



Pin Mill Sailing Club



NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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

Commodore's Corner

A brief Commodore's corner this time I'm afraid due to long hours at the marina and limited time during the evenings.

However, we are just about in to November now and about to start the social run in to Christmas kicking off on the 14th with the Annual Dinner Dance which I am very pleased to say sold out within seven days of invitations going out.

Thank you and well done to all those who have managed to obtain a place at the dinner and to those who unfortunately missed out I do apologise and wish you better luck next year. I was quite confident the event would sell out but was somewhat surprised just how quickly.

The following week, 21st Nov the Club holds its Annual General and meeting and I encourage as many of you as possible to come along and hear how your Club is progressing through the reports of your elected Hon Sec's and to give us your input and suggestions. Please be gentle though!

After these two events we run full pelt into the Christmas programme which if anything like last year will be extremely well supported and great fun.

As you can read elsewhere in this edition 2009 will come to a conclusion with a party at the Clubhouse with a choice of supper available and live music to dance to performed by the numerous members of our local band the 'Blooze Brothers'.

I hope you enjoy reading the remainder of the news letter and I look forward to seeing many of you over the next few weeks.

Jon Humby
Commodore

Diary



Saturday 14th November

Formal Dinner
SOLD OUT

Saturday 21st November

AGM And Prize-giving

Saturday 12th December

Shanties and Ditties
Finger Buffet

Sunday 13th December

Christmas Lunch
Booking form on Notice Board

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve Carols
Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

Saturday 26th December

Boxing Day Morris Men
Bacon Butties & Mince Pies

Thursday 31st December

New Year's Eve party
Featuring the "Blooze Brothers" + food

Saturday 9th January

Maritime quiz night
Sandwiches available

The next newsletter will be in December. Contributions please by 20th November to; circular@pmsc.org.uk or by post to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7EZ

Christmas Social Events

Now that the clocks have gone back Christmas looms large on the horizon and to get the ball rolling High Water Mark will get us all singing at Shanties and Ditties on Saturday, 12th December. No excuses for not coming along at the RHS Concert is the week before! As you will now be in party mood, make sure you sign up for the Christmas lunch which is the day after on the 13th. This is always a very popular event so make sure you don't miss out.

On Christmas Eve evening, Julia Pink assisted by Master of Ceremonies, Graham, will be tinkling the ivories for the traditional carols in the club so make sure you are in good voice - a visit to the bar and a mince pie are sure to help! After the excesses of Christmas Day come and see the Morris Men who will be dancing at lunchtime on Boxing Day which will be followed by more carols and snacks in the clubhouse.

All our performers put a great deal of effort into these events so please come and support them and have a good time!

Eileen Madden
Hon. Social Secretary

Sailing Regatta Results

Race 1 Blagden Cup

1 st	Kelpie	R Graham
2 nd	Quiz	P Webster

Race 2 O'Brien Cup

1st	Celeris	W Agnew
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Race 3 Quest Cup

	Miranda	B Morris
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Race 4 Jock Marshall Trophy

1 st	Pegasus	J Skellorn
2 nd	Guillemot	D Mayne
3 rd	Teal	B Tate

Race 5 Quest Cup

1st	Astraea	R Kirkup
2 nd	Lys	J Sparks
3 rd	Perseus	S Ruffles

RNLI Peter Pickering Plate

1st	Boomerang	S Penn
2 nd	Silver Wain	J Humby

In our last 4CRS race of the season conditions conspired to make it more of a drift than a race. Congratulations to Celeris for fastest/least slowest corrected time for which she wins the Churchman Cup. The prize-giving will take place just before the AGM.

And Congratulations to The Royal Harwich Yacht Club for winning the series overall.

Val Stone
Hon. Sailing Secretary

House Committee

Hi Everybody

Having been cajoled into taking on the House Secretary role which has been vacant since Andrew Milligan moved away from the area, I thought it would be a good idea to let you know about some of the events and activities that fall under the House Committee's remit. This is partly to ensure that you have the dates in your diary, and partly to say that any volunteers who are willing to help out – even if only occasionally - are always welcome. So if you feel willing and able to lend a hand please email or phone me for a chat.

As well as keeping an eye on the galley – ensuring that equipment is maintained, routine restocking takes place, and when necessary carrying out an occasional Spring Clean – the House Committee members organize and provide food for the events which are not catered by Jo and Jackie, and also do some clearing up and tidying after Club functions.

