



## **ARUN YACHT CLUB**

### **SCUTTLEBUTT December 2010**

**01903 716016 (Office) : 01903 714533 (Members)**  
**arunyachtclub@btconnect.com**  
**website : [www.arunyc.co.uk](http://www.arunyc.co.uk)**

#### **COMMODORE'S REPORT**

Every Club AGM brings its share of grateful thanks, new directions, and points of discussion - and this year's was no exception. It is a credit to the Club that the AGM continues to be so well supported and that points raised can be debated in such good spirits.

In succeeding Nick Clare as Commodore, my obvious first duty was to thank him, on behalf of the members, for his commitment and devotion over the past two years. As challenges have arisen, he kept us on an even keel and maintained our spirits, and for that I thank him. Nick is already building a new persona: he competed in a Club dinghy race on Sunday for the first time in more years than he cares to recall (and achieved some third places!), and there are vicious rumours that Free 'N' Easy will grace the Round the Island.

As the elections concluded, it was a pleasure to thank other members stepping down from the Management Committee for their hard work in office. I refer to Dick Holden, who for many years has directed our sailing programme, and Paul Hughes who has been, and remains, the mainstay of our training programme. Also retiring from office are Dominic Carlton, as Cruising Secretary, and Henry Durman, as Cadet Captain. I thank them both.

And so we move to a new chapter in the history of Arun Yacht Club, and it is my pleasure to welcome new Officers and members of the Management Committee. Together with Officers remaining in office, the full line-up is as follows:

#### Management Committee:

Commodore: Nick Rusbridge (Development)  
Vice Commodore: Phil Bush (Sailing)  
Rear Commodore: Barry Partridge (House)  
Treasurer: Elinor Sorrell (Finance & Administration)  
Committee Members:  
Martin Gillam (Membership Secretary)  
Sarah Miles (Training)  
Ken Whitmore (Moorings)  
Ron Wood (Insurance and Health & Safety)

#### Other Officers:

Barry Partridge: Cruising Secretary and Bosun

Emma Keen: Racing Secretary  
Cam Hughes: Cadet Captain

I am pleased to announce the re-appointment of David Robinson as President, Richard Dobson as Vice-President, and the appointment of Nick Clare as Vice-President. Together they constitute a veritable oracle of Club wisdom, to which I shall no doubt be referring.

I am also pleased to confirm that Tony Peterson, our erstwhile Steward, will continue to coordinate Social activities as well as maintain our Bar. Tony is a fantastic asset to the Club, and I can't imagine the place without him. With Angela and her team continuing to offer great service from the Galley, and with Sue and Karen in the office, we have a great team looking after us. My thanks to all, and I look forward to working with all of you.

The AGM afforded all members an opportunity to reflect on 2010 and on lessons to be learned for the future. Reports were offered aplenty for the AGM and I do not mean to cover the same ground but simply reflect on a couple of points.

For me, 2010 was one of our best years ever in terms of our sailing success. Yes, participant numbers were slightly down, but those who dared succeeded. Cruiser racers raced harder than ever, cruisers explored further than ever, and many tried sailing for the first time ever and were bitten by the bug. Perhaps we have failed ourselves this year in not communicating widely enough our successes. Belief, like success, is self-fulfilling, and our most accomplished sailors must be visible to serve as inspiration for our newest members.

I was also struck by the feelings stirred up by the Club redecoration. It reminds us of the Club's traditions. It's an easy thing to speak of removing a wall panel or hiding an old painting – less easy if you can visualise the ex-member who nailed the panel in position or hung the picture on the wall. It's amazing how attached you can get to a 'shed up a muddy creek' but the shed comes with history and knowing your history is the first step in planning your future.

So let's take pride in our Club and remember its core values as we move forward.

Arun Yacht Club is something of a cocktail - a heady mix of progress and tradition, young and old, racer and cruiser, novice and expert. Therein lies the appeal and the challenge, and the goal I set for myself and the Management Committee is to find just the right blend. Thankfully, we are not starting from square one. Today's Club is founded on the hard work of our predecessors, and we inherit a wonderful facility. We have but to protect what we have and realise the potential that already exists.

