



e-potternews

LOOKING TOWARDS THE NEW SAILING SEASON

This month we're looking towards the new sailing season and back at our archives. One of the Club's most successful and popular boats the XOD, first built in 1911 is being regenerated with new building techniques to enable the boat to continue for its second century. The Club's archives are being

meticulously catalogued and made available for all of us to enjoy.

On the Social front, why not get a group together to plan your sailing season at the Fitting Out supper.

Ann Brunskill

SOCIAL

Saturday 7th March – Antiques Evening

With local expert George Kidner. The format of questionnaire and display of antiques makes this event the usual fun of estimating dates and values, our own version of the Antiques Road Show - tickets £16.00.

Saturday 14th March – Fitting Out Supper

Dine and dance to Abba Tribute band – tickets £23.50.

Saturday 28th March - Famous Chef's Supper

This time it's Jamie Oliver and it won't be a school dinner – tickets £19.00.

Don't forget the regular coffee mornings, Bridge Suppers and Quiz Nights throughout March.

Contact the Office for reservations for all these events. Check the website for further social events www.rlymyc.org.uk/Social/social.html

CLUB

River Room Refurbishment 2nd-13th March

The River Room refurbishment is being undertaken as I write and should be completed by Friday 13th March. This is the final stage in the improvements to the first floor. There will be some minor inconveniences for Members during this time but Mark and his team will do their best to make sure that normal service will be maintained.

Welcome to our new Office Administrator



On 2nd March Nicola Smith joined as Office Administrator, taking over from Barbara Maughan. Originally from Bournemouth, Nicola has experience of running the administration for a range of businesses. Nicola's e mail address is Nicola@rlymyc.org.uk.

Improvements to the Club Audio System

Six new loudspeakers have been installed covering the Balcony, Forecourt and Pontoons. Race Officers and Event Organisers can now brief competitors, make general announcement and even have prizegivings, using a new radio microphone, anywhere outside.

Inside the Club, controls are now in place in the Library and Bar/River Room area giving the ability to make individual announcements to each of the separate loudspeaker zones at the same time. This means it is now possible to brief competitors on the Forecourt, run a lecture in the Library and make a Bar announcement simultaneously.

All areas have enhanced volume control facilities; we have two extra radio microphones and can even use MP3 players!

If you are running an event inside or outside the Club, please ensure you are fully briefed in good time about what is now available.

Last year we installed a new High Definition Video Projector with an HD satellite tuner and laptop playback facilities in the Library. Many will remember that this was used to view our Olympians' triumphs in China.

These new systems will enable the Club to provide first class facilities for events during the 2009 sailing and social season. Contact the Office for details and a short briefing.

The Club is very grateful to Neil Eccles for the enormous amount of work he has put in. Without his highly valuable professional expertise in setting up the system non of this would have been achievable – Ed.

The RYA and draft regulations for alcohol limits for non-professional mariners and inland boaters.

Members' attention is drawn to the Press Release at www.rya.org.uk/AboutRYA/lobbyact/Pages/alcoholimits.aspx. The link to the consultation paper is at the bottom of the Press Release.

Ferry Issues

Geoff Holmes is chairing a sub-committee to continue considering the Ferry issues after the AGM. It will consider the conclusions of the final BMT report and will help to formulate the Club's views of the effects upon the Club's activities, in the light of the Harbour Commissioners' response.

Members will find details on the Club website www.rlymyc.org.uk/Ferries/ferries.html and on the notice boards.

CRUISING

Last Winter Meet – 17th -18th March

The last winter meet will be at Portsmouth. Berths will be reserved in Gunwharf Quays Marina and supper at the Royal Naval and Albert Yacht Club. Please put your name down at the Club or let me know by email - coldavidhoulton@hotmail.com.

Winter Lectures

The last three lectures are:

11th March The Moody Legacy

David Moody

18th March The Portulan Legacy

Earliest explorers charts John Beake

25th March A South American Adventure

Chris Cobham

Safety Morning – 4th April

Over 70 people have already signed up. The aim of the morning is to remind people of safety procedures and equipment. Both the RNLI and the Coastguards are involved. The morning starts off at 1000am with a safety briefing in the Lifeboat Station; a live demonstration then takes place on the pontoon area in the Club followed by the opportunity to visit various stands on the forecourt. Please put your name down at the Club or email me - coldavidhoulton@hotmail.com

Spring Cowes Meet – 17th -19th April

On the Friday evening we all meet up at the Folly Inn pontoons for drinks and informal supper either at the Inn itself or on boats. On the Saturday we move down to Shepards Wharf and dinner at the Sir Max Aitken Museum. Further details will shortly be published both in the Club and on the website. It is a popular event so put your names down early to avoid disappointment.

