



Pin Mill Sailing Club



July 2008 Newsletter

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

Commodore's Corner

Since our last newsletter we enjoyed an excellent Fitting Out Supper, as ever Jackie & Jo looked after us very well. Fitting out started in earnest with a couple of lovely weather weeks in May, and then it rained. I remember it well, having my roof replaced this year, I jokingly said that it was a good job I didn't have the roof off last June as the weather was so bad. I should not have tempted fate!

Our spring Bank Holiday cruise did not happen, again the gales blew and the rain fell. It is so sad when everyone looks forward to a few days away and it becomes impossible. I was near Salcombe that weekend hopefully to crew a friend with his "lugger" in a 3 days racing series – we duly set off on the first day, tumbled into the boat from the dinghy and started to set to work to rig the boat watching a previous race with very few competitors heading towards us. After a couple of spectacular broaches my chum mentioned that those particular competitors were in fact Olympic dinghy sailors – after a few minutes consideration, we went off to have an ice cream!

The next day we had a good sail taking two more family members for ballast – the wind dropped and eventually we finished. It was good fun, but the leaders were home having their tea before we made the finish line. The next day it rained stair rods and there were no starters. Such is life!

I missed the B B Q again this year, as family came to view my building site, but the weather held and it was a popular day, the wind just piping up as everyone was on their way home.

We have just had the Barges "Passage Match" and the 47th Annual PMSC Barge Match with a number of them gracefully moored in the river opposite the Clubhouse. The weather was glorious, and the Club was packed for the reception in the evening. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

Soon we have the Smack Race and, although we are bound to clash with one event or other, we hope to have a good turnout. I am joining the Pioneer that day, Jon Humby has worked hard to fill the boat as it is always a worry to make ends meet when we

Diary



Saturday July 12th
Smack and Working Boat Race

Saturday 19th July
Annual Cruise to France

Saturday August 9th
Dinghy Regatta

Saturday 23rd August
East Coast Mystery Cruise

Saturday 6th September
PMSC 65th Annual Regatta

Sunday 7th September
RNLI Race

Saturday 20th September
3 Clubs River Series
Final Race. PMSC Host
With prize-giving and BBQ

Saturday 4th October
Laying Up Supper

Saturday 18th October
Nautical Photograph
Competition

The next Newsletter will be in September. Contributions please by 28th August to:
circular@pmsc.org.uk

Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EZ

organize a charter boat for the weekend. Fingers crossed for a good Race.

I hope there will be a few boats joining the Club Cruise this year. I suspect this newsletter will be dropping on your doorstep just as we set off. We made a mad dash last year; let us hope that the weather is a little more civilized this year.

Don't forget to ask Jon Humby for your "Boat Card" to show your activities on the Rivers Rally. My skipper won last year producing photos from various land/sea marks to prove Aurora had been there. He will happily provide the card and the list of places – drop him an e-mail and join the competition.

Happy Sailing.

**Dilly Ridge
Commodore**

Welcome Aboard

The Club is pleased to welcome new members:

Chris and Jill Ready from Brantham with their Wanderer 'Nutcracker'.

Angela Glenn and Marcus Brennan from Sudbury with their wooden sloop 'Bryher'

Michael Firth from Wickham Market with 'Red Alligator'

And the King family from Colchester with 'Incognito'

In the Library

Thanks to an unknown donor who left a copy of 'Meteorology at Sea' by Ray Sanderson. This is a comprehensive survey of the subject with special sections devoted to the British Isles, the Baltic, the West Indies, and the Mediterranean.

Hearing of the missing book on 'Place Names on the Shotley Peninsula' by Sylvia Laverton, Ted and Nina Jillings have kindly donated a

companion volume on the Shotley Peninsula by the same author. This is a very carefully researched account of the peninsula, describing in great detail the archaeology of the area dating from earliest settlements through Roman times, the Danish and Viking period, the Doomsday book period and subsequent developments. The work is a meticulously recorded account with good illustrations of artefacts found, aerial photographs and maps.

**Tony Cowley
Librarian**

Sailing 2008

Cruising:

Regrettably our cruising programme did not get off to a very good start! Strong to gale force winds forced us to cancel the May Bank Holiday Cruise. However we were favoured with much better weather on the following weekend for the Erwarton BBQ. Sunny and warm conditions blessed the 7 boats that attended. They were: Lys, Silver Wain, Gravell MD, Aurora, Astraea, Jaqueline 'A', and Magic Calabasse.

Racing:

After the first and second 3 Clubs' races PMSC remain in second position behind RHYC, who have yet to win the Evening Star Trophy. (It looks as though it could be their year). Congratulations to all those who took part, and particularly Adie Gilson and 'St Anthony' who was the fastest Pin Mill boat on corrected time in the first race, and Nick Parker and 'Nellie Deane' who was fastest in the second. They each win a silver trophy and an engraved PMSC tumbler. We also have a June Cup winner – Jon and Sue Humby in 'Silver Wain' *flew* round the course in very fine style. They will also be getting a PMSC tumbler.

