

The R N V R Yacht Club

NEWS UPDATE

DECEMBER 2008

By the Commodore

Another year draws to a close and with it our sailing for this season. For some it has been a marvellous experience, for others an all too unwelcome repeat of 2007. I suspect, however, that all have gained sufficient enjoyment from our sport to be beavering away at the winter's tasks of maintenance of boats and minds, with the planning of next year's sailing well advanced.

A few days after I write this I will travel to Gibraltar to check on *Impian*. You may have seen press reports in late September of the "hurricane" that struck the Rock and forced a freighter aground on Europa Point where she split in two. I have had terrifying reports of a 3 metre swell inside Queensway Quay marina, with pontoons breaking free of their mooring and cleats being ripped from yachts. Luckily, *Impian* appears to have got through with nothing more than some cosmetic damage and the possible need to replace the toerail. It is more than a little ironic that I fled to the Med for the good weather – but at least it will be 20 degrees Celsius when I get there!

I have already had my first enquiry for a January charter and it will be a fascinating experiment to see how popular Gibraltar proves to be as a base, with its easy access to Spain, Portugal and Morocco. The Club has two other yachts that might become available for charter; Nigel Collingwood's yacht *Ocean Sovereign*, a Halberg Rassy Atlantic 55, is currently based in Figuera da Foz, on the coast of Portugal, and Adrian Anstey has *Lionness*, a Jeanneau 40, based at Gosport. Opportunities for sailing at reasonable cost still exist for those members without their own boats; and for boat owners who need crew; don't forget the crewing register on our website.

This December also sees the drawing to a close of my two years as Commodore. It has been an immensely interesting and rewarding time and I am delighted at the

advances the Club has made, in particular the qualification of all rates and ranks of the RN, RM and their reserves for List 1 membership and our recent corporate membership of Hornet Sailing Club. These, combined with a very healthy financial position, mean that the Club can continue to grow and prosper under its next Commodore, Mike Morgan.

All clubs need the full and enthusiastic support of their membership in order to thrive and we are fortunate that we have a sizeable core of active members. We need to increase that core by making our events and activities attractive to many more of you. We also need to encourage new people onto the committee to add their ideas to the experience that we currently have. Due to a number of retirements we have three vacancies on the committee and I encourage anyone who feels they can contribute as a Committee member to contact me or the Hon. Secretary.

I very much hope that I will have the opportunity of seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual Dinner at the HAC and at our Christmas Party at the Naval Club. Until then, my best wishes and I hope you all enjoy a delightful Christmas and pleasant New Year.

Jeremy Donne

Club programme for 2009

The Committee is only too well aware that costs in general are rising inexorably and that this will inevitably affect Club members, not least in the rising cost of attending functions.

When planning a function, the location, cost, accessibility of the venue, local accommodation, etc. are carefully weighed to ensure that the function is as attractive and accessible as it can be, in order to maximise attendance, while still providing variety and interest.

The Fitting Out Party at the RN and RA YC in Southsea and the Autumn Meet at

Royal Lymington YC are two such examples where the venues are accessible "per mare per terram", as the Royal Marines would say, or by rail to Portsmouth Harbour or Lymington.

It is hoped, therefore, that our functions, both afloat and ashore, will continue to enjoy their accustomed level of support from Club members and their guests, who are always welcome.

The 2009 programme appears as follows:

Jan 14 AGM Naval Club

Jan 27 "Cruising for Cowards" by Lisa Copeland. Royal Thames YC

Mar 27 Northern Dinner
RNHQ Merseyside (Eaglet)

April 15 Skipper/Crew Meet
Naval Club

May 10 Fitting Out Party
Royal Navy and Royal Albert YC,
Southsea

May 23/25 Island Harbour BBQ

June 6/7 Club Sail/Training weekend

June 27 Round the Island Race

July 4/12 Summer Cruise
Fecamp, St Valery en Caux, Dieppe

Aug 24/30 Seahorse Rally
Deauville

Sept 12/13 Club Sail/Training weekend

Oct 3/4 Autumn Meet
Royal Lymington YC

Oct 31 Laying Up Event
Hornet Sailing Club, Gosport

Nov 20 Annual Dinner
Royal Air Force Club, London

Dec 14 Christmas Party
Naval Club

Hornet Sailing Club

As the Commodore has mentioned, we now enjoy Corporate Membership of Hornet Sailing Club a few minutes walk from Gosport Hard. The Club provides a comfortable lounge, showers/ablutions and very reasonably priced food, wines and beers. Members are encouraged to use Hornet SC which gives us a convenient base in the Solent area. You may be asked for ID at the gate; please note that the outer side of the back cover of the Blue Book provides such ID **if you complete it!**. As a "Corporate Member" you do not need to sign in.

