



# ePotterNews



March 2011

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## Is Spring Around The Corner?

Sitting here on a grey morning I can't quite believe that winter is going away but looking at all the activities planned for the next few months, it's going to come along all too quickly. The improvements to the Clubhouse continue with the new automatic front door and the revamped Ladies wet room. The latter was much appreciated by the Laser 4.7 sailors on a cold February weekend. Diary dates include the Keelboat Spring Series, the new Duo double handed series, the delightful Gaffers and Classics Regatta, the busy Cruising programme and the last flourish of the winter social calendar.

*Ann Brunskill*

## Annual General Meeting

122 Full and 38 Family Members attended the Club's Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12th February. The business was transacted and the various Special and Ordinary Resolutions were approved, including the project to open the east and south walls of the Library and install folding doors. The Commodore thanked the outgoing Rear Commodore Finance, David da Cunha for his efforts and leaving the Club's financial systems in such a good state. He thanked Committee Members Jenny Wilson and Mike Urwin for their hard work over the previous three years. John Miller was elected Rear Commodore Finance. Graham Clarke, Tony Jarvis, Ros Urwin and John Thunhurst were elected to the Main Committee.



*David da Cunha presenting John Miller with his Flag Officer's burgee*

## Club

### West of Wight windfarm

The location of the proposed West of Wight windfarm has recently been released. Further details and the dates for public information days can be found on the [RYA website](#). The Lymington meeting will be on Thursday 24th March.

## Dinghy Park

### Space allocation and Issue of Transom Stickers

Please note there has been a delay as we are trying to squeeze new boats into spaces. As a result some Members may not receive their space allocation and sticker for a another week. Currently there are six Members on the waiting list who may be disappointed if we cannot find them a slot.

### Working Party



A big thank you to the 15 stalwart Members who turned out on Saturday 26th February to extend the NFDC rented area of our main dinghy park across into the final area of bog and scrub that had once covered most of the park back in the early 1990's. The task involved digging out 6 square metres of soil to a depth of about 15 cm, levelling the area, placing down a porous matting and then back covering with hoggin and shingle. Plenty of stiff backs next morning. I must thank Peter Burchell for arranging the skip and ground materials, and two younger Members Justin and Ryan Visser for reminding many of us how much easier it was to dig or saw a few years ago. Thanks to Scow fleet Members Sebastian Chamberlain, Dunlop and Diana Stewart, Chris Knox, John Elphinstone, two newcomers to the Scows Michael Perkins and John Evans. The working party was

completed by Chris Baldwick, Graham Neal, Peter Blick and my brother Ado. Finally thanks to Hilary Knox for volunteering to bring the coffee.

*Stuart Jardine, i/c Dinghy Park*

## March mailing

Members have done their usual excellent job in hand delivering the majority of the mailing, which is always a big one with the inclusion of the List of Members and Yachts for 2011, an update from the Secretary, the Club Programme up to October and the minutes of the Annual General meeting.

## Social



Nelson Mandela, in his first term as the South African President, initiates a unique venture to unite the apartheid-torn land: enlist the national rugby team on a mission to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup.



Dig out those old hippy clothes and rock the night away with 60's rock band "Zac and the Zeros".



Oscar nominated film chronicling of the founding of Facebook, the social-networking Web site.



Popular local pianist Matt Black used to hang from a hook and play in the old Preachers Wine Bar. He'll be very much on ground level in the River Room.



Finally don't forget the last of the season's Quiz Nights with the ever amusing Vince Sutherland.

## Racing



The official end of winter in Lymington is marked by the start of the Spring Series, this year on Sunday 27th March. It is a heart warming sight to see all those sails heading down the river again: the crews full of hope and expectation of another season; the skippers wondering if they have remembered to bring the winch handles; the Race Officers donning thermals and checking their starting flags; the House Committee hoping the returning crews will be hungry and thirsty.

The 'New Improved' version of this ever popular series now features separate start and finish boats, so waiting time between the two races will be even shorter. Barely a moment for coffee and biscuits before we will be off again. More fun on the water and ample time for a relaxing lunch in the Club afterwards. Extended opening times on the First Floor means everyone will be served.

Get your entries in now: the details are on the [website](#).

## IRC: All you need to know

Is the IRC handicap system a mystery to you: just too hard to worry about? Are you an IRC racer who wants to be updated on this year's changes.....(what do you mean, only 85kgm each)?

As many people know, the Rating Office of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (which runs the IRC rating system in the UK) is almost next door to the Club. The Technical Director, Mike Urwin, will be answering all your questions on Tuesday 29th March from 6 pm.

