

The R N V R Yacht Club

NEWS UPDATE

December 2012

By the Commodore

We are undoubtedly ending 2012 on a high, with excellent, well-attended events in the form of the Autumn Meet in Cowes, the Laying Up Lunch at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club (where it was good to see Martin Alexander's fully repaired *Spirit of Avalon* alongside) and the Annual Dinner at the RAG. Already, registrations have confirmed that we will also have a first-class turnout for our Christmas Party in *HMS President*.

But the last few weeks have also been tinged with sadness, with the news of Past Commodore Stuart Holden's death. The Club was well represented at the simple but moving Memorial Service held in Beaulieu Abbey on 6th November to celebrate Stuart's colourful life. We will miss him. See later in this Update for his obituary.

As my term of office draws to a close, I am sure that you will allow me to indulge in a bit of reminiscing! Looking back over the two years (but shutting my mind to the strong winds and heavy rain that plagued us), I can see scene after scene of members and guests having fun, both afloat and ashore. Graphic images flash before my eyes, such as, in 2011, of bloodthirsty pirates, armed to the teeth, seeking treasure in Itchenor during the Spring Bank Holiday weekend; of Summer Rally participants soaking up the sun and Pimms on board George Lines's *Bouzy* in a wind-swept Carteret; and of TRH Prince and Princess Michael of Kent getting into the festive spirit at our Christmas Party in the Naval Club. For this year, the film show running in my mind includes reminiscences of halcyon days in the BVI on the Caribbean Cruise; of Peter Costalas and Bernie Steed conducting with panache the rum ceremony at Yarmouth on the May Bank Holiday Meet (and weren't we all glad to have our tots on that miserably bleak day!); of our various events during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend; and of members singing sea shanties *fortissimo* at the

Dartmouth Yacht Club during the Summer Rallybut the film show could go on and on.

It has been a real privilege and an honour to have served as your Commodore during this period, but my time has been made so much easier by the considerable support I have received from my fellow Flag Officers and the Committee, for which I am most grateful. I feel sure that my successor, David Whitby, can count on the same level of support when I hand over to him at the AGM in January.

As you will see in the next column David has a most attractive programme lined up for us for next year. I am looking forward especially to participating in the Baltic Experience, being the Summer Rally planned for next August on board Halberg Rassy 342s, to be chartered from The British Kiel Yacht Club. Also, next year may at some time see the purchase of another Club yacht, as steady progress is being made towards implementing the business model which the Committee considers will enable the Club to own another yacht on a sound and financially viable basis.

I will conclude by wishing all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2013, especially when afloat.

Tim Ware

Hot Scoop

Baltic Experiences 1 & 2

A hard copy of the Vice Commodore's brief is included with this Update for responses by email or post. Hurry-hurry!

New Members

A warm welcome to the following who have joined in the last 6 months:

Neil Pugh – List 1 Cdr RNR
Joseph Macdonald – List 1 – AB RNR
David Royall – List 1 – exRN WEM(O)
Bob Cross – List 2
Simon Collingwood – List 2
John Anderson – List 1 exRN Lt
Iain Cooper – List 1 exRNR Lt
David Murch - List 2

Programme 2013

16 Jan	AGM The Naval Club
14 Mar	Royal Thames YC Lecture: " <i>The modernisation of the MCA</i> " By Admiral Massey
22 Mar	Northern Dinner The Artists Club Liverpool
14 Apr	Fitting-out Party RAF YC, Hamble
18 Apr	Royal Yacht Clubs' Golf Day Brokenhurst Manor and Royal Lymington Yacht YC
4-6 May	Bank Holiday Meet Bembridge
25-27 May	Spring Meet Beaulieu River
28-31 May	Solent area
1 Jun	Round the Island Race
15-16 Jun	East Coast Meet Orwell-Royal Harwich
20-21 Jun	Osborne House Concert. Island Hbr
31 Jul-10 Aug	1 st Baltic Experience
9-19 Aug	2 nd Baltic Experience British Kiel YC
2-6 Sep	"Baie de Seine" Autumn Cruise St Vaast/Deauville
21-22 Sep	Club Sailing Weekend To Bradwell
12-13 Oct	Autumn Meet Chichester Harbour
3 Nov	Laying-up Party RNC & RAYC Southsea
15 Nov	Annual Dinner RAF Club, Piccadilly
9 Dec	Christmas Party HMS President

Programme 2014

15 Jan	AGM The Naval Club
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Annual Dinner

Friday 9 November

108 members and guests dined in the company of our Admiral, HRH Prince Michael of Kent in our latest venue, the Army and Navy Club.

