



# ePotterNews



April 2013

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## April Highlights

New Kitchen Launch Party 6th April

Spring Series Racing starts 7th April, Youth and Junior Spring Series starts 20th April

Fitting out Party 19th April, Cruising Meet to Cowes and Summer Channel Cruise

Training Courses and Volunteering Opportunities

Update on Newtown Anchorage

Ann Brunskill

## The Season Starts Here.....

Despite the Arctic weather our sailing season got underway, with a few hardy souls supported by a large group of volunteers racing in the Easter Monday Scow Challenge. The Portmore Insurance Spring Series starts on April 7th and the spring cruising meet to Cowes on April 26th is already heavily subscribed.

I am delighted to report that our splendid new kitchen and salad bar has been completed on time and on budget. I would like to thank the kitchen project team, led by Neil Eccles and our Project Manager Peter Mills, for the professional manner in which this difficult and complex job has been delivered. I would also like to thank our kitchen staff who have been working in extremely difficult temporary conditions and Members for your patience throughout this period. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Kitchen Launch Party on April 6th.

The Club starts the year in a strong financial position but, like all clubs and businesses, we are not immune from the impact of the financial headwinds hitting the economy. The Club faces two major challenges this year, which the Flag Officers would like to ask Members to help us to address.

Sales in the bar and restaurant have understandably fallen sharply during the kitchen refurbishment work and we now need your help to build them back up. The House team have plans in place to improve the quality, value and range of food available from the new kitchen. We will be appointing a new Head Chef in the next few weeks and I will give you more news on that shortly. We will also be using the Island Room for weekend dining so Members can take in the wonderful views. Please may we ask you to support and enjoy the bar and restaurant by eating and drinking with family and friends more frequently in your Club.

The Club has suffered a gradual decline in membership over many years now and we continue to work hard to arrest this with investment in our clubhouse and facilities, together with such initiatives as reduced entrance fees for new members and quarterly subscription payments. Members can help the Club by encouraging other family members, sailing friends and crew to apply for and enjoy the benefits of membership.

Finally, we have a packed and exciting programme of sailing events this season and whatever the weather throws at us, I hope you enjoy a wonderful year on the water.

*Phil Lawrence, Commodore*

## Club

### New Kitchen

As reported below, the refurbishment of the kitchen and salad bar has been completed. There will be some small snags to be addressed as

they arise, but the staff are getting used to the new lay-out and have coped well over the busy Easter period.

## IT

Some changes in our IT system have been put into place recently. Members Race entrants and Juniors can now enjoy their own dedicated wifi system throughout the Club. Look on your phone, tablet or computer for SSIDs members 1, 2 or 3 and select the strongest signal. They are all currently unlocked although this may change! The new Members system is entirely independent of the office system, in order to comply with the bank's security instructions. Our membership records management system is also in need of an overhaul. The current company will cease to support it in November, so we have no option but to consider alternatives. This work is in progress thanks to an expert volunteer Member and office support and will be reported on in a month or two's time.

## Waterfront

The Club pontoons, platform and boats are all ready to go after their winter maintenance and the racing marks are already in position in the Solent.

*Kevin Podger, Secretary*

## Racing

Click on the banners below for details and documents.



Start the keelboat season and shake off the cobwebs with some Sunday morning racing and back to the Club in time for lunch.

Spring Series begins Sunday 7 April so we need your entry now to confirm handicaps, decide on class splits and order the beer.

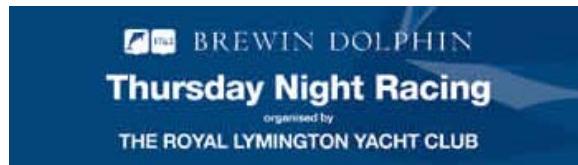
### Short of crew?

Come along to the Crew Match Event on Saturday 6 April at 1100 to recruit new crew or find an owner to sail with. Details on the [website](#).



Two races each Saturday afternoon from 20th April to 25th May.

First race on Monday 22nd April. Pre race registration, rating and other questions discussed at the Club on Monday 15th April from 1730 to 1900. Happy hour from 1730 to 1830.



First race on Thursday 25th April. Pre race registration briefing on Thursday 18th April from 18:00. £1 a pint for attendees.

