



Pin Mill Sailing Club



December 2010 Newsletter

For all the very latest information, visit the website at www.pmsc.org.uk

Commodore's Corner

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the newsletter.

We have just had the 2010 AGM, which saw the retirement after two years service of Jon Humby as your Commodore, and in your wisdom, you elected me in his place! To start with, I would like to sincerely thank Jon for his dedication and work that he put into his two year tenure. In his time he completed a total refurbishment of the Galley, and arranged for the fantastic extension to the Foredeck, which are obvious for all to see, but also in the background Jon worked extremely hard with the management and promotion of the Club, and I would like to thank him on your behalf.

As for me, I have lived in Pin Mill Lane with my other (better..?) half Elaine, since 1992, and sail our Jeanneau Symphonie "Harmony" from a swinging mooring near Clamp House. Over the years you may have read about some of the more "interesting" of our sailing exploits in the Newsletter! I have been a member of PMSC for 17 years and in this time I have been on the Committee for a number of those years, in different posts, as well as being your current Webmaster and Merchandise vendor.

Looking ahead, I do not have any significant changes in mind, however, I do intend to update the "facilities" for the Ladies, but the main focus to start with will be working with Julian and the Barge Committee in making the 50th Barge Match in June 2011 a success.

As discussed at the AGM, I will continue to work with Jon to attempt to get to the bottom of the discrepancy in the bar profit.

On a lighter note, we are heading into the festive season, which kicks off with Shanties and Ditties on Sat 11th of December (Elaine and I will be at a "Faithless" concert in Birmingham that weekend, so apologies.), followed by the fully booked Christmas lunch on Sunday the 19th, then our traditional Carols on Christmas Eve, Morris Men on Boxing Day, rounding off with our New Year's Eve party to see in 2011. On Saturday Jan 8th, we have Fred's quiz, which is always good fun and not to be missed.

So, season's greetings to one and all - Ho! Ho! Ho!

Lee Foster
Commodore

Diary



Saturday 11th December

Shanties and Ditties

Sunday 19th December

Christmas lunch (fully booked)

Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve Carols 18.45

Sunday 26th December

Boxing Day with the Morris Men

Friday 31st December

New Year's Eve Party

Tear-off slip inside

Saturday 8th January

Fred's Quiz Night

London Boat Show Offer

7th to 16th January 2011

Details inside

Saturday 22nd January

Burns' Night supper

Tear-off slip inside

The next Newsletter will be in January. Contributions please by 24th December to: circular@pmsc.org.uk Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EZ

Commodore's Cheerio

Goodness me, how time flies. I find myself at the end of my two year stint as the Club's Commodore. Through this column I would personally like to thank everyone who helped make this period for Sue and me a most enjoyable and rewarding one.

My term of office concluded at the AGM on November 20th where I handed over the Commodore's burgee to Lee Foster.

I wish Lee all the very best for his term and ask you all to support him and his team over the next two years in the many social and sailing events that they will provide.

Jon Humby

Subscriptions Due

The editor has asked me to say a few words about renewing your subscriptions, so here we go. The renewal form is attached to this newsletter and I would suggest that, without further ado, you complete it and send it off with your cheque, before you forget and the form becomes burried amongst less interesting correspondence. If you prefer to hand deliver it, I shall look forward to seeing you – provided, of course, you remember to stop instead of driving gaily past and then remembering. Some members have been known to do this several times.

However you choose to do it, you need to note that in the words of Rule 15 b, the subscription is due and payable on 1 January and, in this case, 2011.

Living in hope and anticipation of a quick and smoothe renewal season.

Romy Blackburn
Hon. Secretary

London International Boat Show – 7th to 16th January 2011

Once again PMSC members can avail themselves of discounted entry tickets by quoting the special Pin Mill Sailing Club booking code: **LJG1**

Tickets cost £10 and are valid any day including Preview Day, Friday 7th January.

