



e-potternews

SPRING IS HERE.....

The sailing season has started well with over 50 boats competing in the Henri Lloyd Spring Series, 80 on Thursday evenings and 50 for the Monday dinghies. There has been an excellent response to the Royal Lyminster Challenge with six challengers so far.

An enthusiastic reporter is required to report on our sailing events for the local and yachting press. More

details in the Racing section.

I have had comments from Cruising Members about how much they enjoy keeping in touch with the Club through ePotterNews. Perhaps we can have section on their peregrinations and any helpful tips they can pass on through ePotterNews while cruising. Please email me at the address below.

Ann Brunskill

FROM THE COMMODORE

Ferries

The concerns over the ferries show no sign of diminishing and there are a number of initiatives in progress, not least by LRA. We await the finalisation of the BMT report. In the meanwhile, the ferries are operating a commercial service, although at time of writing the third ferry is not being used. The season is swinging into action, matters are still under review and I urge all Members to be doubly alert to avoid any possible incident.

St. Georges Day Yachtsmen's Golf Challenge

The inaugural golf challenge between teams from Royal Yacht Clubs hosted by Royal Lyminster Yacht Club took place on St. Georges Day at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club. Some 16 pairs took part including those from the Royal Squadron, The Royal Thames, Royal Southern and Royal Solent Yacht Clubs. The day was great fun, weather was good and ended with an excellent dinner at the Club. It is with due modesty that I announce the winners were your Commodore and John Thunhurst, so the Club holds the trophy for the first year. We expect to repeat the event next year. Thanks are due to Alexander Kilgour who orchestrated a most successful day.

SOCIAL

Launch of new wines from Majestic

The Club has now agreed a selection of house and Club wines with Majestic Wines, our new wine supplier. These should be on sale from early May and are an improvement in the value and quality we offer.

In addition we have established the first selection of wines available for Member to buy at a discount on Majestic's retail/internet prices. Each month's wine will only be available that month. For a limited period, some of the wines will be available for tasting at the Bar.

You will need to order at the bar using your Club card and the wine will be delivered to the Club for collection on presentation of your Club card slip.

White Wine

	Retail price	Members price
Vouvray La Janais, Loire Valley, France, 2006	£6.99	£6.29
Altosur Sauvignon Blanc, Finca Sopenia Mendoza, Argentina, 2007/8	£7.49	£6.74
Rueda Blanco, Marqués de Riscal, Spain, 2007	£7.49	£6.74
Pouilly-Fumé Les Griottes, Jean-Pierre Bailly, Loire Valley, France, 2007	£11.99	£10.79

Rosé Wine

Pinot Grigio Rosé Breganze, Veneto, Italy, 2007/08	£5.59	£5.03
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Red Wines

Fleurie, Labouré-Roi, Beaujolais, France, 2006	£7.19	£6.47
Vergelegen Mill Race, Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2005	£8.99	£8.09
Marqués de Riscal Reseva, Rioja, Spain, 2004	£13.99	£12.59

Offers valid until 8th June 2009.

CLUB

Club Sailing Insurance

As a result of questions raised by Members, the Secretary, Jenny Wilson Head of Wednesday Junior Sailing and Phil Batten, Vice Commodore had a meeting with Tony Harris CEO of Towergate, the Club's insurers.

They received the following assurances:

There has been no change to the nature and extent of our cover since the Club became incorporated. The Club is insured for injury or damage caused to non-members and their property following the Club's or its Members' negligence.

The General Committee has decided that any non-member attending an instructional course organised by the Club shall be a Temporary Member of the Club, during the days of attendance on the course. This is not stated at present

in the Club's Regulations and an addition will shortly rectify this position. Whilst not strictly required for insurance cover this change allows claims to be made using the Member to Member section of our insurance, which greatly facilitates the settlement of any claim for injury or damage.

The extent to which we offer Temporary Membership to non-member competitors in our organised sailing events is under discussion and will be decided shortly by the General Committee.