No man is an island, and neither is a yacht club, come to that. Our country is facing austerity measures in the short term and so must we. Previous years of necessary improvements to our facilities mean that we must set a tight budget and stick to it in order to rebuild Club reserves for the next phase of Club development. At the same time, as many of you will know, we are committed to one single capital project, a comprehensive moorings dredge in January-February 2011, which will protect the quality of sailing from our moorings and protect the associated Club income. With a

deeper basin and appropriate advertising, I look forward to welcoming new yacht owners to our Club who will contribute to the wide variety of sailing activities on offer.

It feels as though we've caught a mild case of financial hypothermia, and the Club's life force will necessarily retreat to our core. But that's not a bad thing, because it encourages us to take a look at ourselves, at our core qualities and at what we do well. We sail as well as anyone, we socialise with gusto, and we welcome new members to swell our ranks. As a Club we are experts at self-sufficiency and we have a wide range of skills to call upon. This is a great opportunity to celebrate our strengths and pour our energies into them. Is there any reason why 2011 should not be the best year ever on the water? Is there any reason why the Clubhouse and our boats cannot look at their best?

You will know that Ken Whitmore has been asked to head up the dredge project and I'm pleased to report he is already finding great support and cooperation among the members in scheduling boat manoeuvres and assembling work parties. Just as with our crane-outs and crane-ins, when countless members work together to move 40-plus boats in a single tide, a combination of leadership, team work and 'can do' attitude will make our dredge a success. And the Dredge sub-Committee will ensure the success is lasting by planning a maintenance dredge programme for the years ahead.

While I speak introspection and core values, I do not mean us to lose sight of external pressures upon us, and I will be asking the Development Committee to address these. To the north, the north moorings project has been sitting on ice but ice eventually melts and we must be ready with a plan when finances permit. To the south, the dinghy pen/beach erosion is ongoing and we will continue to address this challenge with all resources at our disposal. These are Club territories and we owe it to ourselves to protect them.

Each of the Departments will be using this issue of Scuttlebutt to set out their priorities and I won't steal their thunder in this report. Simply put, however, each Department will be seeking to realise its potential and make its numbers so that the Club achieves in equal measure in all activities, for the benefit of all members.

We are one Club with one aim: to see the Club survive and prosper, and that means sharing a common vision and pulling together. This is what I will champion, and I know we can achieve it.

Happy Christmas, one and all, and here's to a vintage AYC in 2011!

Nick Rusbridge  
Commodore

## **REPORT FROM THE VICE COMMODORE – SAILING**

The Dinghy Prize Giving and Lunch took place on Sunday 12th December 2010 and after an enjoyable lunch Carol Rusbridge presented the prizes as follows:

*Dinghy Trophies :*

Bryan Tickner Trophy (Cruiser and Dinghy Pursuit Race) – David Robinson & Henry Durman

Long Distance Tankard (Long Distance Race) – Dick Holden & Richard Keen

RNLI Pennant (Nominated Handicap Series over One Day or Weekend) – Martin Keen & Henry Durman

Holland Trophy (Nominated Points Series over Season) – David Robinson and Various

Silver Wire Salver (Nominated Points Series over Season) – David Robinson & Nicola Hortin

Up River Race (Up River Race to Black Rabbit) – Martin & Emma Keen

The Black Rabbit Run (Down River Race from Black Rabbit) – Dick Holden

Evening Series (Evening Series) – David Robinson & Steven Boyes-Lee

Frostbite Trophy (Frostbite Series) – Paul Hughes & Nick Rusbridge

Winter Bowl (Winter Series) – Dick Holden & Mike Fisher

*Merit Awards :*

Carnes Trophy (AYC member attending most away Open Meetings) – Jack Holden

The Away Trophy (Best Placed AYC member at an away Open Meeting) – Martin & Emma Keen

*Novelty Awards :*

Pig's Ear – Jenny Durman

Admiral's Boot – Barry Partridge

**HOUSE REPORT**

I have again been given the responsibility for house (facilities). Most of the Club refurbishment has been taken care of but routine maintenance will be required. When the dredge and crane-in are complete the site can be cleared and we look forward to an exciting year of cruising.

