



Pin Mill Sailing Club



JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

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

Commodore's Corner

Firstly a very happy new year to you all. The past month has been a busy time at the Club with our extremely popular festive diary of events taking place.

We kicked off on the 13th December with 'High Water Mark' and guests providing the rhythms for the annual Shanties and Ditties evening. Thank you and well done to everyone who played and sung, especially those of you who were brave enough to do a solo turn on the stage.

Christmas Eve was open house at the Club with members and villagers coming together to sing Carols led by Graham and Julia. This event is hugely popular and this year was no different with the building packed to the rafters. The finale saw the Twelve Days of Christmas sung with great gusto, with one guest likening it to a rugby club crowd. A collection was made during the evening and the magnificent sum of £150.00 was raised for St Elizabeth's Hospice in Ipswich.

Boxing Day saw the Club again packed with members and friends coming along to watch the East Suffolk Morris Men and Woman dance. From midday the bar was full with dancers and members keeping warm and taking on supplies of beer and coffee before venturing outside to dance, braving the biting east wind that was blowing. It wasn't too long before the bar was full again with people taking advantage of the bacon rolls that were on offer and more beer and hot drinks before departing late afternoon.

Our final event of 2008, the New Years Eve Party saw yours truly and his first lady rattle the pots and pans in the galley, producing a bistro style Chilli con carne and Pasta dish for the local revellers to enjoy, I hope ! With food served and eaten and the tables cleared by 10.30, our in house DJ, Lee the Vice Foster took center stage to spin the discs, or in Lee's case push buttons on his laptop. How things have changed since George Ts day ! Finally, in keeping with tradition, and before the Auld Lang Syne knee's up, 2008 was rung out by the most senior member attending the evening and 2009 was rung in by the youngest.

Diary



Saturday 24th January
Burns' Night supper

Saturday 31st January
RYA First Aid Course

Saturday 7th February
Visiting Speaker with a talk on 'Nelson's Injuries'

Saturday 21st February
Indian Night
Tear-off slip inside

Saturday 7th March
A talk on 'Aspects of Maritime History'. More inside

Saturday 21st March
New Members' Evening
With a showing of the film 'Ha'penny Breeze'

Friday 10th April
Good Friday Working Party
Refreshments for the workers

Saturday 25th April
Fitting out supper

The next Newsletter will be in March. Contributions please by 27th February to: circular@pmsc.org.uk Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EZ

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who organized, helped out or supported any of these events during December. All in all a very successful period for the Club.

Now for 2009:

The main Social and Sailing programmes for the coming year are at an advanced stage now, and with both sub committee's meeting in early January to dot the I's and cross the T's details will be available to view on the Club web site and notice boards by the end of January.

Also at the time of writing this report a provisional programme of events and cruises for Cadets and Families has been put together and I shall be personally writing to all Cadets and Family members very soon inviting them to attend a get together evening on Saturday March 14th where I can outline the proposed programme, discuss details and any other idea's further.

During February and March a Snooker league will be run with matches taking place on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evening, subject of course to other planned events.

We will start off with one league table open for players, male /female from 12 years upwards. To keep the competition competitive some playing experience and a knowledge of the Pin Mill rules of Snooker would be helpful. An entry form and set of competition rules will be pinned up on the notice board in the games room from Friday Jan 9th with the league commencing from 1st Feb through to the end of March. Trophy winners to receive awards at the Fitting out Supper.

Also, if you are planning to visit the Club for a drink or maybe start fitting out the boat in the area during March and April then be aware Fitting out lunches will be available on every Sunday lunchtime during this period. It would be nice to cover eight Sundays, so if you fancy having a go at some very simple catering; soup, toasted sandwiches etc, then please give me a call to arrange a date.

Following on from my first column in December and the brief 'who am I' article

you will find in the pages of this newsletter a hello and who am I paragraph written by Rick, our Rear Commodore, and Romy our Hon Secretary. Unfortunately due to printing problems we are unable to produce a picture to go with each piece, but by the end of January there will be a complete who's who photo board containing the 2009 committee displayed in the entrance foyer for you to see.

