



# Pin Mill Sailing Club



## December 2008 Newsletter

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### Commodore's Corner



Welcome to the December edition of the Sailing Club's newsletter, and my first edition of Commodore's Corner. Sadly I must inform those of you who have not already heard of the death of Hon. Life member Ted Jillings. My thanks to Mark

Grimwade for writing a few words about Ted in this newsletter.

For those members who may not be aware, and for those who were unable to attend the annual AGM last month, Dilly Ridge came to the end of her two year reign as the Club's Commodore. In her place your fellow members have elected me as her successor for 2009 & 2010.

Although I am quite well known locally in and around the Pin Mill area there is bound to be a percentage of the membership who may not know me. For your benefit let me briefly introduce myself :

My name is Jon Humby, married to Sue with two children, Emma and Alex. I was born and brought up in the village of Chelmondiston near Pin Mill and remain on the peninsula living at Shotley Gate.

My association with Pin Mill Sailing Club started around 40 years ago, first being introduced to the Club by my parents, Brian and Freda. As a youngster I grew up to serve my sailing apprenticeship aboard their gaff yawl 'Gwenili continuing through to her eventual sale and departure from the family many years later.

After spending my early career working within the marine industry, Trawling and then crewing aboard a local Coaster, I eventually came ashore, married Sue and settled down to a land based life within the construction industry. Shortly after, we sought a yacht of our own, eventually finding and purchasing

### Diary



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
Shanties and Ditties

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Eve Carols

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December**  
Boxing Day – Dancing and singing with the Morris Men (and Women). Refreshments.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December**  
New Year's Eve Supper

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January**  
Quiz Night

**London Boat Show**  
At Excel  
9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**  
Burns' Night supper  
Tear-off slip inside

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January**  
RYA First Aid Course  
See inside

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February**  
Visiting Speaker with a talk on 'Nelson's Injuries'

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*The next Newsletter will be in January. Contributions please by 9th January to: [circular@pmsc.org.uk](mailto:circular@pmsc.org.uk) Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EZ*



'Elsie,' a 26' gaff cutter, soon after which with a family of our own we were able to introduce our children to the water and the Sailing Club.

For the past ten years I have been fortunate enough to work and assist with the management of the boat yard and marina at Woolverstone, where recently after the sale of 'Elsie' I was lucky enough to find our current cruising yacht 'Silver Wain' which we moor at Pin Mill. For those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting as yet, whether in the Clubhouse or out on the water sailing please don't hesitate in coming over and saying hello. It's always good to meet new people.

Ok, now that's enough about me, I would now like to briefly let you know who the Flag officers, Hon. Secs. and committee members are who have kindly offered to work alongside me in looking after the Club for the remainder of this year and for 2009.

**FLAG OFFICERS**

**Lee Foster** - Vice Commodore, PMSC webmaster and head of Club merchandise.

**Rick Kirkup** - Rear Commodore

**HON. SECS.**

**Romy Blackburn** – Hon. Secretary

**Penny Jones** - Hon. Assistant Secretary

**Phil Balfe** - Hon. Treasurer

**Val Stone** - Hon. Sailing Sec. and Newsletter Editor

**Simon Everitt** – Hon. Bar Sec.

**Paul Hand** - Hon. Property Sec.

**Ian Saunders** – Hon. Moorings Sec.

**Eileen Madden** - Hon. Social Sec.

**Andrew Milligan** – Hon. House Sec.

**COMMITTEE**

**Sara Hopkinson , Tim Grove, Will Patten, Nick Parker and Terry Sporle.**

What has your Commodore got planned? .....well, I am sure we all have ideas of our own on how the Club should grow and move on. This includes myself, so during my spell, an area of the Club I would very much like to encourage and promote is our cadet and family membership. For the long term continued success and growth of the Club this membership area is vitally important.

Over the next two years I would ask you all to continue where recent past Commodores have left off and promote this Sailing Club to prospective new members, not only for its outstanding location, its great value and excellent sailing but above all promote it as a friendly family organization. A Club for everyone to use and enjoy.

