



# Isle of Man Yacht Club

## Port St Mary

# MAINSHEET

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## Commodore

Doesn't time fly? Not only is the sailing season well and truly over but, at this year's AGM I will be stepping down as Commodore after three years in office. I thank my fellow flag officers, Board of Directors and all the other volunteers in the sailing, social and training committees who work tirelessly to run the club so well.

I'm writing this in mid-October, the sun is shining and I've just been out watering the pots on the patio as they are so dry, yet amazingly, Christmas is just round the corner. I know this as a fact, not only because the shops are already filling with seasonal goods and my Christmas cactus is about to flower (at the same time as a clematis is flowering in the garden!) but, because I've already been seen in the club selling tickets for our Christmas raffle!!! Sorry, but I had to get money out of the sailors who may not be seen again until next April - they must go somewhere to hibernate.

Earlier in the year, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir Richard Gozney kindly agreed to

be club Patron. Sir Richard has been a keen dinghy sailor during his postings in slightly warmer climates such as Indonesia and Bermuda, although he also sails off the East coast of England when home-based. He crewed on one of the First Class 8s during a windy coastal race in September, rounding Castletown bell buoy and the Kallow mark, which had shifted to Noggin Head that day! He really enjoyed the brisk sail and good soaking, I understand.

Unfortunately, the proposed upgrade to the outer harbour moorings didn't take place last winter as promised by the DoI. It may happen this winter but they will also be busy sorting out the silting of Peel and Douglas. Fingers crossed.

A group of boat owners and berth holders have formed the "IOM Harbour Users Association" to present a combined front when dealing with the DoI.

Most of their members are Peel and Douglas based owing to silting and other marina problems but they are now inviting any other interested parties to join to widen their representation. If

you'd like to learn more, go to their website: [www.iomhua.co.uk](http://www.iomhua.co.uk).

**EASYFUNDRAISING**. I know I've mentioned this before but research shows that only 33 members support the club this way. If you shop on-line, which I presume most of you do at one time or another, please go to their website:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

where you will find out how easy it is to sign on. Specify "Isle of Man Yacht Club" and see a list of the on-line stores that participate. On the home page, scroll down to the bottom and under "Collect Donations" click on "Browse Retailers". You'll be surprised - there's M&S, Boots, Debenhams, John Lewis, Curry's, Argos, House of Fraser, Apple and under Travel you'll find Trainline, Late Rooms, Travel Lodge (but not IOMSPCo unfortunately) The list is comprehensive. There is one little problem: if you don't go to the store via the Easyfundraising web site (and it only takes a few seconds longer) the donations are not always allocated. You can actually load a "Donation Reminder" (found under Browse Retailers - see above) which will alert you when you are on a fundraising web site and will also highlight participating stores on the page after a Google search.

If you like a good read, we have a lot of books in the club, naturally with a nautical theme. Some are practical guides; many are just a good yarn. They can be found either in the room to the right of the entrance hall or upstairs in a cupboard in the bar (the key is with Fiona). The ones upstairs were written in the days when men were men, sails were canvas not dacron, boats were wooden not plastic and ropes were hemp not dyneema. Mind you, they also got lost and wet not having GPS or breathable light weight oilies. Do help yourself as books are meant to be read, just swap with one of your own or return after use.

I'll sign off with the following Czech Proverb:

***A fine beer may be judged with only one sip – but it's best to be thoroughly sure.***

Sensible fellows, those Czechs.

Chris Williams-Jones

## **Social**

The club social calendar has been full of events with still more to come before next sailing season. The ever-popular Victorian breakfast in March proved to be

as good as always and enjoyed and appreciated by over 45 gluttons! Thanks to Cathie yet again for organising and running the event – it always proves to be a very necessary fund-raiser for the club coffers.

An impromptu film night showing “Lady in The Van” was well attended. There was no charge but everyone was asked to bring a plate of food for sharing, which was great! This format will be repeated for future film nights.

The sailing season opened with the Fitting Out supper and over 63 people enjoying the food provided by Paddy Croft.

This was followed by many enjoyable lunchtime BBQs, catering for competitors and their families for events such as the Youth Championship, the Round Mann, the Club Regatta and hosting the RS Feva open (with Chris and Sophie Cope providing paella for 50 on the Saturday evening).

