



COMMODORE'S BIT

The sun is shining at last, the boats are launched and sailing has started in our 125th season. It has been heartening to see how much enthusiasm and effort has been thrown into celebrating our birthday. The formal At Home was well attended by members and we welcomed visitors from all of our fellow clubs on the river. We marked the arrival of our splendid new gate sign carved by Hazel McCabe from a piece of teak that has already crossed the Atlantic three times. Look out for it!

I recommend a visit to Topsham Museum to look at the fantastic summer exhibition they have put on about the history of the Club. Many thanks to all involved in looking out their treasured memorabilia. The talented folks at the museum have certainly displayed it to great effect. Chris Williams and Colin Walls have also brilliantly updated the booklet of Topsham Sailing Club History and you should have received your copy with this mailing. More are available to purchase for family and friends if you wish. Being a Museum Exhibit could make you feel your age, so getting involved with the Cadet Sailing would be a good antidote. There will be a chance to join in the Topper Challenge on May 9th and we are hoping to link up with the Deaf School to take some youngsters out on cruisers this summer as well. Welcome also to our youngest member Amy Ricketts who was born in January although she is too young to be on the books yet! Another capable future crew for Mew Gull no doubt. The programme for the season is published but dates to look forward to particularly include the Stagecoach Race to Dartmouth on 15th May, the Big "O" party on 5th June and the Exe Regatta weekend on 3rd and 4th July. More details will be posted in the Club and tickets will be on sale soon.

See you on the water!

Kate

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Welcome to New Members

Please welcome our new members who have joined since the last issue, they are Andrew Pollard (son of Past Commodore Michael), Sheila Burgess (daughter of Bob & Chris), James & Jennifer Fellows, Graham & Tina Slack with Tom & Oli, Andrew Raper, John & Catherine Bailey with Johanna & James, Steve Jones with Mischa, Kofi & Nathaniel.

Taking new members afloat

Thank you to that increasing list of Skippers who volunteer to take new and potential members afloat at evening races. Our practice of 'not leaving members on shore, is working well.

Thank you also to the willing band of members who erected the marquee this year.

As you know visitors are welcome to TSC, please introduce them to me as I will encourage them to become members.

Philip Chesterfield

Hon Membership Secretary.



Launching the boats needs skill, knowledge, and a lot of hard work. Here, Bill and Jim are making it happen

Dinghy Report

Hello Dinghy fleet.

We have a great season planned on and off the water, it's the club's 125th and we plan on making it special. The cadets have already been to Haven Banks to kick start their season, we now have two groups training a younger group who are all learning the basics and how much fun sailing is and an older group that will be starting race training. The cadets are also looking for any adults mad enough to join them for a team relay race on the 9th May "Topper Challenges" be prepared to get wet! For the first time for a while there will be an adult race series "Godfrey cup" which kicks off on the 8th May. The yard is now ready for your dinghy's. Please send your storage forms to John Domaille, and remember to make sure your boats are easy to identify. All the forms can be found on the club website in the dinghy section along with the cadet programme.

Lisa

Yawl Report

Well the sailing season is finally upon us and 2010 promises some excellent events to look forward to. Firstly we have the Devon Yawl National Championships which will be hosted by the Yealm Yacht Club on the 12th and 13th June. Then we have the Devon Yawl Open Meeting in early July to coincide with the Exe Regatta. On top of this we have the usual club series, team racing and the 125 celebrations to make 2010 a memorable year. Already we have 16 Yawls registered to race and I hope to see this number rise even further.

Many thanks for those of you who made it to the Devon Yawl AGM and Devon Yawl Spring Forum. Both meetings were well attended. At the DY Spring Forum we discussed the new courses for weekend series and you should have received the new sailing instructions by email. They are also on the club board and shortly to be posted on the club website.

In honour of the 125 celebrations our Commodore has kindly arranged for some rather stylish polo shirts to be produced. These have the distinctive outline of a Devon Yawl with a 1 on the jib, a 2 on the main and a 5 on the mizzen. In order to receive your shirt, please contact the commodore ASAP. They have been very reasonably priced and you can even have your boat name included on the shirt for a small extra cost.

I wish you all a trouble free launch and look forward to seeing you on the water.

James McNaughton

2 Topsham Devon Yawl Fleet Captain

TSC 125 At Home

On Sunday 11th April the club held an 'At Home' for officers from our local river clubs, who all attended, together with the Commodore from Sidmouth Sailing Club.

The weather was glorious and having the canopy erected allowed members and guests to enjoy their Pimm's and the TSC125 celebratory ale, brewed specially for our 125th year of sailing by Topsham's own local brewer.



Commodore Kate Hattersley welcomed our guests and gave the story behind the much travelled piece of ship's timber used to make the new entrance sign. She also invited them to view a selection of posters illustrating the history of the club 1885-2010 - noting that a fuller version is on display in the Topsham Museum compiled by Vice-Commodore Chris Williams and members Mary Lambert and Myra Green.

Each guest was then presented with a copy of the revised history of the club.

Mary Lambert had also put together a rolling slide show from some of the many photographs and documents now in the club's archive collection.

