



Pin Mill Sailing Club



January 2008 Newsletter

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

Commodore's Corner

I write this in the middle of our Festive Season and we look back on the Shanties & Ditties evening although extremely good fun as ever, it was not supported as well as usual this year, sadly there seemed to be a number of other events locally that same evening. My thanks to "High Water Mark" and all those who joined in the merry evening. The Christmas lunch was very well supported, in fact it looked like a full house and Jackie & Jo's food was as tasty and ample as always. Christmas Eve Carols organised by the local Community Council was a very popular family evening and we collected £ 126.90 for the Children's Hospice in Ipswich.

On Boxing Day the Morris Men and high tide coincided, which meant that the chaps danced their way up and down King's Boatyard that chilly afternoon. It certainly did not dampen the spirits or put the bells out of tune as they danced their way back to the Clubhouse for carol singing with beer and bacon rolls, which were provided by Andrew Milligan (our new House Secretary) with his team, Viv, Val and Hetty and I am most grateful for all their hard work.

Our bar staff, Angela and Jo worked their socks off on both occasions and it was great to see the Clubhouse so full. Simon, our Bar Secretary, had organised a selection of beer which was well appreciated by all. Of course there are all the unsung heroes who turn up to collect, wash and dry glasses and clean up the Clubhouse after every event.

My only personal sadness was that on Christmas Eve, I could not spend more time with the carol singing - standing half an hour at a time outside, as there were a large number of very excited children (18 actually) playing in the grounds of the clubhouse and not a parent in sight! I would have hated that any family might spend Christmas Eve at Ipswich Hospital having a child with a broken arm or leg (or worse!) who had fallen from the safely railings, or myself having to explain to the authorities how any child had been allowed to play on these. We will be insisting that children are to be supervised by an adult at all

Diary



Saturday 12th January

Quiz Night
20.00 hrs

Saturday 26th January

Burn's Night
Booking by Tear-off slip

Saturday 9th February

A Talk by Mark Grimwade
20.00 in the Clubhouse

Saturday 23rd February

Theme night - Thai food -
Sign up on the noticeboard or
use the attached tear-off slip.

Saturday 8th March

Visiting Speaker
John Goode
20.00 in the Clubhouse

Friday 21st March

Club Working Party and
Grindle dig.
More inside

The next Newsletter will be in March. Contributions please by 28th February to: circular@pmsc.org.uk
Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR3

times, as it would be very sad if we were not able open up the club to such community events.

We are looking forward to New Year's Eve and all the social events to come, with the Quiz Night, Burns Night and the talks organised by Eileen Madden our Social Secretary.

Don't forget to pay your subscription. Forms can be downloaded from the Website, or if you cannot remember what happened to it with all that Christmas post another will be circulated with this newsletter.

I am hoping to meet up with as many members as possible at one or more of our events.

**Dilly Ridge
Commodore**

Forthcoming Speakers

To galvanise your enthusiasm for the 2008 sailing season we have arranged for Mark and Judith Grimwade to present a talk on Beautiful Brittany on Saturday, 9th February at 8pm. Retirement and a change of boat provided the time and opportunity for them to explore the cruising areas beyond the English Channel. They liked what they found so much that their boat, Wizard of Paget, is now based in France.

Brittany offers a superb cruising ground with a variety of destinations - rivers, islands, historic towns, superb anchorages and an inland sea. The coast can be explored in easy stages, well within the scope of a cruising duo. They will describe some of their favourite places, including Ushant. Despite Brittany's reputation for high tidal ranges and powerful currents, so far, they have not found anything more daunting than the Thames Estuary, or the river entrances of the East Coast. (Judith has recently become the editor for Western France of the Cruising Almanac published by Imray.)

On Saturday, 8th March at 8pm, through the efforts of Susan Sinclair, John Goode, the ex Editor of Sailing Today who published so many of Patrick Sinclair's articles on 'Moorings', has agreed to come and give us a light hearted talk entitled "A Life on the Ocean Wave". John, at sea since the age of 12 before the mast aboard square-riggers, is a Master Mariner, Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation and a senior RYA Examiner. He is also Principal of the Southern Sailing School.