On a pleasant Sunday in mid-September, the club again ran Bart’s Bash followed by the usual BBQ – as always cooked and prepared by the willing volunteers from the Sunday lunch rota.

Early October, it was time for the Laying up Supper – which also coincided with the postponed First Class 8 regatta. Paddy once again provided a very tasty meal,

enjoyed by almost 60 members and guests.

A willing band of volunteers continues to provide Sunday lunches but we could really do with a few more to add to the rota. If you can spare a couple of hours on a Sunday to make a few toasties/sandwiches/heat up a tin of soup (so not rocket science!), it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Ann Scott.

Finally - as always, without the organisation and hard work of the social committee and helpers, none of these events would happen. So, many thanks for the invaluable support you all provide.

Events over the winter as follows:

25 November Film Night

11 December  
Commodore’s Christmas Lunch

23 December Carols & Quiz

18 February Curry Night

19 March Victorian Breakfast

**NB:** no date clashes with any 6-Nations rugby match!

Do keep an eye out for emails and posters at the club for further details.

Pam Williams-Jones

## Dinghies

I start with a big thank you to Mick Kneale for doing Friday evening race officer for the season. It's a big help to know that racing will take place. It was also nice to see some new youth squad sailors joining in.

We hosted a very successful RS Northern Feva open meeting generously sponsored by **APPLEBY**, which attracted some of the top Northern Feva sailors. (One of our teams went on to finish sixth at the Worlds in Spain). The weather gods were unkind, with high winds and seas preventing racing on the Saturday as it wasn't possible to lay a course but that didn't stop some of the crews going out in the waves putting on a great show for the crowd ashore. On Sunday, conditions were just manageable, allowing ROs Russell and June Collister to run the series. Ben Batchelor and Roscoe Martin won the event followed closely by the Rastrick brothers from Yorkshire, with James Arnold and James Humphrey third. Many thanks to Chris and Sophie Cope for the wonderful paella on the Saturday evening and the club team for the BBQ on Sunday. All the visitors

were singing the praises of club members for all their efforts.

The IOM youth championship in May attracted a good fleet. Ben and Roscoe won the event.

James Arnold came a very close second in his Laser Radial, with Alec Cope 3rd and Matt Perry 4th.

The club regatta was a success with a good turnout of twenty-four sailors from around the Island, 1<sup>st</sup> Ben and Roscoe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Patrick and Alec Cope and 3<sup>rd</sup> yours truly (and winner of best adult prize. Ed).

The IOM dinghy championship sailed at Ramsey was won by Russell and June Collister in their new RS400. They have now won it for a record 12 times which is a great achievement. 2nd was Ffinlo Wright who is rapidly improving in his Aero 7. The MSCC Easter Regatta was won by Matt Perry in his Laser Radial, who also came 3rd in the MSCC July Regatta.

Club sailors had great success competing in World, European and National Championships over the summer with Michael Wilson and Phil Hardisty becoming World champions in the 505 Classics and Ben Batchelor coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Tera Pro World championship. Here's a list of results that I know - apologies for any I've missed.

## **505 Classics Worlds at Portland**

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Wilson and Phil Hardisty

## **Tera Pro Worlds at Santana Spain**

3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Batchelor

14<sup>th</sup> Alec Cope

## **Tera Sport Worlds**

24<sup>th</sup> Teddy Dunn

## **Tera Pro Nationals**

3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Batchelor

38<sup>th</sup> Alec Cope

## **Tera Sport Nationals**

32<sup>nd</sup> Teddy Nationals

41<sup>st</sup> Peter Cope

48<sup>th</sup> Charlie Whitbread

53<sup>rd</sup> Henry Hotchkiss

55<sup>th</sup> Georgia Harding

57<sup>th</sup> Thomas Whitbread

## **Feva Worlds at Santander**

23<sup>rd</sup> Harry Jones and Emily Batchelor

38<sup>th</sup> Ben Batchelor and Roscoe Martin

## **Aero Europeans at Travemunde, Germany**

8<sup>th</sup> Greg Kelly

11<sup>th</sup> Ffinlo Wright

## **RYA Youth Laser Radial Nationals**

39<sup>th</sup> James Arnold

## **Sea Cadets Area Championship**

1<sup>st</sup> Steve & Ross Arnold

## **Sea Cadets Nationals**

5<sup>th</sup> Steven & Ross Arnold

Fantastic results from our club sailors competing off Island but more members need to enter club racing events and support its social side.