Tickets can be booked right up to the last day of the show either by telephone or via the LIBS website

Website bookings:

www.londonboatshow.com

Telephone bookings: **0871 230 7140**

IMPORTANT NOTES

Because tickets ordered for postal delivery could take up to 7 days for to arrive, those purchased shortly before or during the show can be collected on arrival from the advance ticket box office at the main entrance. **The most expedient option for those ordering tickets over the Internet, is to use the website's 'Print at Home' facility.**

A single transaction fee of £1.25 applies whether ordering one or any greater number of tickets.

Youngsters under 15 years or under go free (up to two per accompanying adult) provided tickets for them are requested when ordering adult tickets.

Group orders for 10 or more tickets (still at the same price) can **only** be made by telephone.

Rick Kirkup
Vice Commodore

Annual Shanties and Ditties

Evening

Saturday Dec 11th 8.00pm

Hosted by

High Water Mark

Shanty Group

Mince Pies and sausage rolls

Additional Singers/Musicians welcome

Free entry- Guests welcome

Inquiries; Ken 01473 780625

NAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION 2010

A record 99 photographs were submitted to this year's competition, and it was pleasing to see some new names among the competitors, including at least one very new Club member. Wonderful pictures, as always, and the quality continues to improve year by year. It's just a pity that there aren't prizes for everyone, but we do appreciate your efforts, so please keep trying!

There was great variety among the entries, and it was specially interesting to see photos reflecting this particular Pin Mill year: the snowy Pin Mill waterfront last winter; a sight of the old scrubbing posts before they disappeared forever; work on the reconstruction of the Hard; the newly restored *Gladys*; and two impressive pictures of that unforgettable Spitfire salute, seen through the rigging of a barge. In addition, we had some spectacular sunsets and dawns, an amazing rainbow's end, lots of action stuff from racing occasions, several barges and smacks, nautical dogs, geese, even a pelican, and mementoes of members' excursions and cruises (some of them in very large vessels) both near and far: from Oslo, Scotland, Cornwall, France, San Francisco, the English canal system, as well as our local waters. A title always adds something to the picture, and some of them were very witty. Note for next year?

Unfortunately, both Anthony Cullen and Matt Brooke, who had hoped to judge the competition again this year, were unable to do

so owing to work commitments, and had to drop out shortly beforehand. A certain amount of panic ensued, but the day was saved by Spike Powell, who very kindly found time to come and view all the entries and note his choices, although he was unable to be present at the prize-giving. I should like to send him my personal gratitude as well as the thanks of the Club for coming to the rescue. Spike's choices were as follows:-

Graham Cameron was awarded first prize and the Cleyndert Trophy for his beautiful "*Pyefleet Raft Up*", a reminder of one of those rare, perfect evenings when two or three friendly boats tie up together; the action packed "*Shipping the Pilot*" won 2nd prize for John Bowen; and Penny Fairrie's "*Art Class at Felixstowe*", with its human element set against the background of chaotic boat life, took 3rd prize.

There were four Commended photographs: "*Wayfarer*" by Graham Cameron, "*Mortality and Rebirth*" by John Bowen, and Julian Weatherill's "*Spinlock*" and "*Bowsprit Man*".

Unsurprisingly perhaps, Graham's prizewinning "*Pyefleet Raft Up*" was also the members' choice for the cover of next year's almanac, although his photo of "*Gladys*" was a close runner-up.

All the prizewinning and commended photos can be seen, for the first time this year, on the Club website, so I hope you'll be able to look at them.

My thanks to Clare Thomas, who helped to set up the exhibition, and to the friends who erected the tables and screens. Many congratulations to the winners and runners-up, and to everyone who sent in their great pictures for us all to enjoy.

Marjorie Carter

SHANTIES AND DITTIES 11TH DECEMBER 2010 8pm

Are you looking for an evening of high quality musical entertainment performed to perfection ??????

- Yes Then you should certainly avoid the PMSC on this evening
- No Then please come to the Club for the Shanties and ditties evening to either listen to the locals and guests perform traditional (and anything they want to) music, songs and maybe a bit of step dancing in a relaxed atmosphere approaching chaos, again High Water Mark will be hosting the evening .

This year will be the first without Mick Lungley who always led the evening and was the founder member and backbone of the group, since we started in the late seventies, yes we have been doing this for 30 years and we still can't remember the words. This was always Mick's evening and let's keep the tradition alive.