With this in mind we propose to arrange a programme of events suitable to cater for all ages ready for the summer of next year. This programme will include making use of the facilities at Alton Water Reservoir here on the peninsula and of course visiting our favourite family anchorages such as Stone point in the Backwaters, the Rocks on the Deben, Wrabness on the Stour and of course not forgetting making use of our own Clubhouse.

Alongside this initiative your sailing and social committees are hard at work preparing their own programmes ready for the months ahead. I am lead to believe, certainly with Eileen Madden's social crew the programme they are hatching promises to be a blend of old, new and some might say risky events. I am assured something for everyone.

The sailing side of the Club with Val Stone at the helm saw a small but significant increase in people entering races and joining in cruising events during 2008. Hopefully with a long overdue fine summer this will trend will continue into next year. One new opportunity up for grabs will be the chance to sail and crew aboard the TSB Victor during the annual barge match here at Pin Mill next

July, details of which can be found within this newsletter.

Having said all of this your Hon. Secs. and their committees do need your support, so whether you are a sailing, social person, or family please do come along, take part and enter as many events as you can. They really do appreciate it.

In the lead up to Christmas and with the New Year a matter of weeks away Sue and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the Club.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and to you sailing folk, fair winds and tides for 2009.

**Jon Humby  
Commodore.**



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## Welcome Aboard to:

New member:

Peter Seddon from Upminster who sails  
Tosca II, a Trapper 500.

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## Blues Rock 'n'Soul

One of the highlights of the 2008 PMSC social calendar was an 'all-ages, everyone's welcome' evening on 13th September, when the usual Saturday night quiet was replaced by a large and lively musical gathering. Introduced by Commodore Dilly Ridge - who later demonstrated her singing skills at the microphone - it was also the first public performance of The Blooze Brothers, Pin Mill's newest band of mature (but still moving) guitar heroes: enough said, you know who they are!

PMSC members were joined by friends and family of the late Brett Williams, a founding partner in the Pin Mill Studio, and a key aim of the evening was to raise funds for charities supported by Brett. Performers young and not so young did a variety of singing and dancing

party pieces to the great enjoyment of a lively audience, some of whom were still dancing when the band reluctantly stopped playing after midnight! Anthony Cullen put on a delicious Thai curry and thanks to the organizing skills of Louise Cullen and some enthusiastic young helpers shaking buckets, the evening raised the magnificent total of nearly £700 which was split equally between the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust and the Snowdonia Mountain Rescue Service. Many thanks to all those who contributed to a most enjoyable evening.

Rumour has it that The Blooze Brothers would not need very much encouragement to put on another 'do' and there is already talk of a party night in the Spring, so watch this space!

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*For her singing Dilly may have had the wow factor but great credit must go to the Blooze bros themselves for a brilliant debut and thoroughly professional second gig. You rocked fella's. Who knows a spring open air concert on Pin Mill common! Now there's a thought.*

*Music Ed - PMSC*

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## Visiting Speaker 'Nelson's Injuries'

Andrew McIrvine is a consultant surgeon at Kings College Hospital in London, specialising in vascular surgery. He has a keen interest in yacht racing and has owned and helmed many successful boats. A member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, he has recently been elected Commodore of the Royal Ocean Racing Club. In his talk on 'Nelson's Injuries' he gives us an idea about the medical aspect of events occurring on HMS Victory at the battle of Trafalgar, and speculates on how Nelson would have fared with present day surgical methods.

**Imre Vadaz**

## Cruising Awards

After the AGM the following trophies were presented at the Clubhouse:

**Hudson Trophy** (Log competition) Val Stone  
**Cruising Cup** (Log competition) Peter Hinks  
**Sprits'l Cup** (Rivers Rally) Rick Kirkup



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## Launching 'Fable'

It was a long held dream of some members of our family to spend time bobbing about on the sea, so when our youngest son Andy completed a boatbuilding course at the International Boatbuilding Training College at Lowestoft twenty odd years ago, his father started plotting. And so it was that eventually a brand new boat started to take shape, first in the mind and then in reality.