So as not to overburden any one individual we would like to identify people willing to take responsibility for each function and already have volunteers who have offered to deal with a number of the coming Winter Seasons events. These include Shanties and Ditties, Christmas Eve Carols, and Boxing Day lunchtime, all of which are traditionally very busy occasions. We could still do with more volunteers though: would you for example be willing to help prepare and present some simple finger food at the Shanties and Ditties evening on Saturday 12 December, or lend a hand with the preparation of bacon butties on

Boxing Day lunchtime, or maybe source and prepare sandwiches for the Quiz Night on Saturday 9 January?

These are not overly demanding tasks in themselves and by spreading them around a number of people we make it much easier to provide worthwhile services to the membership at large without overloading any one individual. When the details of the Social programme for January to April have been finalized, there will be other opportunities to participate – even if it's only washing up or tidying the Clubhouse it would be a helpful contribution - so please keep an eye on the Club's circulars and web site for further information.

I hope to see you at one or other of the Club's social events and if you feel like contributing a bit of your time to helping with Club functions, don't be shy, get in touch!

Tel: 01473 780173

Email: House_Sec@pmsc.org.uk

Catherine Abbott
Hon. House Secretary

Annual Shanties and Ditties

Evening

Saturday Dec 12th 8.00pm

Hosted by

High Water Mark **Shanty Group**

Additional Singers/Musicians welcome

Free entry - Guests welcome

Finger Buffet

Collection for East Anglian Children's
Hospice

Inquiries: Ken 01473 780625

Important Notice

For the evening of the Formal Dinner on 14th November the Club will be closed to non-participants. We apologise for this inconvenience.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW at Excel (8th – 17th JAN 2010)

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

PMSC members and their families & friends will again be able to take advantage of heavily discounted tickets that include admission on Preview Day - **£11.00** instead of £23.00 on Preview Day and £18.00 on any other day. As before, tickets can be ordered directly by individual PMSC members over the Internet as well as the telephone - just quote the club's special reference code **JGL37**.

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.

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.

Please also note that Orwell YC are running a coach trip to Excel on Tuesday 12 January 2010 and have again invited PMSC members to apply for a place on the coach – price yet to be announced. Anyone interested should email the OYC organizer of the trip, John Hazelton directly at john.hazelton@virgin.net

Rick Kirkup
Rear Commodore

NAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION 2009

One of the intriguing aspects of our annual photographic competition is seeing where our members have got to during the year. This year, we received photographs taken as far away as the Solomon Islands, a little nearer, in Morocco, France and Holland, then the trail led up to the Lake District via Cornwall, back to the Thames and the Thames Estuary and so home to our own beautiful familiar waters. We had pictures of boats of every kind, sailing or at rest (even aground), early dawns, misty mornings, tranquil golden or strange exotic sunsets, bright sails, storm clouds, swans, peaceful anchorages, humorous occasions, artistic compositions, and spur-of-the-moment shots that turned out better than expected....

In this variety and the remarkable quality of the 71 entries, our judges, Matt Brooke and Anthony Cullen, faced the difficulty of selecting a few for special mention - and among their choices unwittingly picked one which caused considerable surprise, if not

shock, to the writer of these words. Their joint decisions were as follows:-

First prize was awarded to Marjorie Carter for "*Old and New*", a panoramic view of a Thames barge sailing past the cranes and gantries of Felixstowe Docks; "*Foredeck Reflections*", a fascinating & disorientating photograph taken somewhere off the coast of Portugal, won 2nd prize for Julian Weatherill; and Malcolm Harding's "*Barges in the Mist*", an evocative picture of barges on the Hard, took 3rd prize.

Highly Commended photographs were Graham Cameron's "*i*"; Penny Fairrie's "*The Dog Watch*" and Bryan Rogers' "*A Misty Morning from the Strand*". Three photos were Commended: "*Aground*", by Shirley Balfe, "*Thames Barge passing Potter Point at Dawn*", by Bryan Rogers, and "*Spinnakers on the Stour*", by Nick Thomas.

As usual, everyone who saw the exhibition on Saturday and Sunday was invited to vote for the photograph they'd like to see on the cover of next year's Almanac. There was much divided opinion on this, but Graham Cameron just edged ahead with his "*Barge Match*", a strong picture of *Repertor* leading *Decima*, so we look forward to seeing it in print.

Unfortunately there are evidently no budding photographers among the children and/or grandchildren of members, as no entries were received for the first junior photographic competition. This was a disappointment, but we may consider making another opportunity next year. Grateful thanks to Anthony and Matt for giving their time and expertise to judge the competition, not to mention their encouragement for future efforts. The assistance of Clare Thomas in setting up the exhibition was very much appreciated, as were the kind friends who came to help erect the screens and take them down again. Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up, and thanks and well done to everyone who entered their wonderful photographs. Another chance next year!

