
Isle of Man Yacht Club
MAINSHEET

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Commodore

Greetings to all members, sailors and non-sailors alike. I'm Chris, your new Commodore, and I have the pleasure in addressing you through Mainsheet for the first time. I feel like a little boy again, at school with the task of writing an essay "What I did in the school holidays".

At the December AGM, one of Phil's last acts as Commodore was to nominate Ken Orry and Russell Armstrong as Honorary Life Members, in recognition of their long standing commitment to sailing and to the club. Needless to say, both nominations were agreed unanimously. Each is a past Commodore, Ken from 1986 to 1988 and Russell from 2011 to 2014. Russell also held the post of club President until recently.

Looking at the Social report, I can see where the extra pounds around my waist have come from - mind you, PJ won't complain when I'm sat out on the weather rail of his First Class 8 - and nor will I if he fulfils his promise to put some foam padding on the toe rail.

We certainly took a bit of a battering in January and February but luckily there was no major damage to any of the boats. The boat park was flooded twice, leaving behind a significant amount of seaweed and stones. The D.o.I. is responsible for the general area between boat spaces but individuals are responsible for their own plot. Please clean them up as soon as possible after any storm, as an untidy boat park reflects badly on the club.

Spring is just around the corner, as is lift in and, of course, your boats are all ready except for the anti-fouling. As you are all Elf & Safety conscious, you'll be wearing those handy disposable vinyl gloves to protect your hands from the nasty paint, but what about your fine head of hair, or not in some cases? Well, this month, in one of the yachting monthlies there's a photo of a chap with the perfect answer - the disposable shower cap. So, take your loved one away for a weekend to the Lake District, London or wherever and nick all the freebies out of the hotel bathroom but this time, take the shower cap as well. I'll buy a drink for the first person I see wearing one.

Looking forward to the sailing season, your sailing committee has put together another excellent programme of racing for dinghies and keelboats. As usual, we must hope and pray for good sailing weather. To this end I've recruited Kirsty Pendlebury, one of the duty Met Officers at Ronaldsway. I'll be asking her to restrict her forecasts of gales and rain to those days when there isn't any sailing planned, which is basically from October to March. Thank you Kirsty.

Do you have friends or family who would like to try out sailing but don't know how to start? If so, please encourage them to come down to the club at lunchtime on Sunday 13th April, for an informal chat to see

what we can do for them. This will be followed by a 'Try-a-Sail' on Sunday 8th June, when we hope to offer dinghy, keelboat or cruiser experience.

We are always looking at ways to raise funds and to find ways to economise so that David, our treasurer, doesn't lose any more hair. There are a few ideas in the pipeline and you'll be kept informed. Let me reiterate the excellent idea that Phil instigated a year or so back, which is to use Easyfundraising, where many of the large internet traders donate a small percentage of what you spend on line to the club. Please go to the site and have a look. It's easy to use and you just have to remember to use it, but even this has been sorted, as there's a widget you can download that highlights a participating company when you Google a product. If you have any other ideas please let us know.

If you go away to partake in a regatta this year or in fact any year, don't think locals always have the advantage of local knowledge. I was on a friend's yacht last year in Cowes, when we needed to recruit quite a few crew. As you'd expect, in a place like Cowes we soon had a bunch of volunteers, all experienced owner/sailors in all types of boats and some were members of The Royal Yacht Squadron, Royal Corinthian and RORC. Just before the first race we, the two owners and myself who had never raced at Cowes, thought we would do well with this august crew. For those of you who don't know the Solent - if starting on the Royal Yacht Squadron line with a westerly wind and flood tide, local knowledge dictates you short tack close inshore down the coast to keep out of the strong flood tide. Within 5 minutes of the start gun we hit a rock and a couple of minutes later bounced off another - no damage done but a lot of time was lost. Then, half way through the race, we

were hard and dry on a ledge with a rapidly falling tide! All down to the 'local knowledge' of the tactician and navigator! Luckily, a local who did know what he was doing saved us - he was passing in a motor boat and towed us off. I wonder if the Royal Yacht Squadron has the equivalent of our hotly contended Rock Hopper Trophy?

My predecessor Phil, promised me it would all be plain sailing for the next two years as I would have a very strong team of flag officers, directors, various committee members and volunteers who would guide and assist me. This has turned out to be very true. However, we are always looking for more volunteers, so if you'd like to get involved in the running of the club in any way, from assisting in training to touching up the paintwork, please contact me or any of the directors.

Well that's it for this edition. The next Mainsheet will be in November, when we can look back on all the fun we've had out on the water. I hope you have an enjoyable sailing season in whatever form it takes.