Crane Upgrade

The Club's lifting frame has been upgraded from 2 tons to 3 tons in order to comfortably lift *We're Here* without stripping her. As a result, we are in a position to review the flat 2 ton limit previously applied to lifting private boats. The lifting limit varies with the angle of the jib, which in turn depends on the geometry of the slinging points and the dimensions, including draft, of the boat being lifted. So if your boat weighs between 2 and 2.5 tons it may be possible to launch and recover her using the Club crane. Please see Barry or Phil to discuss the possibilities.

South Access Trolley Gate Installation

Work is taking place to remove the old boatmen's workshop wall (this has led to some gritty sign on sheets on Monday evenings – ed) and install a new access gate, wide enough for fully laden trolleys. Members will soon be able to use this exit with trolleys when the crane is in use. It also provides a better access to the Club from the dinghy park.

We now have to strictly enforce an exclusion area preventing any access via the north side when the crane is in operation, hence Members will simply have to ask the boatmen to unlock the new gate instead.

The glass screen will be extended, the gate windproofed and Club name and burgee will be displayed.

Old Dining Chairs

There are twenty left after the refurbishment and they are free to Members to take away in return for a donation to RNLI and/or Sailability.

Dinghy Park

Final call for the unloved Laser No 51464 in the Dinghy Park. Last known to have been registered with a Member in 2001. Club and Harbour Commissioners 2001 labels on the transom. Please ring Stuart Jardine on 644728 or E-Mail jardinej24@tiscali.co.uk.

Harbour Protection Project

For the latest Press Release on the Harbour Protection Project from the Lymington Harbour Commissioners please use the following link:
http://www.rlymyc.org.uk/Noticeboard/harbour_protection.shtml

summer cruising season or as a great present.

Many Members have contributed their tried and tested recipes for an imaginative and useful cookery book for use on your boat. *Cooking at Sea* will be available from the Club with proceeds to be donated to the RNLI.

Safety Morning and Spring Meet

The Safety Morning was a great success and it will now be an annual event - the next one having a slightly different emphasis. The Cowes Spring meet went well; some 45 people attended with around 17 boats and blessed by some good weather for a change! A big thank you to David Norton for all his efforts.

Anchor Meet – Poole weekend 8th to 10th May

This will be at Goathorn Point. Some boats meet up on the Friday night for an informal gathering. On the Saturday the larger boats raft up for supper. Details are now up on the notice board. We already have some eight boats but there is room for plenty more. So please book in at reception as soon as possible so we can finalise the catering arrangements. If you have any queries please contact Clive Sparrow.

Cruising Seminar Wednesday 27th May between 1800 and 2000 hours

This time the topics will be – 'Planning a Cruise to Dartmouth' led by Peter Bruce and 'Handy Tips for Navigators' led by Peter Upcher. Details will be published soon.

Long Distance Cruise

The aim is to meet up at Dartmouth over the weekend 19th to 20th June, rafting up on the Harbour Master's pontoons on the Friday evening for drinks. Supper at the Royal Dart Yacht Club on the Saturday evening. A trip to Dittisham is planned for the Sunday for a pub lunch and possibly a visit to Agatha Christie's former house and garden which I gather has recently been opened to the public by the National Trust.

Family Meet Newtown weekend 24th to 26th July

We really want to attract a good number of families this year. We plan to hold a lot of fun activities and on the Saturday we have arranged with the National Trust to run an historical/ wildlife tour of Newtown which should prove to be very interesting. Please put this date in your diaries and if you have any ideas of activities which we might run or you wish to help with, please contact Sarah Fraser or Sally Doran.

RACING

Do you have a budding journalist/writer in your crew or family?

We are seeking a keen journalist/writer to provide reports for the sailing events we do at the Club; this will enable us to get better coverage and raise the profile of the Club in the local papers and national sailing magazines both online and in print. Ideally you would be taking part in our sailing events but if not and you are willing to talk to the crews after racing and write a report we would love to hear from you.

Please email Chris Neve
chris@queensparkdental.co.uk if you are interested.



