



Isle of Man Yacht Club

MAINSHEET

Lime Street, Port St Mary, Isle of Man

Number 65

March 2015

Commodore

Well that year went past quickly - the year since I first rambled on as Commodore.

By now, most of you "big-boat" sailors will be doing all the jobs to get your boats ready for the imminent lift in and the all too short sailing season. However, our intrepid dinghy sailors race and train all year round. The youth squad has already been across to England at least twice this year so far - what commitment from both them and their parents. You wouldn't find me getting up on a fearfully cold winter's Sunday morning to go and get even colder and wetter at Injebreck. I need at least 15 degrees C and, preferably, a maximum of 15kts of wind, sunshine and a sailboat that's not going to dump me in the water.

One important job that I hope you haven't overlooked is to service your lifejacket. I checked one of mine recently, convinced it was only a few years since last time but found the actuator 5 years past its expiry date and the CO2 capsule looking a bit rusty. I tested it by dunking it in a bucket of water - pleased to say it worked but there was a

definite delay. It's all refurbished now but time does fly by!

As usual, we've been competing for the inter-club darts trophy and it looks like we may finish second (or third!). It's not that we're not very good at darts; it's just that we don't get enough practice. With the exception of one or two, none of us will throw a dart between March and January. I have considered installing a dartboard at the top of the slipway, letting no-one launch until they've hit a double, or making it compulsory to hit the bull before you can buy a drink at the bar. It was then pointed out that these rules would also apply to me so I would never go sailing and never get a drink either.

About a year ago we started to talk about the club lottery. Very soon, I'll be sending out an email asking you to consider renewing your commitment to spend £1 per month and hopefully get a few more of our members to join in. Over £600 will have been paid out in prize money and club coffers swelled by an equal amount. Quite a few people have asked why I don't declare who's won; well the simple answer is so that the winner will only

get one begging letter - mine! This year, you'll have a little box to tick if you wish to remain anonymous (just like the real lottery).

Sadly, one of our past Commodores passed away in February. Ron Hook was a member for more than 40 years being a very enthusiastic sailor of many boats - as far as we can recall, these included a Leisure 17, National 18, Ruffian 23, GK 24 and latterly the GK29 Gamecock that he shared with Neil Crowe. He served on the board for many years and was Commodore from 1980 to 1982. Even when he gave up sailing, he put in many years service as race officer for the cruiser racing. He still managed to keep an interest in the club right up to the end, calling in for a pint shortly before Christmas. A true sailing character.

After the formal AGM in December, "any other business" raised a valid point for discussion - how to improve the club's profile and to increase our exposure not only to members but the general public? A committee was duly formed (see following contribution) and we now have a group of people willing to write press releases, put more information on Facebook and the club website. I attended the meetings but after an hour had to admit I had no idea what they were talking about - the jargon about websites and Facebook was all double Dutch to me! It does show though that fresh ideas are taken on board and put into action by

people enthusiastic about sailing and the club. You don't have to wait until the AGM to raise an idea that may be beneficial; you can e-mail me or one of the directors / flag officers and I promise it will be discussed either at the next relevant committee meeting and/or board meeting and you will receive an answer. It's your club; we are only here to run it on your behalf.

Have fun this season, on whatever you sail and do so safely.

Chris Williams-Jones

PR/Media

Market the club

The question was whether we do enough to market the club and what we have to offer? The answer is no. So in January, a small team met to consider the possibilities available these days. The club has great potential, which today's members need to secure for future generations.

Achieving this will take more than the occasional ad in the local paper. We need to really promote the activities on offer, generate new interest in sailing and even encourage existing members to make more year round use of our under-utilised facilities. This year's sailing programme includes two "fun sail days" to encourage the less experienced to get involved (Sunday 17 May and Sunday 7

June). These will in effect be a local cruises in company taking in Castletown Bay and down to the Calf, with boats setting off together at 10 am and coming back for a lunchtime club BBQ. It would be great to see some of the inner harbour boats joining in as we expect a lot of interest – for more details, please get in touch with me.

Getting the word "out there" via all available means will be no small task. One way members could contribute is by sending in short articles on your sailing activities with plenty of pictures and information. We are in the process of regenerating the website, promoting our Facebook page and increasing awareness across local media. Your help is required to make it all a success. Please contact me if you would like to be involved in any way, or have more ideas we could use on: benhellowell@manx.net. Thank you.

Ben Hellowell

Social

As I look out of the window and see the daffodils nodding in the wind, last Christmas seems like a distant memory, yet it's been a busy time at the club with popular social events. Thanks to all of you who have attended and supported the club at all or some of these functions.

Leading up to Christmas, there was the annual dinner dance; a resounding success

enjoyed by all. The walking treasure hunt was another well-attended brain exercise and fortunately the weather was kind to all those who participated – thanks go to Dermot and Nina for setting it. To round off November there was a very interesting and informative talk by Tim Earl concerning his travels as a naturalist.

