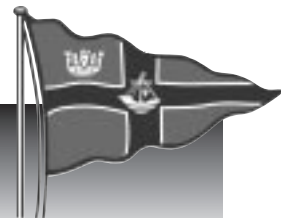


# PotterNews



Issue 09 January 2007

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*Twenty one sailors from the Lyminster Optimist Flotilla, all members of the Club and aged between 10 and 14 years, have won prized places in the International Optimist Class Association UK (IOCA) National Winter Training Squads and the RYA Regional Zone Squads*

**W**hat a difference a day (or two) makes! As I write this, the wind is gusting 28-32knots at the platform and we have just finished the Penguin Trophy, raced in Scows, and ably won by Greg Carey, after some close and exciting heats. On Wednesday we sailed the Peter Andraee Trophy again in Scows, won by Richard Mason. On that occasion, however, there was so little wind that some of the heats were held rowing Club dinghies on a cross river course! Wednesday was cold and dry, Friday wet and windy, typical Lyminster winter weather, and all of us there, whether competitors, race officials, or support crews, enjoyed two days of wonderful fellowship. This is our Club at its best, and I would like to thank Jane Clegg, Toffer Blachford, Ado and Stuart Jardine, and all the helpers, both on the water, on the pontoon as race officials, and in the Old Sail Loft, providing nourishment, for their part in running these events which form such a traditional part of our programme each year between Christmas and New Year. I really enjoyed being part of the team.

With this issue of PotterNews you will have received the Agenda for our AGM on 3 February 2007 and, on that date, I shall have completed my three year term as Commodore. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve you, more so because during the last three years I have been supported by Flag Officers and a Treasurer with whom it has been so much fun to work, and a General Committee who have been both constructive and encouraging in all we have sought to do. The House Committee and the Sailing Committee, together with its specialist Class Sub-Committees have taken forward many initiatives to enhance our programme and facilities, and I believe that the team that stands down at the AGM leaves the Club in good heart.

## FROM THE COMMODORE

Led by our Secretary and Deputy Secretary, all of our Staff have responded well to the new initiatives which inevitably each new General Committee and each new Flag Officer bring to the Club. The Staff too have been fun to work with, and dedicated to providing Members with the service and facilities they expect. Following the resignations of Michael Webb and Kevin Smith it was decided to change our organisation structure, and Mark, as House Manager, and Barry and Phillip, as our two Senior Boatmen, have maintained and enhanced the services we provide as a Club. Backed up by the team of dedicated ladies in the office, the quality of our social functions, and the quality of our service to members competing on the water has never been higher.

I shall join the ranks of past Commodores proud and in awe of the dedication of those Members who devote so much of their time to the wellbeing of our Club, to maintaining its traditions, and enhancing its reputation of being successful on the water, friendly and welcoming ashore.

JOHN BENCE COMMODORE



*John McPhee receives his Long Service Award for 20 years at the Club. The Commodore presented John with an electric golf trolley to mark the occasion.*

## SOCIAL AND HOUSE NEWS

### HAVE A LOOK OUT FOR THESE SOCIAL EVENTS.....

On January 13th, we have a Fish Supper, an event the Club ran many years ago that gives Peter Lowe and his team the chance to show what they can do with seafood. Just for fun, we will be providing a musical background to this event from the aptly named Mudeford Crabs, dancing optional.

On the 3rd Thursdays of January (18th), February (15th) and March (15th), we have Jazz at the Club evenings with a similar feel to the autumn Jazz & Curry event but with a more general supper menu at usual prices: the music is thrown in for free.

Wine and Quiz enthusiasts should both go to the Wine Quiz on Tuesday 23 January starting at 7. Vince Sutherland will be in the chair again and the questions will be mainly about wine but with some general knowledge. The usual score card will ensure the lucky as well as the clever can win. There will also be a round to test your knowledge with a blind tasting of wines from the Club's list.

Back by popular request in the Club programme is the Burns Night Supper with the traditional Piped-In Haggis and its accompaniments on the 25th of January.

Following her great success last year, Alison Abrams will be bringing us an evening of classical music with Romantic Classics at Seven on Saturday, February 10th.