We will start with a briefing for those new to the IRC system. At 7 pm, after a short break, Mike will explain the latest changes and answer any questions. So you can choose which half to attend or better still, come to both. A sign up sheet is on the notice board.

## Database

Are you receiving regular e-mails from the Club? We run e-mail lists for the various sections to keep their Members up-to-date. For example, news about the Spring Series was distributed to all the keelboat racing classes. If you aren't receiving these and would like to please contact the office to check that your name is on the keelboat racing database.

*Robin Taunt, Captain of Cruiser Racing*



The Gaffers and Classics Regatta will take place on the 21st and 22nd May. Even if you can't find a boat to sail, come down to the Club and enjoy the sight of these beautiful boats on the water. For further details click on the banner above. Racing over two days is for all types of classic yachts built before 1975, with a regatta social on the Saturday evening. Entry fee for both days is £25.00.

## 2011 Racing Charts and Designators

The updated charts for 2011 are now available from the website and the office. There have been a couple of changes: 'heart' has now become K and 10A has now become B1 which is the post on the end of the rock breakwater. Also on the website you will find a link to the new SCRA designator system. I have worked with SCRA over the winter to ensure our marks are aligned with the new system. The Western end of the Solent is in Zone 2 but the Western Solent clubs will still continue to use our single digit designators which is the second character: for example, Hurst under SCRA is 2A, for our racing we will use A.

There are 5 new larger dinghy marks to replace those which were stolen last year and we are pleased to report that Ropewalk Marine, Nick Cox Chandlery and Towergate Mardon will be sponsoring 3 of them.

*Chris Neve, Captain of Racing*

## Solent Marks - Amazing Offer

Vince Sutherland has loaded his GPS with all the Solent Marks from the Nab Tower to Poole with both their new designators and in alphabetical order (over 300 waypoints) so that they can be accessed either way. He has kindly offered to send the file to any Member who doesn't want to go through the agony themselves (see above). Grateful keelboat racers should email [Vince](#).

## Cruising

### Cruising Dinner

We had a very enjoyable and well attended evening, with 91 Members and guests present. Our speaker, David Evans, Marine Director and Harbour Master at the River Hamble, entertained us with with a light hearted illustrated talk on his work in the Hamble. This year we altered the format of the Cruising Dinner to give greater prominence to the award of the cruising trophies. One of the reasons we awarded the trophies before dinner was that for the first time since 1992, the Junior Brownlow Cup for the best log submitted by a Junior or Family Member under the age of 15 was awarded. Last summer a fleet of Optimists helmed by children aged between 7 and 12 years old sailed from Lymington to Weymouth in an organised cruise over several days on their way to the Optimist National Championships. All but one of them were present to receive the trophy and their Club glasses inscribed "Jurassic Oppies".

The other trophy awards were:-

- Cadiz Cup. Richard and Celia Lassen for the log of their cruise on Oestara from Bucklers Hard, non stop around the west of Ireland to the Faroe Islands, then to the Orkney Islands and back via Inverness, the Clyde Estuary and the west coast, returning to Buckers Hard.
- Quains Cup. Alan and Penny Spriggs for their passage in Pennypincher from Lymington to Levkas.
- Senior Brownlow Cup. Likengkeng Sergeant for her log of the passage with her husband David in Acquaholic from Lymington to Oslo via France , Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden
- XII Bar Blues Trophy. Neal and Miggy Flux for the blog of their 5 year project sailing from Lymington to the Eastern Mediterreanean, visiting 12 countries on the way.
- Seamanship Trophy. Andrew Wilkes and Maire Breathnach for their voyage from Lymington through the North West Passage to Alaska. Prior to their voyage only 93 boats had traversed the Passage since it was first achieved in 1903/05. It was a feat of seamanship well worthy of the award.
- John and Angie Bailey Trophy for Lifetime Achievement.
- George Tinley for his contribution to the life of the Club both on and off the water over the 44 years he has been a Member and for his contribution to the wider interests of sailing.



Pictures from left to right: Maire Breathnach and Andrew Wilkes: Richard and Celia Lassen: Likengkeng Sargeant: The Cruising section awards both young and old! From the Oppie Fleet to George Tinley.

## Events

### February Winter Meet

11 boats went to Gins Farm, where 58 of us sat down to lunch at the Royal Southampton YC. The weather was perfect, with a gentle westerly taking us down on the flood and a good beat on the way home after the tide had turned. For some of the fleet there was an interesting time around the Beaulieu River entrance as a dense fog bank rolled through, quickly followed by bright sunshine.

