



ePotterNews



March 2013

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Spring Is Around The Corner

Plenty of plans about to come to fruition. Thanks to a huge amount of work by everyone involved the Kitchen and Salad Bar refurbishment is almost completed and rather like a certain theatre in London, we never closed. The sailing season, both cruising and racing, is just around the corner. All we need is the weather and lots of people can go sailing.

Ann Brunskill

Stop Press - Bletchley Park visit - Saturday 16th March

We have had a superb take-up for the unique opportunity to visit Bletchley Park on Saturday, 16th March to join the experts to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of The Battle of The Atlantic but, due to a couple of late cancellations, there are two places available. Bletchley Park is delving into a battle which raged throughout World War Two. Four speakers will tell the story of the Battle of the Atlantic, which came close to defeating the Allies and threatened the security of their Ultra secret; the success of the Codebreakers at Bletchley Park.

The Club, of course, has a special interest in that it was Member David Balme who, as a Sub Lieutenant, led the party to recover the Enigma Machine (and code books, sextants and food!) from the U Boat U110, forced to the surface by his convoy escort group off Iceland. David's daughter, Fenella Lees, will be attending together with her husband David.

Kevin Podger, Secretary

Club

AGM



The Club's AGM on the 9th February was well attended and the minutes were sent out in the recent mailing. The Commodore thanked the outgoing Vice Commodore John Mills and Rear Commodore House, Neil Eccles for their support and hard work and welcomed the new Vice Commodore, Dunlop Stewart, (picture left) and Rear Commodore House, Geri Harris (picture right). Four members of the General Committee retired, Chris Baldwick, Denise Moore, Dunlop Stewart and Jim Venn, and the Commodore thanked them for the contributions they had made to the life of the Club. He then introduced the newly elected committee members, Sally Priestley, Clive Sparrow, Roger



Wilson and Bob Woolley, to the meeting.

The project to refurbish the Kitchen and release money from the Capital Reserve to fund the work were approved by an overwhelming majority.

Staff

Karen Blachford retired after 18 years at the Club and was very appreciative of Members' generous donations. There was a leaving celebration with the staff on her last day. As well as her job on the first floor Chloe Ganly-Boast has taken over from Karen on Membership. She had a month working with Karen and is settling in to the job well.

IT Project

The IT project on the database and membership management is well on track and the Club has received an enthusiastic response from five possible suppliers. The bids are being analysed to come up with the top two for final evaluation. The system interfaces with everything the

Club does and it is intended to get the new IT Project system up and running by July.

Mailing

The recent mailing was very successful and there are only a few envelopes still to be collected from the Club. Members disposing of old handbooks are requested to bring them into the Club to ensure that they are shredded.

Maintenance

The winter boat maintenance schedule has gone well and the boatmen took the opportunity to put all the Club's racing marks back in place during the recent spell of calm weather.

Kevin Podger, Secretary

Racing



The season starts here. The Portman Insurance Spring Series is the ideal start to the season. Two races each Sunday morning in April then back to the Club for lunch. What could be better? Just click on the banner above for details and the link to the Notice of Race and Entry Form.

House

Kitchen refurbishment

We are well into the kitchen refurbishment and apart from a few not entirely unexpected surprises we are on schedule for completion at the end of March. The main reason I believe is that Peter Mills our project manager is on site most days and is relentless. Also a very big thank you to the Members who have carried on using the Club even though I know it has been noisy at times. You have all been very patient and understanding. Our House Manager Iain Robertson and his catering team have gone that extra mile to ensure a service of hot and cold food has been available even under very difficult circumstances. The Cruising Dinner and RCC Dinner were very well received and the regular social activities have continued seamlessly. There will be a 'soft' opening of the kitchen leading up to Easter and we will have a Grand Opening party on 6th April so please come along and join in the celebration.

The Spring Events are about to start so please look out for the Fitting Out Party on 19th April and Spring Fashion Show on the 24th April. Thank you again for your ongoing support while we undergo our building work.

Geri Harris, Rear Commodore House

Social

Rugby

Last matches of the Six Nations Rugby will be televised on the big screen in the Island Room on 16th March, full details on the [website](#).

Movie Nights

The 2012/13 film season comes to an end with two excellent movies:

Tuesday 12th March, 6 pm - "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" a philanthropic prince believes he had found a way to irrigate the desert of his home land. Starring Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt

Tuesday 26th March, 6 pm - "Skyfall" the very latest and apparently most spectacular Bond film. Starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Naomi Harris and Judy Dench.

Please sign the list on the board and do stay for supper afterwards.

April dates for the diary

Fitting Out Supper - Friday 19th April, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Please put the date into your diaries and be ready to launch the sailing season with a Pirates of the Caribbean evening. Themed dress is optional. Dance to. Zac and the Zeros. Tickets are £24.50 and will be on sale shortly.

