



# PotterNews

## FROM THE COMMODORE



I last wrote to you as the Summer was coming to an end and we are now most definitely in the Autumn. The Laying Up Supper and the Trafalgar Dinner have been held as has the final Cruising Meet at Gins Farm, packed out with a TV in the bar for the Rugby World Cup. We've also seen the start of the Town Club's Winter Series with good racing in mostly fine weather.

### **Ferries: Progress to Date**

The Club's position has moved on since the last Potternews: we have expressed our objections to the new ferries to Lymington Harbour Commissioner (LHC), Wightlink and the RYA, all reported in the local press. I spoke to the public meeting organised by the Lymington Society on November 1st as did a number of Members. We have held the Annual Sailing and Business Review Meeting which received an update of the Club's position and a presentation from Peter Griffiths, the Chairman of Lymington Harbour Commissioners in which he assured the Club that the Commissioners would do everything in their power to minimise the increased adverse impact on sailing.

The Club's concerns, based on independent expert advice and our own expertise, are that sailing activities could be affected by increased 'presence', wind shadow, side thrust and regulation. We have met Wightlink management and put those concerns to them. I believe that they understand that it was a major omission not to have commissioned independent studies into the impact their larger ferries would have on leisure users of the River. The Environment Agency and Natural England have stated their objections to the new ferries pending further 'competent assessments'.

I wrote to the Lymington Times in response to an article covering an interview with Mr Andrew Willson, the CEO of Wightlink Ltd, which contained a number of mistakes and misrepresentations. I have also written to local politicians in the Town, at NFDC, Hampshire County Council and to Mr Desmond Swayne MP and Dr Julian Lewis MP setting out the reasons the Club has objected to the introduction of the new ferries.

Letters, Club papers and other material such as the letters of objection from the Environment Agency and Natural England are on the Club's web site on the Online Notice Board.

The General Committee have agreed a statement of the Club's aims to help us steer our way towards a satisfactory outcome: to ensure that sailing and racing in the River continues with the present restrictions and risk

management guidelines with no increased adverse effect on sailing and racing than at present.

### **Study Project to Validate our Concerns**

LHC, acting on a proposal from the Club, are to commission a study of the ferries' impact on leisure users of the River. The study will perform a risk assessment looking forward to the regulatory regime that could follow introduction of the new ferries and is based on terms of reference proposed by the Club. It will take account of the activities of all the leisure users of the River and be run in consultation with the clubs and organisations affected. The study is expected to report early next year.

The last few months have been difficult for the Club, both in terms of the time taken from that which individuals would normally have given to the other affairs of the Club and in reconciling a wide range of views. I would like to thank all those who have given their time in creating an objective and well argued case. Whatever the eventual outcome, I hope that we will continue to debate the matter in a friendly and constructive way both within the Club and with the bodies we deal with, preserving the good long term relationships built up over many years.

### **Salt Marsh Disappearance: The Threat to Lymington**

This mailing includes a leaflet prepared by LHC which sets out the threat to Lymington resulting from the loss of the salt marshes. NFDC's expert Coastal Project Group predicts that we will lose a substantial proportion of the protection given by the marshes by 2020 and all protection will be lost by 2030. If nothing is done, our Club pontoon, Lymington Yacht Haven, the River moorings up to Fortuna and perhaps also Berthon's marina may become untenable: 2020 is not that far away.

At present, Natural England do not favour the construction of sea defences to protect the harbour as the marshes disappear. LHC, who are in a position to begin construction when consent is received, want our support in presenting their case to Natural England. The Club will be giving that support and I hope that you will be able to lend your individual support by writing to the bodies listed in the leaflet. LHC would be very grateful if your letters could be sent this month, before their next meeting with the regulators. I cannot over emphasise the importance of protecting the harbour: to my mind, the loss of the salt marshes presents a far larger threat than we face on the ferry issue.



**GEOFF HOLMES**  
**COMMODORE**

## SOCIAL AND HOUSE

### House Moves

Our prime goal is to make our club friendly and welcoming and this year the House Committee has concentrated on three main areas.

- the House infrastructure and fabric
- the needs and expectation of members
- the service that house should deliver

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND FABRIC

#### Balcony

Following a closely fought tender process, we were pleased to sign a fixed price contract with Dunford Construction Ltd. The outline of the new Balcony can be seen in reception area.

The work is progressing to plan and the steel structure and concrete beams are now in place with completion expected early in January.

The house Committee are now looking at the Balcony furniture, which will be appropriate to such a prestigious balcony and in keeping with the quality and ambiance of our 'Royal' Club.

#### Bar

Our current Bar has seen around thirty years service and time has come for a replacement.

We have obtained quotes and involved one of the top bar design consultants to ensure that the style of the new Bar is in keeping with a members club of our stature.

The design keeps the Bar in the present location but with many aspects to improve service to members and staff. The wooden panelling and surfacing will be in keeping with the Oak panelling in the rest of the dining room and first floor.

The design layout will be on display in reception area.

Work will commence early January with completion by the AGM in February.

