

ARUN YACHT CLUB

SCUTTLEBUTT

SPRING 2011

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COMMODORE'S REPORT

My first thought in writing this was to assume the magazine Editor's role and to preview the pieces that follow, teasing out a quirky theme here and there so that you couldn't resist cutting straight to your favourite section. And fine contributions there are too, for which I thank the contributors. The articles give a good idea of accomplishments and developments in every department, such that I don't need to duplicate them here. Instead, I will focus on a view from the bridge, a company report of sorts, and a business forecast.

In general terms, we face many challenges, some of which were discussed at length during our recent Open Members Meeting. I would like to thank members for supporting this initiative, which we all found useful. We will be holding additional open members meetings on Friday, 20th May and Friday, 9th September.

From a governance point of view, the new Management Committee is working hard to address the considerable issues before it. Most of the committee members have been challenged with assuming new areas of responsibility and the reshuffle is bearing fruit in terms of fresh ideas being proposed for perennial problems. I have spoken previously about the need to involve more members in regular Club activities, and I'm very pleased to see that members are rising to the challenge. Several working groups or sub-committees have been newly formed or reborn to consider aspects such as moorings development, finance, dredging, and publicity, and these groups are already benefiting from the input of fresh faces.

On the subject of involvement, the marina bottom levelling has proceeded at a good pace and energy thanks largely due to the large number of members who have volunteered in a variety of roles. I am sure that Crane In will attract a similar number of helping members. The Club is feeling very positive and energised right now, which is exactly the atmosphere that breeds success and attracts new members. Let's keep it going as we get into the open sailing season and regatta sailors, rallies and guests come to visit us.

We entered the current financial year with a view to austerity, with capital spending being limited to the marina bottom levelling. The plan remains, and yet we must retain the ability to maintain our facilities and to protect the character of the club as well as seize opportunities to change with the times.

Ken Whitmore, in his Moorings report, points out that a dredge committee will sit to consider how best to build upon the work just completed and to return our moorings to their original depth. It is vital that we find an affordable, practical solution. Given the interest and opinions expressed during the current work, I am confident that we have the skills and imagination to find this solution. Once Crane In has been completed, the activity of this committee will become a top priority. I would like to see a mechanical solution ready to go by Crane Out in November.

The North Moorings presents an equal challenge on two fronts. First, we have immediate concerns in improving the utility of the current walkways and pontoons. We will be renewing the bridge walkways/handrails and repairing the existing pontoons.

However, I remain convinced of the need to complete a North Moorings Development. It is vital that we find a development plan that enables us to realise additional income from new drying and deep-keel berths and which protects our lease of the Island and moorings. The newly reformed Development Sub-committee has been set this task and, with assistance from the Finance Sub-committee, will consider options that are realistic and affordable without jeopardising the Club's future. As soon as we have ideas to share at an Open Members' Meeting we will do so.

At the opposite (southern) end of our riverside kingdom, we have another challenge, that of protecting our dinghy pen and beach from ongoing erosion. This is a tricky situation given that this region borders with our neighbour and that the factors responsible for erosion are unpredictable to say the least. The Management Committee is keeping a careful eye on this situation and exploring options. In the meantime, we will need to maintain the level and composition of the beach and return the beach sand that has over-spilled the ferry steps walkway. All of this would be easy if we were not trying to reduce spending; the fact that we are means that we will need to consider carefully what must be spent, what is justifiable and what is not.

During the winter there has been little sailing and we have turned out attention to matters of housekeeping. As the sailing season returns, we must devote our energies to our Club activities, to ensure the character of our Club endures. There is no point in working hard on a sailing club infrastructure if we do not then perform as a sailing club. In the articles that follow there are various calls to support cruising, racing, training and social, and I support them all. We need to work hard to increase the numbers participating in these activities, because it will make them more enjoyable for all participants and it will attract new members. Attracting more members (and boats) is one of the easiest ways we have of addressing our financial situation. A publicity group will be sitting soon and considering ways to promote the club externally; the task will be made easier if we have a vibrant, active sailing club to publicise. I feel strongly that we must protect the mix of sailing, training and social activities that we currently enjoy and continue to promote ourselves as one of the few sailing locations on the south coast where any family can start to sail and progress their sailing within a supportive Club atmosphere.

