



Pin Mill Sailing Club



May 2008 Newsletter

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

Commodore's Corner

Well this has certainly been a chilly spring! As I am having my home knocked about around me, I moved into the little caravan in the garden just as the night time temperatures dropped below freezing. Sitting here with papers up to my eyebrows tapping away on my laptop, I am very happy that I am not trying to fit out a boat at the same time with freezing fingers in this brisk easterly wind.

Remembering our talk by John Goode, who was very entertaining having had a very eventful life, the Clubhouse was full. Again it was full for New Members' Evening and Keith Waite's cartoons really were appreciated as they showed that so many topics of news return again and again. Some cartoons of 20 years ago could easily reflect problems of today, with transport delays, education and inflation just to start with! Keith very kindly gave us a cartoon that was raffled and raised £146, half of which we have sent to the RNLI.

The Good Friday working party was very well attended, the Clubhouse was smartened up, painted, cleaned and the garden replanted. We were fed and watered and then in the bitter wind about 16 bodies set about digging the Grindle well into the early evening. Fed and watered again, we all felt that we had done a good job. I heartily thank all those who turned up to work or cook or dig, the Clubhouse looked wonderful when all was finished.

There have been a couple of items that concern us from the Environment Agency who firstly have secured funding to provide a tidal surge barrier across the River Orwell at Ipswich. At the moment we have been unable to establish their considerations for the low lying areas such as Pin Mill but we are pursuing this.

Secondly the Eastern Region RYA has brought to our notice the Government Agency's Flood Management Strategies Threat to the East Anglian Coast Recreational Sailing. The RYA have asked us all to write to Mr. Colin Lee, Regional Flood Strategy Manager at the Environment Agency, Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5ZR, and to

Diary



Sunday May 4th

Bike Ride 11.am
From the Venture/Red Lion

Saturday May 10th

3 Clubs River Series
Race 1 10.00hrs

Saturday May 24th

Bank Holiday Cruise

Saturday May 31st

Lunchtime BBQ
Ewarton Ness

Saturday June 14th

June & Ward Cups
10.00hrs

Saturday June 21st

3 Clubs River Series
Race 2 10.00hrs
& Passage Match

Saturday June 28th

Barge Match

Saturday July 12th

Smack and Working Boat
Race

Saturday 19th July

Annual Cruise to France

Saturday August 9th

Dinghy Regatta

The next Newsletter will be in July. Contributions please by 26th June to:
circular@pmsc.org.uk

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

write to our MP at the House of Commons London SW1A 0AA as they intend for the Blyth Estuary (Southwold) **“to withdraw maintenance of flood defences where the cost of maintaining them is greater than the assessed benefits”**

We have already had tidal surges which have breached flood defences in that area and it is only the starting point as it is explained that we must expect similar dramatic changes to the Ore/Alde, Deben, Hamford Water, Blackwater & Colne and Crouch and Roach. Although the Orwell and Stour will not be quite so troubled, as they will continue to be protected for commercial shipping, our local east coast sailing grounds could all be so easily be threatened.

We have posted the full articles on our website, please read them and write - the more letters the better.

On a much lighter note, we have our Fitting Out Supper at the weekend and Jackie and Jo have a full house booked. We always appreciate their wonderful food. This is the end of the spring social activities at the Clubhouse, but do call in for a drink at the bar or relax in library and of course I hope to see you on the river as our Sailing Secretary and her Committee are organizing events, so let us hope for good sailing weather.

We have the Barge Match and Smack Race to look forward to in the summer and of course the racing events and the Regattas. So happy sailing!

**Dilly Ridge
Commodore**

Welcome Aboard

The Club is pleased to welcome new members:

Jon Reynolds & Emma Drake from Needham Market with their Caprice ‘Tiptoes’
Tim and Helen Chalk from Diss with their Beneteau ‘Bianca II’

Desmond Fisk from Wetheringsett
with his Sadler 29 ‘Gipsy’
Phillip Critchley from Nottingham
with his Sabre 27 ‘Pallini’
Nick and Sally Britnell from Shotley,
David Sheppard and Ana da Piedade
with Elizabethan ‘Armetis’

Red Diesel to Remain Available to Yachtsmen...

(...but only if you declare yourself as leisure and pay full duty!)