First race on Saturday 20th April



## Social



Supper fully booked but do come along for the party



Caribbean style party with dancing to Zac and the Zeros



See the fashions and enjoy an audience with Helen McGinn of 'The Knackered Mothers' Wine Club'

## New Kitchen finished a week early - in time for Easter



The wait is over: at lunchtime on Friday 22nd March, after five weeks' hard work by the contractor and Club Project team, the newly refurbished kitchen was handed over.

When the old equipment was removed, the oldest piece was found to date from 1948 - they made it to last in those days! A small amount of asbestos was found under the plate protecting the floor from the heavy cookers and this was safely removed by a specialist contractor.

In order to improve the chef's workflow and in response to advice given by the Environmental Health officer, the kitchen has been reorganised as well as re-equipped. The walls are now 'wipe clean' hygienic plastic, the floor has been replaced with industry

standard 'Altro' and there is a new suspended ceiling with cleanable tiles. The old aluminium cooker hood has been replaced with a stainless steel unit, and to comply with current regulations, the gas and extract system have safety interlocks.

The IN/OUT door is now near the River Room and the servery is now contained within the kitchen. Washing up and waste disposal operations are well away from the food preparation areas. The two new portable carvery units which have done sterling service during the shutdown have been put to their proper place.

The House Manager's desk and till have moved to the dining room and the salad bar which was finished a few weeks ago has now returned to its normal function.

To complete the job, there is a simpler system of ordering food. At lunchtimes, order and pay for hot or cold food at the bar; your order will be sent electronically to the salad bar and kitchen and food will be delivered to your table. In the evening, your order will be taken by



staff and you will be invited to your table when it is ready. Drinks may also be ordered and served at your table. Different arrangements will be put in place for very busy periods and Thursday Night Racing catering.

On April 6th at 1800, there will be an official opening and kitchen launch party sponsored by Lockharts, the contractors, All are welcome. A big thank you to Members for their support of the Club during the disruption. The result is well worth the wait.

*The Project Team, Neil Eccles and Peter Mills*

## Cruising - Forthcoming Events

March may have been very cold but the cruising section has still been very active as can be seen from the reports on the meet and seminar below. Our next day trip is to Island Harbour on the 11th April, all welcome, see details on the [website](#). Also don't forget our [Radar seminar](#) on Saturday 6th April.

*Nick Olney, Captain of Cruising*

## Spring meet in Cowes - 26th to 28th April

Don't forget the Spring Meet this year sees our more formal (reefer jacket) dinner on the Friday evening at the Royal Yacht Squadron which will enable those racing on Sunday morning to join us. Marina berths are being reserved at Shepards Wharf for the Friday and Saturday. Saturday will be a free day and attendees will be able visit Osborne House, the Classic Boat Museum in East Cowes, bus up to Newport (every 8 minutes) or even take the tide up there for Saturday lunch. Tables will be reserved at the Island Sailing Club for a casual dinner on Saturday evening after pre-dinner drinks on the Shepards Wharf pontoon. Full details on the [website](#). Please reserve your tickets with the office giving boat details etc.

*Clive Sparrow*

## Channel Cruise June 2013 update

A number of boats have signed up for the [Channel Cruise](#). All are planning to be in the West Country, Channel Islands or North Brittany area during June. As previously advised, I will organise regular contact with all boats so that as and when one or more of us are in the same port we can organise an informal get together. As of now at least three boats plan to cruise in company to Lezardrieux via the Channel Islands. Those who have signed up will be emailed directly nearer the time with a schedule of boats, passage plans and contact information. Remember this cruise is very informal and there is no deadline for participation. If you find yourself in the area and would like to meet up with other Members just let me know by text (07766 552976) or [email](#) and I will include you on the schedule.

*Ken Claydon, Cruising Sub Committee*

## Cruising - Past Events

### Royal Southampton YC - 14th/15 March

The weather forecast was not good all week so three hardy yachts and one motor boat left for Southampton on a very cold and windless Thursday. Six crews elected to attend by car and joined the sailors for a very good quiz supper at the RSYC who made us very welcome. On the Friday morning the motor boat left at 6.30 am to get home before the forecast gale arrived. The three yachts left at 11.30 am to catch the ride only to find the wind blowing from the south west at 30 to 40 knots. This made for an uncomfortable ride back to

Lymington but overall a very good meet despite the weather.

