



Pin Mill Sailing Club



October 2007 Newsletter

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

Commodore's Corner

(Sorry it is more a page rather than a corner! This summer has not exactly been the best on record. Cold, wet and windy. So much for global "warming". Sadly a great number of people have been flooded out of their homes at a time of year that should have been summer. This year, The Barge Match had a few barges missing as the Friday before the match, when the last few normally leave their home berths to join us, just could not as the weather was so bad. Nevertheless it was a good race and a very happy day and weather was fair for everyone on the day.

The following week, we did not have the same number of entrants for the Smack Race this year with a clash for local classic boats that had an organised weekend in the Walton Backwaters. Those who were there had a good race and the Club chartered smack did very well in the race, cheered on by members on board. We hope for a better turn out of smacks next year as all those taking part enjoyed themselves thoroughly and promised to tell everyone.

I doubt that the year will go down as being a good summer, but we did manage to get to Goes. Four boats made the journey, two of us making a dash on the Sunday in a small window in the dreadful weather. At times we had rather brisk sailing to Oostende and moving on over the next few days to Goes. We had 18 around the table in a restaurant there to celebrate and lots of on board chatter and hospitality

There should of course been the Dinghy Regatta mid August, as it happened we had a happy lot at the Clubhouse ready to arrange racing for any dinghies that turned up, and as there was only one, it had to be cancelled. Let us hope for more entrants next year. Nevertheless there was a touch of enthusiasm for the Rowing Race for 4 entrants and an excellent race was won by the visiting Josh, a lovely young man, from the Harwich and Dovercourt Club. Then an announcement was made by Helen Evans and Nigel Bailey (one of the rowers) of their engagement. We had never thought of the sailing club as an Introduction Agency and we give them our hearty congratulations. The day was rounded off by a B B Q prepared by our Rear Commodore and his team. It turned out to be such a happy day!

Diary



Saturday 6th October
Laying up Supper
19.30 for 20.00
Rivers Rally Prize-giving

Saturday 20th October
Photographic Competition
More inside

Saturday 27th October
Wine Tasting - see inside
(not Holloween)

Saturday 10th November
Dinner Dance
Menu and booking slip
attached

Saturday 24th November
Annual General Meeting

Saturday 8th December
Shanties and Ditties

Sunday 16th December
Christmas Lunch
12.30 for 13.00
Book on notice board

The next Newsletter will be in December. Contributions please by 22nd November to:
editor@pmsc.org.uk

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

Moving on to the end of August, the bank holiday cruise entertained 7 boats at Stone Point for a B B Q on the Saturday night, some of the boats moving on to West Mersea for Sunday night, returning home on the Monday. I must admit I enjoyed the weekend thoroughly and we had a wonderful sail on the Sunday, for me the best for the whole season.

Regatta was well attended, our thanks, once again, to our Rear Commodore and his team for the BBQ prior to the prize-giving, and to our Vice Commodore and Val Stone for their organisation. The boat jumble on the same day provided a few tables of interesting articles for sale and everyone felt the day had gone well.

Finally the Three Clubs race last weekend had a turnout of 7 boats from Pin Mill and we were already in a good position to win the cup. Admittedly the chances of Silver Wain or Celeris winning were very slim, on a day when the start had to be delayed by almost an hour as there was no wind at all. It is the first time I have seen a whole fleet of boats gently drifting backwards in the tide away from the start line. Although all our boats completed the course and PMSC *won* the series on points. I was very pleased to join our competitors at the prizegiving at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club. Well done everyone.

Our Social Season starts on the 6th October with the Laying Up Supper, and then the Photographic Competition, followed at the end of October with the Wine Tasting. The Dinner Dance on the 10th November, tear off slip is attached, and we have managed to keep the price of ticket the same as last year.

Don't forget that Val Stone our Editor is always happy to receive articles and news for the circular. I do hope to see you at one or possibly a couple of the events.

