



Isle of Man Yacht Club

Port St Mary

MAINSHEET

Number 71

March 2018

Commodore

So, (my old English teacher will be turning in his grave at this “introduction”) where have the first three months as Commodore gone? We had a busy start to the year on the social scene with some successful events organised by our Social Committee, for which my thanks for the support they are giving.

These events have helped the coffers and hopefully, we will see another reasonable year financially. It may not be possible to attend everything but, if as many as possible can attend some, then all will be well, despite the fact that we are incurring “one off” un-budgeted costs such as the necessary repointing work to part of the exterior of the clubhouse.

My thanks go to the new board of directors for

everything that’s being done quietly behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly.

One additional issue to resolve has been the forthcoming introduction of the European General Data Protection Regulations which, despite Brexit and all that, are going to affect the Isle of Man and us as a club. We have been trialling a new online system called **Webcollect** which, in addition to enabling compliance, will maintain our membership records and offer the facility, in due course, to book spaces on social and training events and even pay for them “online”. More of this in the coming months.

So, (again) to the 2018 season. After yet another winter of wild, windy, wet weather interspersed with some balmy days, there are yet few signs of stirrings in the boat park with only some

6/7 weeks to the start of the season now. Let's hope we get fine weather and a chance to get the boats fixed and launched on time for the beginning of May. The DoI is due to put the moorings down again by the end of March - all we have to do is take our places on the water.

You will see in the programme that we have a full schedule again, on and off the water which, weather permitting, we can fully support.

Let's hope we all have a fun season sailing – I for one can't wait to get back on the water after a year off ... see you there!!

Robert Floate

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

We have been busy over the winter months with a number of club events and private functions. The club is a great venue for parties, so if you know of anyone looking for somewhere to hold an event, please get in touch.

We had a new venue for the annual dinner last November. The Mount Murray Golf Club was excellent and looked after us extremely well. It was a great success and well supported by over eighty people attending. Many thanks to Jan Sidebotham for all her hard work to organise the evening – it really is a massive task to put it all together.

In December, we held the Commodore's Christmas lunch, which was a sell-out; many thanks to the stalwart helpers involved. The Christmas Carols

and Quiz were held on a Thursday due to Rushen Silver Band's other commitments. Unfortunately, this led to a smaller audience but it was still a lovely evening. Thank you to David and Wendy Hill for once again donating the mince pies.

Our new social committee members have been adding new events to the calendar. In January, Helen Latham organised a Burns Night, with forty people enjoying the evening. Unfortunately, due to illness, Helen wasn't able to be there! Many thanks to Gary and Elke and their helpers who stepped in. We hope that this will become an annual event in the club social calendar.

In February, it was Breeshey Harkin and Charlie Pearson's turn, when they provided us with an evening of Mexican food. It was a great night with over forty people taking on the challenge – hopefully they will repeat this next year.

The Walking Treasure Hunt is due to take place on Easter Sunday, 1st April. Please meet at the club at 10:30 to get the instructions - you will need a car to get to the start. Cost is £5 per person including a BBQ lunch back at the club. Please book at the Bar (832088) to help with numbers for catering.

The Fitting Out Supper is on Saturday 21st April. Tickets are £18 per person - please book at the Bar or contact Cathie on ashurst@manx.net.

Another of our new committee members, Kerry Fenna, is planning an evening of Camel Chaos. This was originally planned for March but, due to a number of conflicting events has to be postponed. We are planning to run this on Saturday 23rd June. This will appeal to everyone, so please put the date in your diaries.

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 help, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Pam Williams-Jones who organises the rota - telephone 824368 or email crwj@manx.net.

Social events for your dairy:

23rd June Camel Chaos

5th July Yellow Peril Regatta

6th October Laying Up Supper

10th November Annual Dinner,
Mount Murray Golf Club

9th December Commodore's
Christmas Lunch

21st December Christmas
Carols and Quiz

The Social Committee

Dinghies

Maybe it's just me but it feels like recent winters seem to be strung together by consecutive storms, the last of which, "Emma" at the end of February, brought a real Arctic blast as well. This didn't deter the hardy "Injebreck" faithfuls at all who still managed a "snow sail", which actually proved

easier than negotiating the drive home afterwards.

Despite the erratic weather, the winter series at Injebreck proved very popular, particularly with the Laser and other single-handlers. It would be great to see all these boats out on the water, along with all those that have been tucked up, for this coming season. The Easter Regatta is the usual season opener at Ramsey and then, we have a busy programme of Friday night and Sunday morning club racing together with regattas and other special events. Hopefully, the Arctic and hurricane conditions are well behind us and we can look forward to a great summer of dinghy racing.

June Collister - Dinghy Captain

Training

Through March, we've been busy preparing the training dinghy fleet for the upcoming season - new ropes, hardware serviced and general maintenance undertaken. Unfortunately, last year the craft

suffered a bit and we also needed a large number of volunteers. This year, we have decided to focus our efforts onto one training evening per week - Thursday. This will mix the abilities of sailors and add a better social aspect to the training environment.

We have twenty spaces on our beginner and intermediate courses this year and we welcome all abilities. As always, we have a strong junior section in the club racing fleet and we hope to bolster this with a new generation from the training section.

Adult training will also be included this season, with the first weekend due to run on the 12th/13th of May. This is a course aimed at the beginner or refresher, sailed in boats that are big enough to move around in, while not being overpowering. If you are interested in this weekend, please contact training@iomyc.com.