The fight for derogated diesel has been lost. It was decided by the EU that red diesel will no longer be available to recreational boaters. The special exemption that allowed the UK to charge lower rates of duty on diesel for private pleasure craft will come to an end on the 31st December 2006. The RYA and UK government has fought against this, but to no avail.

The European Union has adopted a Directive that restructures the taxation of energy products, including diesel, in order to reduce perceived distortions of competition between Member States. At present diesel fuel for use in private pleasure craft is subject to duty at 4.22p per litre and to a reduced rate VAT at 5%. The derogation that allows this reduced duty rate expired on 31 December 2006. From 1st November 2008, marine diesel will be in the region of £1 a Litre, from the current £0.60 mark. What happens now? Well, from the 1st November 2008:-

- Private users can continue to use marked fuel (red diesel) providing they make a simple declaration to the supplier and pay the full duty rate for heavy oil;
- Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils (RDCOs) will be responsible for declaring the duty collected to HMRC; and,

- Fuel purchased for domestic use (i.e. not for propulsion of the craft) can continue to be purchased at the rebated rate.

This means that existing outlets can continue to sell Red Diesel to boat owners after 1st Nov 2008 and that you can have it in your tanks, however, you do need to ensure that you obtain a suitably endorsed receipt and keep it for inspection. For vessels with diesel powered heating systems that run off their main tank, they will still be entitled to purchase it at the rebated price, but only for heating. What this will mean to our friends in the Dutch Revenue service that have already been fining British vessels with Red Diesel in their tanks remains to be seen... For the most up to date information view our Website and click on the links.

Lee Foster
Rear Commodore

In The Library

Two shelves in the library have in the past been devoted to paperbacks donated by members. These are not part of the library proper and are not in the library catalogue. They can be taken without the necessity of return but it would be better if another were left in its place. In other words 'Bring one Take one'

Thanks mainly to members gifts the library is slowly growing supplemented by a few books liberated from charity shops. To create more room extra shelves have now been put up just inside the door into the main club room and the paper-back collection has been moved to there.

Tony Cowley
Librarian

Sailing 2008

Since the introduction of the Three Clubs River series in 2002 concerns have been expressed about the lack of uniformity of handicapping. Over the years each Club has adjusted their own fleet's figures, which has led to unfair advantages and disadvantages when the Clubs race together. Now it seems that a solution has emerged in the form of Byronsoftware, whose website holds not only a fairly comprehensive list of Portsmouth Yardstick numbers, but the means by which to request a calculation of your yacht tailored to her individual features, such as headsail smaller than base rig, propeller configuration, no spinnaker etc. They claim to 'apply a bit more science to cruiser calculations due to the large range and problems of applying the basic PY scheme alone'.

To obtain a calculation of your cruiser just fill out the information on the website and send it to them. Although this service is technically free they welcome donations of about £5 per yacht for electronic requests, or £10 for paper submissions (requests without a donation will be dealt with when they have free time, so may take longer). The Sailing Committee will accept Byron derived figures on sight of the report, as will the 3CRS. If there is sufficient interest we would also consider funding an 'on block' approach for PMSC boats, in which case yacht details would have to be submitted to the Sailing Committee first.

Rick Kirkup requested a review of Astraea's basic handicap of 974, and, because of a newer displacement figure and other issues, they came up with 1005 (1025 without spinnaker). So it could be worth your while to visit www.byronsoftware.org.uk, and let me know how you get on!

Still on the subject of racing, may I remind you that 3CRS entry forms are available from our website and must be returned to Matthew House at RHYC, not the host Club. The first race is on May 10th. Entry forms for the June and Ward Cups will be posted on the website shortly, as will the 2008 Regatta documentation. These need to be returned to the Club to 'The Race Officer', or pinned to the 'Sailing Results' notice board to the right

of the bar. As always, if you would like a paper copy just let me, or Lee – or in fact anyone- know and it will be sent to you. Also Steve Penn is looking for a third hand for Club races in a nice little Sadler 25. Contact me if you are interested.

There will be a Bank Holiday cruise on the weekend of 24th May, and, as last year we will probably choose the destination when we have an idea which way the wind will blow. The lunchtime BBQ at Ewarton Ness will be on the following Saturday and is suitable for any craft. In June we have two more races to look forward to, and of course the Barge Match.