Many of you will recall how good a George Kidner's Antiques Evening is and we have another on March 3rd. George will be bringing a collection of objects which he will set out for us to answer questions about. At the end of supper, he will tell us about them and give the answers to the questions. Great fun.

On March 20, David Hayles will be presenting a lecture with tasting of Wines of Northern Spain.

There are two themed wine and food events coming with Austrian and Portuguese wine and food. As a change from when the events were first tried two years ago, these themes will be introduced into the a la carte menus with the Austrian theme starting on February 3rd (after the AGM) and Portuguese on April 14th. The wines will be featured as Wines of the Month for a time and the menu will be carried on for a few weeks.

Finally (but not the last event) is the best of all as it tells us the sailing season is returning: the Fitting Out Party with music and dancing to a Ceilidh band on Saturday March 17th. If you fancy yourself on any musical instrument, bring it along.

### THE BALCONY

Many of you will have seen the plans for the balcony extending around the river side of the Clubhouse that will greatly improve our summer eating and drinking and will give cover to the forecourt after events. The plans were displayed in the entrance hall until displaced by the Christmas tree but are still on the Club web site. The timescale for the project has not gone as well as we would have wished and at the time of writing, we do not have the responses from the three local builders we have asked to tender. The responses are now expected in the first week of January.

### NEW BAR MENU AND NEW BAR HOURS OF SERVICE

From mid-January (when Peter Lowe returns from holiday) we will introduce a new bar menu with wider hours of service.

There will be some new hot food items such as Omelettes and a Chef's Burger in addition to old favourites such as Ham Egg & Chips (the best for miles) and soups (always freshly made).

The new hours of service apply to Fridays and Saturdays when the bar menu will be available throughout the day from 1030 to 1830. The bar will be open throughout that time.

GEOFF HOLMES REAR COMMODORE HOUSE

### ART EXHIBITION

Members may be interested to know that the sum of £643.78, of which £75.95 was from the collecting boxes, will be donated to the RNLI following the Art Exhibition. I have been asked to pass on to Members the thanks of Lymington RNLI Branch for their generosity. The Club is also grateful yet again to Christina Young and her team for their hard work and expertise in mounting the exhibition

### MAILING

In the local area (Lymington, Pennington, Milford, Brockenhurst, etc) we try to hand deliver as many copies of the mailing as possible. If you live locally and this mailing arrived by post, it may mean that we need help to deliver in your locality. If you think that you might be able to spare an hour or two, four times a year, to help the Club in this way, please let the office know.

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Club Card accounts may not be run into debt. Regulation 17 applies. The General Committee has instructed that the Regulation is to be more strictly enforced, including the denial of the Members card discount to a Member whose card account is in debt.

IAN GAWN SECRETARY

## RACING



*Nick Rogers and Joe Glanville receiving Gold in Mens' 470 at the Pre-Olympics in Qingdao.*

*Ben Ainslie won Gold in the Finn.*

### NEEDLES RELIEF RACE

*Class 1* 1st The Otter John Macnamara, 2nd Brightwork Bob Baker, 3rd Deuce Martin & Maureen Gee

*Class 2* 1st Hermit Tony Hockley Vanessa Sharp, 2nd Crystal Jim Gill 3rd Tender Feeling Shaen-Carter

### PETER ANDREA TROPHY

1st Richard Mason 2nd Robbie Claridge  
3rd Paul Minors 4th Sophie Weguelin

### THE PENGUIN TROPHY (raced in SCOWs)

1st Greg Carey  
2nd Adam Richards & Andrew Wishart  
3rd Richard Mason

### THE SPRING SERIES

This will be sailed on  
Sunday 25th March (two races)  
Sunday 1st April (two races)  
Sunday 15th April (two races)  
Sunday 22nd April (two races)

## REFLECTIONS OF THE VICE-COMMODORE

It is hard to believe that three years have gone by since I was elected your Vice-Commodore. It has been a busy period and much has happened. As I sit here with the Christmas festivities still a pleasant memory, it seemed a good idea to reflect back over the last three years.

First thought is don't do the job unless there is some fun in it. That has worked out for me and I can genuinely say that I have enjoyed my time. It has enabled me to meet many more members than otherwise would have been the case, and to consider aspects of the Club's activities where I might not have been involved.