We can expect a talk of sunshine and squalls from him: entertaining tales from a life on the water but also stories of his campaigns for a better deal for the cruising sailor. Referred to by Ellen MacArthur in her book Taking on the World: "John is a great character, with his old reefer jacket and smoking his favourite pipe he is incredibly sharp and has an acute sense of humour. I warmed to him immediately. He is a doer a not a pretender and you will never meet anyone who calls a spade a spade to a greater extent than John."

Make a note in your diaries NOW!"

**Eileen Madden
Hon. Social secretary**

Good Friday working party – 21 March 2008 - England expects!

Just a gentle reminder to all able bodied members (see * below for definition) that we ask you to turn up at the club for an hour or two on the morning of Good Friday to lend a hand in sprucing up the clubhouse and its environs. Anyone who can wield a broom or paintbrush, clear up leaves, tidy flower beds, wipe down paintwork, clear out gutters or service launching trolleys, not to mention digging a few holes for new shrubs will be most welcome. All volunteers will be rewarded with a free drink and all-day hot and cold snacks.

Don't be daunted - last years working party had a wonderful time, so come and join in and feel good at the thought of how much money the club saves by our doing all the little maintenance and spring cleaning jobs

ourselves, and rejoice in what that means for subscription levels!

If you wish to suggest any maintenance or spring-cleaning jobs that you think need doing – particularly if you are willing to take them on yourself or with others - please let me know, if possible before the day.

To help with planning the jobs that can be completed on the day please let me know if you will be able to come by either emailing Property_Secretary@pmsc.org.uk or adding your name to the list of volunteers on the club notice board.

Thanks in anticipation.

* Definition for this purpose = can walk to the bar and lift glass single-handed...

Rick Kirkup
Hon. Property Sec

Sailing in 2008

We are presently putting together a sailing committee and will shortly be considering ideas for the forthcoming season. If you have any thoughts about events you would like to see please get in touch with me within the next month. If you would like to talk about serving on the sailing committee give me a ring.

As usual, for events to take place at all, we need volunteers to run them. I am particularly keen to build up the Dinghy Regatta this year and feel it would be best driven by those it is aimed at, namely parents, children, and dinghy sailors. I am therefore looking for volunteers to form a special sub-committee to plan this event. Could this be you?

We will also be looking for volunteer Race Officers for one or two of the races. As last year we will run a training/revision session and I am presently updating the Race Officer's hand book. Running a race is less difficult and more fun than you might think.

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

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Peninsular

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Treasurer's Report 2007

Firstly I would like to confirm that the audited accounts are the same as the accounts you received with the AGM information. If you would like a copy of the signed accounts please contact me.

Overall, financially we are still on a sound basis – we made a small profit and our reserves are healthy. Last year, as I mentioned at the AGM, was an exceptional year, so direct comparisons are not that easy and I think that this year's figures more accurately portray the financial health of the club.

As you may remember it was an awful summer, which not only affected the sailing but also affected our income, with the turnover of the bar down, the income from social events down and I suspect also caused the drop in the number of people becoming members. In addition, we absorbed a number of price rises in the bar over the year, resulting in a reduced profitability. (A barrel of Adnams beer has gone up by more than 6% for example). We have therefore reluctantly increased some of our prices.

Once again we have managed to decrease our printing and postage costs this year. Many thanks to Val Stone, Jon Humby and those volunteers who deliver the circular locally.

There are a number of areas where our costs are going to rise next year.

1. As we decided not to register as a 'Community Amateur Sports Club' (CASC) we anticipate that we will have to pay rates.
2. We undertook a review of our insurance this year. Although we significantly reduced the premium for the same cover, it became obvious that we were significantly under insured and we will end up paying more. I must thank Dilly who spent a lot of time negotiating with the insurance companies.
3. Like everyone, our electricity bill has been growing and is now one of our biggest expenditures. We are taking steps to try and reduce this but expect that it will still remain high.
4. We agreed at the last AGM that we would look at ways to reduce the noise in this room during functions. You will probably hear more about this from Rick, but it will not be cheap!

The year before last, I anticipated having to put up subscriptions. We did not last year and I do not think it will be necessary this year. However, I think you must expect an increase next year. The club still provides outstanding value for money with the subscriptions the lowest in the area.