July 12th is the date for the Smack and Working Boat Race, and Jon Humby, who is organizing the weekend chartering of the smack 'Pioneer', is in need of more punters for the Sunday sail back to Brightlingsea. Apparently, if they don't have a full crew of 12 for Sunday then they won't bring her for the race on Saturday. This would be a tremendous loss for the event, for, not only is she a magnificent sight to behold, but all those who sailed on her last year described it as an experience they wouldn't have wanted to miss. Talk to Jon about details and costs. 'Phone 01473 788806 or email vice-commodore@pmsc.org.uk.

See you on the water!

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

Archive Group

A log written by Bill Fairhead, a past Commodore of this Club, which covers a trip around Holland in his yacht New Year's Gift during 1989 and 1990, is now in the archives. It is a well-written account of a varied trip, much of it undertaken on his own. This log was discovered by Dilly and passed on to the Club. If anyone would like to read this interesting log, please get in touch with the archive group. Renee Waite, Marjorie Carter, or Shirley Balfe.

Renee Waite

Good Friday working party

Although the weather on Good Friday morning was not of the best we again had a splendid turnout for the traditional Good Friday working party. The two dozen or so willing volunteers tackled a long list of small – and some big - jobs of painting, mending, preventive maintenance, cleaning and tidying before receiving the traditional free drink and hot snack. A big thank you to Val Stone (morning shift) and Andrew Milligan/Viv Brown (afternoon shift) for - amongst other things - providing the food and hot drinks which were especially welcome given the weather. The result of these efforts is that the Clubhouse and surrounding area are now much cleaner, tidier, safer and more secure and ready for the season's activities.

On behalf of the membership at large I should like to thank all those who helped to save the Club some money by contributing their time and skills - namely David Abbott, David Barklem, John Bowen, Simon Brown, Fred Everitt, Simon Everitt, Lee Foster, Mike Goater, Tim Greenard, Pat & Paul Hand, Malcolm Harding, Peter Hinks, Rosie Kirkup, Andrew Milligan, Jeremy Prosser, Dilly Ridge, Bryan Rogers, Ian Saunders, Hettie Watts, John Webb. (With apologies to anyone whose name I've overlooked!) A number of those mentioned also joined the doughty band of spade and shovel wielders who braved the rapidly deteriorating weather in the afternoon to dig some of the accumulated mud out of the Grindle.

The bigger jobs which were completed included finishing the re-decoration of the Games Room, and the digging over and restocking with shrubs of the strip of garden adjacent to the main gate about which Pat Hand is (I hope) writing separately. More recently the appearance and comfort of the Games Room, Library, and entrance lobby have been enhanced by replacing the ageing and somewhat rotten river-facing windows with modern double-glazed ones.

Remember that it's your Club, so if you have any suggestions for things which might improve its appearance or facilities and/or would like to volunteer to help carry them

out, don't be shy, get in touch (my contact details are on the website and in the almanac) so we can discuss it.

Rick Kirkup
Hon Property Sec

Pin Mill Hard Update

After a sabbatical of some sixteen months Babergh District Council called a meeting of their Pin Mill Task Group for the 4th April 2008, unfortunately the short notice of this meeting precluded the full attendance of all PMSC representatives. Minutes from this meeting have now been issued and the salient points may be summarised as follows

The Group were informed that the vessel 'Mousmee' had now been dumped downstream of the houseboat area, along with a few other small boats. ABP would investigate any possible enforcement action, and write to Ipswich BC to see if they would contemplate any action.

The group was advised that the grant bid to the Haven Gateway Project in January 2007 had not been successful to date, although no rejection had been received either. The following funding options were now to be explored:

- ❖ Haven Gateway - Ipswich Policy Area Board Fund and the Green Infrastructure Fund
- ❖ Heritage Lottery Fund
- ❖ BDC funding

The 'Golden Fleece' - there was a discussion on what would happen if this vessel (which is propped up by timbers) were to break up, because its mooring position at a semi-parallel angle would create a few berths if it disappeared.

Refuse Arrangements - Babergh confirmed that the summer weekly collection had now started, and in addition the site would be inspected every Monday.

It was asked if there was any possibility of the houseboat wheelies being picked up at the rear of the pub car park. Babergh confirmed that if a suitable standing area and access was created they would be happy to bring the refuse contractor to site to discuss this revised collection point. It was requested that if this happened the bin store be screened by wooden fencing.