Spring Fashion Show - 24th April



Coffee and home-made biscuits followed by 'Stanwell's Spring Fashion Show'. There will be a charity raffle with proceeds donated to Lymington SailAbility. Click on the banner above for full details.

New Members' Evening - Friday 12th April



All Members who have joined the Club in the past twelve months are welcome to attend and meet the Commodore and Flag Officers. There will be supper available afterwards. Click on the banner above for full details

Newtown Anchorage Update

Now is the time to respond to the government's consultation on Marine Conservation Zones - especially as regards to Newtown Anchorage. A summary of the Club's views on the proposals relating to Newtown Anchorage will be on the [Sailing Issues](#) page of the Club website next week and on the Club Notice Board. If you are concerned about Newtown and would like to receive information as matters progress please email me at newtownanchorage@hotmail.co.uk.

David Brunskill

Racing

March, and a time to concentrate on boat preparation. In barns, sheds, and other outbuildings all around Lymington crews are busy on their final painting and polishing of their beloved boats. We relieve the tedium by looking ahead to April, when the season starts. Even before the Portmore Spring Series with the first couple of races due on Sunday, 7 April, comes the Easter Egg Challenge on Easter Monday, great for spectators and competitors alike (for more info click the banner below). The month sees numerous training days and the beginning of most of our traditional series: Monday Evening Dinghies; Brewin Dolphin Thursday Night Racing; XOD Wednesday and Saturday series.

Robin Taunt, Captain of Racing



Duo Series 2013 - Saturdays: 20th April, 11th May, 6th July, 31st August and 21st September

The Notice of Race has been published on the Club's [website](#) for the Duo Series, supported this year by Spinlock and Harken who are providing some great prizes. The first race will be on Saturday, 20th April with the start time being determined two weeks beforehand. The racing was very close last year with some testing courses being set to challenge the two-handed racers. Our Race Officer and handicapper, Tony Blachford, would very much appreciate an early indication of entrants to for the handicapping.

Charlie Roberts, Captain of Cruiser Racers

Dinghies

Several of our dinghy fleets have been active over the winter, most notably the Oppies and Teras.

The popular Easter Egg Trophy will be sailed for in the Club's Scows on Easter Monday, by teams of two with a minimum combined age of 35. Not long after is the first of the Monday Evening Dinghy races on 22nd April. There will be a pre-series briefing for on Monday 15th April at 18:30 at the Club.

Dinghy park

The far dinghy park has been improved considerably in the Scow area with new gravel and a weed control membrane. Thanks to all those who helped. We hope to extend this across the rest of the dinghy park next year, subject to budget approval. The corner of the balance pond dinghy park has also been improved.

Reminder

This year we are planning to use the dinghy park for boats attending the Tasar Nationals (31st May to 2nd June) and the Lymington Dinghy Regatta (13th and 14th July). This means we will be moving boats to accommodate the visitors. If you need access to your dinghy during these dates inform the Office well in advance or enter the event yourself. This saves the considerable expense of hiring car parking space during busy periods from the Council, so helping to keep the dinghy park fees down.

Luke McEwen, Captain of Dinghies

Cruising - future events

The last three lecture are:

13th March - Maria Newbury - Shipbuilding in Southampton and Sea City Museum and

20th March - Sophie Neville - The secrets of filming Swallows and Amazons

27th March - Rodger Woodhams - Jubilee Pagent from a participating boat

We now have the summer break and the new seasons lectures begin on 6th November. If you have a lecture you could give or know somebody who could give one please let the new Vice-Captain Cruising George Johnson know.

Don't forget to look on the Cruising pages on the [website](#) or check the notice board for events and make sure you are on the cruising data base. This year we are going to run a photographic competition for the best photo taken while cruising, this can be any subject taken while you are away so get snapping.

Nick Olney, Captain of Cruising

Safety Morning - Saturday 16th March

A final reminder for the Safety Morning. There's always something new, including a refresher on VHF and DSC, so do sign up. Full details on the [website](#).

David Houlton

Radar Seminar - Saturday 6th April 9.30 am

An approximate 2 1/2 hour informal talk plus simulations on the large screen covering the basics of radar and its uses. Do you know about head up, course up a, relative motion and EBLs collision avoidance etc? All will be revealed. If you have radar fitted you are required to

know how to use it. Don Roper, an ex water borne police officer and RYA radar tutor, will present the seminar and answer your questions. A relaxed enjoyable seminar. To cover our costs there will be a £5 charge on the day.

Peter Upcher

A Spring Weekend in Cowes - 26th to 28th April

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

The cruise will cover the French coast from Cherbourg in the east to Treguier in the west, the Channel Islands and the West Country. Some of us will spend the whole of June on the cruise with an outline passage plan of Lymington, Cherbourg, Channel Islands, Treguier, St Malo, Granville, Channel Islands and Dartmouth before returning to Lymington. Others may join part of the cruise only. I have received expressions of interest from a number of you and now need to start to put together a communications plan. Further details on the [website](#).

