



Pin Mill Sailing Club



November 2008 Newsletter

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

Commodore's Corner

Well, laying up has started with gusto and sadly, this year, October seems to have had more sunshine than the rest of the summer put together, and just as children are back at school and everyone is back at work with the evenings drawing in. Such is life!

Looking back at the Regatta, this was well attended and we had a super BBQ at the prize-giving (well done the House Committee) and it was good to see everyone there. Our charity night with the Blooze Brothers was a wonderful success, a full Clubhouse, lots of people doing a "turn" and the glamorous youngsters keeping the energy levels up. Supper was prepared by Anthony Cullen with friends and family and I believe over £600 was collected over the evening. A very worthwhile effort by everyone. By popular request the Blooze Brothers are returning to the Clubhouse on the 15th November, another chance to enjoy a very entertaining evening.

Jackie and Jo provided an excellent Laying Up Supper as ever. Splendid food with generous quantities, and although there were not so many people there this year, it was a relaxed evening and we were all able to have conversations up and down the table.

The Photographic Competition provided a wealth of talent. Anthony and Matt looked at the entrants and came to a decision from a good number of photos, giving us helpful hints to make sure that next year we have a good idea of how to improve our efforts. And from those entrants we chose, by ballot, the photo for the front cover of the Almanac for 2009.

We are collecting together entrants for the Rivers Rally, so if you haven't participated this year then look on the website for details. It is all about taking a photo of a place or waypoint you have visited during the year, claim the points, and the person with the most points wins. It could be you next year! There is the log competition, which closes at the end of this month, and again, if you haven't participated this year, then think about it next year. It doesn't have to be a mammoth tour, just a few days in and around the Orwell will be fine. We just want to read about your activities afloat.

Diary



Saturday 8th November
Dinner Dance at Fynn Valley

Saturday 15th November
Blues, Rock 'n' Soul night.
See inside.

Saturday 22nd November
AGM. 20.00hrs

Sunday 7th December
Christmas Lunch 12.30-13.00

Saturday 13th December
Shanties and Ditties

Wednesday 24th December
Christmas Eve Carols

Friday 26th December
Boxing Day – Dancing and singing with the Morris Men (and Women). Refreshments.

Wednesday 31st December
New Year's Eve Supper

Saturday 10th January
Quiz Night

London Boat Show
At Excel
9th – 18th January
Ticket discount information inside

*The next Newsletter will be in December. Contributions please by 28th November to: circular@pmsc.org.uk
Or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EZ*

Our Social calendar comes into its own now with the Dinner Dance, and sadly again this will not be well attended. There seems to be little enthusiasm this year, so perhaps the event will rest awhile. Then there is the AGM when I arrive at the end of my term of office, then Jon Humby becomes Commodore and I am certain he will take up the baton with energy.

We have Shanties and Ditties, which is always a good fun evening and then as Christmas approaches there are Christmas Eve Carols and then the Morris Men are visiting us again on Boxing Day. It is always good to see families at the Clubhouse and we do hope you all can join us at one or two of the events.

**Dilly Ridge
Commodore**

Welcome Aboard to New Members

David and Anna Scarisbrick, from Shotley Gate. They sail a Buchanan named Skean Dhu.

James Ackland and Hazel Wheeler, from Chelmondiston.

Rebecca Ackland and Karl Pardor, from Ipswich.

Blues, Rock 'n' Soul night Saturday 15th November 2008

The audience response to the first 'Blues Rock 'n' Soul Night' at PMSC on 13th of September was enthusiastic to say the least. Singers and dancers of all ages joined in to create a real party atmosphere with one very talented guitarist who happened to be passing calling it the most enjoyable night out ever!

So we decided to have another 'open mic' night - live music again hosted by Pin Mill's very own band of *mature (but still moving)* guitar heroes - The B'ooze Brothers - and hereby extend an invitation to any individual or group with a yen to play or sing their party piece to come along and perform.

All musical tastes welcome - the scope being defined as 'Not Shanties', since of course the occasion for those will be the PMSC Shanties and Ditties evening on 13th December.

So don't be shy, bring your guitar/fiddle/harmonica/tambourine/penny whistle and do your thing in front of a friendly audience - or just sit and have a drink and be amazed by the musical talent all around you!

We look forward to seeing you there from 20:00.