Pulling it all together in to something like a forecast, I would say that we are taking small but significant steps in the right direction. Increased member involvement should enable us to protect our facilities and sailing activities within the tight budgets that we must aim

to hit. In addition, a focus on moorings development and external publicity should enable us to attract additional members and build critical mass in the important areas.

Finally, I know that preparations for the 2011 sailing season are well in hand, and so it's time to get out of the boardroom and onto the water. With a good selection of cruises and regattas ahead of us, it's time to do what we do best and sail. I wish all AYC sailors the best of luck in all their endeavours and I look forward to reporting on successes at home and farther afield as the year progresses.

Best wishes,

Nick Rusbridge
Commodore

SAILING REPORT

As we near the end of the so-called "quiet period" for sailors it is interesting to reflect how much behind-the-scenes activity takes place especially from the members of the Sailing Committee. Hopefully all Scuttlebutt readers will have received and read the AYC Club Programme. In the preparation of this we have tried to provide a full and varied programme of events that should satisfy the needs of most sailing members, whether it be in dinghies or cruisers, racing or cruising, as well as a full list of training activities both on and off the water. Much of what you find will be similar to last year, but a few new initiatives have been incorporated.

Having mentioned the Sailing Committee, the Terms of Reference require a "minimum" of six members – at present we have just 6 members. So if anyone would like to experience and get involved in aspects of Club sailing please let me know as we would welcome some new blood.

Similarly, if any Club member would like to offer their time to help support the "Duty Teams" please let us know. New **Race Management Teams** have been published for 2011 and will come into effect from 27th March. However, we are still short of volunteers on some of the teams so, if you are willing to put your name forward to help, please get in touch with David Robinson at davidrobinson@bilsham.freeserve.co.uk or give him a ring on 01243 582443.

The winter months also provide an opportunity for maintenance of the Club's boats. As many of you know, the RIBs have proved invaluable with the removal and return of the pontoons during the recent bed-levelling operations. They are also used to support the racing activities. Members will wish to be aware that two of the RIBs are shortly to be taken out of the water for essential maintenance. The Committee Boat "Diamond" is also undergoing some extensive maintenance and sprucing up thanks to Tony Powell.

On a general note – for those who use the Club boats please treat them with care and respect. Importantly, if you find something wrong please report it. Things cannot be fixed unless we know about it.

Sometimes one hears grumbings about cruiser activities. You will all know that this season's Cruising Secretary is Barry Partridge and you can read separately in Scuttlebutt some of his plans for the forthcoming season. Please support him if you are able to as going on a Club rally will enable you to foster the esprit de corps that forms such an important feature of the Club's ethos. Barry is planning fewer "scheduled" cruises, in the hope that more of you will support these. However, if there is demand, he will amplify these with additional ad hoc events during the season. As with all that we plan, feedback from you, the members, is vital if we are to lay on the level and frequency of activities that you will support.

Staying with the subject of cruising, may I record a special thanks to Ron Goldsmith for his recent successful and well-attended sailor's talk at the end of January. The 100 or so members who were privileged to have listened to his account of his 2010 voyage around Great Britain were provided with a carefully constructed and informative talk on some of the challenges (and rewards) of embarking on a single-handed circumnavigation of "our" island. There can be no question that he richly-deserved the award of the Lisboa's Log for 2010.

As last year, the **Cruiser Racing** programme revolves around two main series. The **Len Nolan Cup Series** will comprise nine days of racing over high water, with relatively short courses around the marks off and close to Littlehampton. However, the **Pennant Rose Bowl Series** will comprise four longer races that will be run over low water. These will include the Round the Island Race and the Owers Race, plus the Two Piers Race we ran for the first time last year. The fourth race will be a new addition; the Pullar Buoys Race, which will take us through the Looe Channel, round the Pullar, South Pullar, Owers and East Borough Head buoys and then home. These longer races have been planned to make them tide-favourable, so even the slower boats should be in with a good chance of a win!!

