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Isle of Man Yacht Club

# MAINSHEET

Lime Street, Port St. Mary, Isle of Man

Number 52

APRIL 2009

## COMMODORE

As I write, it is hard to comprehend that we are only a few weeks away from the first Lift-in. We can only hope that the snow last week signifies that winter is behind us and that the weather pundits' predictions of a glorious summer prove to be correct. A summer of good weather will encourage all of us to get on the water and also hopefully welcome many visiting yachts.

I express my sincere thanks to the Venerable Brian Partington, our Centre Principal and to Cathie Ashurst who have spearheaded a sponsorship campaign to replace our fleet of Oppies with RS Teras. Securing sponsorship at any time is not an easy task but to have secured generous funding for eight Dinghies, plus the replacement of our buoyancy aids in the current financial climate, emphasises Brian and Cathie's persuasive powers and the high esteem that our Training section commands.

Our generous sponsors are Capital International, Capital Treasury Services, Douglas Rotary Club, Isle of Man Post, Manx Telecom, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Tower Insurance and a friend of Training who wishes to remain anonymous. Many, many thanks to them all.

Our grateful thanks also to Strand Cleaners and to

Storall Ltd for shipping both boats and launching trolleys over to the Island and storing them on arrival. If it were not for these generous sponsors we would have been unable to replace the fleet. The acquisition of the RS Teras will give greater flexibility to the training programme and also means that we are now equipped with the latest dinghies to be recognised by the RYA Youth Training scheme. The official launch of the new fleet is to take place on Friday May 15th in the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Vice Admiral Sir Paul Haddacks.

I would like to see more members supporting Friday "Club Nights". You will be made very welcome and can help the rest of us in putting the world to rights.

If any members have any suggestions for events or functions, please let me know and we will do our best to accommodate your requests. On behalf of the Directors and members, I would again like to thank Fiona for all her hard work behind the bar and trying to keep the Friday night gang under control!

It was with regret that Peter Hill had to stand down as Club Secretary and the Licence Official at the AGM. We are fortunate that Helen Gyselynck has taken over the reins as Secretary and Mike Sidebotham has kindly agreed to take over as Licensing Official. These are both important duties for the continuing operation of the Club. My thanks are extended to my fellow Flag Officers and Directors for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes. In addition, I express thanks to Jan Sidebotham and her team on the Social Committee, who have organised and executed all the various functions during the Winter season.

I look forward to seeing you all out on the water in the forthcoming months but don't forget to call in the Bar after your exploits, so that we can all share your experiences and also swell the Bar turnover.

David Hill      Commodore

## Training Section

We are busy planning our courses for the coming season, starting on Saturday April 18th with a Race Training group. Monday 27th April sees the start of the groups, when we will be able to use the new RS Tera dinghies. We expect all the courses will be fully subscribed. We have two new Secretaries: Karen Callister and Helen Long and I wish to record my thanks to them for taking over from Jan Harkin. Jan is staying on at the moment to help them with the administration. We are very fortunate that all our Instructors are willing to teach again and give so freely of their time. The club is very appreciative of their efforts.

We need more Dinghy and Assistant Instructors and so we are running an Assistant Instructor course in April. Anyone interested please contact me as soon as possible.

The final event of 2008 was the Topper Challenge, which took place on 3rd November on the Mooragh Lake. Once again, it was a very exciting affair with the 7th Wave team beating IOMYC by just one point. Well done to Alex Sharpe, James and Gregory Kelly and thanks to Jenni Quillin for organizing the event.

Congratulations to our junior members who have competed in the RS Tera Inland Championship with the newly formed Manx Youth Sailing Squad. They all sailed with great credit but 10 year old Gregory Kelly was outstanding and gained 3rd place overall. A fantastic achievement from one of the youngest competitors.

We have had another busy winter of shore-based courses - a VHF/DSC Course organised by Mark Pendlebury and Dermot Shimmin, Diesel Engine Courses given by Dermot Shimmin and two First Aid Courses run by Steve Upsdell. If anyone is interested in any of these courses, please email me to book a place at [wendyhill@manx.net](mailto:wendyhill@manx.net). Once again, thanks to all Instructors for giving up your time.

