

SECRETARY'S NOTES

When the editor, Judy, asked me for some words (but not too many!) I wondered what I, the new boy, could write that you haven't read many times before. Do you scan PotterNews eagerly for the admin arrangements for the next mailing, a health and safety rant or the latest tweak to some obscure Regulation? Perhaps not – maybe you'd rather read about what I think is so exciting and varied about my first 4 months in this wonderful new job? I thought I'd give you my top 18 highlights so far – you never know, I might tick off some turgid bits along the way!

Superb day – welcomed 9 yachts from Grandchamp-Maisy in Normandy to drinks and burgee exchange. 33 very friendly French stayed for lunch and 3 entries in Thursday racing – one of whom won Class 2! So new friends to see during the next St Vaast trip? Thank you Geoff, David Houlton, Tony Blachford, Bob Baker and Peter Lowe for helping make it work so well.

Yesterday's other success was the conversion of the library from the backroom of a secondhand computer dealer's to a cutting edge audio visual facility – just in time for Olympics opening ceremony at lunchtime, and all of the BBC HD sailing coverage from the Games over the next 19 days. Thank you Jon – the pictures and sound are truly fantastic.

Talking of the O word, we have even more reason than most to be holding our breath to see how our sailors get on, as in Pippa, Nick and Ben we have no less than 3 Club members of whom to be extremely proud.

If that's not exciting enough, we're planning to welcome the 'Lymington 3' home in style with a Vin d'Honneur, with some surprises, hopefully in full celebratory mode. We're hoping to go for Wed 27 Aug to allow the Junior sailors to get involved – but the 3 are still on Olympic duty until midnight – so watch the website for a change to Thu 28th.

Isn't the new balcony and bar just gorgeous? Everyone I've shown it to is simply bowled over, and the way it is all working now on Thursdays and at weekends is superb. Thank you David, Martin and the House team. It's a lovely facility for members and eases the pressure at bigger events – and it will be even better after the seating update in a month.

You may have noticed that we've welcomed some occasional corporate sailing during quiet times – usually yachts on the Dan Bran and 30 guests in the library/balcony for briefings and prizegivings. Mostly this affects members very little, but it does help offset our overheads in these difficult times. We're now looking at a larger regatta on a Friday in June 09 – restricting use of the Club for the day. I think it's the sort of thing we have to do to keep the books balanced. It will be fully discussed at General Committee, but please let me know if you have any thoughts.

If you were a nocturnal and waterproof you might have seen Rob Humphries' carbon fibre Volvo 70 flying machine at the Club after her launch in May. Rob and her Russian crew's late night party overlooking the space invader on the pontoon was most memorable – not too many vodkas though, as it was breakfast at 0530 for a dawn tow to Gosport.

Another welcome visitor to the Club was HMS Blazer

(Lt Simon Bodman RN) on the first leg of her summer deployment to the Western Isles.

Definitely a highlight for me is the hubbub from scores of Junior sailors on Wednesdays and the great reaction from the kids, parents and RYA inspectors. Should we do more to convert that enthusiasm to a longer term lifelong passion for sailing – and encourage more youngsters to take up full membership?

I have managed to get on the water. A big thank you to Ado Jardine for taking me for a ding-dong battle with Stuart and Robin ending in a photo finish, to Chris Seddon (and his supporters club on the platform!) for showing me how it's done in Class 3, and to Bob Baker for a very instructive away day to the Hamble.

Someone said we've run very few large events this year but our weekend with 150 Optimists, Folkboat Nationals, Contessa 32 regatta, club XODs and an RS600/700 Open next door felt big to me. We've since run our first successful Lymington Week, Thursday keelboats are a runaway success, 170 takers for Youth and Family Week and the Lark, Firefly and Scorpion Open looks very promising. It's been a steep leaning curve for Ben with new software and Volunteer systems, but he's still smiling!

What a thrill to receive confirmation this week that Robin Markes has received an RYA Community Award (Lifetime Commitment) for his outstanding service to the Club. Well done Robin and please get back on your feet soon.

For me, the most exciting project for next year is the R Lym Challenge Cup inter club IRC series, on which Mike Sinfield is reporting elsewhere.

