were well pleased with the management of the Club.

Peter Upcher stood down as Commodore after two successful years and the Club showed its appreciation to both him and Pam by presenting them with an engraved decanter and glasses.

We are very fortunate in the re-election of two experienced Flag Officers, Nigel Walbank in the all important Sailing role and Peter Allen in House. We are also fortunate in acquiring a Rear Commodore Social in Susan Burgess to give added support to the successful efforts of our Social Committee.

Adam Reay has been elevated from his position as Cruiser Class Captain to Vice Commodore; a role he has already proved he will be invaluable in.

Rodney Mathews also agreed to carry on in the important role of Honorary Treasurer.

The Club is run by a volunteer committee structure and the Terms of Reference for each committee is set by the Executive. These Terms of Reference will be posted on the Club website for members' access along with the names of the members of each committee.

MARTINEAU TROPHY

This prestigious trophy was donated to the Club by one of the Club's founders and first Commodore, to be awarded for significant 'on the water' achievement or services to the Club. It

was awarded to past Commodore Barry Dutton. Barry's success in re-vitalising the West Solent Cruiser Racing Association, WSCRA, has brought considerable kudos and prestige to LTSC as well as some excellent inter-club yacht racing.

TRAINING/MEETING ROOM

In the weeks before Christmas a team of volunteers led by Tony Hodges and Derek Fern lowered the floor in the Old Sailing Office, by approximately four feet, to position it level with the floor of the Lower Deck Bar. This was quite an achievement and many of us were doubtful about our chances of success. Over the next 10 weeks Robin Pratt and volunteers will be fitting out this new space, which will accommodate up to 20 people. This will release the first floor Committee Room from having to be used for training. This new facility is being funded by the Lymington Town School of Sail & Power, LTSSP, which is based at the Club.

LYMINGTON TOWN SCHOOL OF SAIL & POWER

Frequently new and old members ask about the arrangement we have with the Sailing School.

A history of the school is held in the office, but in short it was set up in 1995 by the Club's Executive and past and then current Flag Officers. The idea was to have a recognised RYA Training School under the umbrella of the Club for the benefit of existing, and to attract new members. Originally the then Club Secretary was the school's principal, but on his departure it was agreed that Robin Pratt would set up a separate company for the school and become its principal in order to give financial protection to the Club and its members. In essence the school, while independent, operates under the umbrella of the Club for the Club's benefit. Whilst the school does not operate at a loss, its activities are limited, such that it does not and cannot compete with the bigger commercial schools around the Solent and is not a viable 'stand alone' business proposition. The Executive regularly reviews the role of the school and is confident that the Club has had considerable benefits from its existence over the past years.

The school is not Robin's primary activity, he is a qualified commercial yacht master and instructor and takes many independent commissions outside of LTSSP.

NEW BIGGER FERRIES

This subject came up at the AGM and all interested members will be aware of the Club's position statement. A copy of which is on the website and on the notice board. The Club continues to register its concern at the potential hazards presented by the new larger ferries and over the past few weeks Club representatives have met with the Chairman of LHC and the Harbour-master, along with representatives of BMT, the consultants who are looking at the LHC risk assessment for the new larger ferries. We were able to express the Club's concerns and re-emphasise key points of our position. We also had the opportunity to challenge areas of the assessment which were felt to be lacking. I also attended the AGM of the Solent Protection Society, of which the Club is a member. At this meeting the members were looking to the society to take a pro-active stance opposing the ferries and to support the harbour protection scheme.

LIFT PROJECT

We are now putting in for planning permission for lift access and improved first floor storage facilities. This will all be included in an attractive extension which will link up our changing room facilities with the Clubhouse. These drawings will be displayed in the Club when and if planning approval is granted.

The project will be costly, at least 100k so we are making plans to raise funds for this ambitious project. A first meeting of an embryonic fundraising committee will take place next week. More information will be made available as we develop our plans, but should you have any good fundraising ideas please advise us. Alison Gunn and Sue Collingridge of Sailability have volunteered to help on this committee. Sailability has associated membership with LTSC.

