

The R N V R Yacht Club

NEWS UPDATE

December 2010

By the Commodore

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat.....and waterborne sailing activity is rapidly coming to a freezing halt. It is the time of year when it is appropriate to reflect on the past season and to start looking ahead. In my case I am fast approaching the AGM when it will be my turn to loosen my grip of the tiller and hand over to Tim Ware to guide the Club into the future.

It has been a very great privilege to have flown the Commodore's pennant over the past two years that have seen many highs and several lows in the Club's life. The lows were all down to too many dear members and friends slipping their lines for the last time, including four of my predecessors in this post. The highs are too numerous to mention individually but exhilarating sails, sparkling company and lively parties certainly feature prominently.

The Annual Dinner last month was a very jolly affair enjoyed by a capacity crew in the company of our Admiral and the Second Sea Lord. They both remarked to me that the spirit of the Club was very evident and that the advancing years were being held back by our participation and enjoyment of Club events such as that. Oh yes and by the way - keep taking the tablets too!

Almost without exception, the Club events and rallies have been well supported in the past year but we must never get complacent because there is always room for improvement and innovation so get out your thinking caps. The programme for 2011 is taking shape

rapidly and the key dates are elsewhere in this update so make sure they get into your new diaries without delay.

Early in the New Year you will be seeing the new club website that Jonathan Otter is creating with guidance and support from your committee. It promises to increase our profile and make it more attractive and useful to existing and prospective members alike. This work together with the new data base already in operation will, I believe, put the Club in a better position to manage its affairs and propel the us into the future. Again positive feedback to the committee is welcomed and encouraged.

Well what is ahead? The Liverpool Boat Show and Northern Dinner on 7th May will certainly be one of the highlights. If you have never been to Liverpool or only remember it as a distant memory, this is an event you must try and get to. Liverpool has undergone a dramatic change for the better in the past decade and now has a shopping complex of world quality to compliment the iconic waterfront that itself has been transformed in recent years. The Naval Headquarters encompassing HMS EAGLET is also a striking testament to the faith and investment that has poured into Liverpool and will make a very memorable setting for our Northern Dinner. The icing on the cake is of course the first Liverpool Boat Show centred on the restored Albert Dock complex.

In case any of you have been wondering what has been happening at the Royal Dorset Yacht Club of late, with whom we have always

been "chummy", I have received this letter from their Commodore

Dear Commodore,

With the Olympic Games coming to Weymouth in 2012 we have taken the decision to totally refurbish our Club and garden during this winter period. To ensure the work is completed in good time, and disruption is kept to a minimum, we have decided to close the Club completely from the 1st January, 2011 until early March, 2011. Unfortunately during this period we will be unable offer our normal welcome or any facilities to any of your members passing through Weymouth. When the newly refurbished Club is re-opened in March we will be open seven days a week and be able to offer much improved service and facilities. I would be grateful if you would inform your members accordingly, and look forward to welcoming them to the 'new' Royal Dorset after re-opening.

Best wishes,

*Gareth Peaston (Capt.)
Commodore
Royal Dorset Yacht Club*

We wish them well and hope their major refurbishment is completed to time and cost.

It only remains now for me to wish all Club members and their families a very enjoyable Christmas, a peaceful and healthy 2011 and above all, fair winds and safe voyaging on the oceans.

Mike Morgan

Rally Plaques

It is the norm for a "Rally Plaque" to be produced each year to commemorate the Rally. The original supplier went out of business and for the years 2006, 7, 8 no plaques were produced. A new supplier was found in 2009 who has been prevailed upon to produce a quantity of these "missing years" plaques.

Stuart Handley has a few spares left for sale over and above those that were pre-ordered by Members. They are of an attractive design, baize covered on the base and make excellent coasters. Stuart's telephone number is Tel: 01963 362010-first come etc etc.....

