

Isle of Man Yacht Club
Port St Mary, Isle of Man

MAINSHEET

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COMMODORE

I'm amazed that my two year term of office as Commodore has only a very few weeks to run. You will read in the various reports of the achievements during the year by our dinghy, junior and cruiser sailors.

One aspect of this year that everyone will wish to forget is the weather, fortunately I can't be blamed for that! We seem to have had everything from flat calms to near gale force winds, with more than a few sea-fogs to contend with. Every year, we say that it can only get better next year, so let's hope that, for once, it may be true.

In addition to the sailing activities, the club again hosted the RIB Raid from Northern Ireland, thanks to the efforts of Donald and Dermot. We are promised a bigger and better turnout next year. We also welcomed our neighbours from Castletown to a lunch-time BBQ on our regatta day.

We held a "New Member's night" which was very well supported but we have not seen as many repeat visits as we would have liked. You are all more than welcome to come down anytime, especially on Friday nights, to catch up with club banter and put forward any ideas you may have for future events.

The latest proposals for harbour improvements look promising and address many previous concerns. For once, it looks as if we have a plan that can be fine-tuned and, subject to the tidal models and environmental data, could finally go forward for public consultation and planning permission. Let's hope that the latest financial blow dealt us by the U.K. Government will not delay this long awaited development.

My term of office would not be complete without expressing my thanks to all who have supported me over the last two years. My fellow Flag Officers and directors have all given me much help and encouragement. Fiona continues to run an excellent bar and, it is very pleasing to hear compliments from visiting yachtsmen of how they have been welcomed. I am grateful to all club members who have supported the social events and attended Friday club-nights.

As many of you know, the club is celebrating its Centenary in 2010, which is no mean achievement. There is no member of this club that is so conversant with the club history and archives than Mick Kneale, who is taking over the helm as Commodore. This is a fitting tribute to Mick for all the work that he and his family (both past and present) have put in over the years and I wish him every success for his term of office. I know that Mick will be willing fair winds and weather for 2010, in particular for the National 18' Championship.

David Hill

TRAINING

A very challenging summer training programme was completed, with all the courses fully subscribed again. We changed the format this season giving both the children trainers more variety and flexibility and we feel it worked well. The biggest single change was the introduction of the new RS Tera dinghies, which have proved very popular and successful. The weather was dreadful, the worst I can recall and I congratulate the instructors who, somehow, managed to complete every course. We even had to use a September weekend for two groups, which had lost many sessions. I thank all the instructors, assistants, safety boat drivers and slipway helpers who have worked so well together to give all our youngsters the wonderful opportunity to learn to sail at IOMYC.

The Race Training group had an early intensive weekend session, followed by the students joining in the Friday evening club racing programme under the supervision on an instructor on the water. They all improved greatly through the season and we look forward to more of the group getting their own boats for next season.

At the end of June, the IOM Youth Championship for the Tomlinson Trophy (open to 19yrs and under) was raced in very light airs. The shifty breeze favoured the asymmetric boats with larger sail area and the overall winners were Christopher Hill and Joe Stockman in a borrowed RS 400 (brave man!!) Ben Swindlehurst 2nd and Ali Hinds 3rd. We look forward to a bigger entry next year with all the up and coming youngsters sailing in the Tera dinghies. Many thanks to Pete Hinds for a superb job as Race Officer.

One of our juniors, Alex Sharpe, travelled to the Southampton Boat Show to represent the Island in the finals of the Honda Youth Rib Challenge in September. Alex was competing against heat-winners from all over the British Isles, finishing a respectable 13th place in a very competitive field. Well done Alex.

The PICO Challenge was run on Sept 5th in strong winds, yet again. We always seem to have testing conditions but despite this, no fewer than four of the six finalists were junior sailors. It was a fantastic event with 21 competitors, kindly sponsored by Felix & Wanda McHenry on behalf of the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen since Russell Armstrong was Commodore. Special thanks go to Russell and June Collister for again organising the event. Paul Hansford was overall winner and Harriet Quayle won the junior section.

