

ARUN YACHT CLUB

SCUTTLEBUTT

JUNE 2009

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COMMODORE'S REPORT

At last, nearly half way through the year, the sun has arrived and a strong, long lasting Easterly to drive us down to the Solent and beyond. This is the time to get out on the water and enjoy the near perfect sailing conditions, so it amazes me that so many of you are leaving your boats on the moorings and hardly venturing out of the harbour. I can only guess that you have been catching up on the gardening and having to share your time with the family. It is a shame though, as conditions have been great.

Since our last Scuttlebutt there have been a lot of things going on the Club, ranging from Barry's Jazz evening to Tony's 'unofficial' cruise to Gosport and, of course, the normal round of Dinghy and Cruiser races, and cruises which you see in the programme. These events have been really well supported and I know have been enjoyed by all who have attended and taken part. There is a lot going on. If you haven't been to the Club recently do come and join in—you will enjoy yourself, and the more that take part the better it is for everyone.

One thing that does trouble me is the number of boats that turn out for the cruiser races. I know that some of you may think that it is only something to be done by those sleek racing machines, and may even be a little afraid of what it entails. Well, my Centaur certainly isn't a sleek racing machine and I am certainly not the most proficient of sailors but, for people like me, the Sailing Committee have devised a special division (Division 2) in which all types of boats (however slow they may be) and all types of sailors can compete. We all start at the same time and the races are run on a handicap basis so everyone has a chance of getting a place. The problem is that I am increasingly the only boat in Division 2 taking part and, whilst I enjoy receiving the trophy, I really would like a little competition. I am rarely going to be able to catch the likes of Richard, Dick and David but I would enjoy it if I could sail against a boat of a similar sort to mine. In any case, it is a good excuse to get out on the water and do something different, rather than just sailing up and down the coast; it also makes you practice those points of sailing you might avoid if out for the normal leisurely cruise. So, come on all of you out there; it is good fun, gives you an excuse to go sailing and gives me a challenge.

On a different note, you will notice that the new gates have arrived and are lying in the grass to north of the entrance. These will be erected in the very near future and hopefully give some more security to our premises and boats. We have noticed that even by lowering the existing barrier the number of non-members using our premises as a convenient car park, toilet, and way to the beach has decreased, so these gates should prove an even better

deterrent. I hope you will all find the new gates a benefit and must thank our Treasurer for all the effort he has put in towards their design, purchase and fitting.

I hear that our Spring Cadet Week went really well and I am sure that Nick will have written a report for this edition. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, I was unable to be there, but I would like to thank all the instructors and helpers who took part for the great job they have done and to welcome the new sailors they have trained to our sport and Club. New cadets and their parents bring real life to our Club and it always a pleasure to see so many kids out there enjoying themselves.

We recently had a rally from Meneham Rythe SC who really enjoyed their visit. Barry and I were on hand to greet them and they ensure me that they had a great time – they certainly enjoyed Angela's cooking. You will see that they have presented the Club with their burgee, which now hangs in the bar area. They have also issued an invitation to us to visit them – perhaps this would be a good opportunity for another of Tony's 'unofficial' rallies. They have a new visitors' pontoon which can take up to ten boats (bilge keels only) and will provide food if they are notified in advance of the numbers etc.

You will all be aware that Sussex Yacht Club's annual race to Fecamp – the Royal Escape Race – took place on May 22nd. What you may not be aware of is that Chris Beazer achieved 2nd place in his new Bavaria and was awarded two trophies. Our congratulations must go out to him; he is a credit to our fleet and shows that we have some real metal here at the Arun. In a similar vein, the Manageress of the Island

Sailing Club recently visited us during one of her own cruises and told me that she is really looking forward to seeing our team there again this year for the Round the Island Race. So our best wishes (and prayers?) must go out to them – let's hope they can bring back the Team Trophy yet again.

