



Topsham Sailing Club Newsletter

October 2010

Commodore's bit

I am writing this after a chilly evening of boat hauling at the Club. We pulled out four yachts under the Yard Marshall's command and all went smoothly. A new member was watching in amazement (although he had to be held back from helping as he was not equipped with safety boots and gloves). It is truly a tribute to the strength of Topsham Sailing Club that there were thirty five members present tonight, tea and sausage rolls were served from the galley, and a bit of cheerful banter was enjoyed by most of us while the antique equipment performed its job flawlessly. (No I don't mean Trevor although he was a lynch pin as usual!) The 125th season has come to a fine end with fewer races lost this season to weather than usual, more boats competing than ever before and a cheery companionship at the Club that promises to last through the cold winter months of beer and skittles until we can push those boats back down the slipway on Bill's whistle! The social programme is coming together and tickets are on sale now for the 125th Season Dinner and Dance at Exeter Golf and Country Club on 4th December.

Happy skittling!

Kate



One day I will have a yacht like that!

Photo: Cliff Shepherd

Membership Matters

Please welcome the newly elected members since the last edition, they are Michael & Alison, Peter & Kathleen Cowper; Peter & Susan Owen-Pawson; Nigel & Julia Williamson; Anthony Aggett; Dr. Alan Cooklin; Dr. Mark Leather and Russell Osborne. We all look forward to seeing you at the Club.

Subs And Charges

On Friday 30th September at 1620hrs 289 invoices for Club Subscriptions and facility charges in respect of 495 members were posted. The total amount invoiced was £26810.96. The annual race to be the first member to pay was won by Brian Thomas at 1042 hrs on Monday 4th Oct closely followed by Jim Norton at 1350 hrs and I was informed of the first 'lost' invoice on Thursday 7th October at 0830hrs.

The invoice has a very important secondary purpose, that of confirmation of the 'completeness' of the Club record held in respect of each member. Please ensure your details are up to date. This request is not too late as I shall still be chasing some of you in December!!

Canopy Craftsmen

On Monday 27th September 10 members dismantled the Club Canopy, washed all canvas parts (both sides) and carefully stored it in the Green Shed in just three and a half hours. The 10, some of whom were only available part time, many of them helped with its erection last March, were Trevor Greenslade, Brian Thomas, Jim Norton, Graham Attwell, Chris Williams, Tony Bradford, Noel Harrison, David Rochester, Will Tar and myself. All appreciated Mary Chesterfield's "half time" refreshments. Thanks to their efforts cruiser winter storage started well. Thanks to you all.

Philip Chesterfield

Hon Membership Secretary

DY Autumn 2010

Congratulations to Shane Buckley and Trevor Greenslade who have won this year's Tom Blanks Series in "Black Sheep" This was closely followed by Ed Williams-Hawkes and Tim Coombes in Y'all White and Andrew Hattersley & Crew coming third in Amadeus. The Yawl Only nights have once again been a fantastic success with many thanks going to those who have helped out on start boat, galley and general organisation. Shane and Trevor won the overall Yawl Only Night Races and were presented with a memorable piece of artwork by John Skelton. No doubt this will be hotly contested again in 2011.

The Team Racing has gone ahead this year against the Yealm. Many thanks to Ed for helping to make this happen and to all those involved in the hospitality. The Team Racing was won by TSC in 2007, 2008 and 2009 however this year the Yealm Fleet won. We have received great feedback on the hospitality/race management provided and look forward to hosting this again in 2011. The Summer Series was won by Andrew Hattersley in Amadeus - crewed by Rosie and Kate. The September Series was won by Ed Williams-Hawkes in Y'all White with various different crews.

Good to see our new members Richard Babbage "Blue Note" Liz Stanley in "Black Bird" and Ben Clover in "Redwing" fully engaged in the racing programme. Liz is gunning for the Bottoms Cup so watch out all! Congratulations to Ben Clover for his "Stella" performance in the September Series gaining a first on the last race.

I have received several emails regarding potential new members this year and even someone from Starcross looking to defect, so I can only assume our reputation for a growing fleet is getting around.