New Cruiser handicaps have been published and are displayed on the Club notice board. These have been produced following a detailed review of the last three season's cruiser racing results at the Club and will be used for all Club **cruiser racing** this season. The number for many boats is lower this year than last; this is because all the analysis has been re-based on the performance of Richard Dobson's Seawolf 26 operating from a new PYN of 1040, as against the 1061 applied to him last year. Other changes arise from the analysis we have done. Within the published schedule we have also listed the information we hold about each boat, such as whether a spinnaker or cruising chute is available, the type of keel, engine and propeller. If any of this information is incorrect for your boat, please let David Robinson know (see above) as soon as possible so that it can be corrected. Unfortunately, for those boats that only race occasionally, the available data is inadequate to arrive at any meaningful numbers. However, we have also had regard to PYNs published by others and, where that is available, the information is listed on the schedule. The final numbers shown are arrived at by closely looking at all the information we have and deciding on what we believe to be a fair handicap to apply in each case. So far as possible, this should arrive at an appropriate number for the individual boat (unlike in golf where a player's handicap reflects the ability of the individual, in sailing it is the boat that is "handicapped", not the crew) although, where there is doubt, we have tried to

err in favour of the member in the hope that this will encourage more members to take part in Club racing.

Incidentally, if anyone is interested in a crewing opportunity, one of the Club members is planning a cruise to the Isles of Scilly during 2011. He is planning to complete the voyage and return in stages and would welcome details of anyone who would like to accompany him for some or all of the stages. If you would like further information please let me know and I shall put you in touch.

On the **Dinghy** side, much is the same as for 2010. However, one significant change is that we have scheduled all Evening Series racing to run on Thursdays so that we can run it in parallel with the Thursday evening sailing nights. Hopefully, this will encourage some of those who normally just come down to get afloat on Thursdays to join in with some of the races as their experience grows. It should also make it easier to arrange safety cover for these two activities.

In addition to our regular Club racing, we are hosting a number of **Open Meetings** during the season. The first will be a **Feva Open** on Sunday 15th May, to be preceded by a Coaching Day on the Saturday. It is hoped that we will see all our Club Fevas on the water on both these days. Next comes our **Cruiser Regatta** on Saturday 11th June for which we have obtained some sponsorship from Lucas Fettes. This year it will form part of the Sussex Combined Clubs Championship, so we hope to attract a number of entries from Brighton and Shoreham and, possibly, from Eastbourne too. There will be three races run over low water, to be followed by a Regatta Supper in the evening. The following month we have two open meetings; an **RS400 Open** on 9th and 10th July and a **Laser Open** on Saturday 23rd July, both of which we expect to be well supported. On Saturday 6th August we have our **Cadet** Regatta and, the following day, our **Dinghy Open**. Again, we are hoping for good turnouts from Club members and visitors alike.

You will be aware that from time-to-time the Littlehampton Harbour Manager issues Local Notices to Mariners. The Club are arranging for these to be circulated to Club Members as they are issued through the AYC Weekly Briefings – they are also being displayed on the Club Notice Board. Of note is the request by the Harbour Manager for vessels to monitor the Harbour VHF working channel (CH 71) when working within or near the harbour limits. This is especially important when commercial shipping movements are scheduled to take place – I believe that we should all keep such matters of safety very high on our agenda.

At the time of writing many Club members are preparing for Crane In and are in the final throes of getting their boats ready for another season's sailing. Soon the talk will change from types of primer, the number of coats and the best brand of anti foul and if the anode might last to another season to such things as sails, cruiser chutes and spinnakers as we all prepare for our adventures on the water.

Happy sailing for 2011.