We get quite a few visitors to our Club and all are envious of our Clubhouse and position. However, the Management Committee is not sitting back on its laurels; we are constantly trying to find ways to improve things. Because of this, you may see some strange people visiting the Club and wondering what they are about. Well, two things. Firstly, a local college is using the Clubhouse as an assignment for their design students to look at ways in which we can improve the look of the Club and use its facilities. I must emphasize that this is not costing the Club anything, but we look forward to their presentations – we may gain some useful ideas. Secondly, we are looking at ways to improve our moorings; specifically dredging. So, I have asked Van Oord to visit and offer solutions to our current silting problem.

Another piece of news is that one of our members – Phil Bush – has recently been appointed the Recreational Representative on the Littlehampton Harbour Board. I hope you will all wish him every success in this position. I am sure he will keep the rest of the Board on their toes and stick up for us recreational boaters in the very best way.

It has been noted that a number of members have been going in and using the galley. As a franchisee Angela is responsible for all that goes on in the galley, whether that is catering, hygiene or safety. I have, therefore, asked her to lock the galley when she is not there, and

respectfully request that members do not enter the galley for any reason unless invited to by either Angela or one of our Flag Officers.

Lastly, I am sorry to hear that a number of our members have passed away during the last few months; you will have noticed the ensign being flown at half-mast. My condolences go out to their spouses, partners and families. They will all be sorely missed.

Nick Clare
Commodore

SAILING REPORT

We seem to have been very lucky with good weather for pretty well all the races this season. Mostly light and medium winds, often sunshine and usually flat seas. A delightful contrast to last year when it seemed to blow old boots every race day.

The only disappointment has been the relatively poor turn-outs of both dinghies and cruisers for the racing, although it is good news that the Club cruises have been relatively well supported. Whilst by no means a disaster, we do seem to be down a bit on racing participation compared to last year. A lot of this is explainable: people have moved away or are on holiday or tied up at work. Whatever the reason, it would be great to see more participation.

The good news is that two great competitors are likely to be more prominent in the fleet. The dinghy racers have been delighted to see Steve Leach back on the water in his rocket-ship RS600, after many months of recuperation from his Laser sailing accident. In the cruisers we wait to see how Andy Walker gets on with his nimble-looking Formula-One once he gets it sorted out.

To try to keep more active members coming into the sport – and the Club - the Training team are doing a great job with both basic learn-to-sail training as well as specialist race training. The training makes big demands on members' time and on the Club's resources, but it does work. Last year the race training sessions revealed we had four teenaged cadets who are especially talented, and they were the core of the team that did so well at the West Sussex Schools Regatta. A year on and they continue to shine. Jack Munnely has become a part-time paid crew on a 40 ft. racing yacht out of Cowes, Jack Holden is now a regular winner of Club events, helming both cruisers and dinghies, Jordan Gosine has purchased a much newer Laser to contest the Laser National Championships, and Richard Keen has become a sought after crew in both dinghies and cruisers. And the training team tells me that the next generation coming through are just as promising.

Looking ahead, as well as regular Club races, we have several specially good events coming up. It'll soon be mid-summer's day, which is of course the day all good druids dance round the stones and all good yachtsmen dance Round The Island (Sat 20th June). Both *Sooper Trooper* and *Dedicated Dancer* are sporting new sails for the event, and with this being the last RTI for *Scampi* I am sure this 3-boat AYC team will be fighting hard to retain the *Arun Yacht Club Team Challenge Trophy* in our hands for another year. We also look forward to

the brilliant Owers Race on 18th July, but not before we have enjoyed the East Head Cruise and BBQ on 11th July.

For the dinghies we have the Littlehampton River Revival on Sat 13th June and the Up/Down River Races (to the Black Rabbit Pub) on Sunday 5th July before the Club Dinghy Regatta on 1st/2nd August and the RS500 Championship at the end of August.

So, there is lots going on - as always. Lots of volunteers putting in time and effort to provide a good programme. Lots of your Club money spent on safety boats and equipment. We need you to support the Club events. C'mon everyone! This is a Yacht Club for active member participation, not a boat park. Get involved – you'll enjoy it. Let's see you out there!