Chris Hill
Chief Dinghy Instructor

Sailing Secretary

As I write, it's snowing outside and the forecast is for gale force winds and Siberian temperatures. It must be the approach of the 2018 sailing season!

It's that time of year when we brave the elements to scrape the Seagull guano off of our boats and bash them into something fit for sailing again. Skippers and crews will be coming out of winter hibernation in the IoMYC bar and shuffling down to the boat-park clad in scruffy overalls armed with tools and new bits of gear that Santa brought them.

Through the winter, the sailing committee has been locked in the clubhouse honing a sailing programme that offers something for everyone. For the more competitive sailor, Wednesday night racing in Carrick Bay resumes in May and continues through the season until the First Class 8 Regatta at the end of September. The club boasts a growing fleet of evenly matched (theoretically) yachts with a core

of enthusiastic crew, providing all the basic ingredients for another exciting racing series.

When the tide permits at weekends, there will hopefully be longer coastal passages and the legendary Round Mann race, allowing more time between manoeuvres and crews to enjoy the ride in a more relaxed setting. Sprinkled throughout the season are the various club regattas providing the excuse for overnight stays and the opportunity to soak up the hospitality of our own and neighbouring clubs. There will also be ad hoc “fun races” slotted into the programme where the pressure is completely off, with the emphasis on learning the basics for those new or returning to the sport.

When the Summer finally arrives, some of the cruisers will follow their own programme and head North in search of peace, solitude and malt whisky. Others will be content with shorter, one or two day cruises visiting beauty spots and places of interest on these and nearby shores.

The common theme running through all of this is that nearly all participating boats would welcome additional, willing crew. It's a common misconception that all yachts are awash with eager bodies competing for limited positions on board. I can assure that this is not the case. So, if any item in this year's programme whets your appetite, then contact me on 472488 and I'll make the necessary introductions.

Have a great season.

Mike Stanton

Editor

I notice the DoI divers showed up today (12th March) to make a start on laying the moorings - very prompt! I understand a minor re-shuffle will be made and that there's a couple of spare moorings available.

The DoI is also going to start on raising the apron along the seaward edge of the boat-park by some 1.2 metres (4-foot to us pre-decimal types). The plan is to move all the dinghies along the

seaward edge to the other side of the slip which will be temporarily cleared of its usual occupants. When one side of the slip is done, they'll do the other half - not sure which will be undertaken first. Either way, you won't lose your space, so there's no panic! Parking will be an even worse nightmare than usual, no doubt.

This work will take place during the season as far as I can tell so, not exactly convenient. These flood defences will prevent the occasional flooding of Lime Street and there will be large boards to close the top of the slip when necessary.

There is a possible snag with this wall - we won't be able to hook trolleys/trailers "over the edge" as we do now. This will narrow the road behind all the boats of course. I suspect we'll end up parking at 45 degrees to the wall to keep the road wide enough. We'll lose a couple of spaces and the tie-downs and rings to be fitted in the wall will need careful thought.

Mike Stanton refers to the low level of activity so far in the boat-park - well, there's month yet to get the thing ready. Mike Pollard is the exception, as ever - he's been down there all winter whenever conditions permitted!

My own winter project has happily been under cover and I hope it will kiss the water by May. This is an experimental 19-foot lugger which will allow people to imagine it still really is the 19th century in Bay ny Carrickey (ignore the outboard!)

June talks about the frost-bitten dinghy sailors at Injebreck all winter. However, we also have keelboat heroes amongst us. Phil Hardisty, Chris Hill and James Humphrey narrowly won the SB20 Inland championship on Windermere mid-March sailing Rob Cowell's boat, Albert. A fine effort indeed, against a quality fleet of six in the usual less than pleasant lake conditions - 90 degree shifts, rain etc. Think Injebreck writ large!

Speaking of keelboats - last year's experiment with gate starts was a

success and, will be repeated in 2018. There are two distinct advantages: the fleet can race without a race-officer ashore and by allowing course changes over the radio, there is almost no need to abandon a race. The wind so often vanishes during the course of an evening (especially Wednesdays, it seems), it's handy to be able to shorten course in good time.

On a sad note, earlier this year, we heard of the passing of Bill McIntosh, club Treasurer for ten years from 1982. Bill was always great fun at meetings, with a cool, clear way of presenting reports with a twinkle in his eye. In March, we also learned of the passing of Nick Keig's wife Mo. Our sincere sympathies go to the respective families.

Boats change hands sporadically. I think that Sorcery and Karlin are still looking for new owners, as is French Mustard. So, there are some fine craft available locally. Phil Hardisty has replaced his RS200 with a new one. Michael Wilson tells me he's having a very

modern cruising catamaran put together for use in warmer climes. I'm still building a list of club members' boats over the decades but "offshore" boats only. Trying to establish a dinghy list would now be impossible. Records are patchy at best so, searching through old newsletters and photographs, has been fun. At least, the newsletters have dates on! Photos are very hard to date accurately.

One thing that strikes me in all these club publications is the continuous begging for more volunteers for all club activities. At any one time, there's a relatively small group of members who take on the jobs and drive it on. Nothing new under the Sun, eh?

There's always an immediate need for more safety-boat drivers, instructors, caterers, race-officers and club officials at every level. Perhaps this Mainsheet's plea for help won't fall on deaf ears! Do please come forward and lend a hand - your club needs you!

Mick Kneale