



Isle of Man Yacht Club

Port St Mary

MAINSHEET

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Commodore

Well, that's another wild, wet and windy winter over with and a whole sailing season in Manx waters of a sunny 15 degrees and 15 knots of breeze to look forward to.

Some members go to other extremes - those who like to see how far North they can get single-handed and the others who prefer the Med., where the temperature is already in the 20s.

One member recently told me he now owns three yachts, which in his eyes constitutes a fleet, so has promoted himself to Admiral and now thinks he outranks me. I'm not sure whether to bring back keelhauling or the cat o' nine tails for such insubordination. Probably keelhauling as many of the local cats don't even have one tail, let alone nine!

Ann Reynolds, director of ports recently addressed those with a direct interest in the outer harbour moorings. The DoI had planned to take over the management of it all this winter by relaying all the ground tackle and allocating spaces based on length and draught of each boat, with the intention of fitting in a few more.

Due to the wild weather (unusual in the Isle of Man during the winter!) the work did not go ahead and is now planned for the winter of 2016/17 (fingers crossed for a balmy one then). The DoI has agreed to meet a good percentage of any extra costs incurred by the mooring holders this season and supply the services of their divers free of charge. This arrangement seems to be acceptable to the majority. This winter I came across an original copy of the programme of the Douglas Bay Regatta held in 1896. All sorts of events were held over two days: swimming (men only), rowing, sculling (men's prize money 50% more than the ladies'), 4-oared race, 2-oared race as well as yacht's gigs, fishing boat racing (no spinnakers or booming out), yacht racing in six classes from 18ft to the huge 65ft plus J-class boats over a 45 mile course. The 1st prize for the J-class was £80 which, considering an average working man's wage was around £1:50p a week this was a lot of money. Even the 220-yard handicap-swimming race had a 1st prize of £3.

It wasn't all serious though:
"Walking the bowsprit, a duck hunt (involved a swimmer and chase boat, I think) and best of all 'MISS LANE' Queen of the sea, Empress of natation and lady champion feat swimmer of the World will, (weather permitting), give her renowned exhibition of scientific, ornamental and fancy swimming and life saving feats at 11 am Wednesday, between the Promenade wall and Conister."

The latter should give our sailing secretary something to think about when planning our regatta! I have scanned the programme and will send it to anyone interested, just e-mail me. (8.4 mb file).

I'll be contacting you all again soon to persuade you to renew or purchase for the first time your tickets for the club lottery. This runs from June for 12 months, drawn on the first Sunday of the month at lunchtime in the bar. 125 tickets were sold last year, which meant £750 was given out in cash prizes and the same amount to club funds. If you didn't win any prize, please don't let it put you off trying again.

Sadly, since the previous publication of Mainsheet, past Commodore Ken Orry passed away in November 2015. Ken was Commodore from 1986 to 1988.

Past Commodore John Evan's wife Winifred, known to many as Fred or Freddie passed away in February. John always maintained that without Fred's support, he would never have managed his two years as Commodore.

So, have a fun season sailing and in the words of Sergeant George Dixon of Dock Green: "Mind how you go".

Chris Williams-Jones

Social

As I write in mid-March, our garden snowdrops are still blooming and for a lovely change, it has been sunny with blue skies and quite warm! Christmas has been and gone but leading up to Christmas, we enjoyed various social events. In November, the annual dinner-dance was a wonderful evening, which was enjoyed by all. Many thanks go to Jan Sidebotham for organizing it all.

The weather was ideal for the walking treasure hunt held at the end of November. Based around Port Erin, it proved an interesting and popular event with pie and mash served at the club afterwards. Thanks go to Sue and Nick Woolard for setting it.

Once into December, the festivities kicked off with the annual Commodore's Christmas lunch. As always, it was a sell out and all savoured a lovely dinner – again thanks go to the stalwart helpers who were involved in the cooking and organisation.

A couple of weeks later was our annual Carols and Quiz night – a very popular evening, ably hosted by the superb Rushen Silver band. The mulled wine and mince pies went down extremely well – thanks to Val Partington and friends who did the kitchen duties and to David Hill for donating the mince pies.

Before we knew it, the New Year had arrived. The first event at the end of January was a very informative talk by Kirsty Pendlebury of the Met Office on 'Forecasting the weather on the Isle of Man'. Over sixty people attended this fascinating presentation.

The curry night in February proved to be another tasty and successful evening but without the hard work and culinary skills of Chris, PJ and Cathie, it just wouldn't have happened. So, a big thank you to them.

