



Pin Mill Sailing Club



OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

Commodore's Corner

We are now into October and the sailing season is drawing to a close. Hopefully you were able to make good use of the unseasonably warm and sunny weekend that has just passed, which will have made you think about the summer we wish we had had... As luck would have it for me, Gus's efficiency saw Harmony come out of the water the Friday before!

In September we had our last two sailing events with the Regatta on the 3rd and the final 4CRS race on the 17th. A report on the Regatta from Nigel our Sailing Sec can be found later in the newsletter. We had a good turnout for the Regatta with sunshine and a decent breeze, which culminated with a BBQ in the evening. Two weeks later was the last 4CRS race, and although PMSC did not win this year, we did host an extremely popular end of series prize giving, where the cup was awarded to the Shotley SC for the second year running – well done to them (we had a good contingent from the SSC turn up for the prize giving, although one of their party had to be despatched to their Clubhouse to get the trophy so we could present it to them!). We laid on a BBQ and a live band, which were both enjoyed immensely by all – I would like to thank Cathy our House Sec and her band of helpers for doing an excellent job with the food, and for the Blooze Brothers for entertaining us so well.

With sailing all but over, our winter social programme has got underway, started with the Laying Up Supper and a superb meal produced by Jo and Jackie.

We have the Photographic Competition coming up on the 22nd and a Kids Halloween Party on the 29th October, followed by our annual Dinner Dance on November 19th at the **Last Anchor Restaurant** at **Ipswich Haven Marina**. A booking form and menu is attached to this newsletter / in the download section of the website, so please make your choices and send the form back to me with your cheque(s). This is a fantastic venue, serving possibly some of the best food in Ipswich, and we have a fabulous band booked to entertain you – don't miss out!

It is also time for us to look ahead to next year's General Committee – if you would like to participate in the running of *your* club, please get in touch – *your club needs you!*

Lee Foster
Commodore

Diary



Saturday 22nd October
Nautical Photograph Competition

Saturday 29th October
Kids' Halloween Party

Saturday 19th November
Dinner Dance at The Last Anchor
See Tear-off slip

Saturday 26th November
Annual General Meeting

Saturday 10th December
Shanties and Ditties

Saturday 17th December
Kids Christmas Party

Sunday 18th December
Christmas Lunch – booking list on
notice board in due course

Christmas Eve Carols

Boxing Day Morris Men

New Year's Eve Party

*The next newsletter will be in
December. Contributions please
By 26th Of November to;
circular@pmsc.org.uk or by post
to: 14 The Chestnuts, Wrentham,
Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7EZ*

Welcome to New Members

Jim and Julie-Anne Pegram with children Thomas and Lucy from Westmill, Hertfordshire. They own Julie-Anne, an Essex Smack Yacht.

And Lucie and Owen Breadman with children Alex and Isabel fro Chelmondiston.

Annual Dinner Dance 19th October

This year our Dinner Dance will be held at the **Last Anchor Restaurant**, Ipswich Haven Marina, on the 19th November 2011 for good food, good company and dancing...

Dancing will be to the extremely talented **Outlaw Eagles**, who will entertain you with a mixture of Rock, Blues and Soul covers, up to Midnight. The menu will be taken from the evening menu at the time, and you will enjoy the usual high quality seasonal and local produce that we can expect from the Last Anchor.

We will have exclusive use of the restaurant from 19:00 to Midnight, and the cost will be just £31 per head, for an outstanding 3 course meal, Coffee, and dancing the night away...

To reserve your places, please either e.mail commodore@pmc.org.uk, or return the reservation slip to the Clubhouse, for the attention of the Commodore. The menu is at the back of this newsletter.

This year's Dinner Dance will no doubt be a night to remember ...

Carolyn Dragan
Social Secretary

Sunday Lunchtime

A request from the Committee to assist our staff – could all food orders be in by 2.15pm at the latest please.

News from the Coastguard

The RYA comments to the MCA during the current consultation period on the revised proposals can be seen on their website. They are asking for greater clarity and reassurance on what constitutes “local knowledge”.

CALL OUTS

11 August – 0942 – Person poised to jump off bridge but apprehended by Police before take off.

14 August – 1330 – Yacht with fishing float line round prop pulled into Shotley by the Inshore Lifeboat, CG team pulled yacht into marina.

