



# Isle of Man Yacht Club Port St Mary **MAINSHEET**

**Number 75**

**March 2020**

## **Commodore**

What a difference a day makes ... let alone recent weeks. If anybody had suggested even a month ago that we would see the world in the state it is, then a short stay in Ballamona might have beckoned.

To what extent that our respective plans for this summer season are scuppered, only time will tell. We must hold our nerve and course in the hope that all is not lost. Every cloud has a silver lining – we just have to be able to see it.

On the subject of plans, the directors have, over the past year, sought to bring forward a number of strategic initiatives. We hope this work will place the club in good stead when we re-emerge into the post Covid19 sunlight.

I must pay tribute to all the directors who have thrown themselves into the various projects with enthusiasm, often quietly giving many hours of their time in different ways and without whom, we could not have made such progress to ensure the continued smooth running of the Club. In this, I include all those other members who serve on the various committees for their steady contribution and commitment.

We have seen the coordination and increased use of social media for communication with members and I believe that the Webcollect system, together with the website, Facebook and WhatsApp groups are providing timely and relevant messaging..

We continue to seek new members and increased

attendance at all our activities. Members can play their part in this and all ideas are welcome. As you will read elsewhere in Mainsheet, we have made changes to the training programme, which we hope will find favour with members and “members to be” who participate in the planned adult courses. We continue to need volunteers for safety cover and hope to run a powerboat course for anybody who wishes to give it a go. It’s a great way to spend a Sunday morning or Thursday evening if not actually sailing.

The introduction of the ‘tea time’ Friday opening hours, combined with regular social events has proved successful both socially and financially. However, as I write, we have reluctantly taken what is nonetheless the ‘right’ decision - to close the bar until further notice to protect members and the wider community.

You will know from recent emails that we are

refurbishing to brighten up the club, modernise the bar and make better use of the space – for ourselves and others. We’re thinking of other groups without a base but need one from time to time and increasing the hire of the clubroom. If you know any potential users, please introduce them. This work is under way and we hope to finish by mid-April, ready to re-open as soon as social gatherings are considered safe once more.

Finally, we hope to propose some updates to the Club constitution to facilitate smoother running and administration. We are not quite ready to bring this forward for consideration by you all and I will be writing to you again separately in due course.

For now, I wish you all good health and remember, we are a community - there for each other in fair weather or foul. Do not be afraid to ask for help if the virus comes a-knocking. Looking

forward to seeing you all on the water at some stage this year. Do keep in touch and watch for updates on our social media.

**Robert Floate**

### **Sailing Secretary**

If, like me, you were looking forward to the 2020 sailing season and hoping to escape the madness that is Covid19, I'm afraid you are going to be disappointed. The Sailing Committee has once again worked hard to put together a full and varied programme. However, in these uncharted times and you will understand, it is now very much subject to change. I know the Commodore has explained the approach Directors have adopted but regrettably, there will be an impact on this season's sailing. Even though a lightly crewed keelboat or single-handed dinghy could be considered the nicest way to socially distance, we will have to review if and how we can

run each event as we go along, based on guidance at that time.

If and when we are able to pick up the programme, there will be opportunities for competitive sailors to test their skills and in some cases with new boats, against old adversaries. Also, I'm sure that as soon as they are able, our small but beautifully formed fleet of cruisers will be heading for distant shores. You will see from Chris Hill's Training report, there are some changes to the timings for Juniors and the addition of Adult training sessions which, with a bit of creativity, he is still hoping to run within the current guidelines. This means that dinghy racing is scheduled for Thursday evenings, which we hope will prove popular. June Collister, along with husband Russell have very kindly volunteered to act as Race Officers for weekday dinghy racing, whenever the

season resumes. As soon as it becomes safe to do so, they have also offered to run an awareness evening for any would-be ROs, to ensure a consistently high standard.

So, whatever 2020 has in store for us, hopefully there will be plenty to look forward to at the IoMYC once life returns to normal. Until then, I wish you good health and hope that we can all enjoy some time on the water soon.

**Mike Stanton**

## **Dinghies**

After what seems to have been an incredibly long, very wet and very windy winter, we're now itching to get back out on the water.

The 2020 programme offers something for everyone from training through to racing. The club has purchased three Laser 2000's which, in addition to being used for a series of

Adult Training courses, will be available to qualified members for any of the organised dinghy sessions, races or regattas, plus a fleet of RS Teras and Laser Picos for the younger sailors.

This year, dinghy racing will be on Thursday evenings - first start at 7:30. June and Russell Collister will run the Thursday night sessions for the season and invite any members who'd like to learn more about being Race Officer or just to get some practical experience, to come out with them on the Committee boat. As always, there will also be racing on Sunday mornings, starting at 10:30 and a rota will operate for Race Officer.