The RYA Day Skipper course, run by Rodger Clague, has one more week to run and we wish all the students success in their final exam. We look forward to seeing them out on the water practising their new found knowledge!

We are planning a Powerboat course in April and I will be contacting all members who have expressed interest. I wish to thank Gordy Caren who is standing down as Chief Powerboat Instructor after five years but thankfully he is staying on as an Instructor. We welcome Mike Ingram back as Chief Instructor. Thank you to Mike who has kindly agreed to take the helm for a year.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to the Parkes family, who are soon moving to Guernsey. I wish to record my grateful thanks to Tim for organizing the safety-boat rota so efficiently and for assisting with the training groups.

We wish Tim and his family well on their new Island.

Thank you to Rob Mercer, who has agreed to take over as our Safety Boat Secretary. Please help Rob with this task; answer his e-mails and volunteer your services, if at all possible. If you are qualified, but not receiving the e-mails, please call Rob on 464279.

Safety Boat Drivers and crew are absolutely vital to our training programme, so please help if you can.

Once again, many thanks to our Instructors for giving their time.

### Diary Dates

The Isle of Man is again hosting a heat for the Junior Honda RIB Challenge, which will take place in Port St. Mary on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>. The Final will take place at The Southampton Boat Show, in September.

Further details can be had from David Hill at [hill@manx.net](mailto:hill@manx.net).

The Pico Challenge, supported by the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen will take place on Sat Sept 5<sup>th</sup> - details to follow.

The Topper Challenge, which takes place on the Mooragh will be held at the end of October. This event is a team-race series between IOMYC, MSCC, KWC, 7th Wave and the Venture Centre. Come on kids - get on the water, improve your skills and take part in the activities on offer, it is fun.

I finish by thanking our hard working Principal, Brian Partington, new Secretaries Karen Callister and Helen Long,

Jan Harkin and Chief Instructor, John Dowling, who have helped me so much as we all look forward to a successful season.

Wendy Hill      Training

## Dinghy Captain's Report

Ahh! Don't we all love this time of year? The days are getting longer, and are supposed to be getting warmer. Spring flowers are shyly peeping above ground level, and there is increasing activity amongst the bird population in the trees.

And waiting somewhere in the background is THE BOAT. Probably under wraps, feeling neglected and needing a dose of TLC. "But it's still a bit chilly, and there's still plenty of time" you say to yourself and settle in front of the TV, ignoring the early evening sunshine streaming through the windows, except to comment on it being a lovely sunset.

Then suddenly, Easter is upon us and yachts have to be craned back into the water and Ramsey's dinghy regatta will be kick starting the season's racing. Once again you find yourself wondering why everything was left to the last minute and you resolve, yet again, to be more disciplined next year.

I have a confession to make, though. Courtesy of the generous annual leave allowance of the civil service, I have already commenced this year's maintenance programme. Even as I write, the trusty old National 18 is stripped of all hardware and is mostly sanded down awaiting a total coverage of paint and varnish both inside and out. The challenge will be remembering how to piece it all back together, and to do so without damaging the sparkly new coatings it will receive.

Maybe I should have bought a Topper!

On a more serious note; we have taken the decision this year to switch from Thursday evening racing to Wednesday. This was done for a variety of reasons, not least to accommodate some of our more experienced sailors on their free evenings. Checks were done to ensure that safety boat coverage would be OK and that there was definitely not going to be Wednesday cruiser racing so, all seeming well, the arrangements were made. Unfortunately, it then transpired that a few regular competitors would not be free on Wednesdays, at least for the first two months and are understandably upset. We had a similar problem with the choice between Saturday and Sunday racing a few years back but it just is not possible to please everyone.

I'm genuinely sorry for those who are disappointed with this move but let's see how it goes and we will review the situation at the end of the season. It is up to those who potentially benefit from the decision to prove that it was worthwhile.

