



Pin Mill Sailing Club



MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

Commodore's Corner

Sadly, I must start my Corner with the news of the deaths of two of our long standing members: Sir Patrick Sinclair and Frank Williams, whose obituaries can be found later in this Newsletter. Our condolences go out to both of their families. Susan Sinclair has invited all of Patrick's friends from the Club to a memorial service at the Chapel of Lincoln's Inn, London, starting at 17:00 on Monday 20th June. If you would like to go, please get in touch and we can try and arrange for everyone to travel together.

You should all have received your copy of the 2011 Almanac, and I hope you find the pocket sized events calendar useful.

It has been a busy social time at the Club, where we have had the talk from the RNLI, New Members Evening with an excellent Mexican Buffet from Jane and Ivan, and beginners Cha Cha Cha lesson, following the success of the Salsa night. A Geochoc hunt was organised by our young family members, which raised a massive £550 for the Sick Children's Trust – well done to all of you - and we had an excellent Fitting Out Supper, for which our hearty appreciation goes out to Jo and her team.

We have also completed our traditional Good Friday maintenance and Grindle dig – many thanks for all that turned out – it was probably the warmest Grindle dig on record, and James reported that all of the jobs on his list were completed. This is a huge benefit to the Club, as they are tasks that we would otherwise have to employ someone to do, so thanks again.

The popular fitting out lunches have started on Sunday lunchtimes and run all the way through May, and there is still a free slot for the final lunch on the 22nd. Please get in touch with Cathy our House Sec. if you would like to volunteer.

There has been a change in the management of our Bar, and the recent construction of a floating Pontoon at Pin Mill – more on these subjects later in the Newsletter.

The main focus now is on sailing, starting with the 4CRS races – let's see if PMSC can win back the trophy!

Lee Foster
Commodore

Diary



Saturday 7th May
4CRS Race 1 (RHYC Host)

Saturday 21st May
4CRS Race 2 (SSC Host)

Saturday 28th May
Bank Holiday Cruise

Saturday 4th June
Dinghy Day and Beach BBQ

Saturday 11th June
Smack and Working Boat Race

Saturday 18th June
4CRS Race 3 (OYC Host)

And Barge Passage Race

Friday 24th June
Barge' Parade of Sail' Pin Mill to Ipswich

Saturday 25th June
50th Annual Barge Match

2nd – 9th July Summer Cruise

Saturday 23rd July June and Ward Cups Races and Lunchtime BBQ at Erwarton Ness

The next newsletter will be in July.
Contributions please
By 24th Of June to;
circular@pmsc.org.uk or by post
to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham,
Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7EZ

Welcome to New Members

Wendy Caiels from Ipswich
Keith and Dot Richardson from Chelmo.
Danny Heartshorne from Brentwood and
owner of 'Dunleanin'

News from the Coastguard

The latest news on the proposed changes to the Coastguard service is that the Government is rethinking its plans, in view of the strong feelings expressed. We wait to hear what that will mean in terms of Station closures. However, as a front line rescue service, the local coastguard teams of rescue officers are not threatened by these cuts in any way. In fact, we may find the teams being enhanced, having greater responsibility, following a rigorous training programme.

You may be interested to know what the local team, Holbrook Coastguard, have been getting up to over the last few weeks.

Happily the last two months have been quiet for the team but we have had a search and rescue incident, in conjunction with the police, for a young man, which ended with him being found alive by a police dog handler. We were also called out to a man jumping off the Orwell Bridge and helped liaison between Thames, the police, the Ambulance Service and the RNLI Inshore lifeboat to enable them to pick up the casualty who was also still alive.

Our most recent call out was to meet an 11 metre yacht which had been picked up and brought in to Shotley Marina. The yacht, on a round Britain cruise, had suffered engine failure, had managed to sail to the nearest port i.e. Harwich but no wind meant that she was drifting in busy commercial waters and needed a tow to take her out of danger. She was picked up by the brand spanking new Walton Lifeboat. The crew had scheduled "towing" as

their training for the next day - so they were able to bring it forward and get some real experience of how their new boat handles - and, judging by their mood, she doesn't disappoint.