The programme has all the usual events, Regattas and Championships and all the details will be available on the website and in the printed programme. The season starts with the usual MSCC Easter Regatta at Ramsey on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April. So, time to dust off

the covers and get those dinghies out of hibernation and tuned up.

All this now depends on guidance from the authorities, of course. Let's hope we can run at least some of the programme during this crazy summer.

## **June Collister**

### **Training**

As many of our marketing pitches have begun this Winter, "Learning to sail can be the start of something new and exciting..." This is only too true for the 2020 season. This year, we have a new and revitalised agenda, running junior training on Saturday mornings and the much requested return of adult training on selected weekends throughout the season.

We have a new fleet of three adult training dinghies and these are available to club members as well as those having participated in club training. Two boats

were purchased and the other kindly donated by club members. Over the winter, they have undergone some minor TLC and will be in great shape. We also have new sets of RS Tera sails, which will give them a new lease of life and all the Laser Picos have new trolleys (many, many thanks to John Dowling for making the previous ones last 16 years!!) We are very excited by this surge of enthusiasm, as it's the first opportunity in years that the club has owned really suitable boats for adult use in club events.

Training has a very good committee and already, a strong team of volunteers to support us. As ever, if you are a parent, uncle, grand-parent or an auntie who's-not-really-an-auntie-but-you're-mum's-best-friend-so-we-call-you-auntie-anyway and you would like to get involved in helping with rigging, hot

chocolates or on the slipway, it would be great to hear from you. As we will be open on a Saturday, the top room will be open for you to come and look over the bay in the warm (although in June it's always toasty!)

However as I write, we are bombarded with news of sailing events being cancelled across Europe. My personal RYA CPD training courses have been cancelled and at this time, we are fortunate to be far enough ahead that we do not have to make any rushed decisions but I fear that 2020 may not be the training season we planned two months ago. We are very aware of the financial implications and will be in contact should you have made any bookings that we cannot honour. Sailing is great fun and hope to get out as often as possible through this unstable time.

**Chris Hill**

## **Social**

Once again, we were busy over the winter with numerous interesting events and we thank everyone for their support and attendance. These efforts, together with the early bar opening on Fridays and good publicity made the club much more vibrant. Thanks again to all of those who have helped (you know who you are!)

In November, a well-attended Annual Dinner was held at the Bradda Glen and enjoyed by all. Many thanks go to Jan Sidebotham for again organising the evening. We have booked the same venue for the 2020 dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Through November, December and January, we had a number of movie nights and talks. Kirsty's on the IOM Met Office and the weather and the Kerrish's talk about Fynoderee Gin

were definite stand out moments.

The Commodore's Christmas Lunch, the Carol & Quiz Night and the third edition of the Burns Night Supper were all highlights in the winter calendar. Keith's "Address to the Haggis" and Chris's "Toast to the Lassies" will long be remembered by all who attended. Someone will have a hard act to follow next year (volunteers welcome).

A new event this winter was the Après Ski Night at the end of February. A huge thank you to Helen Crosbie for her excellent catering - most didn't know what Tartiflette was before this evening but they certainly do now. It was great to see everyone getting into the spirit and making the effort to get their skiing accessories on display (evidence can be found on our Facebook page). The unusual type of Bingo also revealed a number of well-

kept secrets of club members - well done again, Chris.

As it turned out, all those who attended the local Après-Ski were lucky not to be trying it for real around Europe, with the uncertainty and then full effects of Covid19. The planned Curry Night was the first victim to this but we will hold it when circumstances allow.

You will know from the Commodore's emails that we are giving the club a face-lift, which will hopefully be completed by Easter and the Fitting Out Supper, scheduled for Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

All of this is obviously subject to Government guidance, so please look out for e-mails and website updates.

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored this refresh of the clubhouse and the volunteers doing various

works. We'll have a brighter, more attractive venue for members and to encourage more external functions to raise much needed funds.

Here's is a list of the main social events but as we go to print, the club bar has closed for the foreseeable future, so who knows what events will now take place.

**Everything is in a state of flux so keep an eye on your emails and our Facebook page.**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Fitting Out Supper

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May  
Discover Sailing BBQ

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
Yellow Peril Regatta

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
Laying Up Supper

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
Annual Dinner, Bradda Glen

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Lunch

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Carols and Quiz

**Elke Zinnecker**

### **Editor**

Good to see Peter Cope dominating at Injebreck sailing his Aero in recent months. Ben Batchelor has been training at various UK venues all winter too.

Cameron Blamey's swan-song in the Optimist was effective at the reservoir - I hear it's a Laser 4.7 next.

We now boast two of the new National 18' Ultras - mighty beasts!

Jealous? Moi?

Let's hope that this period of suspended animation ends sooner rather than later. Best of luck to us all. For now, visiting sailors are not even allowed to climb ashore at our ports. Whatever next?

**Mick Kneale**