Dick Holden

Rear Commodore Sailing

Vast Expense Account attached to vacant situation

The position of Treasurer is to become vacant and a successor is being sought. The position is rewarded with an expense account to make an MP blush.

Salary is negotiable but unlikely to exceed £100k. He or she will have an interest in the future well being of the AYC, some ability with figures, a modest commercial aptitude and a desire to work with very nice people.

Rewards may not be as high as advertised but the job is self-rewarding and lightly demanding. Job satisfaction guaranteed. Applications warmly welcomed, by what ever means, to work alongside me over the next five months prior to the elections at the next AGM.

Michael Marston

Hon Treasurer.

01903 784349

Arun District Council taxes your Club.

In an act of desperate meanness the Arun District Council have decided to withdraw 15% of our non domestic rate relief, so increasing the cost of membership of the AYC by £3 per member.

When you get a politician on your doorstep canvassing for the local elections, ask him what he will do to help the local amateur sports club and how does taxing us with a cut of non domestic rate relief help our members to pursue their sports hobby and show support for local clubs.

Thank you.

Michael Marston

Treasurer

Financial Assistance required!

We have a vacancy for an interested member to join our highly illustrious Finance Committee as, following the resignation of a member, we are one short. Duties will extend to a few meetings and perusal of notes and documents through the year or more if you want it!

An active dinghy sailing member would be good, to add a different perspective, but if that is not you then don't let that put you off talking to me.

Thank you.

Please contact

*Michael Marston
Hon. Treasurer
01903 784349*

Dinghy Pen Details

There seem to be more dinghies in the dinghy pen than have paid fees, could all those with Dinghy Pen 2009 plaques please ensure they are visible so that a dinghy is not tethered up which has been paid for. Many thanks

*Michael Marston
Hon Treasurer*

SOCIAL REPORT

The social side of the Club has been reasonably quiet as the sailing season gets fully underway.

Founders Day lunch, which took place on 25th April, was well supported and generally attracted positive feedback from those attending.

The Club will be represented at the Littlehampton Regatta to be held on 13th June and the Club will, of course, be open on that day.

It has been decided, however, that a full Club Open Day will be held on Saturday 25th July and a programme is being organised for that day. It is hoped that we will be able to offer the opportunity to visitors to 'try-a-boat' – either one of the Club Wayfarers or Cruisers. Will any Cruiser owners who are prepared to assist with this and make their boats (and themselves!) available please let Paul Hughes or Nick Rusbridge know.

A BBQ has been arranged to take place on Saturday 22nd August.

Do you have any spare plants? Although not strictly "Social" the Management Committee

would like to receive any gifts of shrubs and plants that can be planted out to soften the fencing line of the car park and dinghy pen. Any plants should ideally be salt resistant such as Tamarisk. If you do have any plants, or would like to donate some please get in contact with either Barry Partridge or David Lindsay.

David Lindsay
Social Committee Chairman

BOAT JUMBLE 2009

Although rather windy and cold to start with the morning soon warmed up and there were 14 stalls in the car park selling 'boat bits'.

The RNLI were very pleased with the £123.00 in their collection box and donations to the club stall raised £95.50 for Club funds.

Thanks to all those who supported the event (I hope you found some bargains!) and to those who helped on the day.

Carole Clapham

CRUISE IN COMPANY—24th—26th APRIL 2009

Nine boats set off from Littlehampton on 24th April, and were later joined by *Cadenza* (John Kerr) from Brighton, *Benita* (Bill Garrod) from Portsmouth, and *Crazy B* (Chris Beazer). The going wasn't easy and conditions in the eastern Solent were quite lively but everyone found the various marks and all arrived safely in Gosport, the only hairy moment befalling (who else but?) *Kiwi Venture!*

It transpired that the petrol tank had inverted during one particularly heavy roll by the Hamilton Bank, and *Kiwi's* outboard stopped right in the harbour entrance. Luckily, Roger Hamson in *Coralin* was close behind, caught a line first time and towed *Kiwi* the last few hundred yards to Haslar Marina. A nice piece of seamanship—thanks, Roger!