### March Winter Meet 21st and 22nd March

There will be an overnight stay in Haslar Marina. Details will be on the Club notice board and the website within the next few days.

### Cowes Meet - 15th to 17th April

Just a reminder for your diaries at this stage. Details are being finalised and will be published in the usual places shortly.

### June Cross Channel Cruise

A planning meeting was held at the Club on Saturday 5th March for those intending or considering going on the cruise to St Peter Port and North Brittany. [Ken Claydon](#) and [Tony Hughes](#) are leading the cruise, so please contact either of them for any details if you were unable to go to the meeting but are planning to go on the cruise and need more details.

### Baltic Charter Cruise - August 2011

David [Houlton](#) is organising the cruise. Please contact him if you are interesting in taking part.

*Richard Wood, Captain of Cruising*

## House

### House Questionnaire

In November we asked Members to comment on the first floor activities in the Clubhouse. Many thanks to the 374 of you who were kind enough to respond.

- 75% of the responses came from Members who were in the 65 years and over age bracket.
- 50% of those responding use the Club bar/restaurant once or twice a month and 15% are frequent users.
- Overall, 85% rated the quality of food as good or excellent, but in the case of under 65's this dropped to 58%.
- Overall 90% liked the choice of menu, but in the under 65's age group 75% liked the choice.
- 78% of respondents consider the restaurant provides fair value. However 22% of under 65's and 13% of over 65's consider prices too high compared to local eateries.
- The 'no comments' amounted to 6.5% of replies.

- 40 respondents had not always been able to get a table.
- Valuable specific comments made included:
  - a) preferences for a more limited bar/restaurant menu, with more frequent changes, enabling a concentration on food quality.
  - b) preferences for better quality and more varied vegetables.
  - c) more variety of fish on the menu, preferably fresh whenever possible.

The analysis of the replies has been extremely helpful to the House Committee in their planning for the future. The restaurant menus are being amended and will be out shortly.

## House Projects

The Club is preparing itself for the sailing season and upgrading the facilities for Members. It is a little like painting the Forth Bridge – a never ending job in a Clubhouse as old as ours.

This year we have a particularly active programme.

- The Ladies Wet Room is nearly finished enabling lady sailors to change and shower in a much more pleasant environment.
- The Library is to have the south and east windows replaced with folding doors making the balcony almost an extension of the room – perfect for the Club Regatta Summer Ball. Work begins on 21st March, but the external stairs to the Upper Terrace will be removed a week earlier.
- The new inner front door has now been installed. We have taken the opportunity to upgrade the Club Card technology from the now obsolete magnetic swipe cards to the latest proximity card system – much like the Oystercards used by London Transport. In about a month, after an extensive period of testing, we will be issuing new Membership cards to everyone on a replacement basis. Once this has been done we will be able to implement better security measures within the Club.
- The new River Room pendant lights have finally been installed. At the same time most of the Club's collection of burgees was put back on display, thanks to David Wansbrough who devised and installed the system for hanging them on the beams. We are still in the process of mounting the reciprocal clubs' burgees.



*Neil Eccles, Rear Commodore House*

## Bloody Mary Pursuit Race

There were 238 entries, 60 different types of dinghy and 107 clubs represented at this hugely popular annual pursuit race on 8th January at Queen Mary reservoir. Just two dinghies represented the Club this year, and though not in the top 10 finishers, they both went away



with trophies. Katie Russell was first Lady in a Laser Radial, and Jeremy Vines the Grand Master (over 60s) in 'Rhapsody', a National 18. The Rhapsody crew being David Vines and Fran Gifford (the latter made waves last year by circumnavigating the UK in a 16ft Wayfarer, see [www.fransbigadventure.com](http://www.fransbigadventure.com)) The forecast was dire, the wind was whistling around the clubhouse and boats were blown off their trollies. However, 40 minutes into the race the wind quite suddenly dropped off by 10 knots or more, the sun came out and we had a glorious sail. The moderating breeze favoured the early starters. Nevertheless, an International 14 succeeded in reaching the front before the final whistle at 1430, and thus won overall. Others in the top 10 were a Graduate, 2 National 12s, 3 Merlins, a Fireball, a Laser 3000 and a Moth. As ever, the organisation on and off water was immaculate - a real credit to QMSC.

*Jeremy Vines*



## Junior Sailing Cadets

After Andrew Smith's success last year, winning the Cadet Nationals I am pleased to report the Lymington Cadet fleet is going from strength, to strength, with a number of successful weekends training from the Club with support from both the RYA and local trainers. Currently we are trying to expand the fleet and make use of two Club Cadets and would welcome any young sailors who fancy trying out a Cadet either for the first time or coming from another class. More details on the Class [website](#).