Rick Kirkup

November the 1st is Diesel-Day New rules explained

The British Marine Federation (BMF), RYA and Inland Waterways Association (IWA) have jointly issued a briefing note on how to cope with the end of the derogation on red diesel on 1st November 2008. The changes to duty paid on the fuel result from tax harmonization measures introduced by the European Commission. Following extensive cooperation with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), private pleasure craft owners will be able to continue to use red diesel for propulsion use, but at a modified duty rate. Red diesel at a rebated rate will still be available for domestic purposes, such as heating and lighting. Recreational boaters will declare the percentage of fuel to be used for propulsion and domestic use respectively. HMRC has provided advice on calculating this percentage split which includes the following:

"It is for the purchaser to declare the percentage of fuel used for propulsion. However, analysis by both the industry and HMRC suggests that a split of 60 per cent for propulsion and 40 per cent for domestic use (heating and cooking) probably reflects most people's use and it is therefore likely that many users will declare such an apportionment."

Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils (RDCO) will need to account to HMRC for any additional duty they receive from recreational boaters. RDCOs already owe a

general duty of care to ensure that they only make supplies of controlled oil for legitimate uses. Howard Pridding, Executive Director of the BMF said: “While no-one is going to pretend that the duty increase on red diesel is a good thing, we are pleased that HMRC has provided a simple and user friendly framework for suppliers and boaters. Availability was a key concern so we are particularly pleased that recreational craft users and fuel suppliers can continue to use red diesel. “HMRC has listened to the concerns of industry and boaters and has produced a manageable solution to an unwelcome but unavoidable change in the law.”

Gus Lewis, Legal and Government Affairs Manager at the RYA added: “The UK Government and HMRC have consistently supported us on the red diesel issue, including seeking (albeit unsuccessfully) an extension of the UK’s derogation for the use of red diesel that expired on 31 December 2006. We hope the framework will reduce disruption for boaters and suppliers and help mitigate the impact of the change in duty.”

THE BRIEFING NOTE

How will it work?

When recreational boaters buy diesel for their craft, they will need to make a declaration to the supplier if they intend the fuel to be used for propelling a private pleasure craft. The recreational boater will also declare what percentage of the fuel will be used for propulsion (as opposed to domestic purposes such as heating and lighting).

How will the boater work out what percentage of fuel they intend to use for propulsion?

HMRC has understood our arguments about the potential difficulties for fuel suppliers in calculating duty and VAT – in particular for the smaller operators – when faced with customers claiming different percentages of fuel used for propulsion. HMRC also appreciates the concerns of users about the difficulty of calculating and apportioning their own intended usage accurately and their worries about unintentionally making an inaccurate declaration. However, the EU Energy Products Directive specifically refers to ‘fuel for the purposes of navigation’ (which is reflected in UK law as ‘fuel for

propelling’), so there is no legal basis for imposing a single standard apportionment to be applied universally that pays no regard to actual usage for propulsion.

HMRC has confirmed to the BMF, RYA, and IWA that their advice on this issue is as below:

HMRC ADVICE

Q. What will be the allowance for fuel used on boats for heating and lighting?

A. There is no fixed allowance. It is for the purchaser to declare the percentage of fuel used for propulsion. However, analysis by both the industry and HMRC suggests that a split of 60 per cent for propulsion and 40 per cent for domestic use (heating, cooking etc) probably reflects most people’s use and it is therefore likely that many users will declare such an apportionment. This will make it easier for suppliers (RDCOs) to work out additional duty and VAT. However, where a purchaser knows that their propulsion use may be more or less than the above apportionment split or a craft clearly has no domestic use, then they must declare their actual intended usage.

Q. What about residential boat owners where nearly all fuel is for domestic purposes – what can they declare?

A. We have recognized the status of residential boat owners whose primary residence is their boat. Some of these will be at fixed moorings or move just a very short distance along the tow path from permanent moorings. If they live aboard the craft permanently and hold certain documentation, such as a Houseboat Licence, Residential Mooring Licence, Council Tax Bill in respect of the mooring, or other peripheral documentation, invoices or bills which provides proof of permanent residency, they may purchase all their fuel at the rebated rate (as if they were a commercial vessel). They will still be required to make and sign a declaration saying that zero per cent of the fuel is for propelling purposes. It will be the responsibility of the declarant to ensure that they hold the requisite documentation should HMRC wish to check the validity of the declaration made in these circumstances. Continuous cruisers may not declare zero

per cent under these arrangements, even if they reside permanently on their craft, they must declare their actual intended usage for propulsion



Christmas is coming...