Dave Batchelor

## **Training**

The summer training went ahead with an underwhelming 23 takers. So, we really must increase numbers next year. Sincere thanks and congratulations to all our senior instructors, instructors, assistants, safety-boat crews and shore side helpers who all worked tirelessly in often challenging conditions. This is where "thank you" doesn't seem adequate but your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to William Wright, Patrick Cope and James Humphrey who qualified as

dinghy instructors - we look forward to their help next season.

Ben Batchelor and Roscoe Martin in the Feva dominated the IOM youth championship for the Tomlinson trophy. Things are now going turbo for Ben and his crew Matthew Perry in the high performance 29er.

A calm day provided slow, tactical match racing for the 20 entrants in the Pico Challenge.

Special thanks go to Russell and June Collister for organising (and surviving another year in the Yellow Peril with 20 chattering children!) Peter Cope was overall winner and thanks go to our new sponsor Salamander Services for the replacement trophy.

Grateful thanks go to our powerboat instructors: C.I. Phil Adams, Mark Pendlebury, Pete Ashurst and Robert Floate who each helped with courses and to Carda Best for setting up the safety-boat rota - she has done a magnificent job filling the slots. In addition, Steve Blackford organised the dinghy racing safety-boat rota.

Without the safety cover, nothing would run. We are always short of drivers and looking for more. So, please let us know if you would like a place on the next course.

Steve Upsdell ran one First Aid course this year and another is planned for the spring. Please email Steve at [smu@manx.net](mailto:smu@manx.net) to register your interest or write to the Training Secretary. This is an excellent course and well worth attending. Thank you Steve - your help and knowledge is always very much appreciated.

We plan a series of courses over the winter. Dermot Shimmin will run a diesel engine course - anyone interested, please ring Dermot on 833589. Mark Pendlebury, together with Dermot, have already run a GMDSS/VHF course in November. They will run another on demand. So please, register your interest with Mark at [mpendlebury@manx.net](mailto:mpendlebury@manx.net).

Many thanks go to John Dowling who has given a huge amount of effort over thirteen years. Chris Hill now wears the Chief Instructor hat with James Walker standing in as acting Chairman.

At the junior prize presentation, our Commodore-in-waiting Cathie Ashurst presented the prizes and certificates and we reflected on the huge number of trainees we've seen over many years.

The major 2016 junior awards:

Juan Kelly Cup  
Ben Batchelor

“Girl of the Season” Daisy Cope

“Boy of the Season”  
Max Cope

Best Junior IOM Championship  
Peter Cope

Club Regatta Ben Batchelor

Rowany Cup Peter Cope

We are now planning 2017 and are happy that some of our instructors are willing to teach again. Anyone interested in getting involved in any way or knows of any junior recruits please contact:

[iomyctraining@googlemail.com](mailto:iomyctraining@googlemail.com)

A massive thanks goes to Sue Shute, our very efficient secretary who has been doing and continues to do a wonderful job.

Finally, many thanks to our new Principal, Mark Pendlebury, who has been outstanding in his first year, providing superb support and leadership.

Wendy Hill

## **Manx Youth Sailing Squad**

Ben Batchelor had his most successful Tera season, finishing 5th at the Inland, 3rd at the National and 3rd at the World championships. This is a great way for Ben to finish his seven-year Tera campaign as he has now out-grown the boat and moved into a 29er! Ben received a huge amount of support from Isle of Man Sport Aid, the Isle of Man Steam Packet and Mark Cavendish, which really helps with the UK and international campaigns. He is looking forward to a hard winter training in the new high-speed boat.

The RS Tera class association awarded the Batchelor family with their “Family Ethos” trophy, for dedication to the fleet over the past 7 years in a touching ceremony.

Six new sailors joined Alec Cope and Ben Batchelor to form the MYSS 2016. Georgia Harding, Peter Cope, Charlie Whitbread, Tom Whitbread, Henry Hotchkiss and Teddy Dunn all started squad training in April.

They sailed their first local regatta at the IOM Youth Champs in May. It was a fairly breezy day with some big waves. There were some nervous sailors but all took to the water and finished every

race, really impressing Race Officer Dave Batchelor.

The team trained and raced all season as results steadily improved. Teddy Dunn competed at his first ever World championship, finishing an impressive 24th! Alec Cope moved in to the Pro fleet for this regatta and finished 14th.

