



Isle of Man Yacht Club

Port St Mary

MAINSHEET

Number 70

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Commodore

I can't believe where the time has gone – as I write this, I am coming to the end of my tenure as Commodore and the year has flown by!

The Dol completed the moorings in time for the sailing season and, after a few adjustments, it all works well. Our thanks to Ann Reynolds and her team at the Dol for all their hard work.

We have had another busy sailing season, the keelboats have had some great racing – although there has been a lot of rock hopping (three in one week early season and then three in one evening on Tynwald Day, if I remember correctly)!

His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor Sir Richard Gozney has been down to sail on the First Class 8s again this season. It is a pleasure to see him at the club when he can spare the time from his duties.

Dinghy numbers have varied from week to week, especially when the Squad youngsters have been racing off-Island. Club sailors

have been competing in National, European and World Championships during the summer with some excellent results. They are all great ambassadors for the club.

The Yellow Peril Jubilee party on Tynwald Day appealed to everyone, with over twenty dinghies and keelboats on the water. It has been suggested that we continue with an event on Tynwald Day in the future.

The club's financial statements are included with this mailing. Last year, we had a considerable loss and the Directors have been working extremely hard to turn this round. As you will see, we have achieved this and have made a small surplus. This is due to a number of factors, including the savings in cleaning costs and general housekeeping, profit on social events and increased bar turnover.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to do this, especially to our Stewardess Fiona, ably assisted by Tony. Once again, I would ask you to support the club's social events and if you know someone

looking for a venue for a party, tell them where we are!

Two of our long serving Directors are standing down at the AGM. Pete Hinds and Phil Scott, both past Commodores, have worked quietly behind the scenes for many, many years – thank you both so much.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support this year. It has been a privilege to take on the role of Commodore again and I wish Robert and his team all the best for the future.

Cathie Ashurst

EASYFUNDRAISING

Please help club funds by logging in to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk Specify “Isle of Man Yacht Club” - then choose your retailer and carry on as usual. This is a painless way to accumulate admittedly small amounts of cash but every bit helps and it costs us nothing in time or money.

Social

The autumn is upon us and the nights are drawing in – so it’s farewell to a lovely summer and we look forward to the coming months. The word "Christmas" springs to mind!

There have been many varied social events since the previous

Mainsheet and the Commodore’s regular emails to all members will have kept you updated. Please note that new ideas for different types of social events are always welcome.

The sailing season ended with the Laying-Up Supper. This was a successful and well attended event, with the food provided by C.K. Catering. The following week, over 30 members and their guests attended a Gin Tasting Evening. This was run by Helen Latham and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It included an interesting talk and sampling of some very different gins.

Weekly Sunday lunches continue to be provided by a willing band of volunteers, if you can spare a couple of hours on a Sunday between 12.00 and 14.00 to make a few toasties, sandwiches or heat up some soup, your help would be very much appreciated. Then, after your stint in the kitchen, why not come to the bar for a well earned drink! Please contact Pam Williams-Jones who organises the rota, telephone 824368 or email crwj@manx.net.

Finally, as always, without the organisation and hard work of the Social Committee and helpers, none of these events could have

happened. So, many thanks for the invaluable support provided.

Social events for your dairy:

24th November – Film Night:
Sully – Miracle on the Hudson,
starring Tom Hanks

10th December – Commodore's
Christmas Lunch

14th December – Carols & Quiz
with Rushen Silver Band

19th January – Film Night

4th February – Treasure Hunt

18th March – Victorian Breakfast

Dinghies

Gales were the story for the last few weeks of the season, with 2 named storms and the tail end of a hurricane, which made tying your dinghy down securely enough of a challenge, never mind racing it!

Ahead of this however, there had been some great racing, new events and new trophy winners. Simon Pressly and Mike Pridham opened the season by winning the IOMYC Laser Open in Standards and Radials respectively. We celebrated the Yellow Peril's Golden Jubilee with racing for

both the dinghies and keelboats. Yellow bunting and clothing ranging from yellow T-shirts and jumpers to hi-vis tabards. None however matched Mick Kneale, who was resplendent in a full set of yellow oilies (which must have been hot as it was a beautiful evening, albeit without a lot of wind). Russell and June managed to drift fastest in the dinghies while Jesticul8 made the most of Albert Penguin parking up on a re-discovered rock almost inside Carthure Perch.

We hosted the Youth Championship in May with an excellent entry of 19 boats, including 14 RS Teras. Matt Perry sailed consistently over the 2 days in his Radial and managed to pip Ffinlo Wright in the new Aero 9 by a single point. The next event was the club's own Regatta. The 22 dinghies that took part made Carrick Bay a real spectacle and the crews packed the clubhouse after racing for a well-earned BBQ feast. The racing was close over two very different days weather wise. Russell and June did enough to seal the win but only by the finest of margins from Greg Kelly in 2nd place in his new Aero 7 and Simon Pressly (now a Laser Radial convert) in 3rd. Ffinlo Wright sailed consistently well to take 4th and best Junior.