Happy Sailing


James McNaughton

DY Fleet Captain

RNLI News

4th September saw the formal hand over and opening of the new Exmouth Lifeboat House and the re-dedication of the Margaret Jean. It was a splendid occasion and only made possible by the fantastic generosity of many individuals and organisations. TSC members have been very generous with their donation and on behalf of Exmouth Lifeboat I would like to thank you all.

Tim Baker

 Chairman, Exmouth Lifeboat Management Group

2011 Here we come

Only 5 months to go, and another season begins - all bar 4 cruisers have now been hauled out for a winter's fettling ready for next season. It's been a busy end to the season. Another good Dartmouth regatta saw Martyn & Jill Grant sail Xante to first place in PY3, with Miles & Jill Butler taking second in Henrietta Polydore, and the pontoon was sunk.

The evening series was concluded - firsts in each fleet were decided after the penultimate race - note to handicap committee - must try harder next year! Results as follows:

Bruford Fleet

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Nimrod | Charles Potter & David Cottingham |
| 2 Meltemi | Duncan McFadyen |
| 3 Seelipse | Graham Pateman |

Norton Fleet

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Mallard | David Robinson & Dave Pearce |
| 2 Tringa | Herbert Macgreggor |
| 3 Wild Weasel | Colin Leach et al |

Beach Fleet

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 Delft | Philip Chesterfield |
| 2 Xante | Martyn & Jill Grant |
| 3 April Jane | Brian Woodward |

Well done to them all. The series also saw a record overall turnout and the highest single race turn out was equalled three times.

The September series was also a success with a high turn out allowing the fleet split to be enacted - Mew Gull winning the faster half and Blue Jay the slightly slower half. Thanks are due to Trevor and Philip for officiating throughout this series from Astra.

For the second year running we joined forces with Exe SC for the final fling and took off to Dartmouth, those going early having a gentle downwind sail, those going later, a more exciting one. 40+ people took over the Royal Dart Hotel in the evening for the celebratory meal, arranged by Graham Atwell.

All that remains is to review this season's activity, and plan for next year. The Cruiser Fleet meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th October. Come along to have your say on how the season went and what should be included in next year's programme.

Neal Ricketts

Cruiser Fleet Captain

Uffa Fox and the Flying Lifeboats

Uffa was a unique man whose contribution to yacht design is indisputable. He built the first planing dinghy, an International 14 called Avenger. He also designed the Firefly, Albacore, Javelin and the Flying Fifteen classes. In 1943 he designed a 27 foot lifeboat which could be carried by Vickers Warwick aircraft and dropped at sea to rescue sailors and downed aircrew.

Come and learn more and support a good cause.

Nov 13th 7.30 for 8pm

Thoughts of a Hunter

A funny old year. It started with friendly pats on my bottom. Richard antifouled me. Surprise, surprise, my inside was thoroughly cleaned and smelt of fresh varnish. Very gently with the help of many hands, I was returned to the Exe at the beginning of the season!

A few trips with somebody new at the helm as David got the feel of me. Later he took me out to sea - how refreshing - real salt water and a chance to catch some fish.

But my main role was in the revised Bruford Fleet and sailing a new course. Jayne joined the crew as we felt our way and prayed that the Handicap Committee would look upon us favourably!

By the end of a season when unusually the wind blew for nearly every one of

our 31 races plus an evening at Ting Tong Pole, we discovered that we had won the Cup. There were helping hands from visiting helms John, Nick, Tom and Richard. Even the spinnaker flew correctly from time to time in spite of the inexperienced hand of Charles! Sadly it was time to come out of the water. The usual band of friends were there to help, to lower the mast, to manoeuvre the trolley - and all under the whistle control of Bill.

Once again I was back in my usual place. Thank you.

Nimrod



A Cautionary Tale

The evening race was over and the boat returned to its moorings. As the mooring was picked up, the crew and boat parted company. Fortunately the unlucky crew member was wearing a lifejacket which automatically inflated. Once recovered to shore it was noticed that the lifejacket was not fully inflated. On further inspection it was discovered that the gas cylinder was not fully screwed home. As the trigger punctured the cylinder to inflate the jacket, part of the gas leaked away leaving just sufficient to inflate the bladder and give the crew some buoyancy. This happened opposite our club, but the same situation out at sea might have a different outcome. Moral of this story - please inspect your lifejacket regularly, get it serviced once a year and always check the cylinder before going afloat.