Don't forget ?

Saturday Jan 24th – Burns' night supper

Celebrate the great Poet by tucking in to Jackie & Jo's Haggis supper and later joining in a Highland fling or two.

Saturday 7th February -

Come and listen to Andrew McIrvine, Commodore of the RORC speak about 'Nelsons Injuries', and how he may have fared with today's surgical methods.

Saturday 21st March

New Members' Evening

Come and have a chat to our new members. There will also be a showing of the film 'Ha'penny Breeze', which is a post-war yachting romance filmed at Pin Mill.

Finally, for those of you who have not yet returned your 2009 subscription, now is the time. We are still the best value Club in the area, so please don't delay, send in your cheque today.

**Jon Humby
Commodore**

Good Friday Working Party Day! 10th April 2009

Our annual Good Friday event this year is in early April so hopefully the sun will shine a little more than last year when in March we were sheltering from westerly squalls! All members are welcome, even if you can only spare an hour or so during the day.

There is the usual range of tasks that are necessary to keep our Clubhouse and environs in shipshape order and the more 'hands on deck' the better....(sorry!) For new or recent members to the Club it is a good opportunity to join in and meet other members. It's a

family day, so if you have youngsters bring them along..... lots to do! Talking of things to do....it's sanding, painting, wood preserving, tidying, sweeping (sounds like Dilly and Jane's song at the Shanty evening!) etc.

With the help of Rick I shall be compiling a list of projects, but if there is something that you feel we need to give special attention to please contact Rick or myself. I will be putting a form on the notice board for signing up if you wish, but not necessary, just turn up if you can! I do believe that a rewarding pint and hot dog will be the ration for all volunteers!!!

Thanking you in anticipation.

Paul Hand
Hon. Property Secretary

Shanties & Ditties

This year's Shanties and Ditties evening provided all the ingredients for a good evening:

Excellent turnout:-

Approaching 100, made up from PMSC members supplemented by friends, guests and guest musicians and singers.

Entertainment:-

Again a varied mixture including PMSC members Dilly and Jane, Rick Kirkup and Francis Madden, and HWM, with visiting musicians and singers; Barry Askew (Melodeon and vocals) Brenda from OYC (Melodeon) Anthony Osler (vocals) and Mike and June Crisp from Monewdon near Charlsfield (Melodeon, hammer dulcimer, vocals) We met Mike and June whilst performing at Maritime Woodbridge and they agreed to join us for the evening, and they also brought several friends with them.

Collection and Raffle for Neurological Critical Care Unit at Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge:-

This was the icing on the cake and raised £192. Lynn Eason was a patient in April and May this year and during her stay there were

two other patients from the peninsular and three from Ipswich on the same ward.

Feedback from the evening:-

A good fun evening with positive feedback from guest musicians that they all enjoyed the evening and would be pleased to return for future sessions. Thanks to all who attended and supported the evening and made it worthwhile. The increase in numbers always lifts the occasion.

Whoops! nearly forgot the most important people of all - The Bar Staff.

High Water Mark

Aspects of Maritime Ipswich Saturday 7th March

Stuart Grimwade and Des Pawson M.B.E., who are both Directors of Ipswich Maritime Trust, have very kindly agreed to present their talk called "Aspects of Maritime Ipswich" which will include a history of the dock in pictures together with a history of the Maritime Trust. After some liquid refreshment Des will engage us all in some practical ropemaking.

Eileen Madden
Hon. Social Secretary

News from Abroad

The Pin Mill burgee is flying in the Caribbean again. David Blackburn in his Peterson 44 'Daq Attack' has just crossed the Atlantic again, this time from Lanzarote in the Canary Islands to Bequia in the Caribbean. The trade winds were particularly light this year and the crossing took 25 days.

Writing this on Christmas Day, the trade winds have arrived in force and anything put down on deck will immediately blow overboard!

David sends Christmas greetings and best wishes to all his old friends in the Club.