WEDNESDAY EVENING TALKS

Our talks recommence next week and full details can be found on the website. Neil Eccles has done an excellent job organising our talks over the past few years, but he is about to take on greater responsibilities as Commodore of the Moody Class Association, so is handing over the Talk's Baton to Celia Swan. Please thank Neil by supporting his final series and encourage Celia.

January 9th Musing down the Moon Path with David Burgess

January 16th Cartoonist with Peter Coocker

January 23rd IOW Space Race with Hannah Griffith

January 30th Little and Large with Lionel Hall.

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

January 12th Jazz Evening

January 25th Burn's Night

February 1st Quiz Night

February 2nd Saturday Sauntering

February 7th Sprat Supper

February 10th Perishers Race for Dinghies

DINGHY PARK WASHDOWN

These facilities are being substantially improved over the next few weeks, which will make access to the dinghy park difficult. All dinghy sailors have been advised, but if you are concerned, then please check the details with the office or move your boat out of the park.

TELLTALES and MAINSHEET

These two important Club publications need support. We are urgently seeking an editor for both, the task is probably onerous otherwise we would have an editor and support team in place and there would be no need for this communication. We have a working group including Ivor Evans and Iain Sutherland looking at how we can establish an editorial team to give us regular monthly newsletters without relying on one single person. If you are interested in becoming involved please let us know.

Richard Jenner

CLUB SAFETY RIB COURSES - 2008

February - Course 1

Friday 8th - Theory 1830

Saturday 9th - Day 1 Practical

Saturday 16th - Day 2 Practical

March - Course 2

Friday 7th - Theory 1830

Saturday 8th - Day 1 Practical

Saturday 15th - Day 2 Practical

April - Course 3

Friday 4th - Theory 1830

Saturday 5th - Day 1 Practical

Saturday 12th Day 2 Practical

Open to all members. This course is free, in return all we ask is that you complete six to eight duties per year. If you would like more information on these courses then please contact the Club Secretary. Those interested in doing this training should contact the office (courses@ltsc.co.uk or 01590 674514) with your preferred course and your second choice.

CRUISING SECTION NEWS

Mike Kelly writes, with Adam elevated to the position of Vice Commodore, Nick Hopwood has stepped into the breach as our Cruising Captain. I am sure that he can rely on our full support.

As always, December has seen a plethora of social events held at the Club. The highlight being the fully subscribed Cruising Supper on the 14th, when we enjoyed tasty food, good company and excellent entertainment by member Stuart Fell. A performance which could equally well have been staged at any time during the last five centuries.

Hard on the heels of the supper came the Needles Relief. Despite a biting easterly wind and lowering cloud, a good time was had by all.

The ever popular BURN'S NIGHT supper will be held on 25th January, organised, as always, by Jim Sey. The event is oversubscribed every year thus far and it may be more so this year, as we have reduced numbers to improve the elbow room. You are advised to send off the enclosed application early so as to avoid disappointment. The closing date for applications is Tuesday, 22nd January, and applications from members (and partner) only, will be accepted up to and including Friday January 18th with a free-for-all after then to the 22nd!

Burn's Supper

Friday 25th January 7.15 for 7.45pm
All members of the Club and guests are welcome

Menu

Cockaleekie Soup, roll & butter

Haggis with neeps, tatties and onion gravy
(mashed swede & mashed potato)*

*Raspberry Crowdie
(A dessert made from raspberries, cream, oatmeal, honey & whisky)*

Coffee and mints

** Vegetarian haggis is available as an option provided the catering staff is notified on making the booking for the event*

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Burn's Supper Booking Form – 25th January

Name: Name:

Name: Name:

If the vegetarian option is required please write 'V' in this box

Please return this booking form by Tuesday 22nd January making cheques payable to Lymington Town Sailing Club for.....@ £15 per head.

Members are respectfully reminded that any alcohol consumed must have been purchased from the Club