December's festivities kicked off with the Commodore's Christmas lunch – a sell out and a very tasty experience – many thanks go to all those involved in the cooking and organization.

This was followed a couple of weeks later by our annual Carols and Quiz night – a very popular evening, ably supported by the superb Rushen Silver band. An amazing number of people attended which made for a very jovial festive atmosphere.

Before we knew it, the New Year had arrived and time for the ever popular 3-Commodores' Curry night – the hard work of Chris, PJ and Cathie was very much appreciated by those who sampled the delicious fare.

The inter-club darts nights kicked off at the beginning of February with IOMYC hosting the first round, welcoming teams from Laxey and Douglas.

By the time Mainsheet is circulated, the new holders of the coveted Darts Paddle will already be known. These are always enjoyable evenings and provide an ideal

opportunity to meet others in the island sailing community.

As I write, the most recent social event was the fish 'n chips and quiz night – another popular event which also keeps the brain cells working! Thanks to David and Wendy Hill and Helen Gyselynck for setting the quiz. The Victorian breakfast was sold out end of February which leaves the Fitting-out supper on Saturday 25th April next on the list.

Sunday lunches continue to be available throughout the year, down 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 help and also to Ann for organizing the rota.

Finally, thank you to all our helpers who provide their invaluable support for our social functions – without you, these events would not happen. The major social functions are all on the Diary dates on the back page but do keep an eye on your emails and posters at the club for extra events.

Pam Williams-Jones

Training

Training courses are finalised for the 2015 season. We do have some places available so please register your interest with Sue Shute on iomyctraining@googlemail.com We are very glad that many of our instructors are willing to teach again, giving so freely of their time and we welcome back Breeshey Harkin and James Wood to the team. A beginners' adult course is set for the weekend of 9-10 May, please let me know if this would be of interest to you.

Rodger Clague recently concluded another successful RYA Day Skipper theory winter course, ably assisted by Mark Pendlebury.

Our VHF/DSC instructors Mark Pendlebury and Dermot Shimmin held two successful courses recently and may run another in the next few weeks so please register your interest with me. Dermot will run a diesel engine course and we are now taking names; please contact Dermot or myself. Another First Aid Course is set for Saturday 28th March, again run again by Steve Upsdell. If you are interested in any of these courses, please email me on wendyhill@manx.net. Once again, thanks to all our instructors and helpers - the club couldn't do it without you all.

If you are interested in powerboat courses, please contact me and we will gladly fit you in. We always need more drivers, so please volunteer your services. We thank our safety boat co-ordinator Chris Perry, who is keen to hear from suitably qualified drivers to put more names on the rota.

The RS youth squad has been busy training throughout the winter and we thank everyone involved both on and off the water with this highly successful group. We look forward to watching their progress through the season.

Please check the key training dates on diary dates on the back page of Mainsheet.

Lastly, my grateful thanks go to our hard-working team of Principal, Brian Partington, Secretary Sue Shute and Chief Instructor, John Dowling who are all doing their utmost to achieve a successful season.

Wendy Hill

Youth sailing

The youth team has been busy over the winter and RS GB squad members have regularly travelled across for weekend training, which has proved invaluable. This year, Ffinlo Wright moved to the Aero fleet and has been training alongside Ben

Batchelor, Patrick Cope, Matthew Perry and Alec Cope sailing Teras.

RS coach, Jonathan Lewis has been over for intense weekends. Check out the video link on iomyc.com for Feva spinnaker training in high winds - very impressive!

A big thank you to our generous sponsors Equiom and the Steam Packet for their greatly appreciated help. Without this support, our competitors would be unable to travel to off-island training and racing events.

MSCC has run the Injebreck racing since November and our juniors entered when their training schedule allowed. Ben, Matthew and James Arnold have all had top five finishes including some wins and second places (and beating squad coach Jenni Kneale!)

Club racing starts at the end of April and the juniors look forward to the new season. The youth squad off-island dates for Aeros and Teras are 25-26 April at Northampton, 20-21 June at Oxford, 24-31 July at Bruneisse, Holland (World Championship), and 28-31 August at Weymouth (National Championship). For the Fevas: 29-31 May at Rutland Water (National Championship) and 17-24 July at Travemunde, Germany (World Championship). A busy season indeed!

Having watched the new talent come through the club training programme last year, I look

forward to see them mature and grow as sailors and maybe even start racing. We plan to run extra fun-sailing one Friday evening a month, separate from the club race session. This will give any member but especially juniors who would like more sailing, a chance to enjoy either an informal little race or just sailing with a group. RIB crews will be on hand for safety and to offer advice, hints and tips.

The 2015 Bart's Bash is on 20 September and we would like to see as many juniors as possible joining in. It's a great day and we hope to get as many boats on the water as possible. More details will follow on the website and the club Facebook page.