The final big competition of the year was the IOM Dinghy Championship, which we were pleased to host. Although it should be a 2-day event, the weather dictated that there was no racing on the second day with a strong south-westerly bringing big gusts and waves. So, the results from day one stood and it was great to see Simon Pressly clinch the win along with another new winner of the Junior Trophy, Peter Cope.

Bart's Bash has now become a regular feature in the calendar. This year, a single, hour-long race was organised for both the dinghies and the keelboats, with a total of 32 boats on the water and a very full clubhouse afterwards. Mick Kneale's meticulously-set windward leeward course was scuppered about 30 minutes into the race when the wind swung and made it into a reach-fest. Ben 'the Bullet' Batchelor didn't mind one bit, as his already fast 29er skimmed easily into 1st place.

Our sailors flew the Manx flag at quite a number of events in the UK and even further afield. Phil Hardisty and Ciara Kaneen travelled to Lake Como for the RS 200 European championship and achieved an 8th place finish. Ffinlo Wright took his Aero 9 to the World Championships at

Carnac and finished in a superb 6th overall. Carnac was also the venue for the RS Tera World Championship where the Manx contingent made up 8% of the total fleet.

The new RS Aeros are now well established - Dave and Ben Batchelor, along with Greg Kelly and Ffinlo Wright all competed at the UK National Championship at Hayling Island in early September. Ben also travelled to Weymouth with Matt Perry to compete in their first National Championship in the 29er class, before catching a ferry to Quiberon in France for the European Championship the following week.

So, now we look ahead to next year. As some of the Juniors get bigger, they'll switch classes from the RS Teras to RS Fevas or Laser 4.7s, with a new in-take of younger sailors to fill their places. The Arnold twins hope to master their RS 200 to challenge Phil and Ciara in their new boat. Angus will be looking forward to a full season in the growing Aero fleet and Ben Batchelor and Antony Ellis will no doubt set out to set some new speed records in their respective flying machines, the 29er and Contender. Good luck to everyone who braves the chilly winds and waters over the winter at Injebreck, a great place to hone your boat handling skills and we

look forward to seeing you all back on the water in Port St. Mary at the end of April. Dinghy racing will be on Thursday evenings instead of Friday next year to accommodate the training section's plans.

June Collister - Dinghy Captain

Training

The training section enabled 21 individuals to improve their sailing skills this year. We had fantastic support from our merry band of safety-boat drivers and instructors. Chris Hill, James Walker, Stu Brew, John Dowling and Tim Cope acted as senior Instructors, with Ben Batchelor, Ffinlo Wright, Patrick Cope, Erin Murphy and William Wright backing them up as largely newly qualified dinghy instructors.

This season was plagued with poor weather and cold conditions and unfortunately, poor attendance.

13 children attained an RYA qualification to carry forward. Beginners were battered by cold, wet evenings but the hardy Manx children carried on through and were able to learn, practice and develop their newly acquired skills under careful supervision.

Confidence building was the aim of the game for all groups this year, using techniques like bin bag racing in 30 knots of wind was a particular favourite with the advanced group. No need for a mast or boom. A rudder and a bin bag is all that's necessary!

Many club juniors have progressed enormously over the years and it was superb to run the Pico Challenge at the end of the season. Peter Cope, a graduate managed to convincingly sail away with the win while constantly battling boat breakages and foul weather during a September Saturday.

Many thanks to Mark Pendlebury who is stepping down as Section Principal at the end of this year.

For next year, our training program is stable and all groups will sail on Friday evenings to encourage a higher participation.

We are also hoping to build up adult sail-training opportunities. If you are interested in learning to sail, whether young or old, please get in touch via: training@iomyc.com.

Chris Hill - Chief Instructor

Keelboats

Okay, buoys and girls:
2017 in numbers.

Races sailed: 18
Boats entered: 28
Marks lost: 2
Rocks hit: 7
Boats written off: 1
Events held: 3
Trophies awarded: 10
Man overboard: 0
Races abandoned: 0

In stark contrast to previous years, when races were regularly abandoned due to fading wind; this year, Michael Wilson and Mick Kneale laid marks near the Carrick and close to Brewery Beach. These, along with the introduction of a gate starts, gave the keelboats independence and flexibility, permitting short and direct courses to be set for the prevailing conditions. Courses as short as Carrick to Kallow to a Harbour finish allowed us to complete 18 races in the season. Not one race was abandoned and there were only two boats who failed to finish a race.

Our main events of the year were the club regatta, the Yellow Peril Jubilee, Bart's Bash and the First Class 8 regatta. We welcomed 3 visiting boats from Douglas to the club regatta, which was a brilliant

racing series held in a light breeze with fog banks rolling in. However, it produced some of the most competitive races yet in these boats. Albert Penguin managed to keep the visitors at bay to secure the overall victory.