We have a new racing series this year, which is called the 'Bar Basher Friday Series'. The idea is to hold short (90 minutes) self timed races around evening high water on a Friday,

then retire to the bar, and a pint or five to work out the resultship. Information and sailing instructions can be found on the notice board and on the website. A silver trophy will be presented to the series winner. The first race took place on June 27th and was won by Simon Ruffles and 'Perseus'. See below for the rest of the dates. (The last race will be on a Wednesday to avoid August Bank Hols.)

Date	HW Time
27 th June	1840 BST
11 th July	1850 BST
25 th July	1704 BST
8 th August	1708 BST
27 th August (Wed)	2149 BST

Don't forget to enter the Rivers Rally this year. All you need to do is to provide photographic proof that you were at particular locations this year and add up the points. The yacht with the most points wins. It's simple! There are some entry packs on the sailing notice board together with some information to tempt you. Or contact Jon Humby to enter.

Looking Ahead

From July 19th we are hoping to get a fleet together to visit the French Coast (blockades notwithstanding) with Gravelines as our main objective. I have a little information from the internet about this port which I would be happy to circulate to anyone interested. It will be necessary to go armed with a 'plan B' as Gravelines should not be attempted in fresh onshore winds. If you are thinking of going would you please let me have your name and boat details, together with your mobile 'phone number and MMSI if you have one. I can then circulate the information to help us all stay in touch.

This year's Dinghy Regatta is on August the 9th and we are planning to hire a fleet of 6 Topper dinghies to augment our own small boat fleet. Children and adults will be able to sail the Toppers and there will be sailing and rowing races, followed by one of our renowned BBQs. Entry forms will be in the Club and on the website soon. If you have

any ideas of other activities you would like to see at this event please get in touch.

The main Regatta is on September the 6th and will also include a BBQ. This will be followed by the RNLI race on Sunday. Entry forms will be available in the Clubhouse and on the website. Both these events are open to other Clubs. Volunteers are needed to run the RNLI race, which is a Clubhouse start. If you would like to have a go but lack the experience, firstly, have a look at the newly updated 'Race Officers' Handbook' in the library, which spells out the process in simple terms. For instance, did you know that it is not the job of the Race Officer to settle protests? Secondly, I will find you some 'old lags' to be your assistants!

August the 23rd is the date for our second bank holiday 'Mystery' cruise (and let's hope we get somewhere this time!), and the final 3 Clubs' race is on the 20th of September.

Your Club Needs You!

For the dinghy regatta we plan to manage the event from the water, which means that we will need 2 or 3 boats to act as start boat and rescue boats. If you are the owner of a suitably sized RIB or launch with outboard power and would be willing to give us a few hours of your time, or just loan us your boat, for the afternoon of August 9th please get in touch with me ASAP.

See you on the water!

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

Plan Ahead

For the Dinner Dance on Saturday November 8th at Fynn Valley

The menu and booking form will be included with the September Newsletter.

So make sure you put it in your diary now!

Eileen Madden
Hon. Social Secretary

Blues Night – Sat 13th September

And now for something completely different! A new kind of musical (and drinking) event is being held in the clubhouse on Saturday 13 September 2008: imagine our popular Shanties & Ditties evening but with a Blues theme – Blues being defined to include a bit of Rock, Soul and more or less anything you like other than shanties!

PMSC's answer to The Blues Band (we're still working on our name!) will be on hand to host the show and offer living proof that just about anyone can dare to pick up an electric guitar...oops now I've said the dreaded 'e' word – never mind, if Bob Dylan can recover from plugging in, then why can't we?

The evening will be dedicated to the memory of Brett Williams who until his death this year at a tragically young age was a partner in The Pin Mill Studio. We are looking forward to welcoming members of his family and friends and will be holding a raffle and other events, the proceeds of which will be donated to charities supported by Brett.

It's likely to be a popular evening, the success of which will be all the greater the more people there are who are willing to get up and 'have a go' so get out your instruments and get practising your party piece/s!

Rick Kirkup

From the Archives

Apparently the Editor has been a bit short of copy for this edition of the circular and was fishing around for contributions. So by way of a filler, a quick dip into the Chelmondiston Village Archives produced the following cautionary tales for those who venture out in local waters.

*Extraordinary Conduct of a Smacksman
(as reported in the Ipswich Journal during
1866)*

'In July 1865 the master of a smack belonging to one of the most respectable Yarmouth merchants was married at St. Nicholas Church. He hired a small home in Pier Place, South End, and, for a man in his position of life furnished it somewhat expensively, purchasing articles of every description to the extent of about eighty pounds.