SO Come along, invite some guests, swell the audience and if you want to have a go at a song or tune it does not matter if it goes wrong - we never worry, you may even enjoy yourselves.

WARNING! SOME ALCHOL MAY BE INVOLVED!!

What Is That?

Quiz Night Saturday 8th January 20.00hrs

This is traditionally run by our quiz master Fred Everitt. You need to form a team of four to enter – there is no limit to the number of teams so just turn up. There will be 3 rounds of 20 questions for all teams, followed by three short sets of maritime questions for the nautically minded. Light snacks will be available for £1.50. The winning team will have their clever names published in the newsletter.

Burns' Night Saturday January 22nd.

PMSC has no particular reason for celebrating Burns' night – we just enjoy doing it! Haggis wi' bashit neeps an' champit tatties will be served, but be careful not to eat too much because otherwise you won't be able to manage the Scottish dancing afterwards.

Spitfire Sunday

Pin Mill Sailing Club member, Esmond (Jeff) Jefferies sailed his yacht Random II accompanied by his wife Doreen and family members for many years after they took up residence in Albert Cottage. Jeff has always been a helpful and contributing member of the Sailing Club and made several videos of Club events, notably Shanties and Ditties evenings.

But the special event that took place on and above Pin Mill Common on Sunday, 15th August, was a tribute to his time as a Spitfire reconnaissance pilot during the Second World War. Jeff's grandson, William, had arranged for a Spitfire to make a tribute fly-past to celebrate his grandfather's 90th year.

Jeff Jefferies flew an assortment of fighter planes during the later stages of the Second World War. He joined 2 Squadron during 1944, and flew Spitfires. Flying the Spitfire has always remained a special memory. Jeff was sent to Gilze Rijen in Holland, as a reconnaissance pilot to take photographs of bridges and other strategic points over enemy territory. These photos contained vital information for the allied forces fighting on the ground prior to the crossing of the Rhine. He was still in Europe when hostilities ceased and during August 1945 flew over Belsen on the day that dreadful place was set ablaze.

August 2010 was a happier occasion. Family and friends assembled on Pin Mill Common from mid afternoon anticipating the arrival of a Spitfire Mark II flown by Squadron Leader Ian Smith, Commanding Officer of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. E.T.A five o'clock. Like most of us on the Common, Jeff was warmly attired for the unseasonable strong, cool North Westerly wind. We were unsure of the direction that the flight would take, and eagerly scanned the sky as 5.00 o-

clock approached. There were several cameras pointed skywards, and we strained to hear the special noise of a Rolls Royce Merlin engine.

But at 5.10 p.m the plane swooped in from the South East, so low and so quickly that the plane's unique sound was barely audible. But as it pulled away across the river to prepare for a second run, we heard that distinctive engine noise. As it approached again it appeared from over the masts of barges moored alongside the Hard. It seemed incredibly low and everyone had a memorable view. Somehow the pilot seemed to transmit his great enjoyment of flying such a beautiful machine. (This Spitfire is the oldest airworthy Spitfire to have actually flown in the Battle of Britain.)

Squadron Leader Smith made three runs before soaring away over Ipswich and as the Spitfire's iconic shape faded, a loud cheer went up from family and friends gathered around Jeff, who had a few tears in his eyes. The event had evoked the same emotion in many of those present. The family passed around some bubbles and everyone toasted Jeff's special day.

It was an emotional afternoon, a great memory and a stirring tribute to one of our most respected residents.

Thanks to Jeff's family for the invitation to share the experience.

Renee Waite

Colin Fox

I consider myself to be lucky and privileged to have known Colin.

I guess our paths first crossed some time ago within the Sailing Club while enjoying a social beer amongst friends during the Friday sessions.

Following this Colin kindly helped out on a number of my construction projects including carrying out bits and pieces around the Sailing Club whilst wearing his electrician's hat. On completion of these he would be heard to

mutter his builder's catchphrase 'Good, now we are cooking on gas'.