Meet Your Committee

In the next few Newsletters the members of your new committee will be introducing themselves.

Rick Kirkup **Rear Commodore**

Started sailing in a friend's GP14, built a Miracle dinghy from a kit, refurbished and sailed a Merlin Rocket then, after a series of Mediterranean flotilla holidays, moved on to cruising yachts. Fitted out a Hunter Horizon 27 at Shotley marina, then moved up to a Westerly Fulmar, before acquiring our present boat Astraea, a Bowman built Starlight 35 in 1996, which we keep in Suffolk Yacht Harbour.

We moved from Hertfordshire to Chelmondiston in 2001 when I retired from co-running a West End recruitment firm. I'm lucky that Rosie not only enjoys sailing but is a superb co-skipper, and the two of us have cruised the boat from Holland and Belgium and the Channel coast as far as South Brittany, and fairly extensively in our local waters.

Other interests include music (Rosie reckons my interest in guitars verges on the obsessional!), woodturning, and, since 2008 our gorgeous new granddaughter!

Romy Blackburn **Club Secretary**

You may know me as the Club's Secretary, a role I covered for 7 years some time ago and then took up again a couple of years ago. You may not know my history – what a gift to bore you!

My sailing credentials are that as a child I learnt to sail in cadets at Waldringfield and I vomited my way across the North Sea each year aboard my parents' 38ft ketch, Deben Tango, where we explored what seemed to be every inch of the Dutch Waterways, enjoying such culinary delights as Poffertjes (delicious chunky little pancakes coated in icing and

melted butter), frites met sla (chips and mayonnaise) and gerookte paling (smoked eel), only to reacquaint myself with it all on the return journey.

During those happy times (and they were! It seems like it was sunshine all the way apart from the odd gale bound day tucked in the reeds along the North Holland Canal), we met the Humbys on at least 2 occasions – Gwenili in Ostend and Gwenili in a flat calm somewhere in the vicinity of the Galloper. Was Jon more than a twinkle in his parents' eyes on those occasions? – I daren't ask!

Since my sailing childhood, I crewed my erstwhile husband, David, aboard Hoodwink, a Twister and then Corncockle, an Ohlson 35. He cured the vomit problem swiftly by making me take the helm. I didn't look back – several years of Haven racing, one year the Flevo races and even an EAORA race: the Pattinson Cup in a gale. Post David, I continued with the Haven Series aboard Tony Howard's Arlo (RHYC) – also helming but this was to enable the rest of the crew (all male) to disappear down below to listen to the cricket.

My last venture was my West Wight Scow in which I taught my daughter, Jo, the rudiments of sailing; lessons to be reinforced aboard Dulciana – although Jo was more interested in playing "I spy" with Fred and cheating outrageously. (*With apologies if I have spelt the Dutch words incorrectly*).

Will Patten

I started sailing over 30 years ago in a cadet on the East Coast, mainly as a result of seeing all the lovely girls in folded down wet suits. Since then, I have sailed and raced in dinghies, catamarans & then keel boats.

More recently, having been the proud (but nearly bankrupt) owner of a wooden Stella (Estrella), I finally relented and now own a GRP Excalibur 36.

Married to the most gorgeous Susie, who can often be seen gate crashing the 'High Water Mark' band, we have too many kids to

mention, live in Chelmondiston, run the local post office and a small heating and plumbing company.

Val Stone Sailing Secretary

I first pitched up at the Club in 1993 with my Sadler 25, Boomerang. I live in North Suffolk, about an hour's drive away, and work part time as a partner in a small, select cab firm in Lowestoft. Pin Mill is my weekend retreat. I grew up in a sailing family in Essex and enjoy cruising the Thames Estuary, and sometimes further. I particularly like single handed sailing.

I became involved with the committee a few years ago as a general member, and then as House Secretary. My present job is Sailing Secretary which involves planning the events of the Club both racing and cruising. I also edit the newsletter which is published 7 times a year. In 06 I sold dear little Boomerang and bought Aurora, a Carter 30, which makes my weekends more comfortable, and allows me to invite more people, and have bigger parties.