The most recent event was the Fish & Chips and Quiz night – another popular effort, which also

keeps the brain cells working! Thanks to David and Wendy Hill for setting the quiz and congratulations to the winners: Nick and Sue Woolard and their team.

By the time you read this, the round of 'inter-club darts nights' will have been completed. We hosted the first round in February with visiting teams from Laxey and Douglas, Peel and Ramsey. The annual Victorian breakfast in March was sold out as usual - Cathie and her team have this event down to a fine art and it really is one of the best afternoons of the winter. Thank you all.

Next up is the Fitting-out supper on Saturday 23rd April.

Sunday lunches continue to be available throughout the year thanks to the willing band of volunteers. The list of volunteers has unfortunately been depleted recently. So, if you have a couple of hours to spare on a Sunday - perhaps once every 3 months, then please offer your services; they will be most welcome. Many thanks go to all those who do help and especially to Ann for organising the rota.

Finally, if you have any alternative suggestions for social events, please contact us. New ideas will

be willingly discussed by the Social committee. Once again, a huge thank you to all those helpers who provide their invaluable support for our social functions – without you, these events would not happen.

Pam Williams-Jones **Social events for your diary**

Do keep an eye out for email reminders and posters at the club..

23 April Fitting Out Supper

8 October Laying Up Supper

12 November Annual Dinner,
Falcon's Nest

Sunday 11 December
Commodore's Christmas lunch

Friday 23 December
Christmas Carols and Quiz

Training

Courses are all planned for the coming season, which starts on Tuesday 19th April, the week after the parents' evening on Thursday 14th at 7.30 pm. We have places available, so please register your interest with Sue Shute iomyctraining@gmail.com. It would also be good to welcome

back any older students into our racing group.

We are fortunate that some of our instructors are willing to teach again and give their time so freely. We wish Tim Cope the best of luck as a senior instructor and Ffinlo Wright as dinghy instructor.

We welcome our new Principal, Mark Pendlebury to the helm. Mark has a lot of experience with VHF and powerboat courses and we look forward to working with him.

We also welcome Carda Best, Chris Perry and Brian 'Yogi' Quayle to the team.

In addition to the normal training programme, we are expanding and encouraging 'fun-sailing' to increase the confidence of those who've completed either club or 7th Wave courses and help them get into the club dinghy racing and/or crewing on keelboats.

More details from chrisperry@manx.net

We are arranging an adult course for beginners in May - date to be confirmed. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you.

Our VHF/DSC instructors, Mark Pendlebury and Dermot Shimmin, held two successful courses this winter and have another planned

for Sat 16th April. If you are interested, please register your interest with me. Dermot Shimmin ran a diesel engine course this winter and we are taking names for the next one. Please contact Dermot or myself.

A First Aid course was held in February - again run by Steve Upsdell and we hope to do another one soon. If you want to join any of these courses, please email me on: wendyhill@manx.net. Once again, thanks to all the instructors for giving up their time; we couldn't do it without you all.

In February, we ran a powerboat course in rather challenging conditions. Congratulations to all six successful candidates - and indeed to the instructors Phil Adams, Mark Pendlebury and Peter Ashurst. Anyone interested in learning to powerboat can contact me as we are arranging another course. We do need more drivers, so please volunteer your services.

We thank Chris Perry, our safety boat co-ordinator for the last two years as he is handing over the training rota to Carda Best. We are looking for a willing volunteer to help with the dinghy-racing rota. Carda is keen to hear from anyone who would like his or her

name on the list on:
pcb@wimanx.net

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

Diary Dates:-

14 April Parents' Evening 7.30pm

19 April Training begins

21-22 May Youth championship

9-10 July RS Feva open regatta

21 July Training ends

9 Sept Junior Prize Presentation

11 September Pico Challenge

30 October Topper Challenge

I finish by thanking our secretary Sue Shute and chief instructor John Dowling who continue to work hard to achieve a successful season.

Wendy Hill

Dinghies

After a long wet winter, the sailing season is nearly upon us. I hope all the dinghy sailors who have been working long hours fettling and fine-tuning their boats are ready for a thrilling season on the water - hopefully, with plenty of wind and sunshine.

A number of youth squad members have been training in the UK over the winter in their Fevas and Teras, so expect them to be hot off the blocks and pushing the adults hard again.

Mick Kneale has kindly volunteered to be RO for Friday nights, so it will be good to see many sailors taking part. I will be sending out rota for the Sunday morning ROs shortly.

We are hosting the **APPLEBY** RS Feva regatta 9-10 July with hopefully up to 20 boats entering.

There are rumours of new boats sailing this summer, with a Musto skiff seen at Port Erin and a couple of classic 505s.