RACING

The Season Ahead from Chris Neve, Captain of Racing

What a great year for racing it looks to be, with the Easter Dinghy Open Regatta followed by the Henri Lloyd Spring Series just after, so no excuses for not having your boat in the water. Four Sundays, two races a day to keep it compact, exciting and again with Cathy Foster coaching. This will also include the trials for the Challenge Cup, so get your name to Nick Ryley.

The Gaffers and Classics kick off the late May Bank Holiday with three days of racing and entertainment. June & July promise to be very busy, firstly with our Royal Lymington Challenge Cup quickly followed by the charity Health4Health regatta, Lymington Week (better weather please!) and our first hosting of the X-Yachts Solent Cup, not forgetting the Melges Nationals and Contessa 32's.

We welcome a new class to the Club, the RS Elite a modern keel boat to join our already successful XOD and Folkboat fleets, with Saturday racing and much more. The Folkboats have a new West Solent Series in association with RSYC with more passage style racing.

Keelboat Coaching with Jim Saltonstall – Sunday April 5th

Jim is back again with his inimitable brand of coaching, so book now to get ahead of the pack. The cost will be approximately £60 per boat, depending on numbers.

Easter Dinghy Open Friday 10th - Saturday 11th April

The Fireflies have confirmed they are attending and there will be the usual PY Class Racing. Morning BBQ, tea and cakes after racing each day. For more information: www.rlymyc.org.uk/Racing/EasterDinghyOpen.html

Henri Lloyd Spring Series

Four Sundays –19th and 26th April, 10th and 17th May. Breakfast BBQ and late lunch available. Classes for IRC, Sportsboats and Lymington Handicap. www.rlymyc.org.uk/springseries

Thursday Keelboats

Early Series starts on Thursday April 23rd. www.rlymyc.org.uk/Racing/Thurs_racing.html for more information. Entry opens soon.

Monday Evening Dinghies

Monday Dinghies is back! Starts Monday April 20th. www.rlymyc.org.uk/Racing/Mon_racing.html for more information.

Gaffers and Classics Regatta

Our newest event, running May Bank Holiday weekend 23rd, 24th and 25th May. Berthing will be available for the event and the week after for boats competing in YoGaff the weekend of the 30th May.

www.rlymyc.org.uk/Racing/ClassicsRegatta.html for more information. More details should appear in next month's issue if the contributor gets back in time – Ed.

XOD'S

Lymington team leads New Build XOD Project

The approved method of building an XOD and the timbers specified have remained in place since 1911 and the labour intensive construction and costs of specified timbers have combined to make a new build too expensive for most to consider. A team based on Lymington undertook a year ago to investigate whether a modern way of constructing an XOD could be found and suitable timbers sorted out so that the class could enter its second century of competitive racing with a genuine prospect of a few new boats being built each year to replace and enhance the class. GRP was considered but rejected due to the very high setting up costs, one builder implications and the view of most owners that as a classic class the main structure should remain in wood.

The team visited a number of timber suppliers and boat builders to seek information and David Alan-Williams agreed to look at the X drawings and help the team. It very quickly became apparent that not only the long build time but also with many types of timber becoming endangered species the timber to use would be an important aspect. Following discussions with senior members of the XOD class the decision was made that for the project to succeed a demonstration boat had to be built and Ado Jardine agreed to head up an amateur building team. In order to raise sufficient funds we decided to issue £250 shares to those who wished to support the project and this enabled the building work to start in earnest on 5th January 2009.

Last October the team came to a decision that 'Fast Strip', a Tongue and Grooved strip planking system, should be used which would save many man hours in construction time and that the timbers to use should be Canadian Douglas Fir for the planking and Iroko for all the hardwood areas. The whole boat will be fastened by Epoxy and strengthened by use of glass fibre all of which Wessex

Resins are generously sponsoring by supplying all the resins and glass materials required as well as helping with technical advice. Steve Etheridge has very kindly sponsored the project with space within his boatshed and continuing technical help and advice as the project proceeds.

