

11th May - Rotary Club - Buoyancy Aids Launch - IOMYC

29th-30th May - The Hamblin Round Mann Race on Spring Bank Holiday weekend, either as an entrant, supporter or both!! This event is already being advertised in the Club.

12/13th June - Centenary Club Regatta - more details will be available shortly.

26th/31st July - IOM National 18's - more details will be available shortly.

28/30th August - Westerly Rally - Details will be made available nearer the time.

Last but not least, on behalf of the Club, a big Thank You for your support over the last twelve months and we look forward to your continued support in this our Centenary Year. Happy Rib-ing & Sailing

Jan Sidebotham **Social**

Editorial

Very best wishes to all, for what will surely be a full and auspicious one hundredth season, meteorology and Old Manannan's Cloak permitting.

Cap'n Dermot's sea-going Treasure Hunt is surely going to be fun - but please "Don't forget the Diver" - if I may be allowed a little sneak down the more obscure back roads of our Dinghy Captain's 'Memory Lane'.

Bob Hunt **Editor**

Isle of Man Yacht Club

MAINSHEET

Port St. Mary, Isle of Man . www.iomyc.com

Number 54

APRIL 2010

Commodore

No apologies for again thanking everyone who works to make the club the success it is. We haven't reached our centenary in such good shape merely by accident, so we should include not only present officers and members but all those who went before. Let us be proud of the energy and commitment shown by the generations of enthusiastic people who believed in the project as well as those who do now. More help is always needed, of course, so please do come along and get involved. The club is a worthwhile voluntary institution and we all need to look after it.

It is an honour to have been soft-talked into re-cycling myself as "centenary" Commodore, having done a stint 1986-7. Mind you, I didn't see anyone else's head above the parapet!

I'm presently wading through club records with a view to producing a brief history. We are more than grateful to Norman Roberts, a stalwart of the club for decades, who wrote a comprehensive history in 1985, which will be nine-tenths of the next version.

Since that time, when we had the IOM Year of Sport and first Island Games, if anyone remembers that, the club has been settled in the present HQ. Much work has gone into modifications and maintenance and more will be needed, as the shortcomings in the building standards of 35 years ago become more obvious.

So, please excuse me for looking through a telescope rather than a microscope at the moment - I've obviously got the "historical" head on.

Having been a club member for nearly half of our century, I recall Jimmy Lomas' rather impractical 1964 drawing for a "marina" in PSM and, at approximately 8-year intervals since, new plans are discussed, drawn, hummed and hawed over and quietly dropped. The present effort by the DoT had a head of steam up to last year - and discussions continue but, now that big bully UK has stopped our pocket money, it looks like we'll have to wait yet again. My guess is that Ramsey will be next, as it will be a relatively inexpensive option. The work required to extend and protect the Alfred Pier before a "marina" can even start will be three-quarters of the total cost, so I'm not holding my breath, even for a phased development.

The club's fortunes (and boats!) will always be tied to the port's infrastructure and until our harbour is dragged into the 21st century, we'll have to just make the best of it. Steady as she goes - let's enjoy our hundredth birthday party anyway.

Mick Kneale Commodore

and enjoyable talk about the way of life and the coastal strata and bays around Port St Mary. Thank you, Alex.

Curry Night on the 20th February once again proved to be a great Saturday night out; we will be arranging something similar very soon. Thank you all who braved the weather to support.

Later in the week Mr Phil Adams, of the Coastguards, gave a talk on the Safe Use and Disposal of Distress Flares, ably assisted by two of his colleagues. We finished the evening by the Harbours edge for a demonstration of the safe use, which caused a few phone calls!! It's nice to know people care. Thank you, Phil and your colleagues.

Going forward, by popular request, is the Victorian Breakfast, Sunday 21st March, there are still a few places left so please contact the Club and make your reservation.

On Friday 16th April, Dave Kneale is kindly giving a Slide Presentation of the Volvo Ocean Race to help raise funds for the IOM National 18's to be held here in July. All donations most welcome.

Shortly after, another popular annual event which heralds the start of the season is our Fitting-Out Supper on 24th April, please put this in your diaries. Reservations are being taken at the Bar.