A few days ago the man returned home from the sea, and hearing that his wife had not been too faithful to her marriage vows, he

calmly but vigorously and systematically commenced an onslaught on his household goods. After a violent quarrel with his spouse, he proceeded to smash all his crockery ware, glasses, looking glasses, window panes etc., and then partaking of some beer he obtained a heavy instrument and hacked into beds, tables, chairs, chiffoniers etc. leaving his home a complete wreck, his wife not daring to interfere.

Having wreaked his vengeance in this way, husband and wife sought refuge at a neighbour's house where they passed the night peacefully together. Soon afterwards the man left and took another voyage to earn more money, and to chew the cud of repentance for his insane freak'.

Robbery on a vessel at Ipswich 1842

'Frederick Palmer, a sailor, belonging to the Faithful of Ipswich, was charged with having stolen a piece of salt beef, the property of Messrs. Seekamp and others, the owners of the vessel. It appeared that about half-past eleven o'clock on a Wednesday night, policeman Kerrison met a young woman, of abandoned character named Eliza with the beef, which was folded in her apron. Suspecting that it had been stolen, he made inquiries when it was said by Eliza that she had received it from the prisoner, whom she had accompanied on board the vessel. The prisoner was committed for trial.'

**Renee Waite
Archive Group**

A Reminder

THE PMSC NAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION will be held on Saturday October 18th, but it's not too soon to start thinking about it and looking for opportunities to take that winning entry. Watery photos required, with or without boats. Let's hope there'll be a little less water falling from the sky this year!

Marjorie Carter

The Passage Match

What is known today as The Passage Match began life in 1978 as the Blue Circle Challenge Match, sponsored by Blue Circle and organized by a committee including amongst others, Jack Haste, Peter Dodds and the late Captain Fred Cooper. After the 1988 Match, Blue Circle ended their sponsorship and the following year's match was organized by members of the Sailing Barge Associated (SBA), restyled as the Passage Match. They obviously did not want to continue as the following year, and for a further five years, the match was organized by Charles McLaren, then owner of SB Wyvenhoe and co owner of Shotley Point Marina. When this faded, Julian Ackland was asked by the SBA to take on the organization and in 1996 the Match returned to its Pin Mill roots and has remained ever since.

With no outer mark or indeed set course the Match itself is unique, recreating the "racing for turn" that would have been common practice for barges and their crews seeking to gain a berth ahead of their rivals in the 19th and early 20th century. The start has always been at Gravesend, originally from a line in front of the Clarendon Royal Hotel, but with this building now being destined for redevelopment into flats, this line is no longer available. Happily Gravesend Sailing Club has stepped into the breach and the Match now starts from their club line a few hundred yards downstream from the Clarendon. The finish, originally the PMSC line, has now been moved downstream to "Stone Heaps"

In recent years, support of the Match has not been high with only three barges coming to the line for both the 2006 and 2007 matches. This year, however, saw six barges at the line and with a south easterly force two blowing, the OOD Peter Cockayne took the decision to start at the publicized 08:00. Whilst the rest of the fleet took the opportunity to gauge the start, Edme remained on her mooring as the five minute gun approached, but as the smoke from the cannon drifted away she was seen to be underway, albeit pointing in the wrong direction and going backwards.

First over the line and, in view of the conditions, making a very fine start was Ardwinia, closely followed by Phoenician and Adieu, Edme now heading the right way and finding some speed was fourth, followed by Repertor and finally Lady Daphne.

What happens in the middle of the Match remains a mystery to all but the competitors. However, thanks to the invention of the mobile phone, the finish team are far better placed to judge the time to take up station for the finish. This year there was a degree of consternation, when on clearing Shotley lock, large brown sails were seen approaching through Harwich Harbour. This induced a massive increase in both engine revolutions and heart rate until the sails concerned were identified as those of a non-competitor.

2008 Results

<u>Position</u>	<u>Barge</u>	<u>Time Taken</u>
1	Edme	10:27:54
2	Adieu	11:29:10
3	Repertor	12:37:18
4	Ardwinia	12:40:33
5	Lady Daphne	12:48:53
6	Phoenician	12:54:37

Match Committee on the Day

Penny Davies	GSC Cannons
Miriam Taylor	GSC Flags and Tea
Hugh Taylor	GSC Photography
Peter Cockayne	PMSC Officer of the Day
Ian Saunders	PMSC Timekeeper

Ian Saunders
Barge Committee

Barge Match Results

Class A Elapsed Time

1	Edme	03:55:21
2	Mirosa	04:03:12
3	Adieu	04:12:30
	May	04:37:57
	Gladys	Retired

Class B Elapsed Time

1	Decima	04:45:30
2	Repertor	04:47:53
3	Wyvenhoe	05:06:00
	Ardwina	05:14:00
	Victor	05:14:59
	Thistle	05:11:46
	Reminder	05:26:40
	Greta	05:40:36
	Phoenician	05:41:19

Class C Elapsed Time

1	Pudge	04:05:29
2	Betula	05:09:36
3	Centaur	05:23:43

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