I also thank Jenni Quillin and her team at 7th Wave for their continued efforts with the Manx Youth Sailing Squad, which has 6 enthusiastic under-13 sailors (all IOMYC members): Hannah Howitt, James Kelly, Gregory Kelly, Izzy Sharpe, Aimee Shute and 9-year old Ffinlo Wright. They have competed in two Tera National championships with outstanding results. In October 2008, Gregory Kelly, at only 10-years old took 3rd overall. This September, at Dabchicks, James Kelly finished in 7th place and Gregory 8th. The best result was winning the team prize for the Isle of Man. This is a remarkable achievement and we are all justly proud. In August this year, James and Gregory Kelly competed in the RS Tera European Championships at Lake Garda where Gregory came 3rd overall in under-12 class with James 6th in 12-16 age group.

Congratulations to our juniors Alison Hinds and Ben Swindlehurst, who represented the IOM in the Island Games sailing team at Aland and to Christopher Hill who crewed on Robin Wooton's "Cheetah Cub" in this year's Fastnet race. Come on kids, keep sailing - all these achievements can be yours if you work hard. All of the above youngsters learned to sail with us and are the future of the club.

Thanks go to our Powerboat Instructors: CI Mike Ingram, newly qualified Phil Adams, Chris Ingram and Ben Hellowell together with Stu Brew, Pete Ashurst, Mark Pendlebury. They ran three courses this season, which will be a great help next year, with all the successful candidates. I take this opportunity to thank Rob Mercer for his sterling efforts running the safety-boat rota this year, (not an easy task) but, without the safety cover, the courses and races could not run. We are always looking for more safety-boat drivers, so please let me know if you would like a place on the next course.

Steve Upsdell has run two First Aid courses this year and another is planned for the spring. Please email Steve at smu@manx.net to register your interest, or write to the Training Secretary at the IOMYC. This is a very good course and well worth attending. Thank you Steve, much appreciated.

We are planning to run a series of courses during the winter months. Dermot Shimmin will run a Diesel Engine course, anyone interested: please ring Dermot on 833589 or email dernijo@supanet.com. Mark Pendlebury,

together with Dermot and newly qualified Phil Adams will run a GMDSS/VHF course. Please register your interest with either myself wendyhill@manx.net or Mark Pendlebury mpendlebury@manx.net for further details.

I record sincere and grateful thanks to all the instructors for all their time and expertise.

The RYA Day Skipper course run by Rodger Clague, has begun. We wish all candidates a successful course and look forward to meeting you in the club during the winter.

We held our Annual Junior Prize Presentation on Saturday 10th October and were very pleased to welcome Mr Allan Corlett to present the prizes and certificates. Allan is a former Chairman of the Lottery Trust, which has been very generous with sponsorship for new RIBs and engines. He is also Operations Manager of Peel Lifeboat, a keen sailor and former member of the club. He recalled his days as a junior member when you learned to sail without the help of all our wonderful instructors and impressed upon the juniors just how fortunate they are at IOMYC.

The major awards were: Juan Kelly Cup - Gregory Kelly, Girl of the season - Harriet Quayle, Boy of the Season - Thomas Moulden.

The final event of the junior season was the Topper Challenge on the Mooragh Lake, Sunday 25th October - team racing between sailors from IOMYC, KWC, MSCC, 7th Wave and the Venture Centre. Competitors must be 16 or under on the day. This proved a brilliant event, with strong winds for a change and plenty of spectacular capsizes. The 7th Wave team of Alex Sharpe and James and Gregory Kelly just beat MSCC into 2nd place. Many thanks go to Jenni Quillin who organized the event and to Simon at the Venture Centre for the use of his boats.

The winter series dinghy racing continues on Sunday mornings, 1030 start, so if any competent juniors wish to compete, please let me know so I can liaise with our bosun and organise a boat for you.

We are now planning next season and are very fortunate that most instructors, led by CI John Dowling, are willing to teach again next year. We really appreciate all your efforts and time freely given. We say a big thank you to Christopher Hill and Kate Stockman who are off to University and will not be teaching next season.