We have new members keen to crew on dinghies this year. Aidan Tucker, an accountant from Douglas who has wind surfing experience is one and I will be trying him as a wireman on the 18'. Also available we have Rob and Mair Gardner. You can call them on 825294 or 274480. They live in Castletown, so should be readily available.

So, don't give up if you're having crewing problems - we have reserves.

Pete Barlow     Dinghy Captain



## Sailing Committee

Soon after last November's Mainsheet appeared, Wendy and David Hill went to the RYA presentation in London, where Wendy received an RYA "MBE" for all her work and commitment to sailing, especially training.

This honour, not lightly bestowed, is more than well-deserved. Wendy joins club members Cathie Ashurst and Andy Green, earlier recipients of this prestigious RYA award. Well done Wendy - and thank you for all your efforts.

Let's hope we see a bit of kinder weather in 2009. Boats are being bought and sold and it will be nice to see them being used. Mike Sidebotham has taken over the Jouet 760 "Foillan" from Phil Scott. Mike Pollard has at last found a boat that suits him - a Westerly Fulmar. Dave Batchelor has replaced his National 12 with an RS200 - this might give our IOM dinghy champions, Russell and June, something to think about. And Phil Adams now has two yachts to look after!

You will notice that there is no separate cruiser race programme. The scheduled cruiser events are in the Diary Dates. It was an uphill struggle to get people to turn out last year, so we hope a more modest offering may get some support. Mike Stanton has taken over as Cruiser Captain and will be happy to respond to an increase in demand for club racing. It will be no trouble to put on extra fun races as required. His contact details, along with everyone else, are in the programme.

The Hamblin Round Mann race should be a better do this year. We've moved it a fortnight away from the Scottish Series



in the hope that more boats can attend. Robin Wootton has arranged that these race miles can be included in your 2009 Fastnet qualifiers.

We already know of quite a few travellers going off-island to race this year: Antony Ellis and Mike Wilson intend to take their 1720 to the Scottish Series and later to the UK Nationals on the south coast of England. Pete Barlow and Mick Kneale are off to Portland for National 18' Championship early August. Russell and June are taking the RS200 to Belfast for the Irish Nationals in May and to Looe, Cornwall for the UK Nationals in August. The Manx Yoof Sailing Squad is taking a team to the RS Tera Nationals at Dabchicks (East coast of England) in September. Now that the club has a new fleet of Teras, we have every chance of getting up to speed. If there are others, please let me know - the MYA needs an idea of how much support may be required for dinghy travellers.

The Oppie fleet will be put up for sale. Two damaged ones were taken back to the dealer at Emsworth by club member Phil Keyes and another is already spoken for - so (at the last count) we have five available at £230 (inc.VAT) each. Ideal low-maintenance craft for your kids to get a feel for the sport.

Our experiment of moving the evening dinghy racing to Wednesdays will be closely monitored. If it turns out that we are getting less rather than more entries, we may need to have a re-think.

See you on the water.

Mick Kneale      Vice-Commodore

## Social Report

One can never say life at IOMYC is dull!! The past three months have flown by with the different events that have taken place. Since the last newsletter we have had a very successful and well attended Dinner & Prize Presentation at the Empress Hotel, Douglas . Thank you to all who came and made it such a lovely evening.

Early December, with Christmas looming ever closer, saw the event "Commodore's Lunch" with Cathie Ashurst and her band of willing volunteers preparing and serving a lovely meal. Thank you. This was followed closely by our annual Quiz and Carol Evening.

Thinking caps were definitely required, Dermot and Nina did not let us down! The winning team was Family Gyselynck - so we had better start 'swotting' now! The quiz was followed by mince pies, mulled wine and time for a chat before the Rushen Silver Band, conductor Alan Crebbin, played carols and soon had us in hearty voice.

Again, a most enjoyable evening and one we look forward to annually and yes, they have agreed to play again this year.

On Christmas Eve a convivial get together was had helped on with a Faith Supper - thank you Ladies for supplying the goodies.

The Boxing Day Treasure Hunt saw six or so cars turn out in an attempt to solve the frustrating clues, leading to much ribbing between the teams once back at the Club House. One team really came out on top - the Diffin family (so we had better watch out this year!)