Obituary

Tony Howard

Tony Howard died on September 15 after a brief struggle with cancer. He was 82. Tony left Pangbourne Nautical College at the age of 16 to join P & O as a Cadet and his first voyages were on North Atlantic convoys in 1944. In 1953, he was already a First Officer, sailing on passenger and cargo ships and soon became the company's second youngest ever Chief Officer. Tony married his wife Margaret in 1954 and two years later became Marine Superintendent for the P & O Shipping Agency in Port Said, Egypt. They soon found themselves in the thick of the Suez Canal crisis.

In May 1959 he left P & O and joined Trinity House as a Pilot around the Solent and Isle of Wight, including of course, Southampton. He became the Chairman of the Pilots Service and following the 2007 reorganisation he was a prime mover in achieving a sensible settlement with ABP. As a former colleague wrote, "*as a colleague and friend, Tony was very loyal, a great Pilot and a true professional*".

Tony was a keen cruising yachtsman and sailed with the Club in *Mariposa* on our Rallies and sailing events until relatively recently. His other love was flying. He enjoyed gliding and obtained his Private Pilots Licence. Our thoughts are with Margaret at this time.

Club Program 2011

12 Jan	AGM	Naval Club
24 Feb	Lecture "Through Hell and High Water" Linda Brewer	Royal Thames YC
17 Apr	Fitting Out Party	RAFYC, Hamble
21 Apr	Royal Yacht Clubs' Golf Day	Brockenhurst Manor /Royal Lymington YC
30Apr/ 2 May	May BH Meet	Royal S'ton YC Gins Farm
6/8 May	Liverpool Boat Show and Northern Dinner(7May)	HMS Eaglet. L'pool
28/30 May	Spring BH Meet	Hayling Island SC
18/19 June	Club Sailing w/e	Solent
25 June	Round the Island Race	Solent
25/26 June	East Coast meet with RNSA. RNSA led	River Orwell
July dates tbc	Summer Rally	St Helier and environs
10/11 Aug	East Coast meet with RNSA, Club led	River Blackwater
27/29 Aug	Summer BH Meet	RMYC Sandbanks
10/11 Sept	Club Sailing w/e	Solent
1/2Oct	Autumn Meet	Royal Lymington YC
6 Nov	Laying up Party (Lunch)	R Navy +R Albert YC, Southsea, Portsmouth
18Nov	Annual Dinner	The In and Out (Naval and Military) Club
12Dec	Christmas Party	Naval Club

The Morton Smart Trophy

Cdr Sir Morton Smart GCVO DSO MD RNVR was an officer of great distinction. After gaining his medical qualifications he commanded various gunboats in the First War before continuing his career in medicine which took him to London and surgeon to the monarchy.

His widow presented his beautiful 1904 sextant to the Club which is on display in the Naval Club. It is annually awarded to the Member who is adjudged to have made an exceptional contribution to the RNVR Yacht Club.

An old and faded photograph of Sir Morton Smart taken, I believe in about 1933 has come to light which I have digitally enhanced. It is the intention to send each recipient of the sextant a suitably annotated copy of this photo in a simple mount. Perusal of old Newsletters and News updates back to 1999 has yielded the names recipients from then to now. More research will be needed to go back further. If there are recipients prior to 1999 reading this will they kindly advise me so I can do the necessary. Additionally, if any member has any biographical details of Sir Morton Smart I would be pleased to receive them.

The Liverpool Boat Show

The best way to find out about this magnificent enterprise is to simply Google "**Liverpool Boat Show**" where **offers of accommodation, videos and the like may be seen.** It promises to be a great event, topped of course by the Northern Dinner on 7 May. Those who might be considering coming up for the week end are urged to make their hotel reservations sooner rather than later.

Article for Newsletters etc

Many thanks to all those who have made and continue to make a contribution. Please keep on doing so. Longer articles are generally posted on the Club website if I cannot fit them in the Newsletter.

Tom Cunningham Editor.