I am standing down as treasurer this year although I will hopefully still remain on the committee. I would like to thank all the committee members both current and over the last four years for their help (even those who cannot add up!). I would also like to wish the new treasurer good luck.

Tim Grove
Hon. Treasurer

House Committee Report 2007

This year, Andrew Milligan, Val Stone, Elaine Green and myself formed the House committee and although we did not have an actual House Secretary, we all just worked together as a team and got on with the jobs required. The House Committee supported six events over the past 12 months, starting with Mince Pies on Christmas Eve, then Bacon Rolls with the Morris Men on Boxing Day, then more Bacon Rolls for the Merry Mud Slingers after the Grindle Dig in April, all from the expertly operated frying pans of Val and Andrew.

We then provided three BBQs through the summer, starting with the Smack Race in July for around 55 people. This was the first time that I had catered for more than 6 at a sitting, and somewhat over estimated the amount of rice and pasta that could be eaten. *If the entire membership had turned up, there would still have been some left over...*

The Smack Race was followed by a somewhat depleted Dinghy Regatta in August – there may have been only four competitors, but we managed to feed around 25 people!

Finally there was the Club Regatta in September, where we provided sustenance for about 50.

For the BBQs, the team was bolstered by the very willing and capable Romy Blackburn and Viv Brown and the magical abilities of Sarah Hopkinson, who managed to make all the washing up disappear after the Smack Race with a wave of her magic dishcloth.

One of the aims of the BBQ's was to make them enjoyable and *affordable* events for all, including families, so the prices were kept to a minimum. This allowed charges of only £4 for the Smack Race, £2.50 for Burger and Sausage for the Dinghy Regatta and £3.50 for the main regatta – meaning a family of four getting fed for £14, which would just about cover one main course across the road. A small surplus of £42.41 was paid into club coffers. My thanks once again to Andrew, Elaine, Val, Romy, Viv and Sarah.

Lee Foster
Rear Commodore

Barge Committee Report 2007

The Passage match continues to be a bit of a concern, albeit we did get a few more turn out this year (3!). Peter Cockayne and Ian Saunders took care of both the start and finish again this year, so a big thanks to them for their commitment.

Three days before our own match I was panicking that we would not be able to cope with the numbers, but Friday soon saw to that, with gales preventing about 4 of the London and Maldon based barges making it round here for the weekend.

With the usual three starts from 08:00, we started 11 barges, with Officer of the day Mick Lungley instructed to bring them home about 13:00. The first barge crossed the line at 12:50.

The usual magnificent spread awaited all the crews when they came ashore, followed by the raffle and Prizegiving.

Financially, things have improved as we have found a new programme printer, who was about half the cost of the old one. This enabled me to buy a new set of start flags, repair a badly worn cup and still break even.

Thanks are due to Pat Dunnet and all her helpers, (many had to be recruited fresh this year as a number of our stalwarts had prior booking), the raffettes, Simon and his Bar Committee, the Barge committee, Anthony Osler who once again produced a superb cover drawing and Gravesend Sailing club for their help on the passage Match. Also thanks to Harwich Harbour Authority and ABP for their support, and last but not least, new to the role of honour of the Committee boat, the new owners of Adax, Phil and Tanya Chesney, who only took ownership a few days before the match. I am glad to say that Phil believes there is a legal covenant that requires him to turn out each year, and Tanya seems to enjoy moving her home once a year and keeping the Committee supplied with Tea, sandwiches and beer.

Julian Ackland

Report of the Social Secretary 2007

A new job is always challenging but after my first committee meeting last year I wondered what I had let myself in for. However, with a lot of help from the Commodore I think we managed to sail through the year's events without encountering too much choppy water!

The Christmas social gatherings were well attended as usual and our thanks go to High Water Mark for making Shanties and Ditties another success, to Julia and Graham Pink for Carols on Christmas Eve, and to Mick Leveritt for the Morris Men on Boxing Day.

In January the Pin Mill brains assembled for the annual Quiz Night and many thanks to Fred Everitt for again organising this. In spite of a surfeit of social events on the Shotley Peninsula on the same evening, Burns' Night was well attended and we have to thank our Scottish contingent for helping us out with the traditions surrounding a certain haggis!