The full squad travelled to the RS Tera Nationals in Pwllhelli at the end of August. Conditions were tricky with mixed conditions - huge wind shifts, no breeze, then suddenly 20 knots of it. Results were also mixed as listed by Dave Batchelor in the dinghy report.

There were 64 boats in the Sport fleet - a huge step up from racing and training with 8 or 10 boats here. Georgia Harding was awarded a special prize for her endeavour in finishing every race and never giving up.

In a first regatta, results are less important than the learning experience and we look forward to watching them all develop.

Already, Peter Cope beat all the juniors and adults to win the Pico Challenge.

Teddy Dunn was invited to train with the RS Tera GB squad and has already started his winter

programme in the UK. So far, he's finished 3rd at the Scottish Nationals, 2nd at the Easter Travellers and 9th at the "End of Season's".

Jen Kneale

## **Sailing Secretary**

I thank our Mainsheet contributors for their reports - looks like there's been a lot of sailing going on - much of it not at home. Local turnouts in both keelboats and dinghies have been volatile. So, yet again, we are trying to come up with a programme for 2017 that may fit in better with members and their crews time and availability. The keelboats have already had a meeting to thrash out some plans and I hope the dinghies will get together over the winter to mull over what we can best do.

It really is fantastic that members do so much sailing at top quality events all around the UK and Europe. They are all superb ambassadors for the club and the Island. It just means that we're a bit light on numbers more often than not.

Dave Batchelor is standing down as dinghy captain after three years in the post. Thank you

Dave, we appreciate your efforts. I understand that June and Russell Collister are going to take the job on. Russell has been dinghy captain before of course. Congratulations to the Collisters for winning the IOM dinghy championship for the 12th time - beat my National 18' record at last!

The informal "fun-sailing" run by Chris Perry was well supported but turned out to be a rather moveable feast. So, rather than setting a schedule next season, it will be left open to those involved to respond as and when there's a demand.

Thanks go to Steve Blackford for organising the dinghy racing safety-boat rota - and to the many regular drivers who give up their time for us.

Other members also did some travelling this year: Pete Barlow, Nige Collins and Rob Cowell went to Findhorn for the National 18' class championship - always a cracking event in a lovely venue.

Mike Pridham took his Devotti-Zero to Largs and to Highcliffe and, at the end of the season took his Laser Radial to the World Masters at Hvar, Croatia.

The club is very grateful to our generous 2016 sponsors: Gary Proctor and **EXCEL CONSTRUCTION** for the Round Mann race, Chris Cope and **APPLEBY** for the RS Feva open and Paul Hotchkiss and **HOTCHKISS ASSOCIATES** for Bart's Bash.

We are struggling financially and this direct help is very much appreciated.

The keelboats didn't lose all that many races to bad weather although the regular Wednesday evening "flat-calm-half-an-hour-into-the-race" did haunt us somewhat.

After I broke my own boat at the end of April - dropped off the slipway on launch day - it took three months to get a new mast. So, I did RO from the Yellow Peril for many Wednesdays. This went down well with the fleet - windward starts are so much better. I think we'll have a try at short gate-starts from whichever suitable leeward mark next season. So, no committee boat will be needed. Better make sure your VHF is charged up and tuned in to channel 72!

Sundays were yet again not well supported. So, next year, these will be restricted to coastal and longer races about once a month.

Only *Sorcery*, Mike Stanton's Sigma 33 went to Peel for their regatta - and proceeded to win. The same weekend, it was Douglas regatta, to which James Walker took his new First Class 8 *Reprob8* and went on to win that regatta. Well done both - good to show off PSM talent round the regattas!

*Reprob8* also won the **EXCEL CONSTRUCTION** Round Mann race - fourth year in a row that a FC8 has won this one and, to cap it all, won the FC8 regatta sailed in less than 5 knots of wind over the weekend of 8-9 October.

Jason and Debbie Corlett again took their First 31.7 *Eauvation* to Dun Laoghaire for a few weeks. There's a big class of these boats in Dublin Bay and in between winning most of the keelboat races at home, they won the National YC regatta and came third in the Royal Irish YC regatta in June. It was far too rough to get the boat to the 31.7 Nationals in September.