..which takes me on to Strategy (getting heavy now!!). The Sailing Committee have been working on a 'sailing led' strategy document looking at direction for the next 5-10 years, which will have a full airing at General Committee shortly. This should give us all a great sense of direction for finance, programme, staffing and equipment for the future.

The turgid bit? Even that's pretty upbeat because we're finding ways of improving safety with the crane, electrics, access, slippery surfaces and pontoons by working with members, most of whom understand that the law now requires these things. Please call me if you have any queries or issues.

I'm not normally excited by IT, but we have come a long way in the way we use our database, Outlook calendar, website, on-line entry system and new tills. To have access to the live calendar with all of its flexibility via the website is a fantastic step forward for members and management. Thank you Geoff, Neil, Bob and Jon for bringing us into the 21st century.

The future – as well as next year's programme there are scores of ideas in various stages of fermentation, from pontoon expansion and hosting larger events to getting disabled members on to the water, computer classes and better staff training.

Finally, we are blessed with some truly dedicated and enthusiastic staff who really do go the extra mile when asked, and enjoy the odd trip to the pub – so far limited to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. A big thank you from me for keeping me out of (deep) trouble in my first few months!

Kevin Podger Secretary



PotterNews

FROM THE COMMODORE



It all seems familiar, looking back at what I wrote in this issue of Potternews last year. Rain seemed top of the list of the gossipy stuff and, of course, the ferry issue is still very much with us. The weather has not been so unkind as to prevent us enjoying our wonderful new balcony and bar. At any event, I hope you have all had a good sailing season.

As I write, in early August, the new Wightlink ferry has not arrived but it may have done by the time you read this and it will soon be undergoing its sea trials. The outcome of the trials will answer two key questions: can the ferry be operated safely and if so, how; and can it operate with no increased adverse impact on the environment.

The ferry page on the Club's web site has documented the many letters and papers written by the Club and others throughout the last year or so. For an appreciation of the issues look at the Ferry FAQ paper on the Articles and Papers link. Here is a brief summary of where we are now.

Last September, the Club registered its opposition to the introduction of the new ferry: we came to the decision that it would have a material adverse impact on our activities. We also decided that, while concerned about the environmental impact, it would leave that aspect to the Solent Protection Society and others, focussing our attention on the impact on sailing users of the River.

The Club's aim has been to ensure as far as we can that there will no increased adverse impact on our activities. In order to understand fully what those areas of increased impact were, we suggested to Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC) that they should fund a study by independent experts. We suggested a firm, known to Members, with experience in shipping and port operations and we proposed the basis of the study's terms of reference.

The study report was published in March and it and our extensive comment paper can be found on the Club web site. The study found that the new ships should be able to operate at the same speeds as their predecessors. That, subject to the sea trials, set aside one of our objections: that if the new ships were to slow down, they would impede our activities by spending more time 'in our way'. Lower speed limits to mitigate the effects of increased displacement had been predicted last year by Wightlink's consultants,

The study left open the impact of the ship's thrusters on passing vessels but it said enough to create a clear implication that increased thruster impact will be significant

in terms of the effects on passing and moored vessels. The study also confirmed the effects of wind shadow, predicting a doubling of the time for which small vessels will receive disturbed air, seriously eroding and in some cases eliminating our safety margins. Set against that, Wightlink are considering reducing their sailings during Wednesday Junior Sailing, a major benefit to us. We remain concerned about interactions between passing ferries, particularly in strong winds and this will be looked at in the sea trials.

The process of assessing the safety of the ships in the River has had the active and detailed scrutiny of both the General and Sailing Committees. We have had the benefit of the expertise of many Members with great experience in race management and risk assessment as well as Members with relevant specialist technical expertise. All but a few of our important observations and recommendations have been accepted by the Harbour Commissioners. When we read the contractor's report of the sea trials, we will subject it to detailed analysis from within the Club, using the best expertise available.

Whatever the outcome, the Club aims to have done everything it can to ensure that its concerns have been addressed, quantified and where possible, mitigated. Where we go from there will depend on the extent to which the new ferry, should it come into operation, impacts users of the River.

