
Isle of Man Yacht Club
MAINSHEET

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

Number 57

APRIL 2011

Commodore

This time last year we were looking forward to the club centenary. I did intend to produce a brief club history but events conspired to shift this plan to the back burner. I will get around to it one of these days and we'll put it up on the club website.

For many sailors at this time of year, preparing and repairing boats is top priority. The club hasn't replaced any boats this winter but maintaining our 22-boat fleet never ends, along with the trailers, trolleys and four outboards. It all takes time, money and effort to keep everything in proper order. The training section and dinghy racers need reliable equipment, ready at all times to match the huge voluntary effort put in by so many instructors, assistants, safety-boat drivers and parents.

The centenary year went very well but, even with the visit of the National 18's in July, the club made a financial loss in the year ending last August. This situation continues and we

are dipping into our cash reserves. Not only is bar trade slow but we have had fewer "outside" functions recently, which had previously redressed the trading balance somewhat.

We have also spent a lot on building repairs along with a couple of "nice-to-haves" that have been talked about for years. The splendid trophy cabinet was a long time coming, the cruiser mast-racks in the boat-park tidy the place up considerably and, the new TV released much garage space (the old one was the size of a Smart car). Some areas of the building are still a bit frayed round the edges, so replacement carpets and re-decoration will continue. Now that the possibility of a PSM marina is currently in the very long grass, we do need to look after our clubhouse, looks like we'll be in it for another generation anyway.

The club is fortunate to have so many willing hands to make the training, racing, building and bar work properly. Your time and effort are much appreciated. However, what I would like to see is more sailors getting involved in club "management". We are presently operating without a Vice-Commodore and without a Sailing Secretary. This means that the serving officers are shouldering rather more than their fair share of the load and it also makes the "succession" very difficult. My other plea is for members to please use the club bar through the winter. The regular functions and parties are well attended, thanks to the efforts of the social committee but a lot more support is needed if we are to just break even.

My thanks go to Mike Stanton, Pete Barlow, Wendy Hill and Jan Sidebotham who have covered the nitty-gritty in their section reports but there's always more skeet

Russell Collister tells me he has taken delivery of a Mach 2 foiling Moth. For those of us not in the know, this is tiny single-handed sailing machine, which sails at incredible speeds on a foil on the bottom of the dagger-board. Has to be seen to be believed. It weighs in at just 28 kgs (the weight of one of our 25 litre fuel tanks when full) all up - amazing what you can make out of carbon these days. Should be fun with an offshore breeze but, I don't think the swell at the back of the breakwater in a strong southerly will be too kind!

The RS Tera Open regatta has been generously sponsored by APPLEBY. We expect 16 local Teras plus some visitors to take part over the "Royal Wedding" weekend. A month later the HAMBLIN ROUND MANN race is scheduled and we hope for a decent entry again. The Manx Youth Sailing Squad has a busy schedule of regattas and training and we wish them every success. However, the kids have given themselves some hard targets with James Kelly and Hannah Howitt winning the Worlds last year.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who puts him/herself out to help the club in any way. Each contribution is valued and remembered. Please do come along and ask for a job - the pay is rubbish and the hours unpredictable. The sailing is good, of course, that's what we're here for but the club needs to pay its way and the simplest thing you can do is to join in socially. We're not too bad at darts either.

Mick Kneale - Commodore

TRAINING

We have planned all our courses for the coming season, which starts with the race training group on Tuesday April 26th. The parent's evening is on the same evening at 7.30. We expect all the courses will be fully subscribed. I thank our secretary, Helen Moulden and, we are very fortunate that most of our instructors are willing to teach again and give so freely of their time. The club really appreciates all your efforts.

MYA is holding a RYA dinghy instructor course in April, after which we will welcome them onto the water. John Dowling, our chief instructor, is also running an assistant instructor course in April. Anyone interested, please contact me as soon as possible.

Our VHF/DSC instructors, Mark Pendlebury and Dermot Shimmin, have held two successful courses this winter and may run another if enough candidates are available in the next few weeks, so please register your interest with me. Dermot also ran a diesel-engine course and we are taking names for the next one in the autumn. Please get in touch. Another first aid course is scheduled for Saturday 16th April, run again by Steve Upsdell. Anyone interested in any of these courses, please email me immediately on wendyhill@manx.net. Once again, thanks to all instructors for giving up your time.

The RYA dayskipper course run by Rodger Clague was completed and we congratulate all the successful candidates.