Phil Bush

Chairman of Sailing

MOORINGS REPORT

The dredge of our moorings is now complete and I have to thank the many volunteers who have stepped in to help. The Management Committee is well aware that it was not our preferred dredging method but I hope that all berth-holders will now find they have better access to their moorings. In the short term there will be some unevenness, but it is expected that most boats will settle down after a period of time. If you are heeling over uncomfortably when dried out try motoring ahead or astern to blow away some of the remaining mud.

Crane in is now upon us and I hope that you will have managed to complete all those underwater tasks necessary before 19th March. The cranes will be arriving around 7.00 a.m. on that day with the first lift scheduled soon after about 8:30 a.m. Please make sure your engines are ready for you to move back to your mooring promptly. If you need any assistance or a tow please let me know. There should be plenty of assistance with strops etc. available on the day.

Once we all get back on our moorings we need to revitalise the maintenance programme for the moorings & I will be seeking help with:-

- North moorings - installing replacement floats and improving the pile attachments
- Repairs and painting the pontoon gates.
- Keeping the pontoons clean by regular pressure washing
- Regular inspections

We keep the mooring costs down by avoiding maintenance labour costs. If we are to keep our moorings in good condition we must keep on top of these maintenance tasks. If you are able to help, please let me know. One volunteer on each pontoon able to inspect and report on problems would be very helpful.

We are also reforming the Dredge Committee to look at ways that we can keep the build up of mud under control better in future. Over the past two months I have received many different ideas of how this can be achieved and the Committee will be examining these in the coming weeks.

Again thanks for your help and have a good years sailing.

Ken Whitmore

Committee Member Moorings

Founders Day Lunch - Saturday 9th April

As usual, all AYC members, plus as many former members for whom we have contact details, are invited to this year's Founders Day Lunch. In the past this has been very well supported by members, past and present, and I hope there will be an even better turn-out this, the Club's 55th anniversary, year. Indeed, it is only one day out from the date of the Club's inaugural meeting on 8th April 1956.

As always, tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so I look forward to receiving your application soon, which should be submitted on the booking form that accompanies this edition of Scuttlebutt. I know that, already, some past members are organising group tables for dinghy classes of long-ago; let's see if the current members can out-do them!

Everyone can be assured of a warm welcome!!

David Robinson

CLUB EASTER CRUISE

A four day Easter Cruise is planned to the Solent leaving on the morning of Friday 19th April and returning on Monday 22nd April. This will be a leisurely cruise to enable members with little cruising experience to take part and to enjoy the company of like-minded people.

It is intended to spend the first night (Friday 19th) at Gosport, either at Haslar Marina or Premier Marina, depending on the numbers taking part. On Saturday we will overnight at Lymington and Sunday at East Cowes Marina. We will return to Littlehampton on Monday 22nd April.

This is only a guide to your itinerary – you can join or leave us when you like, whatever your plans. A list will be put on the Cruising notice-board for those interested in taking part.

Let's show the Arun Yacht Club flag regularly around the Solent this year.

Barry Partridge
Hon. Cruising Secretary

CLUB EVENTS OPEN TEAMS

Throughout the summer season the Club promotes a number of Open Meetings which serves to raise the profile of the Club in the wider sailing community and also generates a reasonable income which goes towards the Club's sailing activities.

We have over a number of years gained a reputation as being a friendly and efficient Club and as such are being sought out by Class Associations as hosts for their meetings.

The efficiency label has come about due to our policy of running such meetings with an "Open" team where we take the most talented and dedicated personnel from all of the regular duty teams and are therefore able to staff such Open Meetings with the best

available. With some previous members of the Open Team having left the Club and others seeking a rest after years of excellent service we are now looking for new members of the Open team to assist in the efficient running of these events. You will see from the attached pro forma for the Feva event that many people are needed to enable everything to progress smoothly on the day. We already have two RYA regionally qualified race officers in Emma Keen and Richard Dobson, and those two would like to build a team of enthusiastic helpers. If you are concerned about your ability but would still like to get involved please let Richard or Emma know in good time and they will arrange suitable training for you. The jobs that need filling do not always involve either going afloat or a full day. Those jobs are as follows:-

