

Social Events for your Diary

Friday March 2nd -----Fish and Chip supper and Social Darts

(Book at the bar.)

Saturday Mar 3rd ----- Inter-club darts at Douglas Bay YC

(Please contact Wendy if you can take part)

Friday March 16th ----- David Kneale: Trans-Siberian rail trip

Sunday April 15th -----Victorian Breakfast

(1st table 12.45)

Sat April 28th ----- Fitting-out Supper

Editorial

A goodly few seasons ago, when I informed a friend that I had asked to be accepted as a member for IOMYC, he said that I might then be better placed to achieve a certain item which should be on my 'Bucket List' (i.e. 'things essential to do before kicking the aforesaid receptacle').

His suggestion eluded me for years, but this late January, I was to hear, at last, our very own Mr Kneale (Senior) on the Fiddle! With his daughter, Jen, and friends, we were treated to performances on violin, guitars, chromatic accordion, bodrum, concertina, penny whistles, as well as the larger five bob variety - a veritable cornucopia of musicality!

Many thanks to Michael and the Band - good to know that they will be back!

Best wishes to all for fair winds, good sailing and a safe harbour at the end.

Bob Hunt **Editor**

Isle of Man Yacht Club

MAINSHEET

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Commodore

A well advertised but failed barbecue summer, followed by a howling winter are not great inspirations to start preparing for another sailing season. As I write this the outside temperature is two degrees with low cloud, but by the time you read it hopefully the sun will return, and weekends that are designated for boat preparation will as usual be spent in the boat park discussing what we intend to do. Eventually panic will set in and a haze of antifouling paint will adorn the boat park.

(Lift in dates 5th & 25th April, application from the website)

The dinghy sailors have been braving the winter at Injebrek so hopefully timely maintenance should be all that is necessary to be ready for the summer.

Ribs will no doubt require some "I" to harden them up and possibly an oil change.

The dinghies section as usual have a very full programme of racing. The motor boat/rib section has been well supplied by Dermot Shimmin with interesting away days, and Mike Stanton has organised the cruiser racing dates.

At a recent Ceremony in London, the Royal Yachting Association honoured Russell Armstrong (IOMYC President) with the Community Award for Outstanding Contribution, and Michael Kneale (IOMYC Rear Commodore) with the Community Award for Lifetime Commitment. They received their awards from The Princess Royal, Princess Anne. Russell and Lynne had the honour of dining at the Princess Royal's table prior to the ceremony. Our congratulations go to both Mick and Russell.

The Training section have a busy programme. Thanks go to Wendy Hill and her team of instructors and I wish them a successful season. Whilst most of the training is for Juniors, this year we hope to run a course for adults as beginners or returning sailors.

A number of successful social events have been enjoyed by many of you over the winter - many thanks go to Jan Sidebotham and her committee. Watch this space for more!

By now the Photo web site should be filling up and some pictures will be migrating to the club house walls. Many thanks to Mike Newby for setting it up and to our Photo site sponsors Simcocks Advocates. Please upload any interesting and relevant photos to the web site where they will be censored and made available for viewing. Photos of club events and members sailing at other events are especially welcome.

The new Club Website will be up and running soon. Thanks to Nick Woolard for setting up and running the previous website. Nick has agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary. Please assist him by paying promptly! (Remember the club membership year is September to August-NOT January!). June Collister has kindly volunteered

success. An impromptu party on Friday 23rd December when members each brought a plate of food to share, turned out to be good fun.

The mid-January treasure hunt again proved a great success when seven teams set off on a bright and crisp Sunday morning. Richard and Helen Gyselynck with Ross and Cathie Miller were the victors. Again, the prize is to set the next one!

Recently we've held a quiz night for teams of 4, followed by a light supper attracting a goodly number of members. Wendy and quizmaster David Hill set the questions and a lot of banter and barracking created a fun, gently competitive atmosphere. The winners on this particular evening Styles/Cave quartet - keen to the end. We will be asking for a volunteers to run another quiz, so please do consider it and give me a call. Thanks go to David and Wendy and to Cathie Ashurst for preparing the supper.

Late January, we enjoyed a Sunday lunchtime diddly-music session with Mick Kneale and friends, which created a nice atmosphere and it was lovely to see so many people. The musicians will return from time to time, so keep an eye on the advertising.

A lot of time and effort goes into organising and preparing club events. So, I take this opportunity to thank all the people, committee members, partners and friends who help throughout the year, for their unstinting support and hard work. Also, thank you to all members and their friends who support our efforts, it really is greatly appreciated.

