



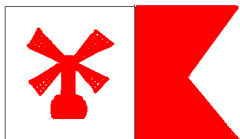
# Pin Mill Sailing Club



## March 2007 Newsletter

For all the very latest information, visit the website at [www.pmsc.org.uk](http://www.pmsc.org.uk)

### Commodore's Corner



We have had a busy social time since the last newsletter with Burns Night, a splendid supper and due reverence paid to the Haggis! Followed by Scottish dancing an energetic hour for all those involved. We had a full house when Penny Jones and Tim Fenton gave a wonderful illustrated talk of their experiences with children Eddie and Anna and their ARC trip, which we all enjoyed.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March we have a talk by Imre Vadasz on the Fastnet '79, I hope you can join us. Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> March we have New Members' Evening, with a short talk by some of the Committee to explain who we are and to give some of the history of Club, with a chance for everyone to chat and meet up with New Members. So do come along to make our new members welcome.

Following on, we have the Good Friday Working Party, our Property Secretary always appreciates a helping hand and at about 4.30p.m. we have our Annual Grindle Dig, when spades to the ready a team of any volunteers clears the mud away from the side of Grindle as the tide goes down to let the water flow freely enabling dinghies to be towed up the Grindle from the hard. This is usually a happy, muddy event, and all are welcome to join us here, bring your own spade! There will be a bacon roll and a free pint in the clubhouse for all those who have participated. On Easter Monday the Studio at Pin Mill are holding their Annual Duck Race, and the clubhouse bar will be manned by Committee volunteers between midday and 3 pm for those in need of a pint and a packet of crisps (no food).

The Fitting Out Supper is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April where there will be Jackie & Jo's excellent food - tear off slip is attached to this newsletter. Our Dinner Dance this year is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Fynn Valley Golf Club, where we spent a very successful evening last year, so this is just an early note for your diaries.

This is also the final reminder for Subscriptions, which were due

### Diary



#### Saturday 10th March

Fastnet '79 an informal talk  
7.30 for 8pm. See inside

#### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March

New Member's Evening  
See Sailing column

#### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Race management 19.30  
See Sailing column

#### Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Working Party 9am onwards  
Grindle Dig 16.30  
Details inside

#### Easter Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Club open 12 – 15.00  
(no food)

#### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Goes presentation evening  
Going Dutch.

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Fitting Out Supper  
See Tear-off slip

#### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Bank Holiday Cruise TBA  
and start of Sailing Programme  
Full calendar with this newsletter

The next Newsletter will be in May. Contributions please by April 6th to [editor@pmsc.org.uk](mailto:editor@pmsc.org.uk) or by post to:  
14 ,The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7EZ

on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. The membership cards are being despatched at the moment and we are taking the opportunity to enclose the Fire Safety Reminder, as we are required to inform all members of our safety policy for Health & Safety reasons. Please take a moment to read this through.

We have had a couple of problems with use of the toilet/shower facilities and Rick, our Property Secretary, has written about this further in the newsletter. On a happier note, our Sailing Committee has been very busy setting up a programme for the year and Steve Clay our Sailing Secretary has various dates for you. So we hope to catch up with as many members as possible at one of our Sailing or Social events.

**Dilly Ridge  
Commodore**

## Sailing 2007



The Sailing Committee is working hard to ensure that a varied and interesting programme of events and opportunities are on offer to members throughout the coming season. Building on last year's successes, we hope that events such as the Smacks and Working Boats races and the intriguingly entitled 'Mystery Cruise' will attract even more boats and participants alike. We were encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the young people who turned out last year and are keen to support their continued presence at both racing and cruising events.

For fans of racing, we are planning continued involvement in the 3 Clubs River Series and in addition to the Regatta weekend will be offering two Members races. As a new committee we are keen to learn all we can about racing but with the emphasis as ever on enjoyment and participation. We will be arranging for some 'inspirational' speakers for the New Members evening to cover the basics such as how to enter; how to get a handicap if you don't have one; what you need to know to participate, stay safe and have fun. The Committee are also getting

together for an evening with Fiona Wylie to run through what is involved in organising and running races. Any Club member will be welcome to attend so if you've ever fancied running up the Class flag, wondered what the start sequence is, or just fancy learning a bit more, come along to the Club at 7.30 on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Last year's Regatta proved that there is potential for extra activities and we have taken the bold step of hosting a fun afternoon of Topper and Dinghy racing for all ages during the summer holidays.