Some members of the Manx Youth squad are moving up to Laser 4.7 and Radial, so things are developing as hoped.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the water.

David Batchelor

First Class 8s

The season is rapidly approaching and the feverish sounds of the work that should have been done last October drifts across the boat-park.

Keels are off boats, paint is on order and where did I put that....?

We are now nine with the arrival of James Walker's new boat.

This year, we are trying to mix the programme up a bit with a monthly Sunday windward/leeward thrash just for the FC8s. Please put these dates in your diaries.

The racing promises to be tight. Antony is back and raring to go. Adding James to the mix should give us the best racing we have seen on the Island in years.

We are getting enquiries about crewing positions available and crew requirements.

Will owners and potentially interested crews please contact Yogi - Txt 496883 or email yogiquayle@manx.net, so we can start to match people with boats.

We have a crews/skippers introduction day at lunchtime on Sunday 8th May. It would be good to get as many bodies to attend as possible.

So, if you have any questions, suggestions or just plain abuse, feel free to call me.

Brian Quayle

Sailing Secretary

After a few grumbles about the size of the font in the November 2015 Mainsheet, it's been notched up 50%. Hope this satisfies those without X-ray vision like mine.

Many thanks go to the usual contributors to this bi-annual effort. Mainsheet, in common with all club activities, depends on people giving up their time and energy to make it happen.

With my race-officer hat on, I'm thinking of the need for safety-boat crews for the dinghy race sessions. Chris Perry kindly ran the rota for the last couple of seasons. So far, no-one has stuck his/her head above the parapet to take this on. We will be very grateful for a volunteer, please. Carda Best is doing the training sessions safety rota - thank you Carda but the race schedule needs a co-ordinator too. We are also developing the "fun-sailing" sessions, as you will see from the programme: Monday evenings all season and the last Friday

evening of each month, plus a couple of race-training mornings. The aim of the fun-sailing is to increase people's confidence so they can get into the club racing, which needs a bit better support than it got last year. These sessions will need safety cover too - looks like the RIBs will get no rest all summer.

Many members will no doubt be taking to the high seas again, cruising near and far. I know the Yoofs are away at least six weekends with their Teras and Fevas. Jason and Debbie Corlett will be sailing their (Douglas based) 31.7 Eauvation at Dun Laoghaire for a few weeks. Michael Wilson and Yogi Quayle have added 505s to their respective fleets - how they will find the time to sail all these boats is a mystery.

We are very grateful that **APPLEBY** is sponsoring the RS Feva regatta - really a follow-on from the RS Tera regattas we ran for three years up to 2013. Many of the same kids are now in the 2-handed Feva, both here and in the UK, so we look forward to renewing old acquaintances.

The **APPLEBY** race schedule will give a long day Saturday and a short morning Sunday, so the UK

entrants can catch the mid-afternoon Sea-cat home.

As the Commodore has mentioned, the DoI failed in its plan for the moorings in bay - glad I did keep my riser. They have been generous in defeat, as it were, and will help us sort the job out this year at little or no cost. Let's hope that by this time next year, it's all systems go.

Yogi has talked about the FC8s but the keelboat fleet does include a few other boats which support the club racing. Shellan, Sorcery, Tango, O'Hara of Scarlett and Genesta II may be joined by the Ballad 30 now owned by Alistair Hamilton, although he has now also acquired a 60-foot ketch, which is presently getting some major TLC at Ramsey shipyard. The keelboat/cruiser programme has left a good number of Sundays blank to allow boats to play in the Castletown schedule if they wish.

I see in the local press that the M-word recently re-surfaced. Must be an election year. The DoI's earlier attempts to progress a proper marina in Port St Mary have withered - no money, too many objectors, insufficient political will etc ad nauseam. I can't see what has changed this time, although some repairs to the

breakwater really are currently under way. There seems to be some hope at the DoI that private investment could take it on. I would have thought that a one-thousand year lease would have to be offered to potential investors.

Lengthening the breakwater and enclosing the bay would be a very big civil-engineering project, the return from which will be relatively low, as there is no land available for the usual associated property development.

Nobody will take it seriously of course and objections would be overpowering - but I reckon the next bay should be enclosed. This would be a properly huge civil-engineering job but with some advantages. Build a breakwater over Carthure Rocks (Gansey Point), overlapping another breakwater built from the Cronnags (off Kentraugh). The whole of the Cronnags would be reclaimed, creating an area the size of Port St Mary golf course, with road access from near Kentraugh cottages.

Land to develop, Brewery Beach protected and no traffic - job done! Dream on.

Michael Kneale