Romy Blackburn
Coastguard Rescue Officer

Good Friday Working Party 22nd April

The Good Friday working party saw a wonderfully warm and sunny day. Making the work a lot easier!

The Grindle dig started early at 8:30am and carried on through to midday. A large amount of mud and shingle was removed from the Grindle to ensure that dinghies have easy access to the hard. Those that took part did a fantastic job; their hard work was evident with the heavy coating of mud they all ended up with!

The working party at the Club laboured diligently to complete all the annual tasks. The signal mast was lowered to be maintained and painted, thanks to Peter Hibben for taking charge of this particular task.

A seemingly insurmountable amount of wood preserving need to be completed on the foredeck, tables and chairs, those that helped managed to persevere until all was finished.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all those who helped on Good Friday namely: Lee Foster, Elaine Green, David & Cathy Abbott, Rick & Rosie Kirkup, John & Gabriell Butterfield, Val Stone, Romy Blackburn, Brian Wales, Martin, James & Lucy Kendal, Fred Everitt, Nigel Bailey, John Bowen, Linda Macintyre, David Barklem, David Willing, Peter Hibben, John Webb, Ron & Hetty Watts, Julian Ackland, James & Geoffrey

Wilson, Ian Saunders, Arnie Blake and Fiona Wylie.

I look forward to a similarly successful Good Friday next year. Please put the event in your diary early as it would be great to see more volunteers to help maintain your Club.

James Ackland
Hon Property Secretary

Sailing

May has arrived and the sailing season has started. Anyone still in the boatyard needs to get their skates on.

The first two 4 Clubs races are both in May, on the 7th and 21st and hosted by RHYC and SSC respectively. The third race is on June 18th and hosted by SSC. Only one entry is needed per boat for the whole series and this should be sent to Tom Clayton, 159 Henley Road, Ipswich, IP14 4NU, or tom.clayton@multifreight.com. Entry forms are available on the Club website.

Val Stone will be hosting the May/Whitsun bank holiday cruise and a destination will be chosen shortly before the event. Contact Val for more information.

The 4th of June sees the Dinghy and Beach BBQ at the 'Second Sands'. This is the patch of sandy shore about halfway between the Butt and Clamp House on that side of the river. You can get there on foot but it is a bit of an effort, much easier to go in the dinghy. Bring a disposable BBQ and some food and drink. This was very successful last year so please come along and keep your fingers crossed for fine weather.

The Smack and Working Boat race is on June 11th and the 50th PMSC Barge Match on June 25th. There is a parade of sail for barges from Pin Mill to Ipswich on the 24th which should make a fine spectacle. The Club has booked 4 places on EDME at £100 each. This includes lunch, drinks and snacks and will require an

early morning pick up at Pin Mill or Clamp House. EDME is engineless and very quick, often winning her class. The places are available on a first come first served basis. Contact me if you would like to go.

(sailing_secretary@pmc.org.uk or 01473 780062).

Looking further forward into July we have the summer cruise, which will be hosted by the Commodore and will be in the general direction of the Medway. For the lunchtime BBQ at Erwarnton Ness, we intend to hold a passage race from Pin Mill to Erwarnton on the morning of the BBQ and award the June and Ward Cups to the winners. Full details will be published on the notice board but the idea is for a start at the Club line and finish across a line due South of the Erwarnton Ness beacon. The race will be dependent on a decent breeze on the day as we don't want anyone missing lunch.

Finally RHYC are running junior sailing introduction and training again this year and this is open to non members of RHYC. See <http://www.royalharwichyachtclub.co.uk/onboard.html> for details.

Happy sailing

Nigel Bailey
Hon. Sailing Secretary

All Change at the Bar

I have recently accepted the resignation of our Bar Secretary, Karl. I would like to thank him for his hard work over the last year or so, for which we are very grateful.