18 August – 1750 – Yacht towed in to Shotley Marina by Walton Lifeboat. Engine Failure

20 August – 1700 – Yacht with engine failure towed in to outer pontoon, Shotley Marina by Inshore Lifeboat and CG Team pulled through lock.

1 September – 2040 – Small vessel reported missing.

10 September – 0910 – 32ft yacht towed in by Harwich Inshore Lifeboat with engine failure.

21 September – 0945 – Yacht aground at the Clamp. Crew brought ashore by the Inshore Lifeboat. Returned at High Water and refloated.

29 September – 1830 – Casualty in the water at Pin Mill but picked up by passing yacht.

You may wonder how it feels to be a coastguard rescue officer.

As a team, we are equipped with a variety of stuff, but one item of great importance is the pager. This is worn at all times and sits by your bedside at night. I personally have mine on “vibrate and chirp”. Whilst a pleasant sensation during the day, particularly if you are not “first on call”, it strikes deep concern at 0100 hours, as it jumps about on the bedside table.

We are a team of 8, or 1 (the Station Officer, Peter Creasey) plus 7 coastguard rescue officers, one of whom is club member Sara Hopkinson, who is significantly more experienced than the rest of us – done it for years – and is trained to stand in for Peter when required. Ages range from the 30s to the 60s, and occupations range from fully employed to retired. The team is on call 7 days a week, 24 hours. A rota is set up on a fortnightly basis, worked round everyone’s commitments and, with 8 team members, this means that we each have 3 or 4 shifts as ‘first on call’ over the two week period. A shift is from 7.00 to 7.00. During that time we can do what we like but we must be based on the Peninsula. ‘First on call’ means that when Thames Coastguard set off our pagers, that person is designated to raise a team. This may mean one other, or in worst case scenario, as many of the team as possible – for instance if we have to search for someone.

Given the above, how does it feel when the pager goes off? Obviously I speak for myself although how I feel has some resonance with the others, excepting Peter and Sara who are old hands. Frankly, my mouth goes dry..... this feeling persists, as I call Thames on the landline to get instructions. I then call those members of the team most likely to be available. From that point, the tension begins to ease a little – ‘a problem shared is a problem halved’.

You may well ask, why so dramatic, we are not the police or the ambulance service. The

fact remains that we have to deal with these professionals and be equally professional, even though it is not our full time occupation. Radio communication is one of the most important aspects of our role. For instance, the police cannot communicate direct with Thames or the lifeboat on the VHF, so we relay information. Clearly, short but comprehensive communication is important. That takes practice. When searching for a missing and probably distressed person, as many people as possible are needed and any one of us could find the casualty. Again, professionalism and common sense are essential. Not least, it is on occasion helpful to these land based rescue services to be told which way the tide is flowing.

So, the pager goes off and time is of the essence. Trying to get your gear on, obey a call of nature, pacify the dogs (who know there is something up, so rush around with you), get in your car and race off to the Coastguard vehicle, feeling that Thames are drumming their fingers saying “where are Holbrook CG...”. Getting to the vehicle, thinking you have done it in record time, only to turn on the radio and find that Felixstowe Coastguard are already on their way – hell, that is annoying. Up there on the annoyance scale, is rushing to the vehicle, having had to run back from a walk, so collapsing on the steering wheel out of breath; only to hear Thames on the radio “standing down” the team.

Why do we do it? I have no idea, we must be mad – if you look at the times of some of the shouts. It takes me out of my comfort zone which, I am led to believe, is *good* for me though I do sometimes wonder. It can be limiting if you lead a full life and don’t want to be restricted in your movements because you are on call. All I have to do is stop weeding. You have to carry what seems an enormous amount of equipment in your car – I am constantly shifting bags fore and aft, depending on whether I want to get dogs in the car or people. The bureaucracy is a real pain (a government agency, so no surprise there).

Whilst it may not be every one's idea of fun, the good moments – and, even in the most unlikely of circumstances, there are many – make it worth while.

Romy Blackburn
Coastguard Rescue Officer

Sailing

The 2011 sailing season at PMSC has drawn to its close. The last 2 months have seen the Bank Holiday Mystery Cruise, the Annual Regatta and the culmination of the 4 Clubs Racing series.

The Bank Holiday Cruise was not well supported. We have not had much luck with the organised cruises this year and if anyone knows why, or what might make them more popular I would be grateful to hear, either at the AGM or independently.