Finally, I'm sure everyone in Lymington will have been following the fortunes of our Olympians: Ben Ainslie, Nick Rogers and Pippa Wilson. As I write, the Olympics have not yet started and by the time you read this we will know how things have gone. Look out for notices in the Club, the web site and by email about the Club party when they return home. Ben, Pippa and Nick are outstanding sailors and athletes and already have a massive achievement to their credit in being selected for Team GBR.

Geoff Holmes Commodore



SOCIAL AND HOUSE

friendly and welcoming ashore

House infrastructure, the new Balcony and Bar have seen a rapid increase in the numbers of Members and visitors. We are indebted to those Members who kindly donated balcony furniture and have received interest from other Members wishing to make further donations. Fine weather, good racing and the friendly 'after racing' buzz has resulted in some of the highest level of Bar and Restaurant usage on record. The feedback has been very positive.

The new menus for spring and summer have also been well received, with Mark and the catering team (Peter and Fergal amongst others), providing some new imaginative dishes. This 'seasonal' menu rotation will continue. The plans for the coming autumn, winter and spring events are concluding with repeats of some favourites such as the 'famous chef' dinners.

The next and last major House programme for 2007/8 takes place on the 15th September, with the refurbishment of the bar seating area. This involves new tables and chairs, new fixed seating (changing the radiators from beneath the 'hot' seats) and some minor alterations to layout. The chairs, tables and woodwork will be in similar oak to the new bar creating a linked 'look and feel' to both bar and seating. These new tables and chairs represent an opportunity for Members who have expressed an interest in making donations. This project will be completed by the 26th September. There will inevitably be some disruption as the work will be partitioned off, but we feel confident that the outcome will justify the inconvenience.

The House Committee feel sure that this last stage of bar / balcony refurbishment will encourage even more use and enjoyment by Members and visitors and make our Club even more 'friendly and welcoming ashore'

Social programme



The winter programme is enclosed with this mailing. We will continue with the ever-popular Quiz Nights on the first Thursday of the month, and the Bridge Suppers every second and fourth Monday of the month. We plan to run another Antiques Evening and a new photograph exhibition with lecture. Minette Walters, the renowned author, is our special guest speaker at the Ladies Lunch and early booking is highly recommended. Last year several of the events were fully booked so please get your tickets early and avoid disappointment.

Last winter saw a new addition to the Club Social Program in the form of 'Celebrity Chef Dinners', based on menus from famous chefs. The numbers were strictly limited. The first of these, was a 'Rick Stein' evening where we enjoyed Seared Scallops followed

by Turbot in a Cockle Sauce. The following dinner was in the style of Nick Nairn when we enjoyed the dish that he had prepared for the Queen. All this culminated with a Gordon Ramsey night (excluding all 'F' words) where we enjoyed Sea Bass on Asparagus and then the most delicious Rack of Lamb. It is fair to say that our Chefs excelled, presenting us with delicious food and the staff gave us service to match many of the top Restaurants. The 'Celebrity Chef Dinners' will continue through this winter.

Members' Benefits

Two Members' benefits have now been agreed; a 10% discount at Yachtmail (excluding manager's specials) and 10% off at Rivaz Indian Restaurant, both on production of your RLymYC Membership Card.

David Hayles Rear Commodore House

No Entrance Fee For New Members' Under 30

In an attempt to increase the attraction of Club membership to younger applicants, I am pleased to announce that the General Committee has decided to abolish the imposition of Entrance Fees to those Membership candidates who are less than 30 years of age. This measure, which will be at little cost to the Club's finances, will bring us into line with policies adopted by similar clubs in the Solent area. The decision comes into immediate effect, prior to ratification by a decision of the Annual General Meeting in February.

Phil Batten Vice Commodore

Classic Car Meet

We are planning to hold another Classic car Meet on 23 September, meeting in the car park at the Club at 10.30 leaving at 11.00am. All members and friends with Classic cars welcome. Planned route will be around 70 miles stopping for Lunch at Hilliers Arboretum, Winchester. Interested participants should please give their name, the number in the party, type of vehicle and registration number to either:-
chris-seddon@lineone.net or tonyrharris@hotmail.com

Try your new website.....

Keep in touch. Keep connected. Click on to www.RLymYC.org.uk. It's much improved, more user friendly and just full of useful information about sailing and social events, Club facilities and management and includes on-line social event booking and race entry forms. The website and our email data base are becoming our main methods of communicating with Members and, just as important, it's the easy way for Members to communicate with the Club.
Make your voice heard.