**Dilly Ridge
Commodore**

Bank Holiday Mystery Cruise

Following a meeting at the club on the Friday night we set off in high spirits, on Saturday morning, for the Walton Backwaters. As crew of Aurora we expected to meet up with Astraea, Gravell MD, Christine Anne and Magic Calabasse. En route for the Backwaters we hailed a few more passing club yachts (Havelda and Free Spirit) and attempted to entice them away from their chosen passage with the tempting thought of a barbecue on Stone Point.

On arrival at our destination we spotted Chinkara making a rapid exit from the Backwaters – had somebody warned them that the crew of Aurora had volunteered to do the cooking that evening? Having carefully dropped anchor we settled down for a quiet afternoon before the evening festivities. Looking around we noticed that at least two yachts (not PMSC) had taken advantage of the falling tide to scrub their hulls. No, they hadn't just anchored too close to the shore and grounded whilst being distracted by a game of French Cricket.

At the start of the barbecue we were joined by Chris and Shirley Wyartt and Chris and Tina Jackaman on Woollee Monkey and Natasha II respectively; a welcome addition that boosted our numbers to 14. A clean sandy shore made creating sheltered holes for the barbecue easy; disposable BBQs made it even easier (thank you Tesco).

The musical talent that prevails within the club was evident afterwards when Rosie Kirkup (25% of "Fourplay") on violin and Val Stone on acoustic guitar, led us in a rendition of familiar songs old and new.

Nights draw in very suddenly at this time of year and we tidied the beach and departed for our berths at 9pm. Aurora made a rapid departure from Stone Point to stay overnight at anchor in Hanford water so as not to disturb the neighbours with an early start, and also so that we couldn't be found if there were any digestive repercussions following the BBQ.

At some unearthly hour before the clocks are awake, Aurora weighed anchor and made

passage for the Blackwater, followed in due course by Astraea, Christine Anne and Gravel MD. A cracking sail ensued, tide under us, wind on the beam, sun in the sky, excellent visibility and hardly any lobster pots to be seen. This was just reward for all those cold, stormy passages that are traditionally endured by east coast sailors.

On arrival in the Blackwater it was too early to pick up a mooring in West Mersea, our planned destination, so Astraea, Christine Anne and Aurora headed for Osea Island, near Maldon and anchored off. The area is very pretty; the sky was blue, the water was warm, and the beach golden – it was almost the Cote d’Azur. The idyll was only spoiled by the constant buzz of jet skis.

It was soon time to rejoin reality and head off to West Mersea, which we approached at low water. Thank you Astraea for leading the way through the melee of moored boats and mud banks. At low tide it was unfortunately not possible for Gravel MD to join us on the posts.

The West Mersea Taxi boat stops operating at 18:30 on a Bank Holiday Sunday, so Val valiantly rowed us ashore in the inflatable where, following an exploratory walk around the village we gravitated to the West Mersea Yacht Club (very welcoming it was too). After a swift half the various yacht crews parted company, Aurora’s crew staying ashore to sample the wares of The West Mersea Oyster Bar – no jokes about only 5 of the 6 oysters taking effect, please.

Monday morning did not require an early start as the ebb tide would not start until 1100hrs. Another thoroughly enjoyable sail ensued past Clacton and Walton Piers and there was plenty of opportunity to take photographs of each others’ yachts under full sail. Visibility was again excellent and we could see the chimneys on the Isle of Grain in Kent. The westerly wind was a bit gusty and we were touching 7.3 knots in the strongest blows. Sadly the wind veered to north easterly and, passing the Naze Tower, we decided to motor the rest of the way to Pin Mill to ensure we arrived 90 minutes before low water.