Jan Sidebotham

normally out most weekends or Thursday evenings through the season, so contact me at : mike.stanton@manx.net or 472488 and give it a try.

A concept that showed promise last year was combining cruiser races with corporate team days. On a number of occasions employees from local organisations made up crews for IOMYC boats during races, as part of a team-building exercise. These proved highly successful for all concerned, so if any member is part of an organisation with an active sports and social club and feels it would be of interest, please contact me to find out more.

Mike Stanton

Social

My previous report ended advertising the 2011 annual dinner and I'm glad to say it was a success and was well attended. The Empress does a great job but due to the near-impossible parking and the rising costs, we have decided to consider the Mount Murray hotel and it's been agreed that the 2012 dinner will take place there.

The carol service and quiz night started our Christmas season with about 50 members and friends participating. The quiz winners were the Hinds/Williams-Jones team, who will now have to set next year's! Everyone was in really good voice for the carols and the excellent Rushen Silver band has kindly agreed to play for us again this year.

Two days later, it was Phil Scott's Commodore's lunch. 37 members enjoyed an excellent three-course meal. Many thanks go to Ann and Phil, Lynne and Russell, Helen and Wendy for all their hard work in making this event such a great

to design, and run the new website where you will find links to the Photo web site, application forms (membership, boat lift, club house hire, etc). Also there will be race results and the social programme, amongst a host of other things.

By now I hope you have registered with Easyfunding.org and used it to make your purchases online. This will bring a small but needed income to the club and will cost you nothing in time or extra expense.

As always we need to stress that all our activities can only happen with the aid of volunteers from the membership, so please step forward to help in whatever capacity you can. It is your Club.

Fiona Pitt (and her quiet assistant Tony!!) continue to tend the beer pumps and tonic bottles for the benefit of you all. Friday night is social night, come and join in.

More and more of the Club news, social events, race results and information will be coming to you electronically via the website and via e-mail. To ensure that you don't miss out we need an up to date e-mail address for you.

The club programme has contact numbers and e-mails for the officers and committees and the planned activities for the season ahead. If you have any comments or ideas please do not hesitate to contact us.

As membership secretary for the last 6 years I probably know all the names of club members but not necessarily the faces to match. Please come and talk to me.

Finally, I wish you all fair winds and good sailing.

Philip Scott Commodore

President's Remarks

The last time the Club had a President was the year before I joined IOMYC i.e. 1996. This is a great honour & makes me very proud, thank you very much for my appointment. However this also means that I have no precedent for ideas of what to write in President's Remarks.

My understanding of the position of President is a person who presides over usually the Club/Society AGM but IOMYC specifically in its Articles of Association, states that "At all general meetings, the chair shall be taken by the senior flag officer present, or if no flag officer be present, by some director chosen by the meeting". That nicely gets me out of that one. It looks therefore as if I will have to put my own interpretation of the post.

I feel the post is there to help and support our Commodore, Phil, and the Directors, and this I will do to the best of my ability. I believe this means, as with all Directors & in fact all members, that I should attend the Club as often as possible - that way supporting the Club in general not least the bar takings. Lynne & I attend as many Friday evenings & Sunday lunches as possible, but it would be nice to see a few more members coming along to join in. The Club would benefit and who knows, you might have a good time & enjoy the craic.

I am pleased to see we have had and have already booked a number of private parties, which are a great boost to Club funds but please don't stay away, if these happen to be on a Friday as members are always welcome either in the main bar if the function is a small one, or if not then the Harbour Lounge will be open.

I have agreed with the DOI the price for the moorings,

opportunity for practice.

Our dinghy race-officer, Pete Hinds, has been helping the MSCC organise races on Injebreck over the winter. We are very lucky to have such a talented willing volunteer running races to the highest standard. Many thanks, Pete.

A full list of motorboat/RIB trips is programmed. These are extremely weather dependent, so keep in close touch with Dermot Shimmin in the days before.

The club continues to invest in equipment. Late last year we replaced one of the RIB trailers and recently the outboard motor on the venerable Yellow Peril. Did you know that we bought the Peril second-hand from Derbyhaven in 1967 for £160 ? - mind you, a quid then was worth about ten quid now. The grand old lady still serves us well and has even been rebuilt three times after shipwreck!

See you on the water

Mick Kneale Sailing Secretary

Cruisers/Keelboats

Welcome to the 2012 sailing season. Thanks to the previous support of skippers and crews, the cruiser section is becoming increasingly active. We now have even more boats participating in a busy and varied schedule for the forthcoming season. However we always welcome more crew, so I take this opportunity to invite all members to join in the fun and try crewing on a cruiser this year. The emphasis is on fun, so there is no need for previous experience or regular commitment. You will see from the programme that we are

Mann race, which this year is scheduled for the beginning of TT week.