The Regatta was blessed with excellent weather and a turnout of 28 boats; 9 gaff rigged, 11 Ajax, 6 yachts, plus 2 Owell Corinthians in the keelboats class. Congratulations go to the winners who were:

Gaff Grebe M Sherwin Blagden Cup

Keelboat 1st of April M MacPhail Kestrel Cup

Ajax Guillemot D Mayne Jock Marshall Trophy

Yachts Paladin W Patten Tempest Cup

The only blot on the day was in the handicapping of the gaff boats which proved difficult using the Regatta's rule of Portsmouth Numbers for the handicapping. This works reasonably well for the yachts, most of which have equivalent numbers published by the Byron measurement system but not for one-off Gaff boats. We will look at a better way of doing this next year, possibly by using OGA published numbers.

Many thanks go to the Agnews for lending us the committee boat and mooring, Fred Everit

and Jane Chevous for helping staff it and Val Stone for collecting us from Wooverstone and helping out on shore during the day.

The Sunday RNLi race was less successful, we only had 3 entries and for various reasons ended up not having a race. We collected more for the RNLi from donations from race competitors than from the race entries, plus £98 in the raffle. Many thanks to Fiona Wylie for running the raffle and John Sparks for turning out as race officer.

The 4 Clubs series was won by Shotley Sailing club for the 2nd year running. They won by sailing well and having a good turn out for each race so that they collected few penalty points. The final points tally was

	race 1	race 2	race 3	race 4	total
SSC	13	8	10	13	44
RHYS	13	21	21	14	69
PMSC	28	31	14	15	88
OYC	30	29	21	18	98

PMSC had only 3 club boats take part and we came 3rd. We award a cup for the best placed (and finishing) PMSC boat in each race and congratulations then to

D Heartshorne Dunlenin - Chris Wyatt Trophy and Churchman Cup

S Penn Boomerang - Seago Cup

There was a good 'do' at final prize giving evening with food served and the Blooze Brothers playing. Thanks go to them, to the cooks, to Brian Rogers and Val Stone for helping run the 4th race and to the PMSC members who took part in the races.

Calling all Cups

Some cups have already been awarded. The rest will be presented at the AGM. Could those of you who won last year please bring your trophies back (preferably nice and shiny) in time for the AGM. Having made a trawl

along the top shelf of the club bar and through the sailing cupboard in the store room there are two that I cannot find or account for, if you have one of these could you also get it back. I suggest you bring them to the club and have them put behind the bar.

awarded last year
Goblin Cup
Seago Cup
Stanley Howard Trophy
Obrian Cup

unaccounted
June Cup
Wych of Hoo Cup

I hope you have all enjoyed this year's sailing. I am always open to suggestions for the programme and will be at the AGM in November.

Happy armchair sailing over the winter

Nigel Bailey
Sailing Sec.

Ipswich Journal 15th July 1848

Harwich

The most extraordinary feat of diving on record was accomplished here on Monday last by a person of the name of William Portuge, better known as "Don the Diver." It had been for some days publicly announced by handbills that this intrepid fellow would walk under water from Harwich across the harbour to Shotley Gate, but the announcement was treated by many as a hoax, it being considered too great an undertaking for anyone to engage in, notwithstanding the celebrated feats he had previously performed. However 12 o'clock arrived, and Don was at his post, suitably equipped for the trip, and, nothing loth, gallantly lowered himself down from a boat containing the improvised air apparatus, belonging to the Messrs Lewis, of this town, to the astonishment of hundreds of spectators (which, but for the doubts that prevailed, would have been thousands), and proceeded

on his perilous journey, accompanied by various boatloads of the curious, to witness his emerging on the Suffolk side; and, although it was blowing a double reef breeze at the time, and numerous vessels were sailing over his path, he arrived safely at his destination at 20 minutes past 1, and was loudly cheered by a large assemblage met there to welcome him. We understand that it is the intention of the undaunted Don to walk from Landguard Fort to Harwich at the regatta.

Thanks to Ian Saunders for finding the above

DON'T FORGET !

Your entries for this year's NAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

must arrive at the Clubhouse by 1pm
on Saturday 22nd October.

Maximum size 8" x 6" (approx 20cm x 15cm) (but small is also beautiful), unmounted, unsigned – nautical or watery scenes only, please.

Enclose a separate list of titles, & a s.a.e. if you would like your photos returned by post.

All the entries will be exhibited over the weekend, and Prizewinners will be announced on Sunday 23rd October at 2 pm.