As well as House I am entrusted with the position of Hon. Cruising Secretary. It will be my aim to arrange for as many novice sailors to take part in group sailing to the Solent

and to Brighton and Shoreham. The first cruise will be to the Solent over Easter weekend (weather permitting) – details will be published by weekly email, and notices on the notice board in the Clubroom. Please put these dates in your diary as soon as possible.

Winter electricity for boats is being organised as in previous years – i.e. you may have your electricity on permanently if you pay £50 towards the cost of the electricity. If you have not paid, but are plugged in, your electricity supply will be removed on Monday morning.

I am endeavouring to obtain reduced price anodes from John Baker – if anyone requires this equipment please let me know.

Don't forget Ron Goldsmith's talk about his Round Britain Cruise to be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Please give him your support – I have read his logbook and can guarantee a very interesting evening.

I wish you good sailing in 2011, but in the meantime may I wish you all season's greeting and a happy new year.

*Barry Partridge*  
Rear Commodore

## **TRAINING REPORT**

### **RACE COACHING AT AYC**

Please join Richard Dobson, for a series of shore based Race Coaching evenings at AYC. Richard, a World Championship medal winner, will talk you around a typical race, giving you the benefit of his years of successful competitive experience. Although you won't get a badge or certificate, these talks will make you faster around the race course.

The course starts on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January for 7 weeks from 1800 -2000 and costs just £10, to cover Club expenses, for all seven nights, payable in advance. Anyone with an interest in racing should make the effort to attend this fascinating course. Look forward to hearing from you,

**To book on the course or for more information please contact us on 01903 716016 or by email [arunyachtclub@btconnect.com](mailto:arunyachtclub@btconnect.com)**

## **YACHTMASTER SHOREBASED COURSE**

**Arun Yacht Club**, a recognised RYA training establishment

This is an advanced course, equipping you with the knowledge to navigate yachts or motor cruisers in unfamiliar coastal and offshore waters during the day and at night. Day Skipper Shore-based students with sailing experience, but no previous formal learning, can also attend and be examined at Day Skipper level, this should give you sufficient knowledge to navigate a yacht or powerboat around familiar waters by day and by night.

### **Dates and Times**

9 lessons at 1830-2130 on Wednesdays: 5/12/19/26 Jan, 2/9/16/23 Feb, 2 March.

1 lesson and revision session: 1500-2200 Wednesday 9 March

1 session for the chart-work and general examination papers: Thursday 10 March

### **Fees**

£245 (£10 of the fee and a reduction of the instructor's honorarium by £50 will be made to the RNLI.)

Fees include an RYA Training Pack with charts, practice, questions etc.

Practical checklists, a wind trim guide and full revision notes will also be provided, as will tea, coffee and biscuits.

Students will need dividers, Portland protractor, pencil, paper, eraser and a USB stick on to which the course presentation slides can be loaded.

### **Instructor**

Martin Bartholomew is an RYA Yachtmaster Instructor and VHF Instructor/Assessor. He and his wife live in Littlehampton and are club members. Martin teaches with First Class Sailing (Southampton and London) and also with schools in the Mediterranean.

**To book on the course or for more information please contact us on 01903 716016 or by email [arunyachtclub@btconnect.com](mailto:arunyachtclub@btconnect.com)**

*Sarah Miles*

Training Principal

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

I would like to thank members in advance for their patience during the coming year with the many challenges that we will face.

I would also like to ask any members, including Cadets, who feel that they could contribute actively to the Finance Committee to come forward.

*Elinor Sorrell*

Treasurer

### **SOCIAL REPORT**

We have had a very busy period since the last edition of Scuttlebutt including the following regular and special events : Channel Sailing Club Rally, Monthly Air Crew Lunches and Phoenix Club Lunch, Littlehampton Berth-holders Association meetings, Bonfire Night Supper, Crane-out Supper, Annual Dinner and Dance (full-house and sold out) and several private parties for AYC Members. Unfortunately, because of the snow, we had to postpone a large Christmas Party until the New Year.

The New Commodore and New Members' Reception was well attended and the same evening there was a Sailors' Talk which raised £100 for Sailability. The following day (Sunday) a local Residents' Association, to which many of our members belong, held their annual lunch and with the Dinghy Sailors Lunch and Prizegiving there were over 100 people dining. Well done Angela for serving these to a very high standard. Top this off with the Air Crew Association Christmas lunch for 80 a couple of days later and AYC Christmas Lunch to follow after that and you can see it has been very lively and full to the rafters.