Chris Perry

First Class 8s

Well, I didn't think this winter was as harsh as last year but *Albert Penguin* was obviously cold so cuddled up to her neighbour, *Miss Herd*. Many will have seen the pictures on Facebook. Either masts out or ground anchors next winter chaps? *(or some decent wood blocks under the trolley maybe? Ed.)*

Donald Finlay still has his FC8 for sale; is this an opportunity for a youth team? Donald is

open to a conversation about the boat on 473244.

This year's programme has a good mixture of round the cans and coastal racing. One of my favourite races last year was the Bell Buoy, Chickens, Calf race with lots of place changing and a lesson on the tides! Tides and scheduling mean that we can support Douglas regatta this year, as well as going to Peel for theirs. Peel last year was a fun relaxed weekend of racing and old fashioned messing about in boats. It's not too serious a weekend and a good opportunity for crew training, sailing there and back with a gentle regatta in between.

Michael Wilson

Sailing Secretary

There's a rather early start to the training sessions, so let's hope the weather allows us get everything ready in time. RIB 2 has a new outboard and control cables, so be nice to it and maybe we'll get a decade out of it like the previous one.

Dave Batchelor asks that all dinghy sailors email him with their boat and sail number details, so a current identification list is available to ROs. Speaking of ROs, more willing volunteers are always needed. There's quite a bit to learn to run racing from the Peril,

so the best way is to go along and help an experienced RO for a few sessions. The dinghies may even have some Friday evening races run from the breakwater using the keelboat line and marks. This may involve a downwind start but will be fun for a change (and easier for the RO!) Please contact Dave if you and when can help. Dinghy racing is great fun and enjoyed by all who take part but you will be asked to take a turn at race management from time to time for the benefit of all.

Some new boats are appearing in the fleet: RS Aeros with various rig sizes and Devotti Zeros. These modern dinghies are so light; it's almost unbelievable - much easier to haul up the slipway too.

Looking at the list of events taking our young racing team away, it seems like they'll be missing half the time! It really is phenomenal, the effort and commitment of these kids and their parents. I know I say this all the time but as a long time dinghy sailor, I do know what it takes to put it together - never mind the superb talent that's emerging. The club is very proud of this extended team.

Many of our more mature dinghy racers will also be travelling to various championships around the planet - best of luck to all.

We'll also have a go at using the HAL race online results service this year for the dinghies. There will be a laptop at the club to upload the numbers.

On the keelboat front, we hope for a better turnout for the **Baker Tilly Round Mann**

race. I hear that *Albert Penguin* intends to do both the Ramsey and PSM laps - best wish for fair weather; and maybe some others will be tempted to take them on? This year, we'll continue to use a version of the RYA NHC adapted to our own purposes, including for the Round Mann race. If an entrant does not have a reasonable base number allowing for individual variations, the club will sort out a fair one.

In 2014, our try-a-sail day was successful, so this season we've scheduled two fun-sail days with a refined format. As Ben Hellowell has mentioned, the idea is get our more of own members out in boats, as well as new people. On Sundays 17 May and 7 June (Mad Sunday!) the keelboats will take out as many as possible for a cruise in company around the area, all setting off at 10am and returning for a lunchtime BBQ. If there's a huge demand, we'll do two trips with changeovers using RIBs like last year. There may even be a large dinghy or two suitable for two or three "visitors".

We hope to crack 50 boats for Bart's Bash this year. To ensure all donations are credited in the IOMYC list, we'll send out the correct link very soon.

Thanks go to our many volunteers. The club could not function without willing hands at every activity. See you on the water.

Mick Kneale

2015		DIARY DATES
March	Thursday 26	Parents' evening
April	Saturday 4	MSCC Easter regatta
	Monday 13	Training begins
	Monday 20	Cruiser lift-in
	Saturday 25	Fitting-out supper
May	Sunday 3	MSCC Round the Island race
	Tuesday 5	Cruiser lift-in
	Saturday 23	BAKER TILLY Round Mann race
June	13-14	IOM youth championship
	13-14	Douglas regatta
	Sunday 20	Peel regatta
	26-28	IOMYC regatta
July	4-5	MSCC regatta
	Thursday 16	Training ends
August	1-2	Peel traditional boat weekend and Port St Mary lifeboat day Sunday 2nd
	Sunday 16	Laxey regatta
	29-30	IOM dinghy championship
September	Friday 11	Junior prize presentation
	Sunday 13	RNMDSF Pico Challenge
	Sunday 20	Bart's Bash
	26-27	First Class 8 regatta
	Monday 28	Cruiser lift-out
October	Saturday 3	Laying-up supper
November	Sunday 1	Topper challenge (Mooragh lake)
	Saturday 7	Annual dinner (Falcon's Nest)
December	Sunday 6	Commodore's Christmas lunch
	Friday 11	Christmas carols and quiz
		IOMYC events in bold type
