

RECORD OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

Royal Lymington YC



GENERAL NOTES:

Sources of information:

1. Blue backed Album prepared by Mrs “Annie” Littlejohn in 1986 period.
 - a. Titled “The Commodores” & covers the period 1923 to 1985/6.
 - b. Includes pictures of the Commodores from 1923 Major Cyril Potter to 1986 Brigadier D R L Bright.
 - c. Details period of Lymington River Sailing Club, Lymington Yacht Club & Royal Lymington Yacht Club.
 - d. Lists - Admiral of the Club, Commodores, Vice-Commodores & Rear Commodores. e. Lists Trustees up to 1983.
 - f. Honorary Life Members up to 1985.
2. The Fiftieth Anniversary Handbook – Royal Lymington YC 1922-1972 Anniversary Book.
3. Records prepared by Jonathan [“Joff”] Hutchinson whilst in office as Club Secretary.
4. Records of the Executive Committee later to be named the General Committee members 1948 to 1995.
5. Records kept by Administration Staff under Ian Gawn whilst in position of Club Secretary.
6. Club Bulletins 1946 – 1986
7. Subsequent instructions from RCH & Club Office.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

THE TRUSTEES RECORD - Note: It is a Club rule that Trustees are in Office for a 5 year period extendable to a total of 10 years. In recent years - the elected **terms are in red** with the current 5 year period in **bold red** & the other 5 year period *in red italics*.

MISSING RECORDS:

1. **MISSING CLUB SECRETARIES** & correct dates for whole period up to Jonathan [“Joff”] Hutchinson taking office. Some assumptions have been but require confirmation.

- a. **Club 1950 Bulletin** – reports that Mostyn Williams retired & Capt M H Eveleigh RN became Secretary late that year. Taken as a fact.
- b. George Edwards Is mentioned as being the Club Secretary in the **Club Bulletins** for the years 1958, 1961, 63, 67, 68, & 71. Retired in 1973. Taken as a fact.
- c. The year Squadron Leader George Edwards retired & Group Captain Howard L Lewis took up office. Estimated to be 1973/1974 Club years. This looks likely to be true as **Bulletin 1974** states Howard Lewis was Secretary then. Taken as a fact.

2.COMPLETING THE MISSING PICTURES OF THE COMMODORES:

Over time the missing pictures have been found.

3.GENERAL COMMITTEE:

- a. Previously known as the Executive Committee. Changeover date found to be 1989/90.
- b. Members generally serve for a 3 year period - except under exceptional circumstances it is extended.
- c. Blue Year numbers on right of each yearly table indicates the last year each member is elected to serve.
- d. Members' names missing from 1922 –1948 due to the Great Flood of 1989 when part of the records stored on the ground floor were destroyed.
- e. At one time during the 1980 -1990s it appears there was a “custom” to always elect at least one woman to the General Committee. Termed as the “obligatory woman” – source Mrs Cam Otten. Reason was a scarcity of women getting proposed and elected.

4.ROYAL WARRANT & PATRONS:

- a. 1926 was the year the Club could fly a defaced red ensign.
- b. In 1937 Commodore Cyril Potter retired from his position as flag officer. During his period of office since 1922 he kept up a persistent campaign for Royal recognition, which was met with little positive success.
- c. Mrs Angela Brownlow became Commodore in 1937 having served as Rear and then Vice Commodore since 1923. Using her female talents, she wrote and was granted for the Club the

title of “Royal” in 1938. Not only was she the first lady Commodore of a Royal Yacht Club she also ‘nursed’ the club through the war period so it was there for members after its use as an auxiliary fire station in the war. Her picture is still to be seen in the Club Dining Room – West wall alongside Major Potter’s picture.

- d. Our Patron at the time was the late Duke of Gloucester.
- e. Princess Anne the Princess Royal – has been our Patron since 1980.

Lymington River Sailing Club

Spring 1914 – August 1914	This record is quoted from the Royal Lymington YC 1922-1972 Anniversary Book.
Captain	Captain H. H. Nicholson
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:	Major A. O. L. Kindersley
Lady Member:	Mrs. R. L. Bayliff
Hon. Starter:	The Rev. F. S. Trevor-Garrick
<p><i>The Lymington River Sailing Club</i> was founded in the early days of 1914. There were eighteen members, the Captain of the Club being Captain H. H. Nicholson. The purpose of the Club was to race the Prams in weekly races between May 15th and August 15th. Before the Club's first Annual General Meeting was held, the world went mad. On August 4th, the Great War erupted.</p>	