#### Refurbishment plans

As you may imagine, there needs to be an ongoing plan for keeping our Club looking smart and get the ambiance which attracts even more Members use of the Club. This is more than 'waiting for it to break' and involves a close inspection of decoration, flooring, fabrics, tables etc. We have chosen to concentrate on refurbishment programmes that improve areas, rather than repairing as needs dictate.

This approach means that some area will remain in need of some attention, whilst others will look significantly smarter. This also means that our tight budgets need careful targeting to areas in most need of attention.

Initially we will evaluate the River room and the seating area of the bar and depending on costs and budgets, we will proceed with one of these (most likely the bar seating) in the coming year.

### NEEDS AND EXPECTATION OF MEMBERS

The club has a large Membership with differing expectation of the type and style of food and drink.

This includes young family members, Thursday Evening Racing crews, participants in events (both racing and social), Sunday lunch regulars, those wanting lunch snacks and those wishing for good restaurant food.

In order to understand these needs we are re-looking at the menus and wines and will be putting the outcome of these plans in place during the New Year.

### SERVICE DELIVERY

Mark, Peter, Fergal, John and the restaurant / bar teams have been providing some new menus and wines with encouraging feedback from members. We continue to compare prices with local restaurants and pubs in order to ensure our target of 15% average price advantage to Members.

The steady progress on the catering and bar side of House has resulted in the excellent year-end financial results, which have comfortably exceeded the annual budgets and contributed significantly to the Clubs year-end surplus. Mark and his team are to be congratulated on this achievement.

### House central Services

We use the Club website to publish much of our House activities and events. In addition to posters and notices in reception, a new Social Events Calendar will be available from the notice board for members to keep.

The house income and expenditure is closely managed and this has produced an encouraging year-end financial surplus. This, when combined with other club surplus helps fund the Balcony and bar projects previously mentioned.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible joining in the events and taking advantage of the new Balcony and Bar in the New Year.

DAVID HAYLES

REAR COMMODORE HOUSE



The forthcoming social event Calendar for this winter incorporates many of the regular favourites such as quiz nights (1st Thursday every month) bridge evenings (12th and 26th Nov; 10th Dec) plus some new variations. These includes 'famous chef' dinners and a Tommy Cooper evening. The major events for the period until New Year are as follows; why not enjoy yourselves and make up a party? As some of the events have already been oversubscribed (e.g. Ladies Lunch), you are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment.

Sat 24 November	1930	Annual Dinner	Sat 22 December	1200	Carol Singing and Santa Lunch
Fri 30 November	1300	St Andrew's Day Whisky/Lunch	Mon 31 December	1930	New Year's Eve Dinner
Sat 8 December	1930	Christmas Party Buffet	Tues 1 January	1100	New Year's Day Brunch
Wed 19 December	1930	Turkey Dinner	Book early to avoid disappointment		

## Pippa Wilson nominated for ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Award

British sailing's Yngling World Champions and Beijing Olympic nominees Sarah Ayton, Sarah Webb and Pippa Wilson have been shortlisted for the prestigious ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Award.

Launched in 1994, the awards are recognised as the pinnacle award a sailor can receive in recognition of his or her outstanding achievements by the world of sailing.

Five male and four female crews have been shortlisted for the award, but there are only two winners – a female and a male World Sailor of the Year. The winners will be unveiled at the ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Awards Dinner and Presentation on 6 November 2007 at Estoril, Portugal.

Many congratulations from us all



Pippa Wilson, with Ivan Harris, from Kings Volvo presenting the WJS Kings Volvo Trophy to Henry Collings.

GEOFF HOLMES

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

### Winter Sunday Closing

On Winter Sundays, until 18 March inclusive, the Bar closes at 3.00 pm, and the Clubhouse (including changing facilities) closes at 5.00 pm.

There will be no food service on the evening of Wednesday 12 December to enable the staff to enjoy their Christmas Party. The Bar will be staffed by volunteer Members on that evening.

### Dinghy Parking

Dinghies must be removed by 31 December to enable maintenance to be undertaken. A limited number of spaces are available for winter storage (1 January to 28 February). The cost is £20. Contact Jon in the Club Office.

Please help us by displaying your sticker on boats which are legally parked, and remove those boats which are not.

### RYA Level Two Powerboat Courses

We will be running a few RYA Level 2 Powerboat courses during the winter. These are run for Members by volunteer instructors at a price significantly lower than commercially run courses. It is hoped that members receiving training on our courses will be available to help crewing on safety boats during our sailing events. Any Member wishing to attend a course should contact Jon in the Club Office.

### Christmas and New Year Function Tickets

Function tickets will be available on the following dates:

Christmas Buffet -	Tuesday 13th November
Turkey Dinner -	Tuesday 27th November
New Year's Eve -	Tuesday 4th December

and New Year's Day

Tickets may be purchased in one of the following ways:

1. In person from the Club Reception Desk, which is open daily between 1000 and 1600 (1400 at weekends)
2. By telephone from the Club Office 01590 672677
3. By e-mailing the Club at [office@rlymyc.org.uk](mailto:office@rlymyc.org.uk) ensuring you include your payment details.