Not sure what to buy the Yachtsman (or woman) with everything this Christmas?

Lent up against your fresh anti-fouling in your favourite Pin Mill sweatshirt?

A full range of merchandise is available, ranging from Polo shirts to Fleeces –

Check out the website or ask at the Club. If you wish to order something not in stock, or have a special request, just get in touch!

merchandise@pmsc.org.uk

Lee Foster 01473 780857

Shanties & Ditties Evening Dec 13th 20.00

“SOS” “Support our shanties” evening! Since I have been a member of PMSC, the odd thirty years or so, there has always been a shanties and ditties evening. In the earlier years there were some cracking traditional singers who worked on the barges who sang songs handed down from generation to generation. Sadly some of these songs have since disappeared along with these great characters who sang them. I mentioned to someone at a shanty evening that it’s a shame all these old characters have gone, only to be told you lot (High Water mark) are the old boys now (sorry Jean). John Goodluck, another good traditional singer, recently said to Mick Lungley, ‘only you lot and Status Quo have been around this long’.

Back to the plot - we are searching for apprentices to carry on this fine tradition, and ensure employment for local breweries etc. So come along have a go, or just please come along and help make it a great night.

(ps We are always looking for traditional material so if you have, or know anyone who has, old songs or instruments tucked away and think they should be sung or played we can help)

High Water Mark Shanty Crew

London International Boat Show at Excel (9th – 18th Jan 2009)

Following the successful ‘Clubs & Associations’ initiative to promote attendance at the 2008 London Boat Show, National Boat Shows have agreed to similar arrangements for the next London show at Excel.

PMSC members and their families & friends will be able to take advantage of heavily discounted tickets that include admission on Preview Day. At the London show there will be a better sited dedicated bar within the North Hall, available for the use of holders of these tickets.

As before, tickets can be ordered directly by individual PMSC members using the special PMSC reference code - this time over the Internet as well as the telephone - via ‘Seatem’ the new (and hopefully *much* more efficient!) NBS ticket agency - see details below. These special prices and facilities are available to PMSC Members and family and friends travelling with them so please do not divulge the special codes to others.

Tickets: £8.50 valid any day including Preview Day

Telephone bookings: 0844 209 0333

Website bookings: londonboatshow.com

Pin Mill Sailing Club’s special reference code is: JGL 35

The above telephone number and website are for orders of less than 10 tickets in any one

transaction. Orders for 10 or more tickets at a time can *only* be made by telephoning National Boat Shows group booking ticketing agency on 0207 014 8444. Also see important notes below.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- When you are ordering tickets and are asked to choose a date, requesting them for the 'Preview' day will produce tickets that are valid for *any* day of the show.
- A single transaction fee of £1.25 applies whether ordering one or any greater number of tickets, which can be purchased right up until the last day of the show
- Because it could take up to 7 days or so for them to arrive by post, tickets purchased shortly before or during the show can be collected on arrival from the advance ticket box office at the main entrance. The most expedient option, for those ordering tickets over the Internet, is to use the website's 'Print at home' facility.
- Youngsters under 15 yrs go free (up to two per accompanying adult) provided tickets for them are requested when ordering adult tickets.

Rick Kirkup

Christmas Events at the Club

As the festive season approaches, I thought a little reminder of what's in store might be appropriate. To start the ball rolling, Jackie and Jo's famous Christmas lunch will be on Sunday 7th December. Cost has yet to be confirmed. Book by adding your name(s) to the list on the Club notice board. Bookings close on Sunday 30th November. Queries to Ron Watts (tel: 01473 780739) NOT to Jackie or Jo.

Nothing gets us into the Christmas spirit like a good old singsong so make sure you come along to the ever-popular Shanties and Ditties on Saturday 13th featuring High Water Mark (as seen on TV, albeit briefly). You will be able to stimulate the vocal cords again during Carols on Christmas Eve and, if still in good

voice, more carols will follow the Morris Men at lunchtime on Boxing Day. To end 2008 and welcome 2009 there will be our usual New Year's Eve gathering with a simple snack buffet. Details and times of the above are in the "Diary".