1. Assistant race officers to patrol the pin end of the line
2. Committee Boat recorders (to record lap roundings and finishing positions)
3. Committee Boat signaller (to make sure the correct flags are displayed and removed)
4. Committee Boat gunner (to make sound signals and if qualified fire a shotgun)
5. Committee Boat timekeeper (to run the watches on the Committee Boat)
6. Mark Layers (capable of laying a mark by GPS)
7. Rib Safety Boat Drivers (may be combined with 6 above)
8. Beach-masters (to record boats going afloat and safely returning)
9. Entry Desk secretary.

Wow, what a list! So when are you needed? A list of the Open Duty Team Events follows:-

Sun 15 th of May	Feva Open Meeting (3 Races)
Sat 11 th June	Lucas Fettes Cruiser Open Regatta (3 Races)
Sat 9 th July	RS400 Open Meeting (races 1-3)
Sun 10 th July	RS400 Open Meeting (races 4-6)
Sat 23 rd July	Laser Southern and SE Grand Prix (3 Races)
Sat 6 th Aug	Arun YC Open Cadet Regatta (3 races)
Sun 7 th Aug	Arun YC Open Dinghy Regatta (3 races)

If you feel able to help can you please contact :

Richard Dobson:- richard@rickwood-estates.co.uk
Emma Keen:- emmak@4gosailing.co.uk
David Robinson:- davidrobinson@bilsham.freeseve.co.uk

CRUISER RACING HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2011

Round the Island Race; 25th June 2011

Entries for this fantastic event are now being accepted. Entry can be made completely on line (including credit card payment) at www.roundtheisland.org.uk . If you raced last year

you should have received an e mail with an already completed entry form from the Island Sailing Club. That shortens the process considerably.

Those that have not competed before will have to fill out the whole form including the measurement details. If you need any help with measuring I have got things like long tape measures and would be happy to help.

Entries from 5th of March to the 28th of May will cost £76:00

Entries close completely on the 18th of June but if you enter between 28th of May and the 18th of June it will cost you **£218:00** (that is not a misprint!). Don't be late.

If anyone wants any help or advice please feel free to contact me at richard@rickwood-estates.co.uk .

Sussex Combined Clubs Regatta @ Shoreham; 29th April, 30th April, 1st May

Arun Yacht Club now has two seats on the organising committee and has pressed them to introduce a 5th class for "white sail only boats". (i.e. no spinnakers or cruising chutes). The idea is to make the regatta more accessible to the fun sailors who may not have sufficient crew or the equipment to compete in the racier classes. This promises to be a superb event with free mooring courtesy of Shoreham Port Authority, some free beer, lots of parties, and hopefully some good competitive racing at all levels. Your representatives have made every effort to make this regatta user friendly to as many AYC boats as possible and we do hope that our efforts will be rewarded with your support. Full details of how and when to enter will be sent out in the near future.

Lucas Fettes sponsored Arun Yacht Club Cruiser Regatta; 11th June 2011

A one day regatta that is timed to really sharpen up those going to Cowes for the Round the Island two weeks later. 3 Races and a dinner / prize-giving at the end of the day. As with the Sussex Regatta there will be a white sail class so no excuse for staying on the mooring. We hope for a good number of visitors from neighbouring clubs and with good support from our own members this can be a terrific day.

Club Racing

Crane in is upon us!

The first race is on April 3rd as a leg of the Len Nolan Series. (relatively short "round the cans racing") Why not make an effort to join the fun on the water and the leg pulling camaraderie in the club afterwards. Speak to David Robinson to sort your handicap. If you normally carry 500 gallons of water and two push bikes don't think this rules you out. We can allow for boats full of cruising equipment when setting the handicaps.

