

ROYAL LYMINGTON YACHT CLUB

NEWS BULLETIN, SPRING 1949

Edited by

"TAR BARREL."

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THE SUMMER.

As the evenings grow long and the boats are laid up, we think over the season's sailing and the fun we had.

The weather seemed to get better and better so that this year we can say with perfect truth, "There never was a summer like this." Always fine with enough wind to make a sailing breeze and no more. True, there were the black spots of Whitsun, the first two days of Cowes week, and the Fastnet gale, but these served to remind us that it is not always "plain sailing."

Our story this year is one of continued success. More Members, more boats afloat, and more foreign ports visited than ever before.

The river Authorities have provided some accommodation for visiting Yachts, between piles near the Railway Bridge. May this good work continue. We could do with more !!

The RACING, in particular Handicap and Passage racing, was perhaps a little disappointing. Other Yacht Clubs have followed our lead, and we have had to face competition from them, and the lure of cruising abroad in fine weather.

Class racing flourished. The X.O.D's are growing fast and there may well be a dozen racing next season, if information "off the record" proves correct. The Club "X" boat, "Pixie," has now been returned to her Owner with the grateful thanks of the Club. Unfortunately, there was not a great call to charter her, "Prams" are as numerous as ever, have raced hard, and even had a "Picnic Cruise" to Alum Bay. The Club Prams have been used extensively and emerged little the worse for wear, and should pay a small dividend.

A new Trophy for centreboard boats the "Tar Barrel Trophy" has caused some excitement for Competitors, and anxiety to the Staff during several hard blows. The speediest passage round this ancient river mark is rewarded by a sweepstake of the entry fees and the challenge Trophy.

Members have cruised far and wide, from Corunna to the north Dutch coast and its inland waters. There is a well worn groove across the Channel, and it is alleged that a whisper of steak or champagne aboard certain vessels, causes them to shy violently at their moorings and almost take off by themselves.

The Club has participated to the full in R.O.R.C. events, and was placed 6th in the Points Championship by the R.O.R.C.

The REGATTA went well, though perhaps, the entries for the larger classes were not so big as last year. The event was topped off with a most successful dance, of which all the arrangements were worthy of comment, particularly the decorations.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Committee have worked hard to improve the amenities of the Club, and carry out such reconstruction and repairs as were possible. The dinghy pontoon is in full operation and has proved most useful. The Starting Platform is again in good order, and even the heaviest of Race Officers has no cause for alarm.

The House Committee, working on the principal of "feed the brute," has done wonders, and their efforts could not have been more appreciated. A real vote of thanks is due to the Ladies on this Committee and to the Chef and Staff for their willingness, cheerfulness and hard work.

The Bar continues to thrive. Its atmosphere, profit and efficiency are largely due to the Barman, who appears to have limitless reserves of hard work and good humour. The Boatman and his Assistant have done much to help Members enjoy the season. They have carried out a lot of extra work in all weathers and at all times, for which members are grateful. The launch has been invaluable, throughout the summer. Keeping a fatherly eye on us all, coping with mountains of forms, rivers of ink and voluminous correspondence, the Secretary and his Staff have emerged cheerful and triumphant.

WINTER PROGRAMME.

The Annual Dinner held at the Club on the 4th November again proved to be a great success. Flag Officers of the Royal Cruising Club were the Chief Guests.

This year there will be an unusual series of "Talks" followed by supper. A programme has been sent out. Though not strictly on sailing topics, the Talks cover a wide range of subjects of interest to Yachtsmen, which it is hoped will give pleasure to everyone. We have been asked to mention that the local Community Association hope to arrange instructional talks on "Coastal Navigation." If Members are interested, the Secretary would be glad to have their names.

For the NEW YEAR DANCE, the Committee have decided on a " MASKED BALL," on Friday 30th December. Details have gone out under separate cover. The Annual General Meeting will be held early in April next year.

FORTHCOMING SEASON.

As well as the normal programme, for Passage Racing, it is hoped there will be a race to St. Peter's Port during Whit-weekend. This is considered the best feature of the Club's "Off-shore" racing programme, and should draw good entries. The " Round the Wight " night race will be held on 19th August.

In July it is proposed to re-institute the pre-war one day Regatta Fixture. This will be on Saturday following Poole week, the 15th. The Royal Solent Yacht Club will hold their one day Fixture on Sunday 16th July.

The August Regatta will be on Monday and Tuesday 21st and 22nd August, with Lymington Town Regatta on the Wednesday, if the " powers that be " agree.

The river dredging scheme has provided a lot of interest and we shall hope it will be of advantage to Yachtsmen as well as steamers.

CONCLUSION.

The Club goes from strength to strength, Membership is well over 700, more boats than ever have been fitted out and the various functions have been well attended. It is difficult enough nowadays to get oneself to the seaside, much less embark family, marine "Lares et penates," and go sailing.

It is to the credit of all Members of the R.L.Y.C. that the season has been so successful.

The Committees, and several sub-committees are active, and schemes for improvement and modernisation of facilities continue to come under review. Stores, dinghy accommodation and "space" and "more space" for many things are still required.

It all takes a long time and these problems are not easy.

It now only remains to hope that next season will be as kind to us in the way of weather as has the past summer. We wish all Members a successful 1950.