Eileen Madden
Hon. Social Secretary

In the Library

A newly published book 'Stour Secrets' by Ken Rickwood has been added to the History section of the library. This is a very detailed account of the Stour from Harwich and Shotley to just above Brantham. Ken Rickwood gives not only descriptions of points of interest on both banks of the river but historical information backed up by pictures ranging from a Bronze Age axe head to a modern cruise ship at Parkeston Quay

Tony Cowley
Librarian

Sailing 2008

This year's Regatta was very nearly a blow-out with a vicious SW wind. Fortunately there were a number of hardy sailors prepared to cross the start line, and some of them even came back!

Regatta Winners

Blagden Cup Transcur - P Thomas
Quest Cup Halcyon - T Summers
Jock Marshall Trophy
Thunderer - J William
Tempest Cup Astraea - R Kirkup
RNLI Race (Peter Pickering Plate)
Wild Side - A Gilson

The final 3CRS Race was a trial for a different reason - *no wind!* And, sadly, we have had to say goodbye to the Evening Star Trophy for at least a year. It now graces the shelves of the Royal Harwich Yacht Club. Our fastest boat was Adie Gilson's Wild Side, for which he takes home the Churchman Cup.

The presentation for the Log Competition and Rivers Rally will take place at the AGM on

the 22nd of November. And as the sailing season draws towards a conclusion I would like to thank all of you who have supported the Club's events this year, and look forward to seeing you on the river next year.

Val Stone
Hon.Sailing Secretary

Flower Festival

Pin Mill Sailing Club was asked to provide a floral exhibit for the flower festival that took place at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Chelmondiston on the weekend of 27th and 28th of September 2008. After much thought and preparation Dilly, Hetty, Christine and myself spent a fun afternoon completing a floral yacht and several fleets of vegetable and fruit sailing boats. Our exhibit attracted much attention and received compliments from the visiting public. Most of the organizations in the village were represented. For those members who were unable to visit this event I have placed photographs in the Clubhouse.

Renee Waite

NAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION 2008

It was probably the effect of this season's far from clement weather that the number of entries to the 2008 competition was a little less than in previous years. That said, the reduction in quantity was more than made up by the outstanding quality of the photographs entered by the 18 competitors. Great attention was clearly being paid to composition, detail, unusual viewpoints and the effects of light, and Anthony & Matt, our judges, showed their appreciation in their comments on individual entries. Grateful thanks to them both for that, and for their helpful discussions afterwards with photographers eager to learn more. Thanks also to Clare Thomas for her help in setting up the exhibition, and to those friends who happened to be passing when tables needed to be put up or screens taken down.

Unfortunately, the beautiful photograph of a golden dawn along the Strand which was

selected for the first prize was subsequently found to have been taken by a non-member and had been inadvertently included among other family entries. There was sadly no option but to disqualify it, although it has been agreed that it may be retained in the Prize-winners' album. The first prize has therefore been awarded to Tony Cowley for his very evocative "*Falling Tide*" – a typical Pin Mill picture, incidentally featuring two Club members. Tony will also hold the Cleyndert Trophy for the year. The 2nd prize was won by Graham Cameron with his intriguing view "*Ducks in a row*". Graham's photograph "*Racing, River Orwell*"(no.40) also received most votes as the preferred cover for next year's Almanac. No 3rd prize will be awarded this year.

The following were Highly Commended by the judges:- "*Favourite morning scene*", by Shirley Balfe; "*Room with a view*" and "*Sunrise, Pin Mill*", both by Pat Prosser. Commendations were awarded to "*Mud*" by Graham Cameron, the series "*Helicopter rescue at Pin Mill*" by Bryan Rogers, and "*Bird at sunset*" by Renee Waite.

The wonderful photographic exhibition was greatly appreciated by all who saw it. Many thanks and congratulations to all the competitors.

A thought for the future:- a photo submitted for display was taken by the 3 year-old grandson of a member, which sparked the idea that a junior competition might be started next year for the children (& grandchildren?) of members. Watch this space!

Marjorie Carter

For Sale **Chain Link**

I have three lengths of chain link (6mm) for sale, a little rusty but in good order

a) 19m. b) 12.8m. c) 3.7m.

Offers invited

Diss Norfolk
01379 642 353