Jean Cridland and helpers provided a splendid spread of nibbles for all to enjoy. It was a very satisfactory opening to our 125th year of sailing.

Chris Williams



Bring your friends and relatives
to celebrate
125 years of TSC
and
Your Big '0' Party

(if you are one of the many celebrating a zero birthday or wedding anniversary
or anything you fancy celebrating!!)

Saturday 5 June 2010

19.30 to midnight

Dancing to 'Monopole'

(60/70's or anything you like)

Food, Fun. Fizz

Tickets £12

from Colin and Ann

Martyn and Jill

Farewell to the Carribbean Part 3

(... Continued from ... we motored at 2000 revs slowly towards Isla de Malpello, a deserted bleak-looking rock owned by Columbia, containing a military outpost, which did not even have a jetty to land on.)

Here we were accosted by a Columbian RIB (Fishery protection vessel) which came out to tell us we could not fish. Luckily we had just taken the line in with nothing on it as the fish had escaped yet again !

The chart plotter, interestingly showed us as passing Malpello to the west, whereas we were actually passing to the east - luckily it was day light at the time !

The next few days were spent using mostly engine and spinnaker alternately. We had beautiful starlit nights and wonderful phosphorescence and regular visits from dolphins. We crossed the Equator on Thursday 19 March 2009 and celebrated Bill's first proper crossing to the southern hemisphere by boat ,appropriately.

Shortly afterwards we caught a huge dorado and photographed it, but failed to land it as our net was far too small.

From 20th March the log contained such entries as ' breezeless night - southern cross very clear - nearly ran over a large turtle sunning himself in the sun - spinnaker still up - trade wind clouds appearing - only 160 nautical miles to Academy Bay, Santa Cruz - 100 nautical miles to San Cristobal the nearest land'.

On Saturday 21st March land was sighted through the mist and we sailed along the coast to Kicker Rock, where Bill was launched off in the dinghy to take photos of us as we went through the gap in the rock some 20ft wide, which was quite exciting in a 16 knot breeze, which had just got up in time for the transits in both directions.

We sailed onto Academy Bay, arriving at midnight, just a few hours late for Martin Hopton who had arrived from the UK at about 1800, who was installed in the Solimar Luxury Hotel on the waterfront. The total trip from Balboa took 9 days and was 1017 nautical miles of which the engine hours were a horrific 113.

Trevor Coleman

Skittles

This years skittles has not resulted in great scores, but we have enjoyed some good matches. In the Exe Estuary League we won 7 games, lost 7 and drew 2, ending up somewhere in the middle of the League. Cockwood Anchors have probably won again.

In the Club matches the top score was 52, attained by Miranda Row, Richard Cridland, Roger Mulholland and Tim Baker. There was a playoff between the Yawls, Ed's team, and the Smacks, Bill's team. This time the Smacks won. The lowest score of 29 was amassed by Gill Williams, but there were a couple of 30s as well! The Timodores, Old Salts and the Tops all won two games and the Luggers trailed with one. Kate will field the Commodores team next season.

Anyone wishing to play - please contact me or one of the Team Leaders.

Bridget Ricketts



The old sign said "members only".

The new one says "guests welcome".

EXE REGATTA 2010

Topsham Sailing Club is hosting this year's Exe Regatta on the weekend of 3rd and 4th July. This is the 10th Exe Regatta and we want it to be as successful as the others.

There will be a series of events for Cadets based at the Clubhouse. Cruiser racing will be offshore off Orcombe Point. Faster dinghies including Devon Yawls and Hornet (both of whom will be running open meetings in parallel with the Regatta) will race on the seaward side of Dawlish Warren, the slower dinghies will race in estuary using the Starcross Yacht Club start /finish line. The plan is to have 3 races on Saturday and 2 races on Sunday.

Windsurfers and kite surfers will have their the usual strongly competitive events on and around the fairway and the duck pond.

Last year saw the introduction of a fishing competition; it was a great success and is being run again this year.

The Clubhouse will be the venue for the disco and food on Saturday from 1930 hours and on Sunday for the prize giving, the usual brilliant tea from 1630 and the famous (or is it infamous) prize draw, you know the one where you have to be there to win a prize.

All details can be accessed from the website

<http://www.river-exe-regatta.org.uk/>

We need volunteers to make sure the events goes well. In particular we need help with the dinner on Saturday and tea on Sunday. We also need safety boat drivers, with RIB if possible, but if you don't have a RIB we can still use your skills in one of the safety boats. If you would like to help please email me at tjbaker.exeter@virign.net

Tim Baker

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Chairman Exe Regatta Committee 2010



125 Anniversary shirts for sale

This shirt with 125 logo is available in all sizes; Mens from S to XXXL, with a ladies fit as shown XS to XL

Boat names can be added.

Prices £22.50 for adults £15 for children

Samples available to try on by arrangement ring Kate on 875979

The Exe Sailing Club, at Exmouth, has been crowned Royal Yachting Association (RYA)



Club of the Year 2010 by new RYA CEO Sarah Treseder on 6 March at the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show 2010.

Congratulations to our neighbours



Editor – Colin Walls

Articles, photographs, adverts always wanted

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