For two years I have been aboard the committee boat during barge match day and like many around me have been entertained and highly amused to hear the old Barge banter between Colin and Mick and others discussing the good old days of barging.

Fair winds Colin; it's been a privilege,

Jon Humby

Annual Report of the House Committee

This has been my first full year as House Secretary and quite a busy one with a full programme of Club events and activities.

The key elements of the House role are to look after the kitchen including carrying out an annual springclean, to monitor and replenish supplies of consumables in the galley and toilets, and ensure that club functions (excluding the Barge Match buffet and those meals catered for by Jo and her colleagues) are organized, resourced and cleared up afterwards. This sometimes involves personally catering for and running Barbecues, or providing snacks and the like, and sometimes finding volunteers to take on the task of particular events. As such it means looking ahead with the help of General Committee colleagues to forthcoming events in the Club's calendar and ensuring that someone takes responsibility for providing the services best suited to each event or function. Also and most importantly, clearing up afterwards and returning the premises and equipment to a clean and tidy standard, often the morning after when many members may still be sleeping off the excesses of the event in question!

During the year we had a particularly successful Christmas period with a lot of people including many local visitors enjoying mince pies with the Carols on Christmas Eve, and Val's bacon butties in company of the Morris Men on Boxing Day. This was followed by a very successful New Years Eve Party at which the House team provided a choice of hot meals. Attendances at some of

the winter events were affected at times by the bad weather, but Ivan and Jane Chevovs' Mexican food at New Members Evening was a particular success. Another great success was the Spring Party on May Day which again attracted a lot of family visitors and I am especially pleased that our Barbecue made a significant contribution to the £750 raised on behalf of East Anglia's Childrens' Hospices.

The House role is very much a team effort and I would like to thank the members of the House Committee- especially my husband David, and Rosie Kirkup - for their enthusiastic support, and also the wider network of 'unsung heroes' whose largely unseen contributions are what make things happen. It is an interesting measure of the success of the House role that it only really gets noticed when things go wrong or don't happen as they should, which hopefully has not been too often!

We can always improve though, and can never have too much support – if you have ideas for improvements in what we do or how we do it, and even better, are willing to give an hour or two of your time to help deliver them, then please do not hesitate to contact me – the more the merrier and the lighter the load!

Catherine Abbott
Hon. House Secretary

Annual Report of the Sailing Committee

Beginning with racing our events attracted a small number of enthusiastic supporters. The 4 Clubs River series struggled at times with low entries and the final race had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Shotley Sailing Club won the series for the first time, with PMSC coming third. The June and Ward Cups races were cancelled due to lack of entrants.

On a more positive note for the Barge Match a number of members had an exciting time racing on barges Victor and Edme in quite gusty conditions. The Smack Race drew in more entries than previously, and again the Pioneer was chartered by members of the Club.

There were a good number of entries for the Regatta and RNLI Race, with a particularly high number of Smacks and Working boats.

On the cruising side only one boat enjoyed the late May Bank holiday cruise. Our plan to visit Heybridge Basin was postponed for another time as it was fully booked for the week we wanted so three boats had fun in August on the East Coast. Our lunchtime Barbeque at Erwarton Ness remains one of our most popular events, and the August Bank Holiday cruise was cancelled due to a poor forecast.

We introduced two new events this year: in lieu of a dinghy regatta we arranged a walk-or-sail-to barbeque on the beach this side of the Clamp, which was supported by over 30 members, a few dinghies and some beautiful weather. Our second invention was a 'Try Sailing' effort to give non-sailing members a chance to get out on the water with people who own cruisers. Seven members took up the offer and it was much enjoyed by all involved. We expect these two initiatives to continue.

I would like to thank the usual suspects for the support they have given me over the year. They are Nigel Bailey, Fred Everitt, Will and Suzy Patten, Bryan Rogers and John Sparks. Fiona and Pedro have also supplied me with extraneous and invaluable advice. I am standing down as Sailing Secretary at this meeting and offer every assistance to my successor.

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

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

And thanks to the following:

*Jon Humby, Lee Foster, Marjorie Carter,
Renee Waite, Helen Bailey, Romy Blackburn,
Sara Hopkinson*