Only 40% of boaters wear a lifejacket and around 30% of those are defective.

Peter Williams

SOCIAL EVENTS

OCTOBER

Wednesday 13th - In House Skittles. Y'awls and Smacks.

Friday 15th - Children's Evening

Tuesday 19th - Devon Yawl Autumn Forum.

Wednesday 20th - Autumn Cruiser Meeting.

Friday 22nd - Autumn Dinghy Meeting.

Saturday 23rd - Trafalgar Night Dinner.

Wednesday 27th - Skittles vv Exmouth SC Ladies.

Thursday 28th - Talk by Frank Singleton, subject Weather Forecasting.

Friday 29th - Skittles vv Starcross Fishing and Cruising Men.

Saturday 30th - Cadet Halloween Party.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 3rd - In House Skittles. Toppers and Optimists.

Wednesday 10th - In House Skittles. Old Salts and Luggers.

Saturday 13th - RNLI Coffee Morning and Supper.

Wednesday 17th - Skittles vv Starcross Fishing and Cruising Ladies.

Friday 19th - Cadet Race Night.

Wednesday 24th - In House Skittles. Y'awls and Optimists.

Friday 26th - In House Skittles. Smacks and Toppers.

DECEMBER

Friday 3rd - Skittles vv Lypstone Lypets.

Saturday 4th - Dinner and Dance at Exeter Golf Club.

Wednesday 8th - In House Skittles. Old Salts and Optimists.

Saturday 18th - TSC Christmas Dinner.

Sunday 19th - Children's Party.

Wednesday 22nd - TSC Xmas Draw.



FOR SALE Spinnaker Snuffer, royal blue. 11 Meters long. As new. £60 Contact Jill or Godfrey Whitehouse

Wondering what to do with your old out of date charts. Please pass them on to me as I want to use them for craft work. Jill Whitehouse

FOR SALE
DEVON YAWL DY 305
 Mid blue hull with red antifouling
 White Scanes sails new 2009
 2.5 Mercury outboard, anchor, cover etc.
 Almost New Road Trailer
 Good racing record. Lying Topsham
 Could store until Spring 2011
 £6,500



Would you trust this man with the only wine left? Hmmm.

For Sale: Trapper TS240 'FOOSTER' 1981, 7.67m, Lifting keel four berth cruiser racer. Two mainsails, five jibs, two spinnakers. Tohatsu 6hp 4 stroke engine with charger. Navman log, echo sounder and windspeed / direction indicator. Garmin GPS72. Autohelm. Stored ashore every winter on excellent launch / yard trolley. Inflatable dinghy and Honda 2.3 outboard. Successful club racer capable of cross channel trips. £7,900. Contact Godfrey & Jill Whitehouse

last chance to see the 2010 exhibition about TSC at topsham museum. closes october 31st. dont miss it!

Useful Definitions

Regatta - Organised sailing competition that pits your skill against your opponents luck.

GPS - sophisticated electronic equipment that enable sailors to instantly determine the lat & long of whatever they just ran aground on.

Sister ship - another ship of the same class or design whose performance invariably convinces a skipper that he is is the owner of the evil stepsister.

Bottomscrubber

**Weather Forecasts
 (a realistic view)**

A talk by Frank Singleton, retired Met Office senior forecaster and sailor
 This evening talk will be on 28th October at TSC starting at 8pm. We are hugely fortunate that Frank has offered to give us his time. His weather website <http://weather.mailasail.com/> Franks-Weather is recommended by the Cruising Association and the Hallberg Rassy Association of which he is a member. He sails out of Darthaven when he is in the UK although recently he has based his boat in Spain. Frank hopes to demonstrate the use of GRIB files using mobile phone technology. Come along and learn how to use the technology to your advantage!



Editor – Colin Walls

Articles, photographs, adverts always wanted
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