Hope to see many of you out on the water this coming season,

Richard Dobson

Cruiser Racing Captain

SOCIAL REPORT FROM THE CLUB STEWARD

We are still busy following Christmas and New Year, including the following regular festive and special events. Our New Year's Eve party was very well attended with great food and music. Associate Members Littlehampton Berth Holders, the Air Crew Association, and the Phoenix Club all held well-attended parties and the Club was buzzing.

Ron Goldsmith gave a Sailor's Talk about his epic cruise round most of Britain, and this was a complete sell out on the night. Money was raised for the Heart Foundation and his talk inspired a couple of other members of the Club to follow suit – but this time to venture as far as the Orkneys.

The Club has hosted Birthday lunches for two of our members, a Candlelit Supper with Mark Jones for musical entertainment, and a Murder and Mystery Night for the Phoenix Club, complete with Tony's fantastic themed cocktails on the night.

Events coming up in the near future are :

19th March - Crane In Supper

26th March - Race Night

We will be celebrating the Royal Wedding with canapés and sparkling wine, courtesy of the Arun Yacht Club – so come along and watch it in comfort with your friends.

We have a very busy year coming up, but we still have a few dates left if you would like to organise an event or party etc. Please get in touch with the Office on 01903 71601 or Tony on 01903 714533.

Sunday lunches are still proving popular, so please assist by pre-booking.

The Galley has a new snack menu so come along and try it out.

That's all for now.

Tony Peterson
Club Steward

HOUSE REPORT

As you read this the sailing season will be about to start. Crane in is on Saturday 19th March and it will be good to see the car park clear of boats.

It would be appreciated if boat owners could remove their blocks and cradles as soon as possible thereafter. If you do not want to take your blocks home perhaps you could stack them in the dinghy pen just inside the gate on the left-hand side.

Although the Clubhouse was refurbished last year there is always work to be done and volunteers are always required (and welcome) to volunteer for just an hour or a whole day.

Barry Partridge
Rear Commodore House

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We would like to welcome the following new members to Arun Yacht Club and wish them a long and happy association with the Club :

Jacek Gorski; Simon Gray, Claire and Abigail Hollingsworth; Caroline, Ian and Toby Sugden; Andrew Auld; David Coppin; Kim McGowan; William Miles; Chris Brockbank, Jenny, Hannah and Megan Smith; Katrina Holmes (cadet) and Raymond Carr .

Sue Jenkins
Club Secretary

ARUN YACHT CLUB PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



We are going to hold a Photography Competition this year and we are asking members to submit their efforts.

There is a full calendar of events coming up during the Sailing Season, such as Regattas, Round the Island Race, Cadet Weeks, Cruiser and Dinghy Racing so get involved and take your pics! You do not need to be on the water at the time to put in an entry – there are many opportunities for taking photos from the land - think crane in, up and down river races, etc. – the field is limitless (even details of boats).

Entry details can be obtained from Sue in the Office from the end of this month, and if you need any advice, do ask. We would ask you not to send in low res. pictures – set the camera on fine preferably.

There will be a small entrance fee (to cover costs) and a limit on the number of photos submitted – no discs with 100 pictures on please! There will also be a prize at the end with judging and prize-giving later in the year (late September).

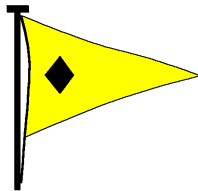
Please get in touch with Sue in the Office on 01903 716016 for further details.

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION OF

SCUTTLEBUTT

1ST JUNE 2011

Have you purchased a Club Burgee
for the new sailing season ?



£10.00

Available from the Bar, Secretary
or Carole Clapham

A Member's Travels

A relatively new member, Kim McGowan, will shortly be crossing the Pacific and wonders if any members would be interested in following the voyage. There are three doing the trip and first stop will be the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia, then Tahiti and Bora Bora etc. Anyone interested can follow the blog at www.sailingfifi.blogspot.com/

MEMBERS TRAVELS

We welcome all members' accounts of their travels—see Ron's round Britain cruise last year. Set up a website, write a blog, write a log and win the AYC's Lisboa or Crew's Log 2011.