As with many worthwhile projects, the process was long, complicated and involved a lot of head scratching and heated debate, but at last, on a sunny day in September 'Fable' was launched at St Osyth boatyard in Essex. A crowd of well wishers gathered as the boat, dressed overall, waited on the slip for the rising tide and she floated off, accompanied by canon fire and applause, to show her beautiful sheer lines in the water for the first time.

'Fable' was built in wood to a design by Ed Burnett, using modern materials and techniques. She is a 30' gaff rigged cutter complete with bowsprit. She should feel quite at home on the East Coast, having been built at St Osyth Boat Yard by Andy Balfe, ably assisted by a team of very talented Essex boys and girls. The sails were made in Brightlingsea, tanks in Lawford and bronze fittings in Woodbridge. There has been a boatyard at St Osyth since 1215, so it is good to know that old traditions are upheld and adapted to suit the modern era.

The launch has been followed by a couple of exhilarating test sails and the winter will see

the last finishing touches and refinements. As for the cost, the expression about not spoiling a ship for a ha'p'orth of tar seems something of an understatement, but we are very proud of everything that has been achieved.

After many years of resistance, I now find myself in the Clubhouse on Monday evenings at Sara's navigation classes. Of course the whole project has taken so long that we are now rather ancient to be mariners, so should you see a sleek blue boat on the Orwell next season, be kind and give us a wide berth. Fortunately we are followed by two generations of keen sailors, and hopefully 'Fable' is a story that will continue well into the future.

**Shirley Balfe**

PS I'm sure Phil could be persuaded to chat about the design and construction in more detail should anyone be interested.



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## Something New for 2009!

Our next year's Thames Sailing Barge match will be on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and for the first time Pin Mill Sailing Club will be chartering the TSB Victor for the day. There are 10 places available to Club members at a cost of £95, which includes breakfast and lunch.

Victor will arrive with a racing crew of 7, but crewing members will be expected to turn to and help sail the barge. I understand that she has been restored to a very high standard, and provides a unique opportunity not only to sail a sprits'l barge, but to experience our own very popular event from "the other side".

Places will be reserved on presentation of a cheque for £95, payable to PMSC, and sent to 'Sailing Secretary' at the address on the front of this newsletter. (I have already booked my place. Val)

## **RYA First Aid Course Saturday January 31st**



*Pin Mill Cruising*



Sara Hopkinson will be running an RYA first aid course in the Club on Saturday January 31st for *members only*. The cost is £50, which is a reduction of almost 50% of the normal fee but still includes the book, certificate and tea/coffee etc. There are only 10 places so people need to book up fast!

Contact Sara on **01473 780510** or  
[sara.pinmill@rya-online.net](mailto:sara.pinmill@rya-online.net)

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## **SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

It's that time of year again to remind all members that subscriptions are due on January 1st. There is a new, improved renewal form, which I hope is clear and easy to fill in. Please take time to answer the questions fully, we need all the information asked for to make sure we pay the correct - hopefully reduced - business rates to Babergh District Council. That's why we are now asking if you are over 60, for the ages of children and if you live in the Babergh District. Please send your completed forms and cheques as soon as possible.

**Penny Jones**  
**Membership Secretary**

**Ted Jillings**  
**September 1919 – November**  
**2008**

Members will be greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ted (Edmund Alfred) Jillings on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ted made tremendous contributions to our Club over many years. A quiet and cheerful man, he was always on hand to “do” rather than “talk about doing”! We have Ted to

thank for The Ballard Room. Finding that we had outgrown the original Clubhouse, Ted “found” a redundant building, transported it to Pin Mill and oversaw its re-erection alongside the existing Clubhouse, adding further extensions and refurbishing the interior and exterior of the completed complex.