CRUISING

Cruising Cook Book

Here is the cookery book your boat's book shelf has been waiting for. First mooted by the Captain of Cruising at a Cruising Dinner (inspired perhaps by Peter's cooking that evening), *Cooking at Sea* will be published shortly, in time for the

Henri Lloyd Spring Series – two down, two to go



May 10th and 17th. Breakfast BBQ and late lunch available. Also part of the Challenge Cup Club Team Trials.

www.rlymyc.org.uk/springseries and
www.rlymyc.org.uk/challengecup for more information.

Thursday Keelboats

Come and join this lively event, great racing, great atmosphere in the bar and many start lines. For more information.

http://www.rlymyc.org.uk/Racing/Thurs_racing.html

Monday Evening Dinghies

www.rlymyc.org.uk/racing/mon_racing.html

Royal Lymington Challenge Cup June 25th -27th

Formal Challenges have so far been received from Parkstone Yacht Club, Petit Bateau Yacht Club Poole Yacht Club, the Royal Temple Yacht Club, the Royal Naval Sailing Association and the Royal Yacht Squadron. For more information:

www.rlymyc.org.uk/challengecup

Gaffers and Classics Regatta 23rd – 25th May

The Gaffers and Classics Regatta Notice of Race and Entry Form are available online. With over 90 'hits' on the Old Gaffers Association website, this should be a great event. In keeping with the event 'Pogles Wood' Barn Dance band have been booked for Saturday Night's social event. It is hoped all competing boats will dress overall when in harbour. For more information, please see <http://www.rlymyc.org.uk/Racing/ClassicsRegatta.html>.

Lymington XOD sailing

Saturday 25 April saw 9 XODs on the start line for their first race. A fine day, good breeze, damp at times, but a really enjoyable sail and a very close race with the first four separated by just 18 seconds.

Results: 1st Diana (Rory Paton) 2nd Beatrix (William Norris) 3rd Lucrezia (Ado Jardine).

There is now racing three times a week for XODs. If you would like to join us for a sail - please see our website www.rlymyc.org.uk/XOD for details and experienced helms are invited to sail for free on the new build boat which is due to be launch in the next few weeks

New X Build Progress and free Sailing Trials for Club Members

As we reach the end of April and the boat nears completion we have decided on her name, it is to be *Xoanon* pronounced Zoa-non. ['a primitive wooden image of a god said to have fallen from heaven'].

Once launched we want to get her raced and sailed by as many people as possible, not just existing XOD class members. Sailing and racing will be free; a booking system is being set up by the Lymington XOD. We are particularly keen to get Club young sailors out and also those who were keen dinghy sailors but now are not in the position to become a regular racing keelboat owner. Booking details will be on the Club website by mid May.

What we have proved is that using this strip plank tongue and groove method with epoxy glass re-enforcing a fantastic new generation of maintenance free X's can be built by a small group of enthusiastic sailors with a little professional advice and help. Certainly with sponsorship from Steve Etheridge, supply of resins from West Epoxy Systems] and design drawings by David Allan-Williams plus such items as sails, mast and fittings from existing XOD owners whilst not forgetting our free labour content, we have built a fantastic boat for the enjoyment of many generations to come.

Xoanon will be on the water for less than £10,000, and a professional build cost should be about £30,000 which is half the quoted price for a traditionally built craft. Come and see her now at Steve's boat yard on the SW edge of Sway or at the Club probably mid May. [Mooring East Bank No 43].



Youth and Juniors

Lymington 420 sailors have been busy training and competing in the British World & European Teams Selection events and the RYA Youth Championships held at Easter in Largs, Scotland.

After the first two Selector events at Weymouth and Largs, Phil Sparks held top spot, with his crew Ben Gratton. Andrew Wishart and Liam Garrison were in a very creditable 14th place overall (9th in boys fleet) and Molly Bridge and Pip Weguelin 25th overall (10th in girls fleet). The final selection event is to be held at Chew Valley SC.

Closer to home, the sailors had a very useful training at Lymington during half term with coach Dan Schieber. Training takes place from the Club most weekends unless the sailors are away competing. We are also planning an introduction to 420's day at the Club for sailors moving up from Cadets & Optimists. For more information contact the head of 420's Catherine Bell, via the link on the Club website.