About 20 members held an informal meeting and supper party there in September and were well taken with the general ambience, the food and wines. The wines are singularly inexpensive and the buffalo steak is delicious!

Gosport marinas and other matters

"Coburns on the Water" is the name of the bar and bistro recently opened at Gosport Marina. Coburns provides a bar and simple bistro style food cooked on the premises, all at reasonable prices. Both Coburns and Hornet provide alternative dining to the fleshpots of Gosport High Street, *Mary Mouse* at Haslar Marina or the expense of Landers. There are several club boats moored at Gosport Marina (which is on the site of the old Camper and Nicholson Yard) namely, *Alouette*, *Amoret*, *Enigma* and *Triple H* plus maybe a couple more that we do not know about. Two at least are next door at Haslar Marina, *Lioness* and *Avalon*, and at Hornet there are *Minimum* and *Snow Goose*. Perhaps all of the "Gosport Residents" might make themselves known to the Editor and arrange a "Gosport Get Together" in the Spring?

Traveller's Tales

James Hanratty has recently returned from a holiday in his old stamping ground of Hong Kong, and in particular in the Royal Hong Kong YC. He says he honed his sailing skills while there on a two day sailing trip. We look forward to seeing evidence of this at sea and a scintillating article in the next Newsletter!

Vice Commodore Mike Morgan has just returned from a two month trip to New Zealand and Hong Kong and we look forward to reading his report of events.

Sue Walker and her son Adam also spent several weeks in New Zealand this autumn, there must be something about the place.....

Training Days - Week Ends

In recent years the Club has organised training days aimed at helping members to obtain an appropriate RYA Certificate, typically through a Radar, Diesel or First Aid course. The demand for these formal courses now seems to be reducing and some sea based events have recently been introduced which are proving very popular.

In 2009 two more of these week ends are planned, we hope in more than one area of the country. What does it cost you....only your "Mess Bill". How do you get onto one of these events.... express your interest by phone, e mail or however you like to Richard Olsen rfolsen@blueyonder.co.uk Tel 0207 354 2000.

Consideration is being given to running an RYA Theory Course, probably the Basic Navigation and Safety Course which would be ideal for those who require a basic grounding (*no pun intended!*) in these most important topics. Update modules of about 3-4hrs on current relevant topics such as IRPCS, AIS and Computer Navigation could be provided if there were a demand. Let Tim Ware know what you want. tim.ware@shell.com

Duty on Diesel Fuel

Higher duty is now charged at the point of sale on diesel fuel used for propulsion by private craft, with fuel for domestic purposes being available at a lower price. This is achieved by having the purchaser declare the proportion expected to be used for heating, cooking etc and signing to that effect at the time of each purchase. Full duty is charged on the "non domestic" balance. HMRC have indicated that 40% of the fuel used by a typical boat might be considered reasonable for powering domestic services. However, the purchaser remains responsible for declaring a realistic ratio depending on the circumstances of the craft being fuelled, then receiving more or less fuel at the lower price. For example, a "liveaboard" may well declare a high proportion for domestic use and, clearly, it will be (*A'hem*) inappropriate to claim relief if your craft has no diesel powered

heating, etc. No doubt the HMRC will run the odd audit!

Another consequence of this change is that queues at fuelling pontoons will become even longer at busy periods. Reference should be made to the RYA and/or the HMRC web sites for definitive information on this topic.

Website Updating & Statistics

Our website rmvryc.org.uk is continuously updated with Club Notices, event photographs and members' own notices. There is now a "Reading Room" where members can place any documents that will be of interest for other members. The usage of the website is impressive - over the last 12 months the public area of the website has been visited **16,361 times** and the Members' Area **1,507 times**. Overall, the duration of the website being accessed over this 12 month period totalled 330 hours. Members who have yet to view the website are encouraged to do so.

Martin Alexander. Web manager

Admin - Event Notices

There's always something.... Members may recollect that on joining the Club and periodically thereafter they are asked to indicate those Club events for which they wish to receive the related event notices and booking forms. This is done in relation to the geographic areas in which events are held.

An accompanying notice requests members to confirm their current requirements for event notices and it will be of great assistance if all members will respond by e-mail or using the paper response form provided.

Change of Editor

After many years of producing the News Update, Colin Harvey has now handed this task over to the Newsletter Editor Tom Cunningham who now produces both journals. The News Update fills the gap between the twice yearly full colour Newsletters and is intended primarily as a briefing on matters of immediate factual interest or relevance to members. Members are invited, as ever, to air their views in either journal. I look forward to hearing your "News and Views"

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