For very many years, Ted also oversaw the management of our section of the saltings. His work entailed allocation of the, then, very popular mud berths to members whilst ensuring that the foreshore was preserved and well maintained. The many members who used the saltings for laying-up were always sure that Ted would keep a strict eye open for problems and infringements. This work also included maintenance of the seawall – no light task! Additionally, he negotiated our lease of this area from IBC.

Still with mud on his boots, Ted was an original member of the Hard Improvement Committee. He was involved in planning and building a major extension as well as routine and essential repairs and improvements including the concrete path running along its entire length, mooring posts and resurfacing. His involvement continued until very recently.

In recognition of all that he had done for our Club, Ted was made an Honorary Life Member in 1995.

Whilst supporting the Club in so many practical ways, he also found time to sail! Ted, Nina and their family cruised in their, always-immaculate, Deben Cherub “Lynette” for very many years. “Lynette” was somehow persuaded to accommodate his family of 5 for weekends and their annual cruise - which traditionally heralded the worst weather of the summer.

Ted served in the Army in WWII and was captured by Rommel’s troops during the Desert Campaign, spending the rest of the war in prisoner-of-war camps in Africa, Italy and Germany. He escaped a total of 3 times and on one of these, spent a long while at large in the mountains, aided by local Italians. He was eventually re-captured and finished up in

Germany, experiencing some extremely unpleasant and life-threatening events before his eventual liberation.

After the war Ted trained as a structural engineer, returning to Suffolk where he had family connections and married Nina. Moving to Chelmondiston, they bought and rebuilt a small cottage, which Ted increased in size as their 3 sons arrived.

Many PMSC members attended Ted's funeral at Chelmondiston Church. We extend our condolences and deep sympathy to Nina and sons David, Christopher and Andrew.

**Mark Grimwade**

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## **Commodore's Annual Report 2008**

Welcome to this Annual General Meeting. Sadly I must report that just recently a past Secretary, Ted Jillings, died. He was "Clerk of the Works" a number of times over the years helping to organize and oversee works on the Hard. The obituary for him will appear in the next newsletter.

It is especially poignant that Babergh District Council has announced just this week that they have achieved a grant amounting to £120,000 from the Haven Gateway Growth Point Fund for repairing the Hard and creating barge maintenance facilities. The work on this application by the Task Group, which included ourselves, has taken a number of years, only now coming to fruition, and the actual work must be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009. This, of course, may remove the need for the Good Friday Grindle Dig - we shall see!

To keep us legal this year we held a Food Handling Course here at the Clubhouse and a number of us now can display our certificates with pride. It was a useful and enjoyable day here and this course is a must for volunteers such as ourselves who help cater for our "in house" functions. Our Property Secretary has

been busy with his team and we now benefit from the acoustic panels and the new double glazed windows along the front of Clubhouse.

The Committee welcomed Mandy Summons and our new Treasurer Phil Balfe. Tim Grove stayed on the General Committee, providing us with benefit of his experience as past Treasurer. Sadly Mandy Summons and Tim Fenton have both decided to stand down this year from the General Committee as their free time has become limited. I am very grateful to them both for their contribution to the work of the Committee. Our Sailing Secretary and her Committee have worked hard to encourage racing for The Regatta, The Dinghy Regatta and entrants for the Three Club's Cup, although this year Shotley joined us making the 4<sup>th</sup> Club, but unfortunately we had to hand the cup on to The Royal Harwich.

The Barge Match was well organized by Julian Ackland again with his team, and then the Smack Race, with much encouragement from Jon Humby. Both races were extremely well attended this year, putting our Club securely on the Calendar for future years

Our Social Secretary Eileen Madden gave us a busy social calendar. All events were most enjoyable and well supported, except for the Dinner Dance where the attendance was down, but nevertheless it was good fun. Rick Kirkup the Property Secretary, retiring this year from this position but standing for election as Rear Commodore, kept the Good Friday Working Party as productive as ever and he has kept the Clubhouse in excellent order and will provide assistance to our new Property Secretary.