In addition to seeking to build an X that will have a racing life of some 100 years, as is the case with a handful of boats built in 1911 we are looking to reduce the annual maintenance costs/time, to a similar figure as a GRP craft. We expect that not only will this strip plank build and digitised drawings enable boat builders to produce XOD's at a competitive price, compared to other racing craft of this size, but have the added bonus that DIY enthusiasts will be able to build hulls accurately and relatively easily.

By the middle of February the hull had been fully planked



up with a laminated stem and Iroko keel, shaped and fitted. The intention is to have varnished topsides on this boat to show the timber construction and therefore great care is being taken to prepare the woodwork particularly the glass / epoxy on the topsides because no screws or fillers can be used. The plan is to completely finish the outside of the hull before turning her over and completing the interior and deck work. To reduce future maintenance to a minimum the whole boat will be glass and epoxy covered and built in buoyancy tanks will be introduced.

The intention throughout is to simplify and modernise the construction work required to produce a new hull and deck whilst at the same time being able to finish this one-off demonstration yacht at minimum cost. We have sought and obtained an iron keel, rudder, mast, sails and a good selection of fittings which we hope will enable us to get the boat on the water for well under £10,000. The boat will be ready to turn over by the time this report is published and she will be ready to launch towards the end of April, in time for the start of the Lymington 2009 XOD racing programme.

David Harris will be the boat's guardian and oversee the 2009 racing programme, we hope she will be raced in every XOD Club event. Priority will be given to the project share holders when allocating crews but we hope all interested in one-design racing will join in. We welcome younger Club sailors and other dinghy and small boat owners to join in the fun, which of course will be free! Details will be published on the Club boards and website regarding how to get involved on the water.

VOLUNTEERS

Please note change of date

Volunteers Day 11 am Saturday 25th April

Come along to the Club and find out more about the opportunities to help with our many and varied activities, ranging from being part of the Race Team, doing the results, or joining the team of flower arrangers. Experts will be on hand to answer all your questions, or find someone who can. Tel: 01590 672677 or email ben@rlymyc.org.uk for further information

ARCHIVES

Shortage of Cupboards and No Empty Walls

In 2007 Judy Ruffell, with Jon Chittock's help, rescued some of the Club's Archives from the cargo containers on the forecourt. Anthony Ruffell made the mistake of showing interest in his wife's activities and became Club Archivist! The Great Flood of 1989 had converted much of the Club's history into papier-mâché but fortunately a fair amount has been painstakingly salvaged.

Anthony has scanned many documents, and, with Neil Eccles' help, put them on the Club's website www.rlymyc.org.uk/Archives The Aladdin's Cave which is the Archives can now be readily accessed and enjoyed. They make truly fascinating reading. The title to this article – well, the Clubhouse is desperately short of storage space. The Club walls are crammed with material and more could be displayed if there was room. Hence the use of the Club website which can store an infinite amount of material.

If you have any Club history stored away in the loft, garage or wardrobes etc. please contact Anthony via the Club. He is particularly interested in any of the old Club dinghy classes that no longer sail, and in anything at all about the Club, especially pre 1946 as little remains of that time.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Lymington Lifeboat 10km Run, May 10th, 2009

The 8th Lymington Lifeboat 10k Run will start at 10.00 am on Sunday 10th May, starting and finishing in Woodside Park. Last year the 623 competitors enjoyed glorious weather and the same has been requested for this year, with the entry limit now raised to 700 runners. The course provides spectacular views across the Solent. The route goes along Lower Pennington Lane, the gravel track to the sea wall at Keyhaven, along to the sea wall, up to Oxey Barn to the finish in Woodside Park.

All finishers receive a medal, there are cups and prizes for the first three men and women and first veterans. Donations cover the expenses of the run so all entry fees and sponsorship goes to the Lymington.RNLI Over £50,000 has been raised so far and the lifeboat crew would like to thank everyone for their continuing support.

The Beaulieu Boat Jumble Sunday 26th April

The Lymington Branch of the RNLI is collecting items for The Beaulieu Boat Jumble. They sell all manner of donated boat equipment, clothing, sails, charts, books etc. You can support the RNLI by donating any unwanted items and by purchasing equipment from Stand G245. Items can be left with the Club Boatman; or by arrangement with Claude Hamilton on 01590 679771 or 07770 685213 (Mobile). Last year they raised over £3,200