Marjorie Carter

Meet the Committee

Sara Hopkinson

I lived in Hertfordshire as a child, not much sailing there and no sailing in the family at all. My only experience of boats was on the children's boating lake in Regents Park until I was about 12 and went sailing on the Blackwater with some family friends. The sun shone and it was a beautiful day but I was rather disappointed as sailing was not so exciting as I had expected.

Not deterred I did an elementary dinghy course while at college at the knock down price of £2. It was November and conditions were grim. I had never heard of hypothermia, but the crew had to be almost carried from the boat when we came alongside.

The big break through came when I sailed on the Baltic out of the British Kiel Yacht Club in a Joint Services Regatta almost by chance. Having survived that, I came back and did loads of sailing and navigation courses so I knew what people were talking about, and was completely hooked.

I started teaching sailing part-time in 1981 and the next year became a full time instructor, and Yachtmaster Instructor in 1983. I have sailed thousands of miles, much of it up and down the Wallet while teaching RYA courses but also across the Atlantic, in the Caribbean, round the west coast of Australia and on the Great Lakes of Canada.

Sailing around the coast and in the rivers is my favourite. The view is so much better from the water, and this area is so beautiful. Teaching is still important, mainly because of the people. Some have sailed to fantastic places and many have not, but that does not really matter, it's all an achievement.

The Barge Match from SB Victor.

Never having sailed on a barge in my life, I was delighted to secure one of the places booked by PMSC on SB Victor for this year's PM Barge Match. We had to arrive on board horribly early, but there was the promise of bacon baps and it was a lovely morning, if a bit breezy. There was some discussion as to whether it was actually too breezy, but luckily it was decided no, we would go.

We had a safety briefing, the most important thing being to avoid stepping in the area where the mainsail could get you! We 'sprung' off the dock and motored out, the lock being on free-flow. As always, going under the Orwell Bridge was spectacular.

Even from the very beginning, the similarities and differences between the barge and the much smaller boats we are used to, began to be apparent. Everything on the barge is huge and very heavy, with the potential to cause damage or injury. Due to the length and weight of the barge, everything happens rather slowly, which can mean you just miss (by the proverbial cigarette paper) hitting the moored boat as 'Victor' finally turned into her tack. Our skipper, Wes, was very competent, very noisy and very competitive! Mainsheet man, Nobby, a retired skipper himself, was quietly very competent and managed the rest of the crew under Wes' guidance. Going down to the start, Wes kept rounding up and almost tacking, to slow down. I guess he did not want to spend too long amongst the moorings, or get mixed up with class 1.

I was given the task of watching for the course- fairly critical, so I made sure I had others looking also! We went down to the line, then tacked and went back up river. Wes timed his tack for the start, but was a little bit early, so was rounding up where he could and dipping the top sail to lose way. We hit the line on the button! Then, a downwind leg, it was all sail pulling, and even dipping the

dinghy in its davits, stern down and bow up, to catch the wind. It may be co-incidence, but it seemed to me that that tactic enabled us to overtake Ardwin!

Not as much trimming as on a modern racing yacht, but none the less, the crew were adjusting the main and the topsails as the wind changed angle or strength. If the crew were a little late in the manoeuvres, Wes became even more vociferous, with a good smattering of anglo-saxon! We were going well, and were leading our class at the turning mark.

The first part of the trip back was a reach, a bit less sail up. Thinking about the tide as well as the wind, not wanting to have to tack until we rounded the point near Levington, where we came onto a dead beat against the tide. Boy, was that hard work! It took a few tacks, when we made no, or even negative, progress at all over the ground, before the crew (now involving the younger, fitter and stronger of the 'punters' from PMSC on the leeboards) got themselves well enough co-ordinated.

Then we started making painfully slow progress, making up one mooring or so on each pair of tacks. I was worried that there would be several heart attacks on board before we got to the finish, when an eagle-eyed person spotted the shorten course flag on the Adax, still moored in her starting position. Then it was a countdown as to how many more tacks we reckoned it would take! Finally, with huge cheers, we crossed the finishing line, the class 2 winner. A truly brilliant experience. I have already asked Val to put me on the list for next year.

Somewhere, we had a good lunch, but the sailing was so exciting, I cannot remember anything about it! And who said barges do not heel over? See my photographs, (which stupidly I forgot to put into the photographic competition), of the crew at work on deck and the very substantial long table on its side down below!

Fiona Wylie

RYA Training at Pin Mill

I will be running courses at the sailing club as usual this winter. Come and learn in the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of Pin Mill.

**Day Skipper and
Coastal Skipper/ Yachtmaster**

Cost: £250, including the RYA chart pack, coffee and biscuits. Places are limited so book early!

Other RYA courses always available.

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www.pinmillcruising.co.uk