Andrew Milligan our House Secretary with his willing band of (now well trained!) helpers provided wonderful BBQ food for our functions and bacon baps at Christmas and Easter and we enjoyed his efforts immensely. Andrew is at present looking into a major refurbishment of the Galley, which will be an expensive but necessary project for us to keep within the realms of Health & Safety. Simon Everitt as Bar Secretary is continuing for a further year looking after our well stocked bar, provided us with some very inviting

Guest Beers (and guest nuts!) and has kept the prices at a very reasonable level. Val Stone as Editor of the Newsletter and Jon Humby in charge of printing with Lee Foster our Webmaster, have all kept us well informed throughout the year. We really do appreciate their efforts.

Mooring Secretary, Ian Saunders looking after the administration of the moorings and as part of the Task Group is keeping track of the progress of the Pin Mill Bay Management Company and the applications for grant aid for the Hard and local barge maintenance facilities, which, as I mentioned earlier, has at last been successful. Romy Blackburn as our Club Secretary is also responsible for the booking of the Club for parties, meetings and has kept our paperwork well up to date. Penny Jones as Assistant Secretary has looked after membership matters. They have both kept us organized most efficiently.

Phil Balfe our Treasurer, in his first year has come to grips with all matters financial keeping our Committee Meetings well informed of our situation. Thank you very much Phil. Lee Foster, our Rear Commodore and Webmaster, (I still love the snowflakes on the Website at Christmas – how does he do that?!) works very hard for us and keeps the Club Merchandise available with Elaine's help.

Tony Cowley, our Librarian, keeps a splendid selection of books, so do visit the library - there is sure to be something of interest. Also to the Archive Group, Renee Waite, Marjorie Carter and Shirley Balfe who keep our historical records up to date and a number of times throughout the year provide interesting photos for us to look back on. Marjorie too organizes the Photo Competition and over the years with all this new technology gives us a wonderful selection of photos, and an evening not to be missed.

Ours most grateful thanks to Jackie, Jo and Angela who looked after us very well giving us a warm welcome behind the bar and those superb suppers, lunches and lunchtime snacks. We are still so very lucky to have

them as part of our team; we really do appreciate all their work.

As I stand down as Commodore I must especially thank my fellow Flag Officers and Committee for all their help, support, good sense and humour. They have made our General Committee meetings most enjoyable. I do feel that as Commodore my role was to encourage families and younger members to become involved and to help perpetuate the Club as a whole, as enthusiasm waxes and wanes over the years. So, I feel extremely fortunate in leaving a full Committee standing for election and am certain that I have left the Club in very safe hands for the future.

**Dilly Ridge  
Commodore**

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## **Hon. Property Secretary's Annual Report for 2008**

The year to 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 was again fairly quiet in terms of Property matters. The Clubhouse itself was free from the need for significant emergency repairs, in no small part due to the policy of prudent preventive refurbishment, which we have adopted in recent years.

At the level of routine maintenance there has of course been the usual heady mix of drains and gutters to be kept clear, roof tiles to be replaced, exterior tables and the like to be cleaned and treated, and leaking taps to be dealt with, but nothing that the 'usual suspects' could not handle with a few tools and a good dollop of willing resourcefulness.

The low level of emergency repairs and costs is also good news because it has enabled some money to be spent on enhancements of the premises. Two such items are worthy of mention, the first being the issue of harsh acoustics in the Ballard room, which had for a long time been a source of concern. Prompted by the raising of the matter at a previous AGM we purchased the acoustic panels, which you can see on the ceiling. These were installed entirely by volunteers,

who also took the opportunity to redecorate the room in the process. I hope you will agree that this action has gone a long way to improving the acoustics in the room.

The second enhancement was the replacement of all the windows on the river frontage of the building, significantly improving thermal insulation, as well as the view of the river. I know that plastic windows are not to everyone's taste but I for one am pleased that a whole area of maintenance need – not to mention cost – has been removed from the equation in the future.

Other initiatives included a safety review of the premises as a result of which various small but important actions were taken. These included putting safety film on the glass in the front door, making safer the storage of knives and crockery in the kitchen, and securing the pictures previously perched loosely on top of the display cabinets in the bar.