Removal of Dry Dock - ABP reported that the dry dock, and a few smaller vessels, had been towed to the hard, broken up and removed. Grave concern was expressed that, as a result of these actions, there was still steelwork left buried, and the surface of the Hard had been damaged. Both these problems were a health and safety issue at present. It was agreed to establish the extent of the problem, and what action could be taken.

It was asked whether there were any potential changes in legislation regarding the discharge of sewage from the houseboats. Babergh indicated that the situation at Pin Mill had not changed since investigation a few years ago and two options were developed. Babergh to provide a brief summary of the previous options at the next meeting.

Pin Mill Hard Post Date

Improvements to the hard and the means of financing them, appear to have been a longstanding concern. The following being transcripts of articles which appeared in the "Ipswich Journal" on 27th May 1887 and 10th February 1900.

Chelmondiston

The Jubilee - The first meeting of the Committee was held on Tuesday evening, when Messrs. B King, D Harrington, W. J. Mayes, W. Garrard and P. Webb were added to their number. The Rev. J. R. Cooke was voted to the chair, and Mr D. C. Packard and Mr Locke were elected joint secretaries. Mr J. Richardson was unanimously elected treasurer. It was proposed and seconded that all children in the parish between the ages of three years and 14 years be invited to a tea. This it was estimated would cost about £10. A sub-committee was appointed to consider the best means of improving the Pin Mill hard, consisting of the Rev. J. R. Cooke, Messrs.

Richardson Garrard, Wood, Elmer, Rudland and Harboard; and a play-ground committee was also appointed. Messrs. Walker, Seaman, Rudland, and Richardson were also made a sub-committee to arrange about the fireworks etc. A subscription list was opened in the room and about £12 was immediately promised by those present.

Chelmondiston

SMOKING CONCERT - On Saturday evening a smoking concert was given at the Foresters Arms, in aid of the Pin Mill "Hard" fund. Songs were rendered by Messrs. Calvert, Cotton, Spilling, Fish, Cook, Cullington, Box, Cracknell, Howlett, Cotton (Preston) Baxter etc. Mr Raphael accompanied. Miss Howlett gave a pianoforte selection, and Mr. Hazell manipulated a gramophone. Mr J. G. Elmer presided over a large company.

Ian Saunders
Hon. Moorings Secretary

In the Garden

A few weeks before the Good Friday working party day at the Clubhouse I received a phone call from Rick Kirkup "Would I be interested in replanting the border by the lane?" I gave a hesitant yes, being a newish member I didn't want to upset anybody.

As a keen gardener I have lots of gardening books, and I made full use of these to select the plants for the border. They need to be what I call "bomb" proof, able to survive without too much attention. So with a budget of £75.00 I set off for the garden centres. My first port of call was our local Cherry Lane Garden Centre, where I found some excellent plants. Then on to one of the large nationals, where I was very disappointed with the quality of the plants, but I did buy some herbs, which looked like new arrivals! So far so good, but I still needed more plants.

Going "on-line" to search for garden centres in south Suffolk north Essex area we found Colne Valley Nursery at White Colne. This proved to be a gem of a nursery. It is a small independent, only open around the week-end.

I would say this is the best nursery I have visited, the quality of the plants and variety were excellent and I would certainly recommend a visit.

Good Friday

The weather forecast was not that promising, but the rain held off until the afternoon. With the help of Tim, Peter and Paul the border was mainly cleared, saving bulbs to be replanted, some roses were left in and two shrubs. After much hard work improving the texture of the soil and the addition of several bags of compost, the planting was completed.....with many thanks to the Navvies!!!!

For those who may be interested, this is a list of the plants:

Shrubs:

Escallonia Iveyi
Senecio Sunshine
Rosemary Officinalis
Pyracantha Soleil d`or
Hypericum Excellent Flair
Forsythia Weekend
Berberis verruculosa
Viburnum Tinus Senecio
Purple Sage

Perennials:

Oregano
Eryngium planim
Stachys byzantine lanata
Alchemilla mollis thriller

Pat Hand

Ooops!

The Sailing Programme attached to the March Newsletter published an incorrect date for the Barge Match. It will be on June 28th. All other sources of information are correct.