Another team, I think is still out there, no names mentioned else my life would not be worth living!

Thank you Dermot and Nina - you will be quite an act to follow.

January has seen the start of the Inter Club Darts Competition, kicking off with IOMYC hosting. It was a really great night with the visiting clubs bringing a goodly band of people. Great fun, and the IOMYC team doing well. However since then we have not done quite so well! Any good 'darters' out there? Your Club needs You!

The visits to date have been Laxey and Peel with the 'darters' on their travels to Ramsey 13th March and Douglas 20th March. We might not be doing well but at least we are having a great time.

February saw the Commodores Curry Night. It was a great success! Many thanks to Peter (PJ), Cathie, Jan, Chris, and Ali for making the really tasty and much enjoyed curries.

A recent talk night was held, given by Mr Phil Drowley, about his ascent of Mount Everest . Phil gave a very informative talk to a packed house, and brought along some of the kit used in his climb.

On Sunday 8th March, the Club deviated from the normal luncheon fayre to put on a Cottage Pie or Beef Curry meal which was very well received and made for a most enjoyable change.

Now, with Easter coming, the boats will be going in the water, and our next event, Fitting Out Supper, will be on Saturday 18th April 2009, so please, put it in your diary.

Book early (Fiona has the form behind the Bar) as numbers are limited.

Another date for your diary :- A Victorian Breakfast, 26th April 2009, to raise funds for the National 18's to be hosted by the Club in 2010.

Not to be missed! Book early, tickets are available from Fiona or Cathie.

Happy Sailing and RIB-ing.

Jan Sidebotham      Social Chair

## Editorial

A good idea, methinks, this encouragement of indoor archery. Perhaps, though, we shall be a little more restrained than, say, the Lakeside Crew, but I fancy that the odd score of '180' should still produce a suitably raucous response!

'180' was, for me, a worrisome error ( plus or minus) to many of my 'course to steer' scribings during Roger Clague's excellent 'Day Skipper' course. He did his very best to cure this habit, re-orientating me, by degrees, with much patience.

"Titanic - the Musical" has been playing at the Gaiety this week (enjoyable, very moving, quite sad, and, despite the upbeat first half, they always manage to sink Her!) and I mused that with my navigation, there'd be a good chance of heading away from the ice-fields, although, likewise from the USA. Anyway . . .let Joy be unconfined! - no ice for us! ( except perhaps for a few of Fiona's classic cuboids floating in a tasty tincture or two) - which brings me to propose a Toast!

Here's to a safe 'Lift In', a wonderful Summer and a goodly supply of S.W. breezes. Sail on, Little Ships, sail on!

Bob Hunt      Editor

## 2008 TROPHY WINNERS

The Commodore's Trophy

JanHarkin

### Cruisers

Brewis Memorial Cup	"BLUE HAZE"	Rob Cowell
Crellin Memorial Cup	"SORCERY"	Mike Stanton
Peyton Memorial Cup	"RAPSCALLION"	Peter Ashurst
Jubilee Cup	"SORCERY"	Mike Stanton
P.S.M. Regatta Class "A"	"RAPSCALLION"	Peter Ashurst

### Dinghies

Tomlinson Trophy	Joe Stockman
Murray Gawn Cup	Mick Keale
Everard Williams Cup	Antony Ellis
Ballagawn Cup	Mick Kneale
Richard Cain Cup	Russell & June Collister
H.R. Gelling Cup (travellers)	Andrew Dean
Peacock Cup	Ali Hinds
Bromet Trophy	Russel & June Collister
Dundas Cup	Ali Hinds
Qualtrough Cup	Ali Hinds
Glenburn Cup	Ali Hinds
Juan Kelly Cup	Ben Hellowell
Rowany Cup	James Kelly
Wilson Cup	Angus Jolly
Alice Cup	Andrew Williams
P.S.M. Regatta	Andrew Williams
Pico Challenge (Senior)	Ali Hinds
Pico Challenge (Junior)	Jacques Lakeman
Best Boy	Nick Parkes
Best Girl	Hannah Howitt