Another subject which the General Committee takes very seriously is the matter of fire safety. A programme of regular checks was introduced last year among them a weekly check to ensure that fire exits are not blocked, fire extinguishers are in position and alarms tested and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the bar staff and in particular Angela for her diligence in carrying out these important but largely unsung tasks – another example of the way our Club benefits from individual contributions.

As I hand over after four years as Property Sec. I should like to record my thanks to various people. Firstly to Commodores Julian and Dilly whose decision styles have made it possible to get on and do things with a minimum of fuss. Secondly to General Committee and Property Committee colleagues whose judgement has helped to achieve a balance between perfection and affordability and so ensure that my mandate has been the most cost effective reflection of what members want and the Club needs.

Thirdly – and worthy of the thanks of the whole membership - a warm thank you to all

the 'doers' for their hands-on assistance. Not just to the many people who again turned out to help with the Good Friday working party but particularly to those who, less visibly (but often more frequently) donate their time, skills and often materials to undertake jobs which we would otherwise have to pay a contractor to do. Without overlooking the contributions of others I should particularly like to thank Lee Foster, John Humby for their support and the indefatigable John Webb who is especially resourceful and generous with his time.

Although it may seem like a long way off, may I take this opportunity to say that we look forward to seeing as many of you as can spare an hour or two next Good Friday morning to lend a hand to spruce up our Club and help keep our subscriptions down.

**Rick Kirkup**  
**Hon. Property Secretary**

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## **Hon. House Secretary's Annual Report for 2008**

My Committee has had an eventful year in ways that were not entirely predictable 12 months ago. Our activities started off in a routine manner with mince pies and mulled wine on Christmas Eve for the Carol singers, followed on Boxing day with the cooking of some 400 rashers of bacon to feed those who had not had sufficient the previous day. New Years Eve and we were again in festive spirit with food provided for the New Year revellers in the Club. Then a chance to catch our collective breath and plan for 2008.

The General Committee decided that, in view of the ever more onerous regulations governing the handling of food, that it would be necessary for the House Committee, and other interested parties to attend a one day Food Handling course. This was run by Otley College and was entitled Level 2 – Food Safety for Catering. And so it came to pass that 8 members of PMSC spent the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, learning all about Campilobacter and staphylococcus Aurei, not to mention many other delightful bacteria that could inhabit our

food if we are not careful in food preparation, handling and storage. Whilst a lot of this was new to me, I was encouraged to discover that, to those at the Hot end of catering, (particularly Jo, Jackie and Angie) this was familiar territory. We all passed the exam at the end of the day and duly received our certificates. From now on, every Club function in which food is prepared should have at least one of these certified people in attendance.

One aspect of the Food Hygiene course covered the Design and Construction of catering premises. This has prompted us to review the Galley itself and to ascertain how it can be improved. We have consulted with two kitchen designers and discussed the refurbishment of Chelmondiston Village Hall kitchens. This is an ongoing project, no firm decisions have been taken and there is little that can be reported at this stage.

Summer eventually arrived and we were regularly involved with Barbecues to sustain exhausted competitors – to wit: The Smack Race, the Dinghy Regatta, The Club Regatta and the prize giving for the Three Clubs race.

I would like to thank all those who have helped out at these events over the year: Firstly Viv who has done most of the running around and provided much of the inspiration, secondly, Dilly, Hetty, Pat Dunnett, and Romy for stepping into the breach on Regatta day when very few people were left ashore to staff the BBQ, and other members of the team who have provided invaluable support and assistance throughout the year: Lee and Elaine, Val Stone, Terry Sporle, Romy Blackburn, Hetty Watts, Ivan Chevovs, Sara Hopkinson, and Bridie Vadasz..

We look forward to another year and also look forward to your continuing support.