.....and does the office have your email address

email is the way to get up-to-the-minute data to you without costing the Club an arm and a leg, absorbing hours of office time or ruining a rain forest BUT we do not have the email addresses for all Member households, so please make sure the office sail@RLymYC.org.uk has your **current** details (when we email Members we get over 100 returns) - if you do not wish your address published in the Members Handbook just let the office know and it won't be.

RACING

Royal Lyngton successes in the Round the Island Race

This year the RLymYC put together two teams for IRC Group 2 and IRC Group 3, and they both won!

CONRAD RITBLAT TROPHY & JPMAM SALVER

First IRC to finish GBR1R ICAP *Leopard* Michael Slade - new RTI record time

IRC DIVISION 2A

GBR7712 *Zarafa* Peter Schofield

IRC DIVISION 3A

GBR9633 *Ruthless*, Iven Woolf

JEROBOAM TROPHY

Winning team in IRC Group 2 Royal Lyngton Yacht Club (*Zarafa, Brightwork, No Doubt*)

JEROBOAM TROPHY

Winning Team in IRC Group 3 Royal Lyngton Yacht Club (*Sundowner, White Mischief, Cloud Nine*)

RED LION TROPHY

First Folkboat F730 *Moonraker*, Mark Crader

SHEPHERDS TROPHY

First Chartered Surveyors Yacht IRC CO1228 *Sundowner* Jolyon Hutchinson

FIRST X332 YACHT ON CORRECTED TIME

GBR8500R *Brightwork* Bob Baker, Jon Baker

GAFFER'S ORIGINAL

2nd OS7 *Rosenn*, Barry Dunning
3rd A3 *Alice III*, Jonathan Rogers

and Cowes Week 2008 saw some great results from Royal Lyngton Members

Peter Schofield and his crew in *Seatrack* (aka *Zarafa*)

Winners of IRC Class 3

Andy Hind and his crew in *White Mischief* Winners of IRC Class 8

Stuart Jardine and his crew in *Lone Star* Winners of the XOD Class

Ted Fort won the Sunsail Class (60 boat fleet)

Steve Powell won the RS Elite Class in his boat *E'tu*

Eric Williams finished 4th in Dragon Class in his boat *Ecstatic*

Petit Bateau Solo Race Week

Mary Falk won Open Class 2 in *Q11* (up to 35ft)

Chris Rustom won Open Class 1 *Ding Dong* (up to 40ft)

and overall open Class and was third in IRC out of an 18 boat fleet. Mike Saqui did sterling work in his rib starting the race both at Lyngton and Aldeney.



Bob Baker's *Brightwork*, member of the winning team in RTI IRC Group 2 and the first X332 yacht on corrected time

THE ROYAL LYMINGTON CHALLENGE CUP 2009



This new event has been in discussion within the Club for the last four months. Following earlier initiatives to re-establish regular IRC cruiser racing in the Western Solent, a steering sub-committee was invited to develop a programme leading to an event next season.

The concept is an inter-club team-racing regatta with 3-boat teams, each within three IRC rating bands, over three days during the end of the week following the RTI Race in June 2009. In an announcement in June challenges were invited from target clubs with known IRC racing fleets located in the UK, the Channel Islands, Ireland, and the northern European countries bordering the Channel.

The initial response has been immediate and encouraging. Expressions of interest have been received to date from the R Solent YC, R Corinthian YC, R Thames YC, Parkstone YC, Royal Yacht Squadron, R Northern & Clyde and of course, our own Lyngton clubs. In addition, several individual owners from other clubs have expressed interest and we hope that they will encourage their clubs to organise a challenge themselves.

Public relations and sponsorship drives have been initiated, especially demanding tasks in this financial climate, and all assistance and suggestions in these regards will be welcomed.

We ask all Members to support this exciting event by spreading the word and encouraging more clubs, through individual contacts, to participate.

Further details on www.rlymyc.org.uk/challengecup which is regularly updated.

Mike Sinfield

In the RTI race Peter Schofield's *Zarafa* won RTI IRC 2A, was a member of the winning Jeroboam Trophy team and in Cowes Week won IRC Class 3