In July, we held The Yellow Peril Jubilee race, to celebrate the 50th year of ownership of our stunning committee boat and it was a glorious Tynwald Day on the water. All boats resplendent in a dazzling vision of yellow. The event, dominated by FC8's, was crewed by sailors with ages spanning 6 decades, showing just how accessible our sport can be. Jesticul8 clutched victory from the jaws of the defeat in the July sunshine.

Bart's Bash was a tremendous jamboree of boats and faces. With a superb turn out, the bay looked amazing with the addition of new sport boats appearing late in the season, Tom Cringle and Rob Cowell bringing 20ft asymmetrics out to play. The SB20 "Albert" managed to creep away with the win as the wind faded. The FC8 keelboat regatta was a hotly contested series but Albert Penguin got the better of her rivals to win once again.

Bay ny Carrickey, in a rough translation means Bay of Rocks. This year, the keelboat fleet made a valiant attempt to re-discover

them all - perhaps not in equal measure to previous years but we excelled ourselves in style points and exposure. Jesticul8 on the Cronnags and Lazy Bones on the Flat rocks at the back of the breakwater to mention just two. Coming to the finish of a competitive Round Mann race, Keith Lord on A-Crewed Interest cleared the fog, sailed past the leader, Tanit, straight through to the finish off the breakwater only to run aground 10 metres from the finish line. She balanced, teetering on her keel for 16 minutes in full view of the awaiting spectators. In July, however it was Albert Penguin that managed to find itself almost inside Carthure Perch and needed the club safety-boat to tow it off with little damage to show, except to pride, perhaps. Unfortunately, Yogi's UPD8 was victim of a faulty mooring shackle and met its demise against the Chapel Beach sea wall, gaining BBC prime time news coverage.

Away from our bay, Round Mann attracted good competition, some visiting boats and was kindly sponsored by Excel Construction who ran a brilliant event. Club members Debbie and Jason Corlett took the fight to the Irish and were crowned First 31.7 champions during Volvo Dun Laoghaire Week. A Manx Flying Fifteen was received in the Lord

Birkett Trophy at Ullswater care of Michael Wilson, who battled through a competitive 22-boat fleet to score admirably over the two day event. Mike Stanton and Richard Baker took their respective boats North towards Skye and beyond to explore the Scottish Islands this year and to discover some the wildlife. Mainly midgies.

2017 racing was often a light wind, foggy affair interspersed with some badly timed gales but still some of the best racing I have been involved in on the Island. Many thanks go to our Sailing Secretary, Mick Kneale who was race officer for both of the club's combined dinghy/keelboat events this year.

Chris Hill - KeelboatBitch

Sailing Secretary

My thanks go to our Mainsheet contributors. There is a lot of club sailing going on - much of it in the wider world. The Youth Squad continues to produce high level sailing kids; all a credit to their parents, coaches and their own tenacity. Sailboat racing is a complicated sport and even at club level, you will be up against some of the best. I understand that Teddy Dunn is presently ranked 3rd in the British RS Tera Sport squad and Peter Cope 6th

and that Peter finished 12th in the world championship. Amazing! As dinghy race-officer each week, I can tell you that there is no quarter given at any start and these kids are right on it. It's a pleasure to see our sport in safe and skilled hands into the future.

Many others have travelled far and wide to their respective class events, which deflates entries at home occasionally - a price well worth paying.

Boats change hands all the time, some stay local, some come new on the scene. Mike Pollard's "new" Westerly Riviera motor-sailer is slowly getting sorted, it was in bad shape when collected from Strangford Lough. It will be up his own high standards in good time for the 2018 season.

Chris Crome bought Mike's Shearwater - so now, there's a Moody 27' for sale!

Mike Stanton acquired a First 40 CR from Belgium and is looking for a buyer for the Sigma 33, please!. Cool Comfort is rather a large yacht to be racing around the cans with the FC8s but he managed to avoid all rocks this year. Rob Cowell appeared with an SB20, raced it a couple of times - winning both on an obviously over generous handicap. Tom Cringle rocked up with an H22 late season and has

yet to get to grips with it - running up and down hills and getting married took its toll, apparently. Yogi lost his FC8 against the lower promenade along Chapel Beach - if only boats would run up Chapel Beach at low-water, we'd be able to save them. His therapy has been to obtain yet another OK dinghy. We're going to have to reclaim more land to park all these boats....

The DoI will, in due course, build a wall along the seaward edge of the boat-park as a flood defence, with a watertight gate at the top of the slip. Unfortunately, this will encroach a bit on the park, preventing trailers from hooking "over the edge" as now.

The DoI's efforts on the new yacht moorings eventually made sense and, although more expensive than at first indicated, they are, on balance, a welcome improvement.

Sandor Talas bought Dog Rose from Kevin Sykes.

Genesta II went to Portaferry for the "Sails & Sounds" traditional boat weekend and, at Castletown, won half of the trophies at their regatta - excellent post-race meal at the Bowling Green café by the way.

My list of boats owned by club members since WW2 is coming on but expect more questions!

Mick Kneale