We now need more Dinghy and Assistant Instructors, so if any club members are interested in gaining either of these qualifications, please contact me.

I thank Helen Long and Karen Callister, who have been the secretaries this year and have done a very good job. Unfortunately, due to the pressure of

their own careers, they cannot continue. We are therefore seeking a new person to fill this role. We only have 3 meetings a year, so it is not very arduous and I would dearly like someone to come forward and offer their services. Full "training" will be given!!

And finally I thank my hard working team of Principal, Brian Partington, who is so supportive and interested, along with John Dowling and all Instructors and Assistants who have worked very hard to ensure a successful season.

Wendy Hill

wendyhill@manx.net

CRUISERS

After quite a promising start to IoMYC's cruiser racing season, things seemed to go a bit down hill in June. In May we got reasonable attendance in two pursuit races; the first declared an honourable draw after lack of wind stopped play, the second convincingly won by John Dowling in Popard.

The weekend of the 23rd & 24th was a positive feast with 4 boats, Shellan, Talisker, Sorcery and Popard racing to Peel and taking part in the Peel regatta on the Sunday. The winner of the feeder race was Talisker with the IoMYC boats taking 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th at the regatta. This weekend was the peak of cruiser activity with a very sociable evening spent in Peel marina, joined later by Deja 2 and great hospitality from Peel SC.

Regrettably poor weather, TT, lack of crew and holidays then contrived to prevent sufficient numbers of the fleet racing together again for the remainder of the season. Rapscallion and Sorcery did manage a race around the Castletown Bellbuoy on 24th June with Sorcery scraping victory but from then on, the fleet dispersed and did their own thing. Notable amongst the special events was Talisker's guest appearance at the DBYC Regatta. Sorcery, Popard and Shellan took part in the IoM Cruiser Championship in August and Sorcery participated in West Highland Week.

Lift-out in September came around fast, which deprived us of the last sunny weekends of the summer. However, next season is only 6 months away, which gives skippers ample opportunity to recruit regular crews and fine-tune their boats.

The lack of willing bodies for crew is a perennial problem for skippers so if any club member is interested in joining us for a bit of low-intensity, fun -based racing then please email me on mike.stanton@manx.net

Mike Stanton

DINGHIES

Where did summer go? It only seems a few weeks since I was lamenting not being able to race in the Ramsey Easter Regatta due to family commitments. Now the old 18' is huddled under its cover and unlikely to feel the kiss of salt water until next spring but, if we do get any more balmy autumn Sundays, I might be tempted.

The summer club series' were dominated by Mike Pridham getting his grimy mitts on most of the trophies; as well as a superb performance in the Laser World Grand-Masters Championship in Canada where he finished 2nd. I believe good results were also achieved by Peter Whipp and Simon Pressley but don't know the exact details. Well done all.

Congratulations also to Roger and Helen Cave who've secured their first trophy, the Glenburn Cup. I recall how chuffed I was with my first sailing prize. Helen claims to have enjoyed her dinghy racing more since completing her Day-Skipper course. I don't know quite how that works but if it does, I won't knock it.

Further congratulations to Smiler Williams and Tom Cringle for wresting the Island Dinghy Championship from Russell and June Collister's grasp. I've no idea how long R & J have been the Island Champions but it feels like forever (*7 years, Ed.*). It was a close call in the end but Smiler and Tom raced consistently in great conditions for the asymmetric RS400's and 200's. Mick Kneale and crew in the National 18' stole a march on them by winning the Club Regatta, again in testing conditions. They also finished a creditable 7th in the National 18' Championship sailed at Portland Harbour (26 entries). I crept in with a 17th overall, dropping two places on the final day as discards kicked in. Only two 18's represented the Island this time as Antony Ellis took a gap year. However, he will make his return next year when we will be hosting the Championship in Port St Mary. Hopefully, he will be club racing too because although handicap racing is better than nothing, you need to race against identical opposition to prepare for the Nationals. Maybe now that National 18's can have a carbon mast, it might persuade a few more sailors to try their hand with a much easier boat.