Sailing

Your sailing committee is just putting the finishing touches to the 2009 sailing programme which will be published shortly. It promises more events than in the last few years, and some new ideas for families.

Two things I can tell you now; there will be a cruise to London starting from June the 27th, and if that doesn't suit there will be an East Coast Cruise starting on August the 1st with an opportunity to visit some of the less well known spots like Heybridge Basin, or perhaps Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

Barge Committee report 2008

The Passage match seems to be attracting a better entry now, and 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. We are working on putting

a much improved set of web pages together to provide more information and to promote both Matches.

Our own match was extremely well attended with 18 barges starting. The first barge home was at 13:55, five minutes earlier than we had wanted them - Mick Lungley once again got the course spot on.

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

Financially things have continued to improve, with us showing a small profit, which had the timing been better, would have been even greater, but at least we start 2009 in the black.

Thanks are due to Pat Dunnett and all her helpers - many had to be recruited fresh this year as a number of our stalwarts had prior bookings - The raffettes, Simon and his Bar Committee, the Barge committee, Anthony Osler who once again produced a superb cover drawing, and the Gravesend Sailing Club for their help with the passage Match.

Can I also thank Harwich Harbour Authority and ABP for their support, and Phil and Tanya Chesney for the use of Adax. However can I ask Phil not to put any more nails in by hand, so I don't need to worry about finding a new committee boat 8 days before next year's match.

The 2009 Match is on July 18th a little later than usual, but the tides dictate. For the eagled eyed among you, it is not July 12th as I put in this year's Match Programme.

Julian Ackland

Hon. Sailing Secretary's Annual Report 2008

Not to mince words the weather has not been kind to Pin Mill Sailing Club this year. Our two Regattas took place in appalling conditions, two other races were nearly abandoned for lack of wind, and our first

cruising weekend had to be cancelled because of gales. But, as Dame Ellen would say 'It's never easy'.

We managed to put on 6 races this year with, in some cases, an indifferent turn out. There appears to be more enthusiasm for the Regatta and the 3 Clubs Series, than for 'stand alone' races. Unfortunately we have lost the 3 Clubs' Evening Star Trophy to the Royal Harwich Yacht Club, but in the process have at least set such a standard of hospitality for the prize-giving that I doubt Harwich will beat *that* next year.

The June Cup only attracted two participants, only one of them managing to finish. But the Smack race was a huge success with 23 entrants in three classes and perfect sailing conditions. This event has become a permanent feature of the smacks and gaffers programme. The weekend charter of the Pioneer was enjoyed by all who sailed in her

The Dinghy Regatta was beset by strong winds and rain but having rented a Topper fleet for the day it was unthinkable to cancel it. A small brave, cold, group of children and adults enjoyed the Toppers and the prize-giving afterwards. It was a similar story for the Regatta with a total 27 boats taking part. Given the force 7 that blew that day I was impressed that anyone turned out at all! The following day similar conditions prevailed and only two out of ten entrants made it to the start of the RNLI race. £50 was sent to the RNLI. It was intended to start a new evening racing series this year but insufficient races were sailed to award a trophy.

As already mentioned our first cruising Bank Holiday had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The next event was the BBQ at Erwarton Ness which was enjoyed by 7 boats in idyllic conditions. The main cruise this year was to the French coast and was joined by four boats, only two of them making it to France. For the next August Bank Holiday cruise only two boats braved the blustery condition to sail to the Deben and the Backwaters.

At the time of writing, this year's Log Competition and Rivers Rally have not been announced, (but I'm hopeful!).

Whilst the turnout for racing and cruising events could have been better I would like to thank those of you who have turned out this year. I would particularly like to thank those of you who have given your time to organize events, because without you, they just would not happen. They are; Nigel Bailey, who kindly endured with me two race starts and helped at the Dinghy Regatta, Jon and Sue Humby for the Smack Race and for helping at the Dinghy Regatta, Ian Saunders for most of the work for the Dinghy Regatta, John Sparks for the RNLI Race, and Fred Everitt for moral support. I must also mention Pedro and Fiona who, together with John Sparks, accidentally between them handed out a whole range of randomly offered advice and encouragement, without which the job of Sailing Secretary would have been more difficult.