All enjoyed well-organised hospitality aboard the lightship, and the wave heights increased as fast as the alcohol sank until we were all seasoned Cape-Horners by chucking-out time.

Saturday dawned bright and breezy. A little too breezy for most tastes, and the planned sojourn to Folly Inn was abandoned in favour of visits to Gunwharf Quay and the Submarine Museum. We all had to move to make way for another rally in the outside corner and enjoyed a much quieter night ranged along J pontoon away from the wash of passing ferries.

Sunday morning saw us all up and raring to go, and we sailed in convoy in a very pleasant south-east breeze (almost dead on the nose, of course!) arriving in good order on the midday

tide. Everyone who took part enjoyed the experience, and a special mention should be made of Sue Butcher, who sailed *Born Free* single-handed. The oldest boat was undoubtedly Charles Loxley's Westerly *Fletcher*, and the youngest crew member was Master Gillam in *Tipsy* who managed to fit in a visit to a monster movie in Portsmouth with two terrified parents.

Thanks to everyone who took part, and especially to Sue and David for their hospitality on *Charlotte Russe*. I am relieved that it all went so well, and that all sailors enjoyed the weekend in safety and good company—let's try and do it again soon!

Good sailing and, Nigel—you'll make it next time too!

Tony Sutcliffe
(Red Team Leader!)

Late May Bank Holiday Cruise

This was a low key weekend planning to visit areas of Chichester we had not been to before. We set off destined for Itchenor and thought we would spend one night on the Harbour Masters' pontoon. As it turned out we picked up a visitor's buoy opposite the Hard where all sorts of activities were occurring. The weather was so brilliant we stayed Saturday and Sunday as well, too much relaxing I fear!!

The Ship Inn was visited, just to see what it was like, followed by a walk around the rather plush houses.

I suppose the Bank Holiday crowds may have put off other members but there is always next time!

The next event will be the East Head Barbeque, so pencil in 11th – 12th July.

David Gates
Cruising Secretary

ONBOARD TRAINING SCHEME

We are proud to announce that we have become an 'RYA On-board' Club.

RYA On-board is an initiative created to offer sailing to children who have not yet done tit. These children shall come from local schools and youth groups and we already have twelve students signed up for our first sessions, which started on the 6th June in the morning.

Below is a photo of Nick Clare being presented with our 'On-board' plaque from Mark Saul, the RYA Onboard representative. This is hopefully a great opportunity for the club to nurture new members.



Onboard representative Mark Saul presenting Commodore Nick Clare with the Arun Yacht Club Onboard plaque - April 2009

TRAINING UPDATE

An active training programme is vital to the future of the Club, as it helps to support and further sailing activities and generates new members. I'm pleased to report that the Training Committee is working hard to deliver an active and varied training programme, and I thank all of the committee members for their efforts.

On the cadet side, we have just completed a successful Spring Cadet Week with 19 cadets, some brand new, other experienced. We awarded a variety of stage 1-4 and seamanship certificates to the cadets, and it's heartening to see some of them continuing with training on Thursday evenings. Many of the cadets joined as members because of this activity, demonstrating the value of training in increasing membership. Our priority now is to encourage the new recruits to engage in Club activities, and we are actively communicating with them towards this end. We have in our sights the West Sussex Schools Youth Sailing Association Regatta, which AYC is hosting in September, for which we want to present a strong cadet team. So, the stronger we can make our cadet wing the better.

What else? To tap into further cadet talent in the area, we are just about to launch a series of four sailing taster sessions for 12 school children under the RYA Onboard scheme. Yes, we are now an RYA Training Centre, an RYA Onboard Centre and an RYA Volvo Champion Club (see below). This means we get RYA support to run the taster sessions, and we get to brand ourselves as an Onboard centre – all of which helps to build momentum.

I hope that this will see a resurgence in our cadet sailing activities and generate a critical mass that the Training and Sailing Committees can work with to generate the next generation of Club sailors.