This does somewhat leave us with a significant vacancy, and I urge anyone that would like to give the bar Sec. job a go, to step forward: ***Your Club Needs You!***

While we are looking for a replacement, Tim Grove has very kindly taken the role on temporarily, but due to his regular departures to warmer climes, is not able to make it a

permanent commitment, but I would like to thank him for all his efforts so far.

In a completely unrelated turn of events, our popular staff member Angela, has decided to leave. Her new career move into counselling means that she will be unable to find the time to work behind the Bar. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the members to thank her for the commitment and dedication she has shown over the past years – we are sorry to see her go, but wish her every success in her new career.

For the next few weeks, it would be appreciated if we could have some more volunteers come forward that would be prepared to do an occasional shift behind the bar – please get in touch if you are able to help.

**Lee Foster
Commodore**

David Blackburn Reports from Beaufort, North Carolina

It's a Sunday in early April and I hear that England is enjoying a spot of warmth so the Clubhouse will be busy and the boatyards will be humming with the sounds of fitting out.

I'm back onboard 'Daq Attack' getting her ready to re-launch next week after taking out another mortgage to buy the antifouling, and her flags are flying again including our distinctive burgee which so many times is mistaken for the Royal Cruising Club [all the kudos without the cost!].

It's not been the easiest of weeks - on Tuesday the music equipment went quiet, this was no five minute fuse job but involved dismantling a complete range of shelving and panelling to expose the tuner/CD player, graphic equalizer, two amplifiers, memory and remote systems and wiring to seven speakers. Two days later and Mark Knopfler is again making enough noise to startle any cockroaches or other

stowaways that we might have collected on the way.

On Friday the fridge/freezer unit stopped pumping it's cooling water, a simple job to replace the water pump perhaps, but no, more dismantling and chaos to find the whole unit misbehaving, so my stock of frozen food has gone into the boatyard freezer and it's time to call in the 'cold man'.

Thank goodness these faults are showing up now, as in six weeks time we'll be leaving Beaufort for a return crossing direct to Horta in the Azores and these sort of breakdowns are infuriating when they occur on the ocean.

So the little red and white burgee with the distinctive windmill will be crossing the Atlantic yet again, for the seventh time with me.

I hope you all have an enjoyable sailing season.

**David Blackburn
Out of Country Member**

Pin Mill Pontoon

If you have been down to the Club recently, you cannot have failed to notice a new floating Pontoon! This new structure has been completed by Gus Curtis of King's Boatyard on part of the Foreshore leased to the Pin Mill Bay Management Company, using pontoons from a refit at Woolverstone Marina, kindly obtained by our past Commodore, Jon Humby.

Club members are able to use the facility for launching and short stays, and it provides access to the water for around 2 hours either side of High Water.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Jon and Gus on behalf of the membership for their efforts in making this possible. *Thanks!*

**Lee Foster
Commodore**

Club Lighting

The Club's electricity bill is a large and growing expense, so we have taken steps to reduce the amount of electricity we use on lighting, whilst at the same time maintaining or enhancing the amount and flexibility of lighting available.

The ceiling lights in the Games Room, Bar room and behind/around the bar itself have been fitted with more efficient low energy lamps which are cheaper to run and to buy, have a longer life and maintain or enhance the previous levels and flexibility of lighting available. They should help us to achieve worthwhile savings in the amount of electricity we use on lighting, and in the cost of replacement lamps.

Unfortunately, one of the intended initiatives ie controlling the main ceiling lights in the Bar and Games room by movement sensors has had to be abandoned. Several PIRs have failed and despite considerable efforts including fitting additional equipment it proved impossible to get the equipment to work reliably, and we have decided that the risk of further failures – which could leave areas of the club without lighting - would be too much of an inconvenience and too high a price to pay for the savings involved.

We have left the PIRs in place in the toilets: they ensure that the lights come on automatically when someone enters and then go off automatically when movement has ceased to be detected by the sensor. It is important to remember therefore that the relevant wall switch at the entrance to the Gents and to the Ladies should be left switched ON at all times. The electricity cost savings there will not be great but they seem to have been working well, and their circuits are less problematical ie no dimmers and no low energy halogens, and they do give us a means of ensuring that the main lights cannot be accidentally left on.