As it is to be a busy year, I have listed a few summer events you may wish to put in your diaries, as your support is always needed and is very welcome:-

Social Report

Well, here we are again at the start of a new season, having had a good social year in 2009; we hope this, our Centenary Year, will be even better.

December as always was a very busy month, starting with the Commodore's Lunch, an excellent turn out of maximum numbers. Thank you, Cathie and Team, the lunch was excellent. Once again, another annual favourite the Quiz and Carol Evening, accompanied by Rushen Silver Band, which as usual had everyone testing their little grey cells, and later exercising their singing voices. This was followed by a good turn out on Christmas Eve for an informal 'bring a plate supper' - great fun!

Once again the weather was good for the Boxing Day Treasure Hunt and Lunch, with a set of cryptic clues and questions which had everyone thinking. The winners were Team Walker! Well done! James and Lucy now have the dubious honour of setting the trail for this year. Be on your guard folks!!

The New Year started well, with IOMYC kicking off the Inter-Club Darts Competition. Unfortunately we did not start too well at home but, with no improvement on our visit to Peel, we did however, manage to redeem ourselves at Douglas. The next match is at Ramsey on 13th March and finally Laxey on 19th March, we hope to continue to improve as we don't give up without a fight!

Also in January, a Slide Show and Talk by Mr Alex Maddrell, entitled 'A Touch of Salt', was a most informative,

Training

The courses are all planned for the season, starting on Tuesday 20th April with the Parents' Night. Sailing begins on Tuesday 27th April followed by an intensive 'Start Racing' Weekend on 15-16 May. We hope that all the courses will be fully subscribed. We have a new secretary, Helen Moulden and I record my thanks to her for taking over from Helen Long and Karen Callister. We are very fortunate that most of our instructors are willing to teach again and that they give 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.

We are running a VHF/DSC course with instructors Mark Pendlebury and Dermot Shimmin in the next few weeks so please register your interest with me. The Diesel Engine Course run by Dermot Shimmin will take place in March so please contact myself or Dermot.

A First Aid Course is being held on Saturday 10th April, run again by Steve Upsdell. If anyone is interested in this or any any of these courses please email me and record your interest. wendyhill@manx.net. Once again, thanks to all the Instructors for giving us their time.

The RYA Day Skipper course run by Rodger Clague has a few weeks 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 and Safety-Boat course on 10-11 April, so please contact me if you wish to book a place. I express my sincere thanks to Mike Ingram, who is standing down as Chief Powerboat Instructor after taking over yet again last year to help us out but, thankfully, he is staying on as an instructor. We welcome Phil Adams as Chief Instructor and look forward to a full course. We need more drivers, so please volunteer your services.

Another change this year will be a new Safety Boat Rota Officer. I wish to thank Rob Mercier who has done a brilliant job but due to work pressures he is unable to carry on this year. We are currently looking for a willing volunteer so please contact me if you would like to help. Please check out the club programme for all events and diary dates.

The Topper Challenge, which takes place on the Mooragh Park will be held at the end of October. This event is a team effort 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 end by thanking our hard working Principal, Brian Partington, our new Secretary Helen Moulden and our Chief Instructor, John Dowling who have all helped so much. We all now look forward to a successful season.

Wendy Hill Training

Our first event is the now traditional picnic run to Peel on their Regatta Day - bring your picnic, or make your own arrangements with the Marine Hotel, Peel Castle Hotel, etc. This will be a guided tour up the coast, close-in, followed by a straight-line run back to the Sound or round the Calf as time and conditions allow. Last year we became involved with a search for a missing diver, no repeat this year I hope.

The second event is based in P.S.M. bay, and will be a floating treasure-hunt or similar, hopefully followed by a BBQ.

The third outing takes us back to Peel, to see the Traditional Boats and compare the differences! A similar format to May - and hopefully there will be some basking sharks and even the odd whale or dolphin at this time of the season.

Laxey next, again we hit Regatta day, it's not malice on my part, just the way the tides are timed - no use getting to Laxey at low tide! Once again, bring your own chuck, or chance the cafés/pubs.

Lastly, I hope to arrange a run to Strangford late in the season - if it comes to fruition it should be an over-nighter, but more details nearer the time.