Apart from generating new cadet sailors, we are working hard to generate new cadet racers. Richard Dobson has delivered yet another valuable Wednesday evening race coaching programme (aimed at the improved racers in the Club), and we will be following up with a second programme for inexperienced racers later this summer. Names of suitable candidates are fed to Richard from the various training courses and then we approach them individually. But if you want to join the race coaching please call the Office to volunteer your name.

This race coaching programme is 'in house' in that it is not an RYA course. However, we have recently joined the Volvo Champion Club scheme, which aims to promote youth racing – again this means we can tap into support from the RYA. Case in point – in July we will have our first Laser race coaching day, which will bring in an external race coach (even Richard will be able to learn from him!). Such cross-fertilisation can only be healthy for the Club, and we need more. I applaud our sailors who attend open regattas or courses run elsewhere because from every one of them the Club benefits from a little extra knowledge or extra insight into how other clubs run things.

So much emphasis on cadets and quite rightly so. But are we neglecting the old kids? I hope not. From a training point of view, I plan to run a dinghy sailing taster on the Club Open Day, Saturday 25th July, for any adults who would like to just taste it. We also plan to hold a lecture/practical 'man overboard' course for the cruiser sailors on Saturday 22 August. Space will be limited so please call the Office if you're interested.

My aim would be to hold more courses aimed at the cruiser sailor – beyond the traditional RYA courses – but on what subjects? If you have suggestions, please send them to me and I'll investigate. One of the more useful things we could do is form groups of cruiser sailors who want to complete practical courses, and then use the force of numbers to enable us to charter boats and instructors at favourable rates. I'm prepared to look into this if I get an idea of your aspirations. If you are thinking of undertaking a practical course, please let me know and I'll see if the responses amount to a team.

Recently, we've see a tailing off of members taking the powerboat and specialist shore-based courses that we have traditionally offered. I hope that is a good sign – everyone is highly trained – but it may also reflect the fact that we are seeing fewer members joining. If you'd like to take a Course, please do let the Office know. We are about to plan our 2010 training programme and we will not be running Courses for which there has been/is no interest.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that our Club dinghy fleet has grown with the purchase of an additional two Lasers, which means we can now provide more boats for improving dinghy sailors, particularly cadets. Our challenge is to get cadets into them and taking part in Club races. Training doesn't stop with a scheduled Course and a named instructor – it continues via Club races in which you learn as you self-coach and observe and listen to others.

Whatever you learn in a Course needs to be reinforced by practice on the water. So, cadets, please think about reserving one of the Club boats and joining us for a Club race. The other racers will make you feel very welcome and help you through every stage.

Nick Rusbridge
Training Principal

TRAINING CALENDER 2009

There's plenty of training coming up to give you the confidence to enjoy your water-based activity – whatever that might be. If you don't see the course you're interested in, please call the Office and suggest the course – if we get enough interest we'll run it!

20-21 June: Powerboat Level 2. We still have room for one or two more on this course, which provides you will the knowledge and practical skills to helm small powerboats at speed and in confined spaces in coastal waters. £160 for members, £210 for non-members.

4 July: Laser race coaching day. For established Laser sailors interested in improving their racing skills. Features an external RYA Laser race coach.

14 July: Adult Evening Training. Start of the third 6-week block of Tuesday evening adult training (with Paul Hughes: £20 per session for members, £25 per session for non-members, with 5 sessions for the price of 6 if paid in full in advance)

15 July: Race Coaching Evening. Run by Richard Dobson. If you're good enough, we'll be in contact. But if you're keen, call us anyway! (£35 for 6 sessions, extra to hire club dinghy)

16 July: Cadet Evening Training. Start of the third 6-week block of Thursday evening cadet training (with Richard Renson: £5 per session for members, £10 per session for non-members, with 5 sessions for the price of 6 if paid in full in advance)

8 August: RS400 Coaching Day. We have been invited to host this event by the RS Class Association and we are expecting a number of visitors. However, we would like to see **ALL** our AYC RS400s turning out for what should be a most worthwhile day's coaching from one of the best RS400 helms in the country. This is only open to members of the RS Class Association and must be booked though Heather Chipperfield at the Association office <heatherc@rs-association.com>.The cost is £28 per boat for the day and it will be starting promptly at 10.30.