It is important to remember that – with the exception of the main lights in the toilets – ALL lights in the clubhouse should be switched OFF when not required, and always when leaving the premises.

Rick Kirkup
Vice Commodore

Frank Williams

Frank joined the RAF towards the end of the war, and then moved to Ipswich and opened a 'Wallpaper, paint and fabric' shop, known to all Ipswichians as 'The wallpaper shop'. He and his late wife Peggy became members of Pin Mill Sailing Club in the 50's and were active in family sailing and social activities, particularly during the 'dancing years'.

One of Frank and Peggy's claims to fame was that they were onboard Jack Haste's yacht Hengor when she exploded on her mooring. Fortunately no one was badly hurt – just a bit shaken. (Hengor was later re-built by Jo Dunnett)

Tragically Frank lost the youngest of his three sons not long before his own demise.

Latterly Frank was a regular Sunday lunchtime customer. He was a private man but had a droll sense of humour. He was happy to talk to anyone and had a lot of memories of the Club's past. Sundays won't be *quite* the same.

Patrick Sinclair

Life Member

How long ago is it since Patrick and I were the sole survivors at the end of the Hard, up to our waists in clinging mud (of that unique Pin Mill variety) on a Good Friday Grindle dig? Emerging from the veils of icy sleet being hurled up the river by an easterly gale, how we

mocked - and laughed with – those fragile mortals gloatingly cowering in the warmth of the Club-house!

That's how we should remember Patrick. Indomitable cheerfulness, and a determination to get the job done and enjoy himself doing it. And what jobs he did over the decades for the Club, as one of its trustees and a Life Member. And who can forget the Club New Year's Eve and Burns nights when - with his distinguished girth splendidly bedecked in highland kilt – he seemed positively to float through a highland reel?

In the early '90s, under various pseudonyms such as "Our Very Special Correspondent", he regularly enlivened the Club Circular with his journalistic dexterity. "Who was this fellow "Collimer" anyway - and why couldn't he put his Point in a more sensible place?" "*Kizzy*, always an independent lady, unnoticed set her course for one of Mr Wrinch's sugar beet fields – and nearly made it!" And then Patrick's vivid reporting of the activities of the PMSC (Highland Activities Division) on New Year's Eve, 1991, (a certain individual's "sword dancing without swords") only to be matched by the activities of the PMSC (Lawn Tennis Division) the following morning – problems with tight shorts. How he made us chuckle !

Many of us remember his determined orchestration of the two year battle with – and eventual victory over – Ipswich Borough Council over their attempts improperly to charge mooring fees – and what a drubbing the Council got in the Court of Appeal.

And how he loved the legal intricacies - not least the translation of the Tudor latin of Henry VIII's grant of rights over the Orwell to the "Burghers of Ipswich" in 1514! A truly momentous day in court, the outcome of which saved the Orwell sailing community tens of thousands of pounds – and which set a precedent for defending mooring rights across the country.

And it was that towering legal intellect as a Barrister that gained him the honour of being elected as a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

Patrick was rightly proud of his Royal Navy service in the days of his youth, and this carried over as an Anchorite: a very select gathering of naval and nautical luminaries who dined sumptuously on board a ship in the Thames, where I was once privileged to join them as his guest. Many's the time we've sailed together and his determination to maintain culinary standards under all conditions was legendary. One does not forget the roast and two veg. he produced, ably assisted by a bottle of the finest malt, in a force six on the nose heading home from Holland.

Patrick enjoyed life to the full, and this sense of enjoyment and optimism was distinctly infectious. So sad that he was so afflicted in recent years – and how profound is our admiration for the unerring strength and devotion which Susan and his family have shown.

Thank you, Patrick for such happy memories. You always made us smile - and in the words of Shakespeare's salutation, " May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest".

Francis Madden.