Having assembled in the ante-room at 1900 for champagne we enjoyed an excellent dinner provided by competent, friendly and attentive staff. Once switched into 'autobabble mode' time flew. At 2240 we were launched into the formalities by the Commodore, before thoroughly enjoying the anecdotal pearls delivered by the Guest of Honour, Rear Admiral Chris Parry, a past naval aviator of distinction. HRH kindly presented the prizes with an additional award being made to Tom Cunningham for his long, tireless and innovative service as Editor of the Newsletter, a task he performed in parallel with his duties as a flag officer and finally as commodore.

Nigel Hayler
(Scribes)

A more graphic account will be provided in the next Newsletter with full photographic coverage (Rogues Gallery!) courtesy Richard Olsen.

The Autumn Meet

After such a wet summer it was a surprising pleasure to have good weather for the Autumn Meet. The skippers who made the effort to visit Cowes were rewarded with a sail rather than just a 'journey', whilst the shore parties were able to 'journey' without wearing full 'wets'.

After a gathering for a drink on the pontoons at West Cowes (where the marina was surprisingly full) the party gathered in the Royal London YC for dinner in the London Room. Quite a number of the 52 attendees were from HMS President and it was a pleasure to meet so many enthusiastic young (to us anyway) sailors enjoying the hospitality of RLYC as our guests. Thanks due to those who invited them.

It was noticed, by some of the more observant that some of the flags adorning the London Room were hung back to front which won apologies from the organising staff since they themselves had only just noticed the mistake after an earlier spring clean.

After dinner drinks in the bar went on until gone midnight giving us a further chance for to catch up on news and chat about the season's sailing. On the Sunday many of the party went sailing,

while 20 or so went to the Classic Boat Museum in its new home in Cowes. It was well worth the visit as the Museum has been much improved since relocating from Newport and we were lucky to have a fascinating private guided tour.

A few of us then went up to Osborne House, which was resplendent in the Autumn sunshine, for an introduction by a guide followed by a tour of the house and gardens where the views over the Solent were wonderful.

Simon Kearns

Laying-up Party

Sunday 28 October

The last 'away match' of the year held at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club, Ocean Village.

From the website:

After a convivial reception and splendid lunch our Commodore, Tim Ware, welcomed everyone to the Party and provided a brief resumé of the summer sailing activities and the challenging weather - definitely promising better conditions next year!! Susan Lamb, Commodore of the RSYC, gave an informative presentation on the extensive activities of the RSYC in Southampton, Gins and across the Solent. This was followed, on a topical note for the summer's national sailing activities, by her husband Robert who provided a very enlightening insight into the trials and tribulations behind the organisation of the Olympic sailing activities at Weymouth, which produced such a magnificent event.

Bob Helsby

Allan Lansley Waller VRD*

A Founder Member of the club.

Allan died on 2 August 2012. His obituary may be found on the Telegraph website. Remembered by many as the author of 'Dawn Will Always Break' he was affectionately known during WWII as the 'Jonah of Parkeston Quay'.

Stuart Holden RD 1934 – 2012

Stuart left Oundle School and undertook three years National Service in the Royal Navy, during which he was based mostly in the Mediterranean and enjoyed playing his beloved rugby.

He then trained as an accountant, in which profession he worked throughout his career, but branched out to set up his own Financial PR firm, which he ran for fourteen years.

Joining the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1954, Stuart was mostly attached to London Division, and retired from service in the rank of Lieutenant-Commander and with the Reserve Decoration.

He joined the Club in 1968, and often sailed in "Volunteer", both when cruising but also competitively, including in Volunteer Cup races. Stuart became the proud owner of an Oyster Mariner 35, "Ocean Safari", which he kept in the Mediterranean for 16 years, but no sailing boat was too small for him and he derived much pleasure from dinghy sailing right up until his short illness and his death.

Stuart is the only Club member to have served as Commodore on two separate occasions, during 1977-8 and in 1987. He was good company, and will be remembered for his dry sense of humour and the twinkle he would invariably have in his eye when in conversation.