10-14 August: Summer Cadet Week. Already over half- full, please don't delay if you wish to register your child for this week of sailing. £150 members, £175 non-members. The May cadet week was a great success (read about it elsewhere), and we hope to see many familiar faces in August.

22 August: Man Overboard Training (Cruisers). Another date for your diary, with details to follow. Most likely a presentation from an external instructor, followed by individual water-based boat instruction and assessment. Likely to be limited to 8 cruisers, so please call the office asap if you're

interested to reserve a place for your boat and crew. Cost to be confirmed, but in the region of £30 per boat (split it between your crew – it's in their interests too!)

2 September: Pre-WSSYSA regatta cadet training

5 September: Laser race coaching

9 September: Pre-WSSYSA regatta cadet training

For all courses, please call Sue in the Office (01903 716 016) for further information and bookings.

CADET WEEK

On Tuesday the 26th May the Arun Yacht Club were pleased to welcome 19 cadets for the first cadet week of the year. I joined the team on the Wednesday as I was unable to start on the previous day. I heard great things about the Tuesday; everyone enjoyed themselves and was buzzing for the rest of the week.

On Wednesday the weather was horrendous, with winds building throughout the day and heavy rain (trust me we were all in it!). All three groups managed to get out on the river in the morning, but it was a relief to get in for lunch and a cup of hot chocolate. The afternoon ended in games and finally a water fight on the Yacht Club's beach.

Thursday arrived with sunshine; it was a credit to all the youngsters that they turned up with smiling faces after the bad weather. All three groups had a great day, managing to cover a lot of the RYA syllabus. The older group even managed to get out to sea after lunch. The final day quickly arrived. It was decided by the team to get as much training in as possible in the morning to make up for the beginning of the week. The afternoon ended up with us all on West beach competing in a fun relay race and a chance to get the instructors wet!!

The week finished with a prize-giving dinner, where Ellie Rusbridge was chosen for the **Most Improved Cadet** and Henry Durman was awarded the shield from the Aircrew Association for **Outstanding Cadet of the Week**.

My thanks go to all those who helped out during the week and I hope to see all the cadets and more at the Summer Cadet Week.

James Millett

STOP PRESS

**Following the very successful
Spring Cadet Week
we already have 24 names
(and some deposits)
for the Summer Cadet Week
10th—14th August inclusive.
ONLY SIX PLACES LEFT,
and it is still only early June!**

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of the following members.

Trevor Pragnell, who was a Life Member, joined Arun Yacht Club in 1958 and sailed here with his wife Rosie.

Peter Jones, who was also a Life Member, joined the Club in 1981 after his retirement from the London Police Force.

Phil Mullholland was a former member of the Club and had worked with Tony Powell for many years before his forced retirement due to illness.

We send our deepest condolences to the families of Trevor, Peter and Phil, and we shall miss them all.

NEW MEMBERS

On a happier note, we would like to welcome the following new members, and wish them a long and happy association with the Club.

Peter Colyer and Janet Shaw
Robert, Veronica and Sarah Pawley
Phil and Sue Isom
Karl Fisher and Jenny Edge
Nicholas Maddocks
John, Sarah, Marcia and Georgia Miles
Jasmine Seager (Cadet)
Elfie de Temple (Cadet)
Shaun Kerrigan (Cadet)
Jake Aldis-Hobbs (Cadet)

It is marvellous to greet so many new members.

Arun Yacht Club Artists

Exhibition 25th and 26th July
At Arun Yacht Club

There will be a preview of this event on Friday 24th July at 7.00 p.m.

All exhibitors and their guests who wish to can book for dinner at the Yacht Club following the Preview. Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to book, as Angela will need notice well in advance.

Ginny (Munn)

Social Committee

01903 505301, or

Sue in the Office on 01903 716016

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NEXT EDITION OF**

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TO BE RECEIVED BY 1ST AUGUST