"It is a fair wind that blew men to the ale"

Washington Irving 1783-1859 (American Author & Diplomat)

Chris Williams-Jones

Training

Courses are planned for the coming season, which starts on Monday 28th April. The parent's night is on Thursday 10th April starting

at 7.30pm. We do have places available so please register your interest with Sue Shute at: loamyctraining@googlemail.com

We are happy that most of our instructors are willing to teach again and give so freely of their time. We welcome back Tom Howitt, Alison Hinds and Mike Newby to the team and congratulate Christopher Hill on passing his Senior Instructor ticket. We look forward to James Kelly and Arnie Shute gaining experience as newly qualified instructors.

We hope to arrange two adult courses, one for beginners and one for stage 2, which will be held over 2 separate weekends in May. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you.

Our VHF/DSC instructors Mark Pendlebury and Dermot Shimmin ran two successful courses this winter and may run another soon if anyone is interested. Please register your interest with me. Dermot Shimmin has run a diesel engine course and we are taking names for the next one in the autumn. Please contact Dermot Shimmin or myself. Another first-aid course is being held on Saturday 29th March, again run again by Steve Upsdell. If anyone is interested in any of these courses please email me at: wendyhill@manx.net. Once again, thanks to all the instructors for giving up your time. The club couldn't do it without you all.

We plan a powerboat course on 5th-6th April and Chief Instructor Phil Adams will be needing other instructors to help him. Anyone interested in learning to powerboat please contact me.

We need more drivers, so please volunteer your services. We thank Ben Hellowell our safety boat co-ordinator, who is keen to hear from anyone who would like to put their name for the rota.

Sailing Secretary

Club sailors haven't all been hiding from elements this windy winter. Mike Pridham finished an impressive third in the Laser Radial Grand Masters sailed at Oman in December. Our junior Feva/Tera squad has been away in England at coaching events and a couple of sessions with Jonathan Lewis were completed locally, between storms. A few hardy souls have sailed at Injebreck in the winter series run by MSCC. Our efforts to get dinghy races in every Sunday up to Christmas were decimated by gales.

Dinghy racers have a busy programme this summer including: the Tera Euros in Holland and Nationals at Derwent Water and the Feva Nationals at Weymouth and Worlds at Carnac. The RS200s are going to their Nationals at Hayling Island and Euros Lake Garda. All this off-island dinghy activity leaves a good few Sunday mornings clear for the First Class 8s to do windward leewards using the Yellow Peril. The keelboats have two races a week scheduled; let's hope for decent weather!

We thank Baker Tilly, the Round Mann race sponsor this year. We will run this event using the RORC Limited Validity TCF - in effect, an IRC valid for the weekend only. Any yacht without an IRC certificate will have to apply to the RORC for a LV TCF. Cruiser Portsmouth yardsticks were abandoned by the RYA last year and we've chosen not to join in the NHC (National Handicap for Cruisers), which replaces it. This is because the NHC is in fact a "personal handicap system" which changes continuously and doesn't fit our one-design FC8 fleet. It also ignores variations from base trim. So, the fact that our FC8s all use a

small headsail for local racing isn't allowed for. Local TCFs based broadly on the NHC will be used this season and we will adjust numbers in the light of meaningful results.

We lost one of the big yellow dinghy race marks last season, so we've replaced all four with a slightly smaller version, which should store better in the Peril and make life easier for the RO. Dinghy Captain, Dave Batchelor will be producing a rota for RO duties. Plenty of volunteers will be needed for both RO and safety-boat duties, so please try to help. Ben Hellowell will be delighted to add new people to his RIB driver list.

Cruiser Captain, Mike Stanton is organising two "open invite" Sunday events to try to get more people involved. On 13 April there will be a lunchtime gathering in the bar and on 8 June, we will repeat the try-a-sail morning, which had some success last year.

See you on the water

Mick Kneale

First Class 8

With spring in the air and the winds below gale force for the first time since November, there are signs of activity in the FC8 fleet. Bar talk is starting to turn into action. A couple of rusty keels have come off to be checked, shot blasted and painted. Encouragingly, there is little, if any sign of wear and corrosion on the keels and bearings after nearly 20 years on these simple, tough little boats. So, for most it's a quick power wash, rub down, anti-foul and check the mooring, except for Jesticul8, which needs a new spreader bracket and stanchion due to

some clown (me!) not noticing a starboard tack boat on the last day of the season (sorry again, G8crasher!)