*Nick Olney, Captain of Cruising*

## Safety Morning - Saturday 16 March

Over 50 people from the Club and the LTSC attended the fifth annual Safety Morning. Robin Pratt started proceedings with a talk on distress calls and a briefing on AIS and its future developments. This was followed by tips for engine maintenance given by Clive Rochfort; put over the topic in a very simplistic manner so even the most non - technical of us could understand. Simon Bush then appeared with a fantastic team of young Sea Cadets to cover first aid – the first five minutes. After a short talk, the dummies appeared and Members were seen on all fours trying the resuscitation techniques supervised by the Sea Cadets. Finally a joint team from Ocean Safety and Harken gave a presentation on safety equipment and MOB. This included an inflation of both life jackets and a life raft plus the attempt to eat some very unsavory emergency ration biscuits.

Overall a successful and enjoyable morning, which achieved its aim of reminding Members at the beginning of the season how to use rarely, if ever, used safety equipment and the procedures associated with such kit. Another session will be run next year – so watch this space!

*David Houlton, Cruising Sub Committee*

## Newtown Anchorage Update

Firstly a big thank you to the many Members who made their views on Newtown Anchorage very clear when replying to the DEFRA consultation paper on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). You have had a considerable impact on Government thinking.

On Monday 25th March Jeremy Vine, Philip Gossage, Jack McPhie from the LTSC and I attended a packed public meeting in Newport which was addressed by the Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Richard Benyon MP. The minister had been briefed by Peter Hebbard who accompanied the minister to the meeting.

Representatives of divers, fishermen, marine biologists and sailors presented reasoned and cogent points against the current proposals. It was clear from the minister's presentation and his responses to the questions put to him that there will be a full re-examination of the way that MCZs are managed. The government have said they will consider each site individually. If voluntary bodies in conjunction with local interests and harbour authorities can agree how to manage an MCZ then the government may take this into consideration too. The consultation period is over. We now have to wait until the results are published. We can't say that we have achieved the objective of keeping the moorings and anchorage in Newtown open to sailors yet but we have shown that we have a reasonable case and we believe that the government is listening to it.

John Pockett, the RYA Southern Region representative with responsibility for Marine Conservation Zones in and around the Solent, had a private discussion with the Minister before the meeting. There was favourable media coverage of the meeting on BBC South.

As soon as there is any further news the General Committee and Members will be briefed accordingly.

*David Brunskill, RYA Western Solent*

## Training

Plenty of training opportunities as the weather warms up. Kristy Powell is the Club's Chief Instructor (sail) and is a qualified RYA Senior Instructor. For details of her RYA training courses and the very popular Ladies First sailing sessions go to the [website](#).

## Powerboat courses

There are still places on the forthcoming Mark Laying Courses on the 12th May and the Level 2 Plus course on 26th May. The cost is £10 per person. Contact the [office](#) to book. Both are open to new candidates and those wanting to refresh their skills. The marklaying course might be useful to Race officers who might like to find out how much they can expect from a good mark layer and how long it takes to do

## Volunteers

## The View From The Platform

The starting platform is an iconic feature of the Lymington River. It is the welcome sight that tells us that we are nearly home after a long beat against the tide returning from Cowes. It shows us where the deeper water is as we strike out for Newtown on a sunny summer's day. Most importantly it is the start and finish of many of our best races. But how many of us have actually been on the platform? I suspect many of us have wondered how easy it is to get onto the steps? What the view is like from the top? Why does it need so many people on a Thursday evening and can they really see the end of the line at the start? Well now is your chance to get out there and see for yourselves.



Alastair Wilson, principal race officer for the Brewin Dolphin Thursday Evening Race series is inviting prospective race team members to spend a Thursday evening on the platform watching the action. There will be plenty of chance to watch the racing and you can get involved with as little or as much of the race management as you want to. For those of you who would prefer to experience the racing on a weekend, there are still places available on our Spring Series taster sessions. To take advantage of either of these excellent opportunities please contact [Kirsty](#) in the office.

*Jane Corden*

## Race Management Training

I am sure we would all like to thank Jane Clegg, John Evans and Alastair Wilson for presenting this winter's training sessions and making their PowerPoint presentations available on the Volunteer section of the Club [website](#). The next task, in spite of the weather, is to join the team, get out on the water, and put your knowledge into practice!

### Saturday 6th April 2013 - 1430 hrs in the Island Room

VHF Radio Use for Race Team Members and Support Boats. Phil, the Boatman, will share his expertise with us on the VHF radio handset – which button does what; common radio communication problems and their solutions; looking after the VHF handset and hands on time. Please sign up on the main noticeboard if you wish to attend.