The 2012 club sailing programme is ambitious, with a full list of events for cruisers/keelboats, motorboats and dinghies. The experiment in recent years of trying to cobble together cruiser races at short notice has proved rather ineffective. Perhaps a proper programme will help skippers to keep regular crew and, although losing the occasional race through poor weather maybe we'll still keep the momentum.

Antony Ellis has volunteered to step in as dinghy captain (again!). I understand he now has added a classic Contender to his racing stable, although how he is going to find the time to sail the National 18' and the Flying Fifteen as well is a mystery. Antony and Pete Barlow will be taking their 18's to Findhorn for their Nationals at the end of July. No doubt there will be other travellers to UK and other events. Indeed Mike Pridham has just been to Melbourne for the Laser Masters' - now that's travelling!

Angus Jolly is moving his RS600 down to PSM for the summer, so the crash boats will have someone to look out for. No, really - Angus is great sailor, a former IOM dinghy champion and quite capable of looking after himself. Still, the presence of our volunteer RIB drivers at all dinghy and training events is very reassuring. We thank all safety boat drivers and crew for their efforts to keep us sailors safe.

We are hosting two Laser training weekends for the MYSS, so our juniors will benefit from expert coaching in this very competitive class. The Island Games team needs new blood and we all know it takes a huge commitment to master a Laser. Two club race sessions a week gives plenty of

installing, & removing next year. This will remain the same cost as last year, providing we get a minimum take up of 6.

Let's hope for better weather this season.

Good boating.

Russell Armstrong President

Training

We are now busy planning our courses for the coming Training season which starts on Tuesday April 24th. The Parent's Night is on Wednesday April 18th starting at 7.30.

I thank Helen Moulden who has agreed to continue as secretary and she is now sending out all the registration forms. We have places available so please register your interest with Helen at iomyctraining@googlemail.com

We are very fortunate that some of our instructors are willing to teach again and that they give so freely of their time. We welcome back Breeshey Harkin and Christopher Hill. We say a big thank you to Andy Green who is taking a year off from training but will be back, he promises!

John Dowling, our Chief Instructor is running an Assistant Instructor Course in April. Anyone interested please contact me as soon as possible.

We are hoping to arrange an Adult Course of two days, for beginners. This would take place over two weekends. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you.

Our VHF/DSC Instructors Mark Pendlebury and Dermot Shimmin have held one very successful course this winter and may run another in the next few weeks so please register your

interest with me. The Diesel Engine Course has been run by Dermot Shimmin and we are taking names for the next one in the autumn. Please contact myself or Dermot. Another First Aid Courses is being held on Saturday March 31st run by Steve Upsdell. Anyone interested in any of these courses please email me to record your interest. Once again, thanks to all the Instructors for giving up their time. The club couldn't do it without them.

The RYA Day Skipper course run by Rodger Clague is nearing completion and we wish all the candidates success. 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 Powerboat Course on Saturday April 21st / April 22nd. Chief Instructor Phil Adams will be needing other instructors to help him with this course. Anyone interested in learning to Powerboat please contact me if you wish to book a place. We need more drivers so please volunteer 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 with this highly successful group. We look forward to hearing their progress throughout the season. Come on kids, keep sailing: all the members are IOMYC juniors so keep going, trainees - this a goal for you all.

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

Diary Dates

April 18 at 7-30-----Parent's Evening
April 24th-----Training begins
May 6th/7th-----R S Tera Open
June 23rd/24th-----IOM Youth Championships
July 20th-----Training ends
Sept 8th-----Pico Challenge
Sept 29th-----Junior Prize Presentation
Oct 28th-----Topper Challenge

I finish by thanking my hard working team, especially Principal, Brian Partington, Secretary Helen Moulden and Chief Instructor, John Dowling who all keenly anticipate a successful season.

Wendy Hill Training Chairman. wendyhill@manx.net

Sailing Secretary

We look forward to the summer season, as always, in the hope that the sun will shine, there will be perfect sailing breezes, no breakages and everything will go exactly to plan. In the real world however, we know that for many days it will rain, or there will be no wind, too much wind, or we will have seas like the Himalayas round Scarlett.

We are very grateful to our event sponsors for their continued support - APPLEBY for the RS Tera open regatta over the early May bank holiday and CADOGAN for the Round