The Club seems to me to be in good shape both financially and in spirit and it is pleasing to be able to say that. Nothing is so destructive to a club than deep-rooted divisions and very often such divisions have financial origins or impacts. In my view and within limits the stronger the balance sheet the easier it is to make good decisions. Fortunately we are of one company and I hope will continue to be so.

Right now we have no crisis or problem with membership numbers. The provisional membership scheme has been

very successful bringing in some 50 active boating members. Membership numbers have held up pretty well but it always gets more difficult.

Membership will always be an active issue for the Club. As a members club we restrict membership to active boaters and of course agreeable people. We genuinely welcome young members and children but recognise that employment prospects in our area are limited; typically, after University the younger members move away. On the other hand it is a very popular retirement area, particularly for people who like boating. Each year we lose some 120 to 180 members through mobility, death and old age, giving us a target recruitment of some 12 new members each month to stay where we are. To put this into perspective, a net loss of 25 full members over a year approaches 1% of subscriptions. We all therefore have to be conscious of the need to attract new members. In short, it is our Club and it is financed by our subscriptions. That's a long-winded way of saying please do what you can to bring in suitable new members because if we don't our subs will go up!

Finally let me thank you for your support during my term of office, thank the staff for their help and hard work and wish the new officers success and enjoyment of their time.

ROD PERRY VICE COMMODORE

## CRUISING

### CRUISING LOG COMPETITION

The Club has a wealth of well documented information on the sort of cruising many of our more adventurous members enjoy. This mine of experience is kept in the Chartroom in the form of Cruising Logs indexed and filed on the shelves in box files for all to read. We plan one day to put the indexing on computer and perhaps on the web to make access easier.

The Log Competition was conceived, I believe, to encourage members to write accounts of their voyages to enable our valuable collection to be continuously updated and expanded. Recently the number of Logs written for the archives has fallen, which is a great pity and the CSC has debated why this should be.

The suggestion has been made that the term 'Log' may, in some peoples mind, suggest a document similar to that legally required on merchant vessels and RN ships and as such dissuade some from attempting it. Now, whilst a formal log would be an excellent record and of value to the club, a narrative log written in any style and format illustrated or not and with any detail you found worth recording is also going to be of value to the club.

*Items of interest might include:-*

Type of yacht, length of cruise, weather conditions, strength of crew, time constraints, navigation and pilotage details, track chart, ports, marinas, fuel, food shops, restaurants and airports for crew changes, weather forecasts. The list could go on but perhaps the best of helpful information is your views on things, that you learnt and that you would or would not do next time. If you have photos to include or diagrams to illustrate the log so much the better. Easy really and you can show it to the great grandchildren one day as well as, maybe, winning a prize! And while you are at it could you put it onto a CD so that we can have it digitally recorded and hence stored electronically and perhaps put on the club web site one day.

To encourage more members to write logs perhaps we should change the title from Cruising Log, to reflect the less formal requirements. Cruise Notes? Account of Cruise? Cruise Journal? It would be nice to revive the great tradition of sharing knowledge between members so what do you think, change the name - if so to what? Please let me know.

DUNCAN MACALISTER CAPTAIN OF CRUISING

## RNLI

### RNLI BRIDGE DRIVE & PLOUGHMANS LUNCH

On MONDAY 29TH JANUARY - 12.00pm - 4.30pm  
£30.00 PER TABLE

At ROYAL LYMINGTON YACHT CLUB

For bookings contact

Sandra Allpress 01590-643268

### RNLI ANNUAL SPRING MARKET

On SATURDAY 10th MARCH

At ST. THOMAS CHURCH HALL,  
LYMINGTON

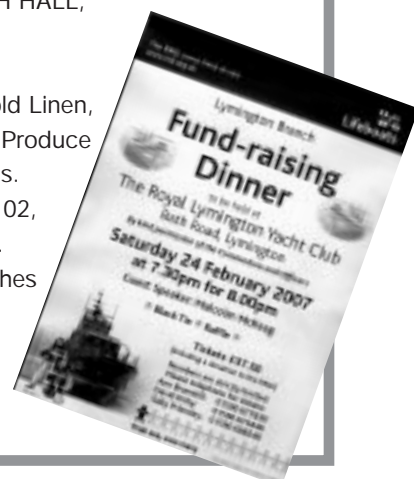
We are collecting Books,  
White Elephant, Household Linen,  
Jewellery, Toys, Cakes & Produce  
Please no electrical goods.