Members are advised that there are no refunds on tickets for these events for cancellations less than 7 days prior to the event, unless we are able to re-sell the ticket.

### Club Programme 2008

The Summer Programme and Racing Fixtures booklet will be distributed to Members in the January mailing. Advance details of the draft programme will shortly be displayed on the Club website ([www.rlymyc.org.uk](http://www.rlymyc.org.uk)). Click on 'Calendar' on the left hand side of the page.

### Christmas and New Year Opening

Clubhouse opening hours over Christmas and New Year are:

**Evening Meals** Closed 24 December

Re-opens 2 January 2007.

**Lunches** Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

**Family 'Hair of the Dog' Brunch** on 1 January – for ticket holders only. Details will be posted on the Board. Tickets available from 4 December

**Bar and Clubhouse** Closed evenings of Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve (except NYE function) and evening of 1 January 2007, and throughout Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The Clubhouse will be closed from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm from 27 to 31 December inclusive.

**Waterfront** A Boatman will be available every day except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Between 27 December and 2 January there will be a limited service until the end of any sailing event or the Clubhouse closing.

**Office** will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day, and open from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Christmas Eve and 27 to 31 December.

### E-MAILS TO MEMBERS

We communicate by e-mail with those Members for whom we have an e-mail address. With the increasing sophistication of spam filters, you may not receive these e-mails unless you have the sending address, [barbara@rlymyc.org.uk](mailto:barbara@rlymyc.org.uk), listed in your 'contacts'. In future we will also reduce the number of attachments to resolve the problem incompatibility with Members' computer systems.

## RACING

15th December	Needles Relief
27th December	Peter Andrae Trophy
28th December	Penguin Trophy

Spring Series starts on 30th March

### STAFF FUND

Enclosed with this mailing is a letter from me inviting Members to contribute to the Staff Fund, the proceeds of which are distributed between all staff other than the Secretary around Christmas time. I should be grateful if Members would contribute generously to the Fund, which is the only way for Members to show in a tangible way their appreciation of the hard work and commitment of our loyal staff.

GEOFF HOLMES

## CRUISING PROGRAMME FOR 2008

For 2008 the Cruising Sub-Committee has started planning an interesting and varied Cruising Programme with events about once a month. Members and their guests are welcome on any meet should they arrive by sailing boat or dinghy, motor yacht or car. Here are the meets planned.

### **Spring Cowes Meet 18-20 April**

Pontoon party on Friday and a Dinner at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club on Saturday.

### **Spring Anchor Meet 16-18 May.**

Raft up by Green Island in Poole Harbour with drinks on Friday and a Supper Party on Saturday.

### **Long Distance Meet 18-22 June.**

Parties and gatherings will be arranged first in Weymouth and then in the Channel Islands. Details later.

### **Family Meet in Newtown, 25-27 July**

Picnics, BBQs Treasure hunts and good family fun.

### **Cross Channel Meet 22-24 August St Vaast**

St Vaast is the destination this year and pontoon parties and dinner in a local restaurant will be arranged.

### **Autumn Anchor Meet 19-21 September**

Raft up in the Thorney Island Channel for a Supper Party.

### **Gin's Farm Meet 10-12 October**

Drinks on the lawn followed by Dinner in the Royal Southampton Club House.

### **Needles Relief 13 December**

A Meet held in conjunction with the Racing Division to thank and give donations to the local crews of the Rescue Services. There is a yacht race and a Life Boat and Helicopter demonstration followed by prize giving drinks and Supper in the Royal Solent Yacht Club.

### **Mid Week Meets**

Throughout the winter mid week events are arranged dependant upon the weather and tides.

Full details of all the events and booking forms will be on the Clubs website in the Cruising section and Notices will be displayed on the Club's notice boards 5 or 6 weeks before the events.

The Meets are well attended and great fun, I hope to see you all there.

DUNCAN MACALISTER CAPTAIN OF CRUISING



### POTTERSHP RACE

The Members' race was held on a lovely day, with a clockwise course around the Solent. Many thanks to Jane Pitt Pitts and her team for organising it.

- 1st Tak                    Jeremy Austin, shown above centre with crew Ado Jardine (left) and Bill Dunstan.
- 2nd Bosanova          Michael White
- 3rd Crackerjack        Stuart Watson and Matthew Jones

### Honorary Chaplain

Canon Ray Hubble has served the Club with distinction as Honorary Chaplain for five years. Ray has now asked to be allowed to retire and the new(ish) Vicar of Lymington, Rev Peter Salisbury, has accepted the General Committee's invitation to be Honorary Chaplain. Peter is also well known as a helper at Wednesday Junior Sailing.



This pedestal flower arrangement for Trafalgar Night was produced by the flower ladies whom we have to thank for all the lovely flower arrangements in the Club



### Which Yacht Clubs are these?

Does anyone recognise them? There are nearly 140 burgees displayed in the River Room. They are currently being catalogued and we need help in identifying about 60 of them. They have been photographed and will be on display in the club for easier viewing.