New Year's Eve Buffet and Dance has been sold out for a week now – waiting list only.

As many of you know I was asked by our previous Commodore Nick Clare to take on the role of Social Secretary, which does combine well with my job as Club Steward. Our new Commodore has asked me to continue in this position for 2011, which I have gladly accepted as I feel that we can build on the past year's successes.

Unfortunately, due to the current climate, I will not have a Social budget but will continue, as in the past, organising our Social events with a built in fee to cover the cost of the entertainment. I am hoping that the past Social Committee will continue to support me – if there is any one out there who is interested in joining us please let us know – you will be more than welcome. If any Member would like to organise a Social event or night please get in touch – for members the Club premises are free (donations welcome to the RNLII!) and Angela and I are more than happy to assist with arrangements.

I look forward to seeing our 'regulars' in the near future and those who don't come to events that often – give us a try – you might find you enjoy yourself!

*Tony Peterson*  
Chairman – Social Committee

## **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:

Richard Buckwell, Ian Smith, Charles, Judith and Jade Marsden, Henry Martin, David Bamber, John Peacock and cadets Tony Walls and Edmund Tiley.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas, peaceful New Year and good sailing in 2011.

## DAVID MAYNE'S CRUISE TO THE WEST COAST OF BRITTANY.



David Mayne left for his summer cruise on 19<sup>th</sup> June in 'Northern Gipsy', a Vancouver 32. The plan this summer was to visit the **Golfe du Morbihan** and the adjacent islands on the west coast of France. He had hoped to go as far as La Rochelle but due to the storms during the winter many of the harbours north of La Rochelle were closed to visitors.

The wind was predominately NE 4/5 which was ideal for fast down wind passages. First stop was **Alderney** then **Guernsey** where he took photos of the Guernsey to Jersey race as Phil and Sue Bush had entered 'Wavedancer', their Moody 31. He then anchored at **Ile de Batz** near Roscoff and then on to **L'Aberwach** before going round the corner and down the **Chenal du Four** and into the **Rade de Brest**. Another British boat had seen a large object floating in the Chenal du Four and on investigation discovered it to be a dead whale, about 15 feet long, which had rolled over and was covered in weed and debris. Not a good thing to hit on a dark night!

One of our favourite anchorages near Brest is **Le Fret** which is near a French Naval site. Perhaps David was too close to the exclusion area as he was boarded twice to have the boat's papers checked! John and Sue Bewsey on 'Peggy' were anchored nearby so he received a good supper. He also visited some English friends who live on the waterfront and mended their outboard engine and earned himself a Sunday lunch!

After a few days he continued heading south, again NE 4/5 through the **Raz du Sein** to **Audierne** and then **Loctudy** for diesel and supplies. He anchored up river and was joined by Martyn and Hilary Waitt on their Nab 35. Hilary is a past Commodore of the AYC. It was then on to **Ile de Groix** and finally **Ile d'Houat**, one of the islands off the **Golfe du Morbihan**, where he anchored for several days.

The **Morbihan** is an inland sea dotted with small islands and rivers. David picked me up at **Vannes** which is a lovely medieval town with moorings in the town centre. We then spent several weeks sailing between the islands. We stayed a few days at each anchorage going ashore each day to explore and to buy the daily baguette. There was always plenty to watch as there are a lot of sailing schools – one day we counted 40 Hobies setting off from the beach and tacking out between the numerous anchored yachts! We also sailed out to **Ile d'Houat** for a few days which is 10 miles off the coast. This island is like a large sandbank with a small village and harbour with pretty

anchorage around its coast. We met up with several English friends we had met on previous visits to this area and even the previous owner of Northern Gipsy! We found the French yachtsmen very hospitable and we were even entertained by some in their homes.

If any member is thinking of visiting this area we would definitely recommend it and be pleased to show them our photos and give them the names of good anchorages. Most of the best places we have only found through recommendation.

Carole Clapham

### **COPY DATES FOR SCUTTLEBUTT 2011**

Dates for your Diary if you have articles for submission

Or even Items for Sale/Wanted

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2011**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2011**