Racing Successes



Nick Thompson finished 6 points clear of his nearest rival in another world class field of 134 Laser sailors to win the MAPFRE Princess Sofia Laser Regatta 3-10 April in Palma to continue his relentless drive towards selection for the 2012 GBR team.

Matt Podger captained his Oxford 1 University team to win the Annual BUSA Finals at Datchet. They beat their arch rivals Southampton 1, winners for the last two years.

Phil Sparks and crew Ben Gratton, already 420 National Champions, won the RYA Volvo Youth 420 Nationals in Largs 10-16 April, scoring no lower than 2nd in any of their 6 races. In so doing they booked their place for Team GBR at the Volvo Youth ISAF World Championships in Buzios, Brazil in July.

James Dodd and Max Crowe also achieved the top spot in the Y&Y Henri Lloyd Ben Ainslie Mentor Scheme, to be presented with a large supply of sailing clothing, a training day with Ben and an offer of sponsorship through to June 2010.

Lymington Cadets at the Inland Championships.

90 Cadets gathered at Grafham Water Sailing Club for this year's Inland Championships just before Easter. Six races were planned for the two days, with a discard available on completion of the fifth. Three races were scheduled and completed on the first day, with blustery winds in the morning which reduced in strength as the day progressed. James Dodd and Max Crowe were 28th; Edward Cummings and Sam Cooper, 32nd with six other Lymington crews: Andrew Smith and Rory Burdock; Zoe Smith, and Emily Bralee, Jacquetta Bridge, and Josh Glasbey; Hannah and Ailsa Muskett, James and Henry Marsh and Martha Haslam and Chris Turl, all well placed.

Ladies' Sailing Mornings

Don't forget to sign up for the ladies' sailing sessions with our Senior Instructor Kristy Powell on Tuesday mornings.

TRAINING

RYA Powerboat Level 2

The next course is on 18th and 19th May. For more details on vacancies on this course, or dates for later courses please contact Marietta Pinto, Marietta@healinghouse.com or 07786 483169.

VOLUNTEER FORMS

The Volunteering form for the rest of the year is now available at www.rlymyc.org.uk/volunteers. If you are

available to help in any capacity, please complete the form and send it to ben@rlymyc.org.uk. There are plenty of opportunities both afloat and ashore over the summer and even as far as Christmas.

RNLI BEAULIEU BOAT JUMBLE

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the stall and auction, which together raised over £3,900. Some of the auction lots are in the 'bag of rusty shackles for £1' league, so when *Alice* was donated, it was decided that we would try and find a better home for her.

The auction will take place on Friday, 15th May at Dominic Winter Book Auctions, South Cerney, Gloucestershire. For further details and to look at the catalogue, visit their website <http://www.dominic-winter.co.uk/>. It would be nice if she came back to this part of the world.

Itchen Ferry Cutter Alice



The model was built by Ron Woodford, a rigger in the Haven Boatyard in Lymington in the 1970s. It was displayed in the foyer of the Lymington Yacht Haven marina outside the Director's offices for about 30 years before being donated to the RNLI. The original *Alice* was owned by the Woodford family of Lymington, but her present whereabouts are unknown. However, a replica was built in GRP from a mould taken from the original hull. Itchen Ferry Cutters were used to transport people across the Itchen River to and from Southampton, and for fishing. The village of Itchen Ferry on the east bank of the Itchen River no longer exists as it was destroyed by bombing in WW2

LYMINGTON LIFEBOAT 10KM RUN, MAY 10TH, 2009

There are already over 700 entries for this year's 8th Lymington Lifeboat 10K Run. The Run will start at 10.00 am in Woodside Park playing field where the runners will also finish.

RYA SAILABILITY

RYA Sailability have just announced a new service to disabled sailors and volunteers. The website has some very good videos, so for more information about sailing or volunteering, or just to see what they do, go to <http://www.ryasailability.tv/>