Our bags were packed before we picked up the mooring and, within a few minutes we had disembarked and were rowing rapidly ashore. Oh horrors! The tide was much lower than anticipated and there was a clear 20 metres of mud between the end of the hard and the water’s edge. Undeterred, we punted the dinghy across the mud and reached dry land, only a tad more dishevelled than when we started out and proud to have conquered this last hurdle. Now only a short haul of the dinghy up the hard and we are home. Unfortunately pride has a habit of preceding a fall, and this was to be no exception. On turning to help pull the dinghy onto the hard I slipped on the timber edging and went A over T into the Grindle. From Cote d’Azur beach to Pin Mill mud – welcome home!

VIC



Calling all Wine Lovers

Sat 27th October

Come and titillate those tastebuds! With the help of Sainsbury’s wine manager we have put together an eclectic collection of reds and whites for you to try. Tasting notes will be provided for each wine together with tasting sheets to fill in with your verdict. There will be French bread and cheese to help things along and a nominal charge of £5 per head will be collected at the door. It would be a great help to know numbers in advance so please give me a call on 01473 780431, or put your name down on the list on the notice board. Cheers!

Eileen Madden
Hon Social Sec

Dinghy Regatta 18th August

This year there was only one entrant for the sailing race, and that was Antonia with Oatcake – too formidable a challenge perhaps?

We were more successful with the rowing race mainly thanks to an enthusiastic young man on holiday, and from the Harwich and Dovercourt Yacht Club. Josh had heard about the race and was very keen. It was then just a matter of bullying some of our members into giving him some competition. Thanks to Nigel Baily, Ian Saunders and Josh's father, John, for having a go. The spectacle was watched by a moderate number of members and visitors, and was much more exciting than one might have imagined. Ultimately youth overcame experience and Josh took line honours. A small prize giving was held, followed by a barbeque of quite superior burgers organised by Lee and his team.

Pin Mill Sailing Club 64th Annual Regatta

We were favoured with fair weather for this year's Regatta with a gusty North Westerly at the start. Race 1 (Gaffers) had only one entrant, with 3 boats at the start of race 2. As usual we were well supported by our RHYC friends with 4 RHODs and 9 Ajax class. Race 5 boasted 10 cruisers on the line, adding up to quite a spectacle as they all shot off downwind. The larger boats were sent out to Pye End, whilst the One-designs were kept in the Orwell and Stour. Timing was critical as we didn't want to miss the BBQ afterwards, and I am happy to say no one did. Again, thanks to Lee and his helpers for an impressive spread.

On Sunday 6 boats competed for the RNLI race. All results as follows:

RACE 1 – BLAGDEN CUP GAFF RIG

1 BONIFY H. WHEELTON

RACE 2 – SEEL CUP

1 DOROMIC A. CULLEN

RACE 2 – ORWELL CORINTHIAN CUP

1 CELERIS W. AGNEW

RACE 3 – QUEST CUP – RHOD

1	SCOLOPAX	L. BAXTER
2	HALCYON	T SUMMERS
3	BLYTHE SPIRIT	BURNFORD
4	AIRIEL	NEEWS/PARKER

RACE 4 – JOCK MARSHALL TROPHY AJAX

1	AVOCET	D SHARP
2	APOLLO	PROSSER
3	TELEMON	G SUTTON

RACE 5 – TEMPEST CUP

1	NELLIE DEAN	PARKER
2	BIFFO	M HOUSE
3	FETISH	D WRIGLEY

RNLI RACE – SUNDAY

1	APOLLO	PROSSER
2	THUNDERER	WILLIAMS
3	FREE SPIRIT	WARING/BOWLES

**Val Stone
Officer of the Day**

Visit To Goes– July 2007

Just in case you hadn't noticed, the weather over the summer has not been very kind to sailors especially those venturing across the North Sea in small boats! So it was in the week leading up to the planned departure date for the small PMSC flotilla intent upon visiting Goes. One of the aims of the visit was to mark the 25th anniversary of the time when a number of PMSC boats mustered to show support for those Goes inhabitants who were opposing the proposal to fill in the harbour and turn it into a car park!