We look forward to seeing them out on the water practising their new-found knowledge!! Thank you again , Rodger, for another brilliant winter course.

We are planning a safety-boat course over 9th/10th April. Thanks to chief powerboat instructor Phil Adams and assistants for this course. Anyone interested in learning to Powerboat please contact me as we will also be running a level-2 course in the near future. We need more drivers, so please volunteer your services.

Another change this year will be a new safety-boat rota officer. I thank Ben Hellowell, who did a brilliant job but, due to schoolwork pressures, he is unable to continue this year. I now thank Karen Sharpe, who stepped in last winter and has agreed to continue for the season. Please make her job easier - look out for her emails and offer your services.

The Manx Youth Sailing Squad has been busy training throughout the cold winter months and we thank everyone involved both on and off the water in this highly successful group. We look forward to watching their progress through 2011. Come on kids, keep sailing, all MYSS members are also IOMYC juniors, so keep going, trainees, this a goal for you all.

I conclude by thanking our hard working Principal, Brian Partington, who does so much work behind the scenes, secretary Helen Moulden and chief instructor, John Dowling who are all working hard to achieve a successful season.

Wendy Hill - Training

Diary Dates

Tue 26	April	Parents' evening 7.30pm
Tue 26	April	Training begins
Sat 30	April	APPLEBY RS Tera Open
Sun 1	May	APPLEBY RS Tera Open
Sun 29	May	Hamblin Round Mann Race
18-19	June	IOMYC Regatta
25-26	June	IOM Youth Championship
Sat 3	Sept	Pico Challenge (Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen)
Sat 1	Oct	Junior Prize Presentation

The Topper Challenge, which takes place at Mooragh Park, will be held at the end of October. This is a team-racing event between IOMYC, MSCC, KWC, 7th Wave Sailing Centre and the Venture Centre.

Cruisers

As I write, there is a definite feeling that spring and the new sailing season is in the air. Those of us that have to lift-out during the winter are emerging from hibernation and taking a few wary steps towards the boat-park and the challenges that lie within. This is when you suddenly remember all those good intentions from last October and realize just how few non-working, daylight hours remain before lift-in. However, by fair means or foul, or by conveniently overlooking

the more onerous jobs, we always manage to be ready just in time for the crane.

Once again, there is a varied programme for the cruiser section that will hopefully entice skippers and crew onto the water and make all that investment in time and money worthwhile. As usual, the emphasis is on fun and friendly competition with the popular 'pursuit' format maintained for most races. In addition, we have the bonus of an extra bank holiday, which hopefully means that on at least one of the long weekends, tides, conditions and social calendars will combine to allow us to cruise together to distant shores. Included in the schedule are the regattas of kindred clubs, which have usually been well attended by IOMYC cruisers. Our programme will be sent to Peel, Douglas Bay and Castletown YC in the hope of stimulating some reciprocity.

In the round-up of last season, I promised to re-ignite the "crew open day" which regrettably had to be cancelled last year due to lack of support. This year, we are going to coincide the event with the first day of our club regatta on Saturday 18th June. The regatta will consist of low intensity pursuit racing with a great opportunity for socialising over a beer after the race. For those that haven't tried sailing on a cruiser, it's really good, safe fun and there simply isn't a better way to experience the beautiful coastline around our Island. There is no need for previous experience or regular commitment, just e-mail me to register your interest.

Mike Stanton

email mike.stanton@manx.net

Dinghies

It may have been a long and chilly winter, cold enough to confound the direst predictions of the global warming theorists but, at least, the worst is over and we can look forward to the new sailing season at last. With Easter being towards the end of April this year, the traditional season opener at Ramsey should hopefully be undertaken in pleasant, balmy conditions, conducive to sampling the apres race refreshments back at the clubhouse. Sadly, in the British climate, even a late Easter is no guarantee of good sailing conditions but it does have the benefit of leading us almost seamlessly into the club racing.

I'm led to believe that a number of our excellent crop of youth sailors will be graduating into Radials this season, a step that can only be encouraging for them. It must be difficult remembering that you're racing, when RS400's, 200's and National 18's keep lapping you, but somehow these gritty youngsters keep their concentration and, on occasion, pick up a result or two. Sailing Radials, their close encounters with the larger boats in the fleet will not be quite so daunting and they most certainly will develop and improve further.