*Mike Crowe Class Captain*

## Optimists

Congratulations to the Lymington sailors on their selection for the Irish Nationals this year. Of the 15 highest performing sailors aged 12 and under – that is effectively the British Junior Team, Lymington has produced 11 of the sailors. February has been mild so most of the sailors have been able to get out at least once a week. In the middle of the month we hosted a training regatta; 46 sailors registered for the weekend. Unfortunately the small matter of 40 knots cancelled the Sunday, but we had completed 8 races in magical conditions – 12-16 knots and warm! - the day before. National Squad sailors dominated the results, with Jenny Cropley and Milo Gill-Taylor not making too many mistakes.

An incredibly high standard of main fleet competitors at the Spinnaker Oppie Open saw the Lymington sailors having to work very hard for their tea. Terrific results from Jenny Cropley (2nd), Mimi el-Khazindar (5th), Milo Gill-Taylor (8th) and Vita Heathcote (9th) gave us a strong showing in very light, tricky conditions. The 46 strong regatta fleet was convincingly won by William Heathcote. Other results of note were Delfi Sesto, on her first every open meeting, putting in some great results. Also the two youngest sailors, Becky Cropley and Amos Sopher completing every race in very difficult conditions.

*George Heathcote*

## Laser 4.7

### Gul Laser 4.7 European & World Qualifier Plus Ladder

Over the weekend of 26th/27th of February the Club ran the first of the qualifying series for this year's Laser 4.7 European and World events, which are to be held in the Netherlands and San Francisco respectively. The event attracted forty nine sailors, all between 11 and 17 years of age, who took to the water in some challenging conditions.



On Saturday the wind touched 28 knots in the gusts from the west and the fleet had some exciting tussles at the leeward mark. After winning two of the day's three races, Dan Bullock, from Burghfield SC and RLymYC, led the pack closely followed by Matthew Hall, and David Pain. By Sunday the wind had eased but shifted at times as much as 30 degrees as the showers went through, dying off to less than 6 knots in the afternoon. This did not thwart the race team led by Roger Wilson who managed to get in the two races on schedule.

Dan Bullock held on to his overnight lead to win on 11 points, followed by David Pain (Cardiff) on 16 points, with Ollie Sellers in third place on 18 points. First Girl was awarded to Megan O'Brian (Hollowell), the Endeavour prize was won by Georgia Caws (Royal Victoria) and the Improver prize went to Matthew Hall (Spinnaker).

## Fleet News

### Lymington XOD Division - Centenary Year

In sheds and gardens all over the Forest and as far as the west country there has been much sanding, epoxy setting and varnishing and the preparations for a very special anniversary for the X One Design Class are almost completed. The Lymington X Division has much to lookforward to, especially our celebration races. The Alastair Easton Regatta is on the 28th and 29th May when we hope to be joined by



many visitors from other divisions. On Friday 3rd June we'll be racing 100 years to the day after the first XOD race and we hope to have at least one of the boats that competed in the inaugural race racing with us. Cowes Week will see in excess of 100 boats on the Squadron line though thankfully it will be extended to give us more room. Squadron finishes for the first time in many years will give the spectators on the Green a ringside view. Lymington will try to retain the Team Racing and Phillipson Challenge Shields (best performing division) whilst many of our sailors will be hopeful of getting their hands on the holy grail of X'ing, the Captain's Cup.

*Photo courtesy of Mark Lloyd Photography*

There has always been something special about the class with its long history and mix of sailors, from those who've been in the boats 'sincebirth' and those who have join later from other classes. This year it's great to welcome Oliver James and Paul Woodman who have resuscitated X 32 after her rescue from the Netherlands: also Lymington XOD legends Mrs Braithwaite and Richard Smith's beloved X183 Condor freshly restored and in the guardianship of the Hutchison family. The season starts on the 30th April with our first race followed by a tuning/coaching session on the 1st May. We always have Members looking for crew so if you're interested please drop [Liz Field](mailto:Liz.Field@rlymyc.org.uk) an email.

*Rory Paton, Captain of Lymington XOD Division*

## Xoanon XOD [N1] – ‘New Build’ Trials Continue in 2011

Launched at the end of June 2009 Xoanon is now about to start her 3rd season of appraisal. Thus far her performance within the Lymington Divisional fleet has been very much as expected, in general her results have matched the expertise of her crew. She appears a good average performer as her design and build team intended, whilst almost unnoticed she has a number of ideas incorporated that class members considered should be trialled. For instance she has, built in buoyancy tanks fore and aft, her rudder tube is glassfibre, there are no metal fastenings through the hull including no chainplates in her topsides [her rigging is taken directly to the foot of the mast and in addition glass cloth is an integral part of her Epoxy finish.