My season started badly with a collision with Ali Hinds at Peel Regatta and apart from a good result at Ramsey Regatta, did not improve a great deal. I take this opportunity to thank Mike Pridham for all his help in securing a good deal with the repair to Ali's Laser. The attitude of the insurers was disappointing, to say the least, but Mike's doggedness resulted in a package that I would not have believed possible in the early days of the claim.

Thanks are also due to Pete Hinds for his continued commitment to providing superb racing in his capacity as Race Officer. As with all experts, he makes it

look easy but anyone who has tried their hand at RO, knows how difficult it really is. We must be the envy of all the other local clubs.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who have supported the racing in the crash boats. We couldn't do it without you, and your efforts are genuinely appreciated.

Pete Barlow

SAILING COMMITTEE

The 2009 summer season is receding into the mists. Every year we seem to moan about the variable weather but I wonder if we have a selective memory about sailing conditions and only remember the good bits.

Club members have again been active off-island. Pete Barlow mentions our two National 18's sailing at Portland and the Lasers in Canada. We can add the two RS200s that went to both their Nationals in Cornwall and inlands recently at Grafham; the Collister and Batchelor teams doing us proud in this most competitive of dinghy classes.

The RS Tera kids had a brilliant season too. James and Greg Kelly at the Europeans at Lake Garda and later the Manx Youth Sailing Squad sailed their Nationals at Dabchicks, all with great success.

Mike Wilson sailed his 1720 at the Scottish Series and later Cowes Week.

All this "away" activity was unthinkable not so long ago but, as we've always said - it really is the only way to get near the pace.

Sincere thanks go to Pete Hinds for his continuous efforts as RO and to all the safety-boat drivers and helpers. We are very lucky to have such a willing band.

Next year's sailing programme is already being drawn up and, as 2010 is the club's centenary year, we'll be trying hard to attract people to sail. Dinghies will continue Friday evenings and Sunday mornings along with the usual other club regattas. The big event will be the National 18' championship 26-31 July. Cruiser events will be scheduled to include some Saturday races around HW to allow the harbour boats to easily take part, including everything from Drascombes and Leisure 17s up to 40 footers. I wonder whether we could start the races from the end of the inner harbour to create a spectacle (no - not the spectacle of boats aground at the back of the jetty!).

The Hamblin Round Mann is going back to its late-May bank holiday slot; the experiment using later dates to attract more boats was inconclusive, there's always another event on somewhere nearby.

We'll be making a big effort for the club centenary regatta mid-June, so please do your best to find a crew and come along.

Mick Kneale

SOCIAL

Well, another busy year has flown by and with the weather throwing all it could at us it still did not stop the events we have undertaken from being successful. Our most recent was the Lift out Supper, which was once again well attended and enjoyed by all.

The next date to note is the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation on Saturday 14th November at the Empress, an event not to be missed! So if you have not yet booked please do it now as it is only hours away!

We are at that time of year when our diaries are filling up fast, so please make a note of three club events in December:

FRIDAY 18th - Quiz and Carol Evening with mulled wine and mince pies. The quiz this year is being set by last year's winners - family Gyselynck, with the ever popular Rushen Silver Band providing the accompaniment for the carols.

SUNDAY 20th The Commodores' Lunch

SATURDAY 26th - Boxing Day Treasure Hunt, set by last year's winners the Diffin family.

In the New Year, what we call our "quiet time", we are looking to organise a few events, which will include a talk from Phil Adams on safe usage, storage and disposal of flares, possibly a Curry Night and also a one-off Darts Night. We are always looking for ideas so if anyone has any suggestions, then please do not hesitate to come forward.

As it is also our Centenary Year, it is our intention to organise a couple of special events to mark the occasion, we will keep you posted!

Finally and most importantly, I sincerely thank my fellow committee members, their partners and the small band of volunteers who have been unstinting with their time, energy, support and hard work over the past year. Thank you.

Happy Sailing & Rib-ing!!

Jan Sidebotham