Some predictions for the season aren't difficult. Russell and June Collister along with Mick Kneale and crew will be damnably difficult to beat but hopefully Antony Ellis will be entering the fray to give them a run for their money. Dave Batchelor and Mike Pridham will also be there or thereabouts, constantly turning in good performances. I'm sometimes asked if it gets boring when the same few dominate the scene but we need such people setting high standards for the rest

of us to aspire to. On the odd occasion when a result is achieved in such company, the feel good factor is immeasurable.

Our wondrous Isle of Man Steam Packet Company is making life awkward for the National 18's to attend the National Championship at Cork this year. The sailing schedules mean that IOM entrants need to be away for 11 nights, making it expensive in time as well as money. Factor in the damage an extra 4 nights of Guinness quaffing can do to the liver (and believe me, I'm not mentally strong enough to resist the temptation of the Nigerian lager and excellent Southern Irish hospitality), and I've reluctantly reached the decision not to enter this year.

As I write this, Pete Hinds is still awaiting his knee operation. He is understandably very frustrated at the delays for various reasons, that he has had to suffer and, it is to be hoped that by the time you get to read this, he will at the very least have a definite date for his op. He has intimated that he would like to continue as race officer for the season and I'm sure I speak for us all when I say that he is most welcome to do so but, we all need to be aware that we may have to undertake the RO duties ourselves until his full virility is resumed.

You never know, a fully active PJ might even take up dinghy racing himself. I'm sure the club can find a spare Tera for him

Peter Barlow - Dinghy Captain

Social

It only seems five minutes since the autumn report and here we go again! A New Year and better weather, which is more than can be said for the close of 2010 ! It certainly did its best to curtail the Christmas events. However, the only one we had to re-schedule was the Boxing Day Treasure Hunt.

Looking at previous reports reminded me of the social events we host from visiting clubs that have now become a regular part of the calendar, Castletown & Derbyhaven Barbeque, the Irish Rib Raid just to name a couple. These would not happen if we could not extend such a warm and hospitable welcome, so thank you to those members and volunteers whose help makes these visits such a success.

Straight after Laying-Up supper we got stuck into organising the remaining events of the year, all of which are eagerly anticipated and tell us that Christmas is quickly drawing near.

The Annual Dinner was well attended and a great time was had by all. This was shortly followed by the Commodores' Christmas lunch, which was again a fully subscribed, happy and jolly event. Thank you to all who helped in putting on a lovely meal. Unfortunately, from thereon , the weather turned against us, the Quiz and Carols night went ahead but with greatly reduced numbers. So, a special thank you to Ann and Phil Scott and all who made the effort to come to the club and take part. The postponed Treasure Hunt went ahead on a blustery Sunday 23rd January 2011: James and Lucy checked

their route and clues and Phil notified all members. The course saw several cars winding up and down roads encompassing Fistard, the Sound (a long, windy search there!) down to Port Erin, returning on the back roads to partake of a hot lunch. Thank you to all who took part and those who helped in making it a great success. Speaking of success, it was team Wendy and David Hill, with Anne Scott, plus moi who cracked the 'Hunt' on this occasion! Some thought is being given to moving the Treasure Hunt into the New Year, as there are several other events in the port on a Boxing Day - and January being generally a flat month, this would give us all something to look forward to.

In February, we held the annual curry night. Our thanks go to Mike Quirk and Mark and Moira Pendlebury for their hard work in making this such a hot event.

The annual inter-club darts competitions were held at each club in turn, with Douglas retaining their grip on the paddle. Our select band of darts throwers did well to come second overall.

You may have noted the e-mail of events scheduled to take place over the next couple of months starting on 13th April with Nigel Wood's talk on Odin's Raven Voyage. It is proposed to update this events e-mail through the year but the major events are in the club programme anyway. I close by thanking you all who have appeared for your support and look forward to seeing more of our members through the coming year.

Happy "ribbing" and sailing

Jan Sidebotham

ARE YOU PLANNING FOR
A
BIT OF A 'DO' ?

Birthday ?
Wedding ?
Christening ?
Barmitzvah ?
Anniversary ?
Award Ceremony ?
Coming of Age Party ?
A Right Royal Knees-Up ?

Then please remember, the Clubroom is for hire.

A COMFORTABLE VENUE WITH D.I.Y. KITCHEN

HARBOUR VIEWS

LICENSED BAR BY ARRANGEMENT

OUR CLUB BENEFITS !

(AND YOU WILL NOT BE BORROWING CHAIRS FROM THE NEIGHBOURS!)

Please contact Fiona, at the bar