Reducing maintenance costs was high on the priority list when considering her build for although most class members considered wood must be the main construction material, protecting the wood over many years was vital and hence the Glass Epoxy finish. Her wood topsides seen through the glass clearly show her tongue and groove strip plank construction that enabled her team of amateur builders to build her so well.

A full racing season in the Western Solent is being organised for 2011, with some top helmsmen who at present do not own an X being lined up to race her. Her 40 plus owners are keen that as wide a spectrum of Club sailors as possible, keen on racing, come and give her a trial. Cowes Week will not be on her calendar until the class officially accept her.

Bookings will be organised by [David Carslaw](#), assisted by [Paul Rivers-Latham](#) who will keep all informed weekly on the XOD Divisional web site regarding bookings and/or crew requirements. Anyone wishing to helm or crew this season but not a member of the Lymington Division should also contact David or Paul but helms need checking for insurance cover. Xoanon may be used by other competent helmsmen on non XOD racing days, again through David and Paul.



## Get your hands on an RS Elite for the price a decent meal!

You've seen the RS Elite's in action. You know they look good, go fast and can imagine how they feel. So wouldn't you like to get your cool and trendy deck shoes in a boat and find what it feels like? Well, you can; and you don't have to buy one. Sail a race and find how Elites slide along with two fingers on the tiller, burning off everything of a similar size and bigger boats too.

The Club has the fantastic facility of its own RS Elite, Freebie, that is available for charter – so make the most of it! Book now through the Club office on 01590 672677. Bookings now being taken for the Spring Series races, Thursday Evenings, Cowes Week and the Solent Circuit Autumn Series. Freebie has nearly new sails and a regular hull scrub is planned, so the boat will be fully competitive – as one or two charterers have already proved to the annoyance of long standing fleet sailors - mention no names, Ben (Ainslie, Vines – they're all the same).

### Be competitive in an RS Elite

Anyone planning to charter Freebie is welcome to join our RS Elite Tuning Clinic – provisionally planned for Saturday 9th April, when National Champion Crauford McKeon will brain dump all his tuning and sailing tips for various wind conditions. Contact RS Elite fleet captain [Peter Lister](#) to book yourself into the Tuning Clinic.



*Crauford McKeon is the one in the middle – don't miss his RS Elite Tuning Clinic on April 9th*

## Volunteering

It's never too late to join in any of the Club's many and varied activities. The Race Team forms were sent out in January but you can download the Racing team form from the [website](#) and send it back any time. If you have any questions please [email](#) the office and they will pass on your enquiry. If you want to just put a 'toe in the water' we're always very happy to show people 'the ropes' - sometimes literally in the case of flags - and mentor you through the early stages. It's a great way to meet people and you can help as little or as often as you like.

## Training

### Club Courses

There is still time to sign up for some of the Club's current range of [training courses](#) including Safety Boat and RYA Dinghy Instructor. Contact the [office](#) for more details of all the the courses and availability.

A recently held RYA Club Mark Layers course was much enjoyed by the eight students. The syllabus included more unusual activities such as the use of a Tide Stick and setting a gate. One of the



students remarked that it would be useful for other race officers to attend so that they had a greater understanding of the technicalities involved and would not ask for the impossible of their mark layers. We need many knowledgeable race teams on the water each season and would invite anyone who wishes to achieve a better understanding of the arcane art to register their interest with the [office](#) and Vince Sutherland will run another course. This and several others are free to Members and key volunteers.

## Sailing Courses

Kristy Powell will be running a number of sailing courses in the Easter holidays including RYA youth courses. The Ladies First days start again in April. Youth courses start in the Easter Holidays and there is sailing in Oppies and Teras after school all through the summer term. Ladies First, starts on Tuesday 26th April, for women to build their confidence and improve skills. Full details on the [Training](#) page.

## RNLI

### Quiz Night at RLymYC, Thursday 31st March

Details and sign up list now on the Club Notice Board

### Beaulieu Boat Jumble, Sunday 17th April

The pile of donated items is growing but there's always room for more.

### Lymington Station 10K Run, Sunday 8th May

Details and entry form on the Station [website](#).



### 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.

### Club Discounts

Details of Club Discounts will shortly be available on the website