He will be much missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Launching 'ANYMOOSE'

Your shot at anonymous reporting of incidents and accounts of 'interesting' episodes, from which we can all learn.

Anymoose 1

And lo it came to pass that there moved upon the waters Yotties of the Hambeldeez of the tribe of Ah Rhen Vhee Ah, whence they did glide amongst the pontoons and piles of that accursed maw, riven with rocks, fearsome eddies and flows, crying 'Woeizmeandalack for the great unwashed of the tribe of Rae Sing are in much abundance and sweep upon us in the fairway with gunsandhorns paying scant tribute and respect to an ark of the Ah Rhen Vhee Ah. They were sore afflicted and with great oathing their elder did cry out 'getyehence and goforth from these waters of Ham Bel Poynt for you are causing me great distress and much manoeuvring, oh you wretches of the tribe of Rae Sing'. And lo they did gesticulate greatly and with loud utterances of 'Getoutovmiwae' and 'Udamgit' did thence proceed unto the Fife of Mercuree of the Kingdom of Ham Bel, seeking the tranquillity and solice that lay therein.

Scribes

(Please submit your 'Anymoose' in an idiom of your choice. Prizes may be awarded idc!)

R N V R YACHT CLUB

Baltic Experience August 2013

In early August 2013, the RNVR Yacht Club is, for the first time, planning to hold a cruise in the Baltic. Sailing from Kiel, this will take place in the South East corner of the Baltic, primarily in the very popular sailing areas of South Fyn and Lille Baelt. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are being requested from Members.

Courtesy of The British Kiel Yacht Club, we have been able to pre-book 8 of their Halberg Rassy 342's, for the period 31 July to 19 August 2013. The yachts do not become available until the end of the Kiel Training Centre scheduled training programme on 30 July. The plan is to have 2 of, 10 day trips with an overlap dinner in between for both groups. This dinner will be held at The British Kiel YC on the 9 August, and there will probably be at least 2 other official meet ups on each of the 10 day trips.

The proposed dates for the two group options would be 31 July/1 Aug to 10 Aug, and for the second group, 9 Aug to 18/19 August. The 18th finish is for those who have to return home for work on the Monday, before the yachts are actually handed back on the 19th. The first group would need to use local accommodation for their last night on Friday 10th. Each HR 342 can accommodate six, but four is probably more comfortable. RNVR YC members will be able to charter each yacht at a rate of only 940Eu per 7 days. This equates to about 336Eu each for 10 days with 4 on board or only 224 Eu each if 6 on board.

The BKYC do have a minimum requirement of Day Skipper to sail within the extensive South Fyn and Lille Baelt areas, but skippers with Coastal Skipper and above may plan to take longer sails further away if they wish, although night sailing is not recommended. Buoyancy Aids and foul weather gear will be available from the BKYC.

We would particularly like to encourage our serving members to join us and hope this is a trip that will appeal to them - as well as offer training potential.

Getting there is easiest by flying to Hamburg airport, from where there is an hourly express coach service to Kiel. The most economical flights, particularly if booked early, are by Easy Jet from Gatwick or Manchester. There are also Ryan Air flights from Stanstead to Lubeck. Alternatively, travelling by car avoids luggage hassles and is very comfortable if using the Harwich/Hook overnight ferry and followed by a few hours drive in the morning.

We know we have several members who have considered taking their own yacht through the Kiel Canal and this cruise offers the perfect excuse to do so. It is hoped that some members may like to take their own yachts up to the Baltic, and those who do so will probably be looking for crews for a leg or two.

As numbers on the BKYC yachts are limited by the berths available, it is likely that bookings for these yachts will be restricted to Club members plus one guest per member.

At the time of writing, it is only 48 hours since the e-bulletin was circulated, and EOI have already been received for 25% of the berths. If you have not already done so please complete the EOI form on the recent e-bulletin or forward your details, to Vice Commodore David Whitby at DavidJWhitby@aol.com or by post to 50 Fernlea Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 1HD. Please advise if you are considering taking your own yacht up to Kiel and through the Kiel Canal. If considering the charter option, include dates available, any RYA qualifications held, sharing preferences, plus details of any accompanying guests. We can then move forward with further planning, but all skippers will be consulted before suggesting any additional crewing arrangements. I am looking forward to it already.

David Whitby
Vice Commodore