Our two visiting speaker slots were this year filled by Tim Fenton and Penny Jones who entertained us with stories of their adventure across the pond with their children and then in March Imre Vadasz enthralled us with his experiences in the Fastnet Race.

The fitting-out supper brought the first half of the year's social events to a close on the assumption that we would all be going off sailing! Well, one or two of us did anyway. Having done all this sailing, the Autumn programme naturally began with the laying – up supper which was followed, eventually, owing to a clash with a certain sporting event in Paris, by the Photographic Competition which attracted an impressive amount of entries and thanks go to Marjorie Carter for organising it again this year.

As Halloween had not been well supported in the past, we decided to do something different this time and I am glad to say that the Wine Tasting seemed to go down well with 40 people attempting to get fairly pickled!

The Annual Dinner Dance was again held at Fynn Valley Golf Club and much enjoyed by the 60 or so members and friends who

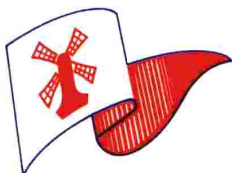
attended. Thanks to the band, Tricks of the Trade, the dance floor was constantly packed and certain members' air guitar performances were much to be admired. Let's hope we can increase the numbers for next year – the date for your diary is Saturday, 8th November.

All these events simply can't happen without a lot of help and effort and very special thanks go to Jackie and Jo for their culinary skills and to Hetty and Ron for their expertise in the

table-setting department. Last, but not least, thanks to all of you for your support.

We are always happy to receive suggestions from members for social activities so, if you have any ideas, please let me know and we will see what we can do.

Eileen Madden
Hon. Social Secretary



Pin Mill Sailing Club – Subscriptions 1st January 2008

Club subscriptions for 2008 are due on 1st January at the following rates:

Household Membership (all living at one address)	£70
Single Full Membership	£40
Junior Membership (over 18 – 21)	£20
Cadet Membership (over 12)	£10

PLEASE NOTE: - SINGLE FULL MEMBERSHIP MEANS WHAT IT SAYS AND DOES NOT ENTITLE SPOUSES OR PARTNERS OR IMMEDIATE FAMILY TO USE THE CLUB OR ITS PREMISES ON ANY KIND OF REGULAR BASIS; THAT IS, BEING SIGNED IN AS GUESTS MORE THAN SIX TIMES A YEAR.

Name of Applicant or Head of Household	(PLEASE PRINT)		
Address			
Telephone Number			
e-mail address			
Names of others in Household (PLEASE PRINT)	1.	Age if under 21	
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
I wish to renew my membership for HOUSEHOLD/SINGLE/FULL/JUNIOR/CADET (please delete as applicable) and enclose my cheque for £70, £40, £20, £10 (as applicable)			
Signed	NAME OF YACHT, IF ANY (PLEASE PRINT)		
MMSI NUMBER	Class or Type (PLEASE PRINT)		

PLEASE HELP OUR CLUB TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATION COSTS – DO YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If so, would you accept transmission of your Pin Mill Sailing Club Circular by electronic means? (see details in this Circular).

My/Our e-mail address is: _____

I/we understand that Pin Mill sailing club details are held on our computer database for the sole use of Club records and to facilitate the exchange of information between the Club's officers and its members. The information will not be used for commercial purposes or be passed to any other society or organisation. By signing below I/We accept that our personal details will be held on a computer.

Signature _____

Please return this form, with a cheque made payable to Pin Mill Sailing Club, to Penny Jones, 3 Webbs Terrace, Church Road, Chelmondiston, Ipswich, IP9 1HT

POLITE REMINDER: THE CLUB'S GENERAL COMMITTEE IS ANXIOUS THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE PAID ON TIME.



Thai Evening

Saturday February 23rd

7.30 for 8.pm

£ 10 per person

come and help yourself to
a selection of dishes from Thailand

.....
Please reserve..... places for me for ***Thai Evening*** on Feb 23rd

I enclose a cheque for.....

Tick here if Vegetarian option is required

Return your cheque and this slip to:

Jackie & Jo
Pin Mill Sailing Club, The Clubhouse, Pin Mill, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 1JP

Telephone enquiries to the Clubhouse 01473 780271