*Frances Evans*

## Racing Events

### 2013 RORC Easter Challenge

Peter Scholfield and his team in 'Zarafa' won IRC Class 4 in a wintry RORC Easter Challenge, with six wins in seven races over three days. Bob Baker in 'Brightwork' came fourth overall.



### Easter Egg Challenge - Easter Monday

The promise of hot cross buns and Easter eggs tempted three enthusiastic crews out for three very exciting races in borrowed Scows on a very cold and cloudy morning. Rory and Alex Paton took the biggest eggs home with two firsts and a second, but the racing was close although enthusiasm to get going meant individual recalls for most of the fleet at each start. The race team on the Club pontoon were kept going with cups of coffee and the two patrol boats diligently kept their eyes on the boats and were presented with chocolates for their hard work. Second were Luke and Emma McEwan and third Karl Thorne and Jasmine Summers.

## Juniors

### Oppies - March

"Race Pace" was the title of the fourth Lymington winter training weekend, led by Greg Carey and his team of fellow Oppie legends. Again conditions were at best mixed and challenging for the 48 sailors, whose characters have been so heavily formed this winter that they

hardly need gloves, protective clothes or boats.

The 2013 Team Winner/P&B/Zhik was announced and two of the three team members are from Lymington; George Ford and Vita Heathcote. Vita was invited to Faaborg in Denmark to visit the Winner factory to see how they are built, be presented with her brand new jazzed up oppie and to train with the rest of the Winner Team (see picture right).



Winter reinforced its grip for the Spring Championships on Mersea Island. 140+ sailors were treated to arctic conditions and a spring tide. Lymington sailors are by now quite used to sailing in near-survival conditions on the open sea and this showed in the results with eight of them (four girls and four boys) coming in the top 14. The last of the non-squad winter training sessions took place at Spinnaker Sailing Club. This training is designed for the fledgling sailors and is the perfect step between the Salterns and the Lymington River. Joint winners from the series were Hector Bennett and Henry Heathcote (both RLymYC).

The South Zone squad trained at Oxford and Weymouth this month. It's a bit like the inter-house rugby matches at school, with bodies being laid on the line like never before. With the Worlds and European Teams Selection Trials coming up shortly, this also gave the sailors the chance to test how sharp their elbows had become after a hard winter's training; Milo Gill-Taylor won the event with fellow Lymington sailor Max Moyles second.

*George Heathcote*

## RNLI

### Beaulieu Boat Jumble, Sunday 28th April

Still time to donate items of Boat Equipment, Clothing, Sails, Charts, Books etc. to be sold at Beaulieu. Items can be left with the Boatmen at the Club or by arrangement with John Niven on 01590 678839/07523 110580. Anyone who would like to come and join the team of RNLI raffle ticket sellers at Beaulieu should contact Dorothy Bishop on 01590 677102.

### Lymington Station 10K Run and Children's fun runs, Sunday 12th May

The 12th Lymington Lifeboat 'Run in the Sun' takes place on Sunday 12th May. This year also there will be 1K and 2K Children's fun runs for children aged 5 - 14 (three age categories) - ideal training for younger sailors if they aren't racing that weekend. These runs are co-ordinated by the Lymington Triathlon Club and are timed to avoid clashes with all but the last few 10K runners. Fun runs will be completed by 11.30 am. This is a great way for children to have some fun and participate in a major community event. Details and entry form on the Station [website](#).

### Lymington Lifeboat Shop

The shop is open from Wednesday to Sunday each week from noon to 4 pm. New stock and lots of ideas for presents.

### Cadland House Gardens - Thursday 13th June 2013 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

A rare opportunity to visit the only remaining small garden designed by Capability Brown. A conducted tour of the gardens followed by strawberry cream tea. Admission by ticket only £15. from Dorothy Bishop 01590 677102.

#### Small Ads

Email me the details and any photos and the ad will be in one month's ePotterNews. If you don't want your contact details published, interested parties can be asked to contact you via the club pigeon holes in Reception.

Satisfied customers will be requested to make a small donation to Sailability or the RNLI.

The listing of items for sale or wanted in ePotterNews does not indicate that RLymYC has knowledge of the authenticity of the advertisement and does not recommend or guarantee the items advertised and the Club cannot accept any liability in this regard.

*Ann Brunskill*

#### Club Discounts

[please see list on website](#)



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