With luck, the temperature will cooperate this year. In 2013, we waited until the season got underway before it was warm enough to apply paint. So there is a benefit to all these southerly winds after all!

We have a good mix of buoys, windward leeward and coastal racing in the programme and maybe we can repeat last years achievements of Head First and Albert Penguin each winning a Round the Island race, with conditions at either end of the spectrum!

We are up to eight boats now - can we make it into double figures this year? If you know of anyone interested in either crewing or buying a boat please contact me on 452331. Donald Finlay is reluctantly selling his very well equipped boat, so that would be an easy local acquisition for a lucky new owner.

Please contact Donald on donf@marix.net

The fleet has this year purchased new mainsails. Prof O'Connell from North has agreed to come to the island in May to tune up the rigs and hopefully do a small coaching session. All sailors are encouraged to attend the Sunday lunchtime pre-season open invite on 13th April. The idea is recruit more crew and encourage new people into the sport.

Michael Wilson

Social

The decorations were all up and ready for our first Christmas event, the Commodore's Christmas Lunch on the 8th December. Chris was ably assisted by PJ and Jan, Cathie and Pauline in the kitchen.

This was 'fully booked' and everyone enjoyed an excellent meal. (Remember to book early for this year's event as numbers are limited).

A couple of weeks later our annual Carols and Quiz night was a very pleasant evening, well attended and ably supported by the superb Rushen Silver band. The mince pies and mulled wine were much appreciated by all and thanks go to Jan and Jeanne for doing the catering. The Partington team won the quiz. From this year onwards a team name will be drawn from a hat to set the next quiz.

Our First Class 8 boat owners along with their crews held a 'social games night' mid-January, which was a fun evening with darts, jenga, pool and carpet bowls. Refreshments were delicious pizzas organized by Cathie and many thanks go to her. The winning team was PJ's Headfirst. There is another one scheduled for later in the spring.

Mid-February was the Three Commodores Curry night - a resounding success and a sell out - unfortunately we had to turn people away. Chris, PJ and Cathie returned to their original format of quite a few years ago and many came back for 2nd and even 3rd helpings! A lot of hard work for the cooks but worth it!

One casualty of the events planned has been the Annual Treasure Hunt. Due to the atrocious winter weather it has had to be postponed. When a date was fixed in better weather, there were too few takers, so it's been put on hold. Thanks to Dermot and Nina for having done a super job at organizing the hunt (a walking one this time) and hopefully it will take place in the near future.

The Inter-Club Darts nights kicked off at the beginning of February with IOMYC hosting the first round. Teams visited from

Ramsey, Peel and Douglas. By the time you read this, the new holder of the much coveted Wooden Paddle will be known (as I write, Douglas looks favourite). These are always enjoyable evenings and provide an ideal opportunity to meet others in the sailing community.

Sunday lunches continue to be available throughout the year, thanks to the willing band of volunteers who come in to do this. If you have a couple of hours to spare on a Sunday, perhaps once every 3 months, then please offer your services. Many thanks go to all those who do help and also to Ann for organizing the rota.

Social events for your diary

Saturday 26th April	Fitting out supper - (book at the bar)
Saturday 4th October	Laying up supper - (book at the bar)
Saturday 8th November	Annual dinner at The Falcon's Nest
Sunday 7th December	Commodore's Christmas lunch
Friday 19th December	Christmas Carols and quiz

Do keep an eye out for e-mails and posters displayed at the club for functions and further details.

Finally, thank you to all those helpers who provide their invaluable support for our social functions – without them, these events would not happen.

Pam Williams-Jones

IOMYC Lottery Launch

We announce an exciting new effort exclusively for members. On the 1st June 2014 we will start a lottery, to which we invite all members. There are benefits all round, from winning prize money to helping fund the club. Please register your interest at the bar or email: sailing@iomyc.com or benhellowell@manx.net

No tickets will be issued until all money is received. For ease of administration, we will run this on a standing order basis with 12 months taken in advance for a monthly draw. £1 a month (£12 p.a.) is all it will cost with great prize money available.

Ben Hellowell

Editorial

A brand new season, an enthusiastic new Commodore, a new clear font for the mag – all that and a lottery too what's not to like! O.K., its unlikely we will be troubling the folk at EuroMillions a great deal but a win could help, just a little, with the purchase of Donald's boat, and in any event, the odds of winning (something!) should be much better! Your support will be much appreciated.

If any brave soul would be prepared to share an account of their maritime or landfall adventures here, in Mainsheet, would you please e-mail me at mainsheet_bob@yahoo.co.uk

Many thanks and happy sailing!

Bob Hunt