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

Hon. Social Secretary's Annual Report 2008

It doesn't seem a year ago that I was recalling the events leading up to Christmas 2006 and here we are planning for 2008. Something to do with getting older, they say!

Anyway, Christmas 2007 was celebrated at the club in the traditional way beginning with Shanties and Ditties. Our grateful thanks, as ever, go to High Water Mark for their steadfast performance and to Mick Leveritt and the Morris Men for their contribution on Boxing Day. It was almost standing room only for Jackie and Jo's Christmas Lunch and special thanks have to go to them and their band of helpers for yet another catering success and to Ron and Hetty without whose efforts on the table-laying front we would be well and truly high and dry. With the shopping finally done, the village and the Club were able to come together on Christmas Eve to sing all our favourite carols with the help of Julia and Graham Pink. A hastily put-together snack buffet organized by Dilly enabled those who still had some energy to see in the New Year in style.

2008 began as usual with a little brain stimulation in the form of Quiz Night and

many thanks to Fred Everitt for his efforts in making this such a successful evening. Later in January we gathered to celebrate Burns' Night and having made short work of a delicious haggis supper we attempted to shed a few pounds with some Scottish dancing. Well, for Scottish dancing read disorganized chaos to music! Anyway, we all had some fun and that's the main thing.

Our first talk this year was given by Mark and Judith Grimwade on Beautiful Brittany which I am sure those attending found most interesting and then in March, John Goode, the ex editor of Sailing Today, gave us a light-hearted talk entitled "A Life on the Ocean Wave". Having been so supportive of Patrick Sinclair's work on moorings he was keen to visit Pin Mill and our Club and went away with very favourable impressions of both.

We were privileged to be able to combine New Members' Evening with a fascinating exhibition of some of Keith Waite's cartoons and judging by the laughter as people looked at them, I think the effort required to sort through and then display them was well worth it.

The fitting-out supper led us into the sailing season and although the summer was not entirely kind to us weather wise, a few of us did actually get onto the water and made the most of it. October arrives and this means it is time for the laying-up supper and then the Photographic Competition which produced some pictures of very high quality. Many thanks to Marjorie Carter for her efforts in organizing this for us.

Later in the month, Lee and Elaine kindly organized a showing of the Donald Crowhurst film 'Deep Water' which could probably be described as an absorbing experience. Our thanks to them both.

The social calendar ended with a rather poorly attended Dinner Dance which I hope was enjoyed by those who came as it involves quite a lot of time and effort to organize. The band certainly made sure that maximum time was spent on the dance floor and Fynn Valley looked after us very well but I think we need to have something a little different next year.

Many thanks to all of you for supporting the social events but do remember that it is your Club and if you have any ideas or suggestions for events or activities, please let us know and we will see what we can do to organize them.

Eileen Madden
Hon. Social Secretary

Private Moorings Committee Report 2008

Interest from prospective new licence holders has for the greater part of the year been surprisingly quiet. The past few weeks have, however, seen a sudden surge in interest and I envisage that the Committee will be able to successfully allocate more moorings for the start of next season.

Licensed occupancy rates are up on last year, with a total of £3,500.00 being remitted to A.B.P.

We continue in our practice of passing our rebate back to individual mooring holders, which this year amounted to nearly £1,000.00. A.B.P. have advised that the revenue raised from licence fees is now used to support the Maritime Volunteer Service and their RIB "Anglian Volunteer", in addition A.B.P. will be providing a second RIB which should be on the water for the start of the season. Several conservancy projects have also received funding from licence fee revenues.

Finally, within the last two days Babergh District Council has advised that one of their bids for funds to improve the hard and rebuild the barge blocks has been successful. Whilst a few problems still require resolution, there is now no reason why these work cannot go ahead.

Ian Saunders
Hon. Moorings Secretary