**Andrew Milligan**  
**Hon. House Secretary**

## **Hon. Bar Secretary's Annual Report 2008**

Once again the team, Jo Jackie and Angela, must be praised for their efforts in ensuring that, whilst it may not have been ideal for sailing, the bar has always been ideal for drinking, and bacon buttie munching. And, as usual, the set dinners have been excellently prepared and served to a standard comparable to many a restaurant, but somehow they still manage a 3 course meal for not much more than the restaurant price for a starter!

There have not been as many Club functions this year as previously, but those that we have had have all been successful, and, in the main, well attended. As normal, the barge match was a huge success with more entrants (both in the race, and therefore in the bar afterwards) than for several years.

I have made just one major change to the bar this year. This has been the introduction of single-glass wine bottles. This has meant that we are able to offer a more varied range of wines 'by the glass', with a range of 3 red, 3 white, and a rose. Initial reaction was a bit mixed, but now I feel that the practicalities of this switch have been recognized. There is no longer the danger of a glass of bottle-matured vino from last weekend on a Friday night! And for those with more than one wine drinker in the party, we still have a good range of wine by the bottle.

The guest beers have proved as popular (with most) as ever, and again I have tried to keep the brews as varied as possible without going too strong for those who like to enjoy more than one pint and walk home afterwards. For those who don't care, we will be having a Pin of Tally-Ho barley wine in for Christmas.

This year's investments for the bar have been replacing of the two cellar fridges with a proper drinks chiller cabinet, and a new ice maker, which is now plumbed into the cellar. I would like to thank Lee for his help with the plumbing in of the ice maker, and if any one can remember who donated the old fridges to

the club in the first place, please let me know as I would like to say thank you to them as well.

With the winter drawing in, we are looking towards some more festive functions, with the Christmas dinner on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Shanties & Ditties on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the annual Carol Service on Christmas Eve and the Morris men on Boxing Day.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for supporting the bar over the year (propping it up in some cases), and in order not to stop you from so doing this evening, will say goodnight!

**Simon Everitt**  
**Hon. Bar Secretary**

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## **Hon. Treasurer's Report 2008**

The audited accounts are as the draft accounts you received with the AGM information. If you need a signed copy please contact me.

Firstly I want to thank Tim Grove for all the help he has given in preparing the accounts. Overall we remain fairly financially sound with a net annual margin of £4.3k. During the year our main capital expenditure was for the sound proofing in the meeting room and the new double glazed windows on the riverside face where £2.4k was spent, of which £0.9k is considered capital appreciation.

In our Club activities we saw an increase in the Sailing and Social programme, which increased expenditure a little, compared to last year, and includes extra expenditure on food handling Health and Safety issues.

In the Bar we have kept costs down but have suffered from supply cost increases including higher tax rates. The mark-up is only slightly higher than last year so the revenue increase is because we just had a busier year.

As anticipated our utilities, insurance and services costs have all increased and in addition we now pay Rates and Corporation Tax. Luckily our maintenance and repair costs were reduced such that overall expenditure was approximately as last year. For the future however we anticipate these higher costs will be maintained and the property upkeep will need continued attention.

For this year, we have replaced some failed bar equipment and anticipate having to undertake kitchen improvement to meet Health and Safety requirements. This is being looked at now and may require us having to spread costs over a couple of years.

In looking at our overall position we have to review our subscription rates. We have managed to maintained them at the current level for several years and we are dependent on our bar sales in meeting increased costs. It is therefore proposed to raise single membership from £40 to £44, household from £70 to 78 and out of country from £10 to £11. Cadet and junior subscriptions would remain unchanged. This change would increase income by £1.2k. Still the best buy on the river.

**Phil Balfe**  
**Hon. Treasurer**

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***A Merry Christmas***  
**From the Editor**  
to readers of, and contributors to,  
***The Newsletter***

**And thanks to the following:**

<i>Jon Humby</i>	<i>Printing</i>
<i>Lee Foster</i>	<i>Website</i>
<i>Marjorie Carter</i>	<i>Delivery</i>
<i>Renee Waite</i>	<i>Delivery</i>
<i>Helen Evans</i>	<i>Delivery</i>