Cruising features large in the PMSC calendar these days and this year should prove no exception. Whether it's barbequing at Ewarton Ness or a Bank Holiday cruise around the Backwaters there will be plenty of chance to enjoy the company of other members in and around our beautiful local waters. For those keen to go further a-field, the very popular once annual trip to Goes has been resurrected and will take place between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July. There is also a distinct possibility of a cruise to Rhoon and there are more details in this Newsletter from Fred Everitt. We will be at the New Members evening, and are obviously hoping to see lots of old members too, with all our cruising plans along with some people who are experienced in both long and short hops to whet our appetites for this year.

So, take a few minutes to look through this year's Sailing Calendar at the back of this Newsletter and come along to what takes your fancy. We have a strong and growing membership at PMSC and the Committee hopes that this year's programme will make you want to be involved in Club sailing events.

Finally, we are currently looking over last year's cruising logs that were entered in our annual competition. If you are planning any trips, short or long for this year that you think would make good subject matter for sharing with others why not consider entering?

**Steve Clay.  
Sailing Secretary.**

## Good Friday working party – 6<sup>th</sup> April - England expects!

Just a gentle reminder to all able bodied (see \* below for definition) members 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 helping to lower and erect (steady now...) the mast will be most welcome. All volunteers will be rewarded with a free drink and a bacon roll.

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 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](mailto:Property_Secretary@pmsc.org.uk) or adding your name to the list of volunteers on the club notice board. I will be at the Club from 9am onwards but arrive as you wish.

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

**Rick Kirkup  
Property Sec**

## New Members

We would like to welcome to the club:  
Mr & Mrs N Gutteridge from London, they have a Blackwater Sloop

Rod, Lesley & Duncn Woods from West Mersea

## I Didn't Plan for That...

Early in July we enjoyed marvellous weather and fair breezes, which saw us arrive onboard Harmony in Boulogne. We enjoyed a few very pleasant days there, even if the wind was a bit fresh (we left the beach the first day as sand was blowing horizontally into our ears), but we were happy, as we were safely ensconced.

The wind dropped to a manageable NW 5-6 so we decided to hop across the Channel to Dover. This did mean that a few long tacks would be needed to get us to Cap Gris Nez, but as I hadn't mentioned the need for any "zig zagging" to Elaine, I thought she might not notice...

We had just cleared the breakwater by a couple of hundred yards, the main was up and I had unfurled the genoa. Elaine popped below to rescue the Mr Bean bear, who had decided to jump out of his bunk and shoot across the cabin sole. The wind was the promised NW 6 and my thoughts turned to whether to put a reef in the main. At this point I took just the first touch of some weather helm, when SNAP, I had the tiller in my hand, but it was no longer attached to the rudder. At the sound of my rather excited expletive and call for "all hand on deck" (Anglo-Saxon version), Elaine immediately appeared up the companionway and was somewhat taken aback at the tiller being waved at her like a baseball bat. The tide and wind were trying to push us back to the breakwater, so the engine was put on and sails dropped hurriedly. Fortunately about 8 inches of broken tiller was still attached, so Elaine was given the job of steering, while I worked out what to do next. The solution I decided on was to saw the broken end of the tiller square, re-drill it and bolt it back into place. All very easy in a workshop, not so easy with wind, bouncy seas and a breakwater getting closer...

A saw and a hand drill were duly produced and I set about the task of squaring off. Next came removing the existing bolts, which again was successful (I did not expect a problem – I take the tiller off every winter to varnish it – this one being no exception). The

now shortened tiller was put into place, marked for holes, and the stump put back in place for Elaine to continue steering. After much sweating with the hand drill, three 8mm holes had been drilled and the tiller was ready to be fixed into place. One of the holes didn't quite line up, but we had two in place and could now steer easily while I "adjusted" the third hole. The Autohelm bracket was re-fixed further along the tiller, and we were in business.

All this in about 20 minutes. As there is no shop in Boulogne that sells tillers off the shelf (to my knowledge) there did not seem any point in returning, so we continued on for England. Mr Bean was put back in his bunk, totally oblivious to the excitement and we continued on up to Cap Gris Nez to cross the TSS in five long tacks. After all that Elaine hardly noticed we were zig zagging.

There is a purpose to this story: I have regularly removed and lovingly sanded and varnished the tiller, never noticing that anything was amiss. On close inspection of the broken end, it had suffered from a sort of dry rot, becoming internally very weak, but with no significant evidence on the outside, apart from a little grey marbling. Being now aware that there was a problem, I found I could push a screwdriver into the end-grain. I have made a new tiller from an excellent piece of Mahogany purchased from Gus, but from now on will check the condition of the end-grain before varnishing and would suggest that other boat owners do the same!

A job over the winter will be to make a spare, so that in another 20 years or so I have one to put straight on, if this were to happen again.