Ken Claydon, Cruising Sub Committee

Chart Room

The 2009 set of Navionics world-wide electronic charts has now been removed from the chart room computer, as weekly updated versions are now available free, via their [website](#). This link is also on the [Chart Room page](#) of the Club website and under the "Webapp Navionics" tab on the Favourites bar on the Chart Room computer.

Recent donations to our book stock include superbly illustrated volumes on Alinghi 10, Coastal sailing Craft and the Americas Cup 2000, as well as inspirational accounts such as "117 days adrift" and "Single handed in Galway Blaze".

Peter Lowe, Cruising Sub Committee

Cruising - Past events

2013 Cruising Dinner

This year's sell-out dinner was enjoyed by all; the food was excellent despite the kitchen restrictions and the speaker, Captain Lionel Hall, was very entertaining. The Cruising Trophy Winners this year were: Channel Trophy - Bob Woolley (see picture left); XII Bar Blues Trophy – Richard and Celia Lassen; Fen Dawn Cup - -Lou De Marco and Tess Tennant; Quains Cup – Peter Fryer; Senior Brownlow Cup – Sebastian Chamberlain; Cadiz Cup – Andrew and Maire Wilkes; Seamanship Trophy – John Andrews and Freda Haylett; John and Angie Bailey Award – Peter Bruce. A presentation was also made to David Houlton for his past and continuing support of the Cruising Section.



Clive Sparrow

Day Sail to Cowes, Friday, 15th February

The weather forecast held true on the day and had encouraged 25 boats, 9 motor and 16 sail, to join the meet. We were even graced by prominent members of the racing fraternity. With the



light breeze in the morning encouraging the yachts to use their motors and assisted by the tide, the majority made Shepards Wharf in good time to make their way to the Island Sailing Club for an excellent lunch. The trip back was blessed with a stronger breeze and made for a good sail back to Lymington as a fitting end to an enjoyable day.

George Johnson, Cruising Sub Committee

Race Team Taster Sessions - Spring Series

Firstly I must say a big thank you to all those who provided fantastic, safe racing to the young Laser 4.7 sailors at the Euro qualifiers. The conditions were certainly testing for sailors and the race officers' thermals alike. Perhaps we can persuade the Lasers to come a bit later in the season next time!

The season is now getting into full swing with Easter and the Spring Series nearly upon us. For those of you who are still unsure of what becoming part of the race team might be like we are able to offer the opportunity to come out on to the water with a very experienced race team. On a first come first served basis we can take two Members out on the committee boats each week. We leave the Club pontoon at 8 am and are back from racing by 2 pm having completed two races. Both Mainframe (pictured right at a previous years' Spring Series) and Elida, the start and finish boats respectively, are comfortable and well appointed and you can be assured of a warm welcome by the team whether you are a keelboat racer without a ride or a dinghy sailor looking for a change. Contact [Kirsty](#) in the office to book your space.



Looking further into the season if you have expressed an interest in helping with either Monday or Thursday evening racing but have not been sent a series availability form please contact the Office as the rosters will be compiled shortly.

Jane Corden



Race Management Training

Did you fail to make the winter training sessions? Would you like to refresh your memory on the details? Relax

Click on the links for the Powerpoint presentations, [Recording](#) and [Time Keeping](#) which are available to view on the Club website and the third will follow shortly.

VHF Radio use - Saturday 6th April 2.30 pmin the Island Room

VHF Radio Use for Race Team Members and Support Boats. Phil Baker will share his expertise with us on:

- The VHF radio handset itself – which button does what
- Common radio communication problems and their solutions
- Looking after the VHF handset

There will be hands-on time after the session. Please sign up on the main notice board if you wish to attend

Monday Night Dinghy Race Team Evening - Tuesday 9th April 6.00 pm

This session will cover all aspects of the Monday Team's activities from starting and finishing the race to the patrol boats' activities and is a timely refresher after the winter. The picture right shows the finishing team on the balcony on a lovely summer evening. A sign up sheet will be on the main notice board shortly.



Frances Evans

Fleets

RS Elites

We look forward to welcoming some new faces to the RS Elite fleet at Lymington when the season starts in April. The opening event will be our now customary training day on Saturday 6th April where all crews are welcome to catch up on the latest thinking within the Class on boat set-up and sailing techniques. The day will start with Elites on the club pontoon for a tuning session, followed by some class-room stuff, lunch and then sailing in the afternoon with feedback and coaching from a RIB. Training will be quickly followed by racing when the full 2013 programme starts with the Spring Series on Sunday 7th April.