Re-birth of Lymington River Sailing Club after the Great War 1914-1918

1922		
Post War – Prime Mover	Maj. Cyril Potter	This record is quoted from the Royal Lymington YC 1922-1972 Anniversary Book.
<p>The Prime Movers</p> <p>By the autumn of 1921, sailors on the Lymington River had ceased to eye each other with curiosity. They hailed each other in passing, until, eventually, names and addresses were exchanged.</p> <p>There was on the water, a Royal Yacht Squadron member, a Major Cyril Potter, O.B.E., who owned several boats. He lived in a house called 'Blake's', which had been re-named 'Ferry Point', and he invited to his house anyone who was interested in forming a club. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the four ladies and six men present. By the spring of 1922, The Lymington River Sailing Club was re-created - some eight years after it had lapsed.</p> <p>The aim of the club was to provide regular racing between June and September for a Handicap class, the Solent Sea Birds and the Prams. The subscription was a guinea a year or ten shillings for those living outside a ten-mile radius from Lymington Church. The first gun of the first race was fired on Saturday, June 3rd, 1922.</p> <p>Please Note ±* The Handwritten Minutes of this meeting are in the Club Archives. ±*</p>		

Archivist's Comment:

*It would appear that this is the Club's Anniversary Date - **Saturday, June 3rd, 1922.** . Although strictly the Spring of 1914 is the original Anniversary date when the club was conceived.*

So our Conception Anniversary Celebration will in May 2014 – sadly it was not celebrated.

Early Days of Racing

Though the Prams had raced together in 1914, no keel boats had as yet appeared for organised racing. The summer of 1922 saw, in addition to the Prams, the regular racing of a Handicap class. The start-line was from Major Potter's motor cruiser, *Wendy*, whose skipper, another Captain Harper, fired a shot-gun into the air. The year 1922 also brought into the river a new 18ft. sloop-class boat, the Solent Sea Bird. Built at *Cowes* for £80, complete, they were stiff, good sea-boats, and delightful to handle.

On August 16th, the highlight of the year was the Lymington Town Regatta in which not only the *L.R.S.C.* boats, but many visitors competed. Present also was the Lymington Rowing Club, which had always been an enthusiastic supporter of the Regatta. The year ended with high hopes: membership stood at eighty-five and the search for a club-house had begun.

Amendments & Revisions:

v1.2	11 th Feb 2008	Period 1922 & 1923 – Adding transcriptions of LRSC Minutes the Officers of the Club are amended.
v2.1	8 th Feb 2009	Alterations Pages 1 & 2, Add Officers 2009/10 & minor corrections.
v2.2	9 th Feb 2009	Minor corrections to previous. Alterations Pages 1 & 2, Add Officers 2009/10 & minor corrections
v3.01	7 th Feb 2009	1986/7 Sebastian Chamberlain co-opted RCH. Corrected names spelling errors Nuding, Rogers and McEwen. Added John Thunhurst to GC – co-opted from April 2009 year
v4.0	8 th Feb 2010	New Flag Officers added and similar the 6 newly appointed GC Members. The reason for 6 GC members is due to 2 previous Members being made Flag Officers and the natural turnaround of 4 GC members retiring each year.
v4.01	7 th Feb 2010	Corrected 3 surnames.
v4.02	2 nd April 2010	Minor spelling errors p2.
v4.03	14 th Feb 2011	2011 New RCF & new GC members & GC resignation corrections 2010/11.
v5.0	13 th Feb 2012	Inserted new Flags Officers & GC Members. Minor updating to pages 1-3. Added information regarding Royal title p3.
V5.1	15 th Feb 2012	Corrected a short list of surname errors & demoted Merlin from RCF'S Yeoman.
V5.2	17 th Feb 2012	Corrected Sec's RN rank.

V6.0	12 th Feb 2013-	Corrected dates 4 GC Members came off Comm in 2013 & not 2012.
	9th March 2013	Noted: That there are only 11 GC members Feb 2013 after AGM. Co-option option possible at later time.
V6.1	11 th March 2013	RCF amended 2014/15 draft
V6.2	28th April 2013	12 th Member of GC – Co-opted 1yr. <i>Our Conception Centenary Celebration will be in May 2014</i>
V6.3	10th Feb 2014	Members updated - post the AGM Sat 1st Feb 2014 & inserted Flag Officers end year of their appointment in red similar to Trustees. Our Conception Centenary Celebration seems not to a viable Event due to lack of general interest. Awaiting a possible 12th member of General Committee to be co-opted later in year
V7.0	1st Oct 2014	Updated for co-opted 12 th GC member.
V8.0		Updated for 5 new GC members; 1 Trustee plus corrections.
V8.1	19 th Feb 2015	Completed missing GC members, totalling 11.
V8.2	19 th Feb 2015	Correction to 2015/16 now 12 GC Members.
V8.3	22 nd June 2020	By Graham Clarke, Club Historian (in succession to Anthony Ruffell, Club Archivist, in Oct 2019) - Section 4, Royal Warrant etc, para (a) date amended from 1936 to 1926, as evidenced in report submitted by David Prothero, to Cdr. Podger, then Secretary, listing references to RLymYC's progress to gain Royal Warrant status, as he had found in the National Archives, at Kew.

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