**Lee Foster**  
**Rear Commodore**

### **Bookline Special Offer**

*20% off Reeds Nautical Almanac with free delivery to customers on the Peninsular.*

List price £34.99, Bookline price **£27.99**.

Order from Angela at the bar or contact

**Bookline:** Tel. Or Fax: 01473 328227

E-mail [contact@bookline.info](mailto:contact@bookline.info)

Web: [www.bookline.info](http://www.bookline.info)

## **PIN MILL PANTO COMPANY**

Once again the Pin Mill Panto Company (aka High Water Mark) performed their annual panto at the club's New Year's Eve party. Our collection this year was for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in memory of Jenny Rogers. We are pleased to tell you that we raised £105.

The Pin Mill Panto Company plays only to selected audiences, this year our performances were limited to New Year's Eve at Pin Mill Sailing Club and January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Harwich YC. The collection from the Royal Harwich raised £139, which gave us a total of £244 to send to the MS Society. Thanks to everyone that contributed to the collection and we hope you enjoyed our production of Aladdin.

### **Bradwell Quay Yacht Club**

has recently published it's sailing programme for 2007. As a feature of our Member's Rallies we will be visiting several Yacht Clubs around the East Coast.

As a result our own Club House is available to other clubs throughout the summer months. So why not visit the Waterside at Bradwell on Sea, mooring in the safety of the Creek or Bradwell Marina, and visit the Club House. Our steward will be happy to open the bar to visiting clubs and we can arrange dinner if required. Alternatively you can always go DIY in making use of the facilities. We have an excellent BBQ and fully equipped kitchen that we are willing to allow other clubs to use. Just let us know when you are planning to come and what your requirements are. We can then make arrangements and ensure there is no clash. Make Bradwell Quay one of your Club Cruise venues this year.

Best regards Tony Comber  
(01268 772266 office hours / answer phone) or Robin Harris, Vice Commodore  
(01277 623638)  
Club House 07804 841344

## **Abuse of Club facilities**

Unfortunately in recent weeks we have experienced two incidents of gross waste of electricity and in one case also significant waste of water, both of which have cost the club quite a lot of money. Our cleaners discovered the incidents early on the respective Monday mornings and both involved misuse of the clubs toilet/shower facilities. In the first case the electric shower in the gents was left running, probably from Sunday afternoon, ie. in excess of 12 hours of wasted electricity and metered water. In the more recent incident all of the lights and the electric wall heater in the Ladies were left switched on - again probably since Sunday afternoon.

Even under normal patterns of consumption the club's power cost is worryingly high and is the subject of current investigations to see how it can be reduced. Given these recent events, the General Committee must now consider the most cost effective means of minimizing the risk and impact of further abuse, including the security of the premises, which may necessitate changing the locks.

In the meantime, if anyone has any knowledge of events on either Sunday 7 January or Sunday 4 February that may cast light on what took place would they please speak to any member of General Committee? Above all it would be helpful to find out whether the incidents were accidental or deliberate. Although the similarities between the two incidents lead us to think that vandalism may be the cause, it could be coincidence and the cost – and potential impact on members of increased security – will be greater if what we have to protect against in future is vandalism rather than carelessness.

## **Like a Trip to Rhoon?**

Very few members are remaining who remember the 2 previous visits to Rhoon (situated on the Oude Maas near Dordrecht / Rotterdam). On the first occasion 13 yachts

attended (Royal Harwich and Pin Mill) and on the second, 42 yachts attended (Royal Harwich, Waldringfield, Woodbridge CC, Pin Mill and Haven Ports). The two occasions were quite different, however the very warm welcome was the same.

An invitation has been received for a third visit for the August Bank Holiday (Thursday through to Sunday). At this stage it is exploratory, but I would be interested in numbers of boats/people who would like to make a commitment. Please contact me on 01473 780329.

**Fred Everitt**

## **Out of Country Membership**

It was agreed at the Annual General Meeting that a new category of membership would be set up. The idea was to accommodate those members whose lives have taken them too far away from the Club to enjoy its facilities but who want to maintain contact. In the event that their circumstances change, this would make a return to full membership easier.

You can find the main terms, as presented to the AGM, in the rules, which are on the Club Website. Essentially, for a reduced annual subscription, a person can apply for *Out of Country Membership* provided they have been full members for at least a year and on the basis that they will be out of the UK for whole membership year or number of years.

Additionally, this will allow them to:-

- Visit the Club a maximum of 6 times in the year
- Access the newsletters/circulars via the website
- Receive a membership card, provided that they pay the postage
- Continue to fly the Club burgee

**Romy Blackburn**  
**Hon Club Secretary**

