

ROYAL LYMINGTON YACHT CLUB

NEWS BULLETIN, SPRING, 1947

Edited by

"JACK IN THE BASKET."

Summary of Winter Activities.

A surprising degree of success has attended the efforts of the Flag Officers, Committee and Secretary to achieve the aims outlined in the previous Bulletin.

They have waded into a morass of controls and regulations, and have emerged triumphantly with armfuls of Permits which have allowed of the following activities:—

- (a) The Club is now open in the summer months until 10 p.m.
- (b) A catering licence has been granted, a caterer has been obtained and teas, lunches and snacks are now in supply.
- (c) Permits have been obtained for the completion of repairs to the slipway, the erosion of the fore-court and the external painting of the Club.

Encouraged by this success a gang of local Members headed by the Vice-Commodore and ably assisted by the Club Boatman, carried out a frontal attack on a walled partition which collapsed into a heap of rubble, and presently emerged as an up-to-date Bar with all modern conveniences including a fluorescent lighting effect which is reputed to have caused the Club Steward to resort to the make-up box.

Another benefactor found gin in modest but regular quantities, while yet another has promised to paint a fresco to complete the whole thing.

Two successful dances were held during the winter, and the highlight of the season was a series of lectures and discussions on Sailing matters which proved to be very popular. People with distinguished names in the sailing world were kind enough to come and talk, and the measure of their popularity lay in the steady increase of attendance as the series progressed.

1947 Season.

The season opened with the Annual General Meeting which was well attended.

In the course of a comprehensive survey of the Club affairs the Commodore laid stress on points which he considered needed especial attention.

1. The Regatta Fund. The main object of a Yacht Club must always be to encourage all forms of sailing. Yacht Racing is a particularly important part of their activities and provides entertainment not only for those taking part but also for spectators. In the past only a small proportion of Members have subscribed to the Regatta

Fund. If everyone gave something this fund would not be a t always has been, obliged to borrow from Club funds. The support of all Members is invited. Small donations are no less popular than large ones but the givers may not look at it that way. A box, therefore, will be provided for the use of those who wish to give anonymously. It will be placed conveniently near the Bar.

2. The Club finances are healthy but the Club's commitments are not likely to be reduced in view of the progressive nature of its policy. A larger membership is therefore desirable. The present membership is 520 (compared with 456 last year.) A Target figure of 800 was suggested by the Commodore who emphasized the importance of getting Members of the right type in order that the present atmosphere of the Club should not be changed.

3. The Commodore concluded with a tribute to the work and enthusiasm of the Secretary whose efforts have been so largely instrumental in putting the Club on its feet.

Racing.

A series of Handicap races for cruising yachts open to all comers has taken place. These races have proved to have been very popular.

Class Racing.

Regular Saturday races for the "L," "X," "C" and Handicap classes began on 24th May. It is hoped that owners will support these races as much as possible.

The River classes require no such encouragement. Races for Prams and Sharpies have been in full swing since Easter and the number of these vessels continues to increase and multiply.

The Club has purchased three Lymington Prams and is hiring them to Members. There is a steady demand for these boats.

Owing to the generous action of a Member a motor boat has been loaned to the Club for the purpose of providing additional amenities for all yacht owners.

An additional Boatman has been engaged for the summer months.

Regattas.

The Regatta will be held on Monday and Tuesday, August 18th—19th, and will be followed on the Wednesday by the Lymington Town Regatta with which the Club is

always closely associated. Three days racing at Yarmouth will follow, and the week will be concluded with the Round the Wight (Night) Race for cruising yachts.

A Grand Regatta Ball will be held on Friday, 22nd August. Superior attractions in the way of a Dance Orchestra with Mr. Sim Grossman in personal attendance, and special catering arrangements justify this rather high sounding title. Of course the tickets will be a little more expensive for the same reason.

Other Items.

"Cadet" Members. This is a new category to allow young sailing enthusiasts whose parents are not Members to join without entrance fee.

Royal Solent Yacht Club, Yarmouth. This Club enjoys full reciprocity with our own during the 1947 season.

Policy for the Future.

The erection of a third storey and the provision thereby of additional quarters has not been forgotten but must necessarily await the dawn of a new era.

A special Committee is investigating the possibility of providing additional mooring and landing facilities at the Club House by the provision of a pontoon at the end of the fore-court.

The Flag Officers and Committee are watching closely the negotiations between the Town River Committee and the Southern Railway on the subject of Steamer Traffic in the Lymington River.

The general aim of the Club is to extend facilities equally to all sections of its membership so that everyone is given a good return for his or her subscription. It is hoped that the Clerk of the weather will be equally kind.