So it was that most of the boats who had expressed the wish to go braved some strong winds coming from not very helpful directions and crossed from the Orwell to the Belgian coast – most if not all paying due attention to the stipulations of the very recently announced and not very well charted new traffic scheme in the vicinity of Long

Sand Head. For those still to go that way think of it as the North Sea's answer to the Hanger Lane Giratory system...

Astraea went via Zeebrugge to Middelburg, and was joined a couple of days later by Aurora, Val Stone's new boat proudly bearing the Commodore's pennant, and of course the Commodore herself and Andrew Milligan. They chose to make their trip up the Belgian coast on a particularly cold and wet day - so much so that on arrival alongside Astraea the intrepid crew had to be thawed out by means of hot tea and Eberspacher! The weather continued to be unfriendly - but Middelburg is a jolly nice place even in the rain and the two crews made the best of the opportunity to buy gin and other essentials!

We moved on to Goes on 25 July and for once enjoyed some sunshine - though it being high season the large numbers of yachts trying simultaneously to get into the bigger locks made for a few anxious moments. In one such lock we came upon John Humby and his delectable all girl crew on Silver Wain so that our mini flotilla of three boats all arrived in Goes at the same time. Cornelius the Goes harbour master and long time friend of PMSC had achieved the seemingly impossible task of reserving three individual moorings side by side near the entrance to the harbour so we were soon tied up side by side with the bunting flying. We stayed for five nights during which time we were joined by Bob and Sarah on Chinkara, and Francis and Eileen who of course keep their boat in Goes. Fred Everitt was already there having travelled across by ferry, and keen to revisit his old haunts not to mention take Dilly's place on Aurora for the return trip to Suffolk.

Needless to say much eating and drinking took place - it seemed only fair to try out the permutations of boats and their stores - and on one day we had quite a long and (for most) enjoyable cycle ride, with map reader Rosie out front urging us all on. I was going to make some reference to our doughty Commodore bringing up the rear but that would have been fairly tasteless bearing in mind the nature of her discomfort which set in quite soon after the start of the venture: her better judgement would have doubtless taken her in a smart U turn back to the cycle hire

shop but the Lady was not for turning and all credit to her for braving it out to the end.

The main social event was an excellent meal at an Argentinian/Mexican restaurant when some 20 PMSC members and guests enjoyed a very convivial evening celebrating the long and very friendly relationship which has existed between PMSC and the people of Goes, but the highlight of our stay was as ever the kindness and thoughtfulness of Cornelius who looked after us extremely well making our stay very comfortable and enjoyable.

From Goes, Aurora, Silver Wain and Astraea made a brief trip to Grevelingenmeer, and thence back to Blighty via differing routes. In Astraea's case on departing the Roompot the wind turned briefly favourable before dropping to a near flat calm so we made the most of our red (for the time being) diesel and motored most of the way. Val managed things differently and, having waited another couple of days, was able to sail most of the way home.

**Rick Kirkup
Hon Property Sec**

3CRS Results

1 st	PMSC	31 points
2 nd	RHYC	45 points
3 rd	OYC	67 Points.

Race 3

1	St Anthony	PMSC
2	More Havoc	RHYC
3	Biffo	RHYC
4	Nellie Dean	PMSC
5	Physalia	RHYC
6	Jade	PMSC
7	Astraea	PMSC
8	Padme	OYC
9	Drom	OYC
10	Celeris	PMSC
11	Boomerang	PMSC
12	Silver Wain	PMSC

full details on the Website

Club Hire

Don't forget
Our beautiful venue is available for hire

Parties

Meetings

Lectures

Family occasions

Contact the Secretary Romy Blackburn

PHOTOS WANTED

FOR THE

NAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH

Please send or bring your entries
(8" x 6" maximum, unmounted)
to the Clubhouse by 12 noon on the 20th

This year's judges are
Matt Brooke & Anthony Cullen

Discussion and prizegiving at 8 p.m.

Come and vote for the photo for the cover of next year's almanac !

All the photographs will be exhibited in the Clubhouse on Sunday 21st