Tel 01590- 679205, 677102,  
643268, 623029, 682126.

Coffee /Tea and Sandwiches  
available.

Sponsor

Knight Frank of  
Winchester



## From the Harbour Master

**T**ime has flown by since I left my role as Wightlink's Operations Director to take up the combined role of Harbour Master/Chief Executive for the Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC) at the beginning of July.

Since joining, I have been particularly struck by the very warm welcome I have received from those of you I have met, both from Officers of the two Clubs, and river users – thank you.

My early months have been taken up with getting to know the business, and undertaking a review of our compliance with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code – the guidance by which we should be managing the safety of all marine activities within the river to recommended standards. In this respect we have made some adjustments as to how we do things and have identified some further areas for improvement which will be progressed over the coming months.

Staying on the theme of safety, it is important to remember that while the LHC through the Harbour Master has the statutory responsibility and authority to maintain safety (through regulation and byelaws where necessary), it is important that all users recognise their responsibilities and work together to ensure risks are minimised. Your continued support in this regard is much appreciated.

So what about a snapshot of the future? Well, many of you will already be aware of the risks to the harbour posed by the rapidly eroding salt marsh. We are continuing to develop our plans for the construction of a breakwater that will safeguard the Harbour (and therefore many of the moorings available) going forward. Further environmental studies will be conducted over the winter and into spring 2007. Shortly thereafter we will apply to the regulators for the consents to construct.

Many of you reading this article will have had to wait very many years for a mooring, and many of you will still be waiting. The list is currently at a record level with around 700 persons waiting for a mooring. I am somewhere near the bottom! One of our challenges will be to see where we can develop or improve our existing moorings to ensure we are better placed to respond to the demand, and particularly to tailor the moorings available to the changing trends in boat ownership.

We also need to give some thought on how we can make Lymington more attractive to visitors to stem the gradual decline/stagnation we have seen in recent years. To this end, I have already taken the opportunity to 'accost' some visitors to get their views. As a start, for the 2007 season we will be opening up part of the outside of the new Dan Bran pontoon for organised rally's/regattas consisting of six boats or more. This will be available on an advance booking only basis, something that we have not offered before. Early interest has been encouraging.

At the same time as progressing the above, we need to continue to ensure that we can preserve and where possible enhance the unique character and environment that we are all so privileged to enjoy.

Finally, my team and I will not forget that we are here to promote the safe enjoyment of the river by all users. To this end, please drop in, or flag us down on the river if you have any matters that you would like to bring to our attention. Good sailing!

RYAN WILLEGERS HARBOUR MASTER

## AWARDS TO MEMBERS



Geoff Stock (left) was awarded the **RYA COMMUNITY AWARD** (Lifetime Commitment). Geoff is mainly involved with coaching our Optimist sailors and with IOCA (UK).

**COMMODORE'S TROPHY** presented annually for the most outstanding achievements and help to the Club by any member was awarded to Robin Marks (right).

**JACK IN THE BASKET TROPHY** awarded to a Club Member under 30 years of age who is considered to be the outstanding yachtsman of the year was awarded to Phillip Sparks for the second year running.



**JUBILEE CHALLENGE TROPHY** awarded annually to the Member who has achieved the most outstanding off-shore performance was awarded to Mary Falk for her courageous achievement in the single handed Petit Bateau Race.



Over the past few months the club website [www.rlymyc.org.uk](http://www.rlymyc.org.uk) has grown out of all recognition.

There are currently about 140 pages available ranging from the latest handbook, club news, list of the winter talks, club calendars, social events to notices of races and results.

For those on broadband there are two webcams to view, one on the club wall looking at the pontoon and river, the other on Yachtmail Chandlery showing the Town Quay.

To reduce postage costs, many members would be happy to receive PotterNews electronically. As a further incentive, we are about to make it available on the website in full colour!

The website is really very easy to use and contains a mine of interesting information. For those who may want to be shown it simply; we can arrange a special demonstration session. Please tell the office if you would be interested.

NEIL ECCLES