Richard Baker took *Shellan* north twice this year to cruise his favourite Western Isles grounds - I think he intends to fit a better heater before venturing past Shetland again.

Alistair Hamilton had two new engines fitted to his fine ketch, which is sprucing up nicely. The yacht is built of teak to a high standard of craftsmanship. He's taken it to winter in Douglas but we can be sure that it won't fit on any finger pontoon in the marina!

I took my gaffer *Genesta II* to Holyhead for their traditional boat festival over the first weekend of September. With an open boat, the weather has to be right, of course. So, it was always going to be a last minute decision. Anyway, the beat there took us nine hours on the Friday, starboard tack from one breakwater to the next. The stainless steel jaw snapped off the gaff just as we arrived and we were in time to get it welded up. As it happens, there was no need to panic because the Saturday race programme was scrubbed owing to a gale of wind and rain all day. Sunday was fine and the parade of sail around the harbour was fun with mock battles going on using three real cannons ashore and others on two of the sailing vessels. I was astounded at how a broadside completely kills the breeze and a huge calm bubble goes downwind to affect boats even a mile away.

The downwind blast sailing home Monday took just six hours - much easier than the beat there!

Rumour has it that Mike Pollard is replacing his beautifully cared for Westerly Fulmar with something slightly larger. This “gentleman’s yachting” has gone to his head - and he’ll be carving an even bigger slice through the Castletown start line.

On the Bart’s Bash website, it looks like the club is in top ten for club fund-raising - good effort!

In the March Mainsheet, I mentioned that work had started on the Alfred pier. At that time, it was spray-filling holes in both the inside and outside walls. During the season, work began on re-surfacing the top - and it’s still on-going.

For much of the summer, we couldn’t access the end of the pier for race starts, which handily coincided with my unplanned availability to do RO from the *Peril*. Behind every cloud...

The pier fix has been an enormous job pecking down almost a metre in places, stabilising the stone work underneath and re-laying layers of reinforced concrete. The new surface is very fine indeed and must have cost a mint of money. While they’re at it, new power and water supplies are being installed,

new lamp posts and even a fuel supply system. I take it this will be supplied from a tank yet to be set up near the fish factory. The fuel delivery hose will be by the end steps.

Let’s hope all this energy from the DoI will extend to the outer-harbour moorings plan, which was promised last winter. In the last month or so, users have received application forms for a mooring next season.

I know the DoI now has all the material for the job - chain and buoys and that the concrete blocks have been cast. This sounds positive.

Let’s hope that they will have the time and resources to remove all the old tackle from the bay and set it all up anew by next Easter.

Thanks go to everyone who helps the club in any way. Please do get involved - new volunteers and organisers are needed at all levels.

We hope to produce a programme for the 2017 season that will be supported. Note that we will be taking part in the RYA “Push the boat out” weekend over 13-14 May to support the national effort and replace our own open day.

Mick Kneale

## 2016 dinghy winners:

Dundas Cup  
Matt Perry

Murray Gawne Cup  
James Arnold

Tomlinson Trophy  
Ben Batchelor

Thelma Cup  
Russell Collister

Peacock Cup  
James Arnold

AE Williams Trophy  
Ben Batchelor

Alice Cup  
Matt Perry

Glenburn Cup  
Russell Collister

Bromet Trophy  
Matt Perry

Salamander Pico Challenge  
Peter Cope

Bart's Bash, Speidel Trophy  
Mike Pridham

Qualtrough Cup  
Peter Cope

HR Gelling Cup  
Russell Collister

## 2016 keelboat winners

McArd Cup  
*Jesticul8*, Ashurst/Wilson

Round Mann Race  
*Reprob8*, James Walker

Peyton Memorial Cup  
*Lightning*, Antony Ellis

Strangford Lough Cup  
*G8Crasher*, Jason Corlett

Derbyhaven Cup  
*Miss Herd*, Barlow/Floate

Brunt Memorial Cup  
*G8Crasher*, Jason Corlett

Viking Glazing Cup  
*G8Crasher*, Jason Corlett

Aldrich Cup  
*Miss Herd*, Barlow/Floate

Sugden Cup  
*G8Crasher*, Jason Corlett

Crellin Memorial Cup  
*Shellan*, Richard Baker

Bart's Bash Novelty Trophy  
*Tango*, Andy Dunn

Commodore's Cup  
*Reprob8*, James Walker