Best wishes & Happy boating,

Dermot Shimmin

CRUISERS

The IoMYC Cruiser section will be enjoying another relaxed programme of low intensity races and social cruises throughout the summer. There are a number of pursuit races planned for Saturdays mornings and Wednesday evenings, although the key Island regattas are included as an option for those with more serious intentions. There are also a couple of off-Island Cruises scheduled to take advantage of the longer weekends scattered across the season.

The emphasis is on friendly competition and fun - with the main aim of providing a reason to just 'get out there' and enjoy the wonderful waters around our Island.

If anyone would like to join us, no previous experience or long term commitment required, just e-mail me at mike.stanton@manx.net and I will put you in touch with one of the skippers.

Mike Stanton

Motorboat/Rib Section

The programme is based locally this year, partly to encourage boaters to take part in Club events, in this our centenary year and partly because of the diabolical seasons we have had lately which have reduced the distance events to virtually nil. Quite understandably, few people are prepared to book accommodation or marina berths two or three weeks ahead when there is a fifty percent or worse chance that the event will be called-off at the last minute.

Dinghy Section

Well, for once we've had a real winter, the type we may remember from our childhood - at least those of us old enough to have found that our broad minds and narrow waists have changed places will recall, anyway. I'm told it will have done the garden some good, killing off all the bugs and pests and creating good conditions for growing plants both decorative and edible. Time will tell if this forecast is accurate.

It certainly hasn't helped the boat maintenance programme. On the few weekends where it has been reasonable to contemplate driving down to the Y.C., it has still been bitterly chilly on the extremities and not at all conducive to fiddling with small nuts, bolts, spring clips etc. As a result the cover hasn't been off the old tub since September. Goodness only knows what horrors lie in wait beneath that grubby sheet of canvas.

And the sailing season is not that far away now. As I write it's only a few short weeks to Ramsey's Easter regatta, and that first tentative dipping of the toes in the chill waters of the north of the Island. Soon after that we will be into our own dinghy race programme. We are sticking to the same format as last year, with club races on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. The Fridays were surprisingly popular last year, and hopefully will be so again, this time. It's a good way to start the weekend, especially for those of us in the 9 to 5 work routine. We will again be assimilating the training section into our races as the youngsters are developing so well, and it must be very satisfying for the training personnel

to see their efforts bearing fruit. I must mention the skill that Pete Hinds brings to setting courses that offer the old sea dogs a challenge while also being sympathetic to the needs of the less experienced sailors. He makes it look easy, but it certainly isn't and it is thanks to him, and also to the volunteers in the crash boats that we have such an enjoyable dinghy racing scene.

This year, we will be hosting the National 18 foot Championship, an event that is always good for the coffers and for the club atmosphere, as everyone pulls together to make it a success. In the Club's centenary year, this will be a truly special event. I believe that Russell Collister is again to be RO, so we can expect some demanding courses and a true test of boat handling, to say nothing of boat preparation.

It will be interesting to see how many opt to invest in the now legal carbon fibre masts after so many years of arguing over their relative merits and costs. In my own case I have needed a new mast for years as the old one has more holes than a ton of Dutch cheese, so the rule change was well timed. I hope to have the new mast by mid-June, giving me time to get used to it before the main event at the end of July. I doubt it will actually make any difference to my performances, but hopefully the investment will have the effect of making me try harder.

Anyone interested in 8 metres of aluminium tube with lots of randomly placed holes?

Peter Barlow Dinghy Captain

2010 Special Sailing Events

The club is running the usual sailing programme, dinghies Fridays and Sundays, cruisers trying out a few more pursuit races and RIBs raiding local regattas and trying out a sea treasure-hunt. The dinghy training "quarter" runs from late April to mid July.

On top of all that, special events include the RS Tera open regatta in April, The Hamblin Round Mann at the end of May, the club Centenary Regatta in June, the IOM Junior championship Tynwald weekend and the IOMA National 18' Class championship last week of July.

We hope that lots of boats will support their appropriate regattas - especially the Club Regatta at the end of TT Week.

We are extremely grateful to our regular major sponsors, Frank Newton of Hamblin (Round Mann) and Nigel Wood of IOMA (National 18's) for their fantastic support for our biggest events. This year we have also benefited from the generous support of Rushen Rotary Club, which has replaced all the buoyancy aids for the training section.

Thank you all very much indeed, it really is heartening for the club to have such solid support.

Mick Kneale Commodore