Steve Powell, our larger-than-life fleet captain, is handing over the reins to me, Martin Wadhams, this season as he and the lovely Beans are heading to the Mediterranean for the next adventure on their yacht 'Uhuru'. Steve will remain in close contact, continuing his role as RS Elite Class chairman and coming back to the UK for the Southern Areas, Cowes Week and the Nationals through July and August. Steve's Elite 'E'Tu' will be on the club racing start lines throughout the season, campaigned by Steve's regular crew man Mike Rapson.

So, in the meantime, if you'd like to find out more about the Lymington RS Elite fleet, would like to arrange a trial sail, or are keen to get involved via crewing, please [email me](#) or call 07831 495763.

Martin Wadhams



XOD Fleet

The XOD Division is looking forward to a competitive club racing season, as well as class regattas including Classics Week and Cowes Week and an autumn event in Brittany.

The season starts as the end of April, by which time the boats will have enjoyed a six months' break. During this time there is always work to be done on the boats, both to ensure their longevity and to make sure that everything is prepared for a long racing season ahead. One person in the X fleet has taken his winter boat preparation duties a little further than most, Adrian Summers is approaching completion of a full refurbishment of Exodus (X113) that will have taken 18 months by the time he is finished (see left). What makes this all the more remarkable is that Adrian not only holds down a full-time job and has a young family, but this is the second boat that he will have fully restored in the last four years.

If you are interested in joining the XOD fleet as an owner or part-owner please contact our Divisional Captain John Miller. If you would like to crew contact Liz Field who maintains our crew register, which has successfully introduced new people to the class over the last few years. The Division sails up to three times a week in the Summer, and as such there is normally somebody that needs a crew. If you are concerned about your own level of racing experience, then take heart that most owners look for enthusiasm and commitment above all else, and that this a great way to start racing or improving your skills. Check on the [web page](#) for full details.



Karl Thorne

Scows

The rhythm of life continued through February for members of the Scow Division with walks, informal suppers, lectures and a final session on the dinghy park maintenance programme. The dinghy park now has a weed-retarding membrane overlaid with gravel and looks very smart. The last work squad numbered 15 and over 80% were from the Scow Division. My thanks to you all for giving the Club a smart lower-maintenance dinghy park.

The February lecture took us from Beijing to Bangkok, a journey taken by Nigel and Angela Reid. The talk was presented with great skill and supported with photographs of such quality that the culture of each country was transferred to all those in attendance - some 50+ members.

I am aware from casual conversation in the Club that attention is turning to on-the-water activities. Words like teak oil, polish, new sails and trips to John Claridge, suggest that those who race will find the events as challenging as ever and the Pottering programme, under the expert eye of Graham Neal, is the most extensive yet. All in all, a lot to look forward to in the months ahead.

Threading the Needles

It was foggy, it was raining; it was cold. Nevertheless in early March with Master Potter, Graham Neal, in charge, nine Scowers in two RIBs went down to the Needles to have a close look at the ways in which some 40 Scows could "Thread the Needles" this July. Navigator extraordinaire, Peter Bruce, set the two RIBs off on a course along the Lymington shore and then, left hand down, the RIBs turned towards the Needles which emerged out of the gloom looking fairly benign in the dull grey sea and sky. The two RIBs ventured through both the gaps several times, always mindful of the swirling wash over two barely visible rocks. Satisfied that at least nine people knew the location of the passages and rocks, the crews rafted up in Alum Bay where sommelier Sebastian Chamberlain served hot tomato soup liberally laced with what he thought was some obscure raw spirit which only later (too late) he discovered was a fine grappa. The run back to the Club was equally foggy, wet and cold, but the trip generated much discussion in the bar on the many opportunities to make the planned Potter both interesting, safe and successful.

John Evans

Optimists

Despite the unrelenting winter, the winter training programme has charged on like a runaway train but somehow still got most of the wheels on. Any oppie sailors with any sense have been enjoying the Nations Cup in Palamos (congratulations to winner David Labrouche – 467 sailors from 23 nations) or a guaranteed on-the-water yield of 5 hours a day for 5 days amid the orange harvest of Lanzarote. The rest of us spent most of half term slugging it out in not so balmy Pwllheli. Suffice to say we are very much looking forward to the weather warming up and the racing season beginning soon.

George Heathcote

RNLI

Beaulieu Boat Jumble, Sunday 28th April

We gratefully accept and sell any donated items of Boat Equipment, Clothing, Sails, Charts, Books etc. Items can be left with the Boatmen at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club or by arrangement with John Niven on 01590 678839/07523 110580

Lymington Station 10K Run, 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). 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 will open for 2013 on Wednesday 27th March noon - 4 pm and is open from Wednesday to Sunday each week.

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

The listing of items for sale or wanted in ePotterNews does not indicate that RLymYC has knowledge of the authenticity of the

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.

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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