

# NEWS UPDATE

December 2013

## By the Commodore

Following our Autumn meet at Langstone and our Laying Up at Portsmouth, a most enjoyable 2013 sailing season is drawing to a close and we are making plans for more exciting events in 2014. Our recent Annual Dinner at The RAF Club and our Christmas party at *HMS President* both gave the opportunity, not only to reminisce on the events of the past year, but also to consolidate our planning for next seasons programme outlined on the right.

February's meet to Antigua is proving very popular with 8 yachts chartered and at least 52 members and guests taking part. For those on the West Coast there is the Fitting-out Supper in Liverpool to look forward to in February, and if you live in the South West, or elsewhere and you and your partner deserve a well earned weekend break, the South West Weekend at the Berry Head Hotel is recommended.

The hot topic of the day however, is our new club yacht which at the time of writing, is still under negotiation after a full survey last week. As outlined in last weeks email to members, the current choice of a 2008 First 40.7 cruiser/racer, is a yacht that I believe will maximize on the usage potential, both with our own club membership and with Vortec.

We are keeping our fingers crossed for a successful completion and that it is our club that will be renaming her. If we do complete this month, there is ample opportunity to prepare her as an ideal yacht for next season. With her spacious cockpit, comfortable accommodation and undoubted sailing ability, she is likely to be popular particularly for club events.

## New Members

**A warm welcome is extended to the following who have joined within the last six months:**

**Elizabeth Palmer** – List 1 –  
ex LWRN RNR

**James Shelley** – List 1 –  
Surg Lt Cdr RNR

## Club Database

All membership details have now been transferred from the Access Database onto the web site, including List, Year Joined and Membership of other clubs. Some details, such as postal addresses, are not visible to members for security reasons but these can still be found in the Blue Book. The Membership Secretary must be informed of any change of address.

However, much more information is now available to members including further details of members' boats. The downside is that much of the information was taken from your original application form so could well be out of date! Please do check your profile and make any amendments – you will find that you can now change the majority of fields. If you require changes to any of the protected fields, please inform the Membership Secretary.

## HOT SCOOP!!

**RNVR YC Caribbean Cruise Antigua from 22 February to 2 March 2014.**

GOOD NEWS! We now have eight yachts chartered with 52 Members and guests registered for this cruise! If you have not registered but wish to come, either with an additional yacht or as a shore party, it is not too late to join us.

**BZ—Cdr Cedric Loughran**—on being awarded a citation at Trinity House on 23 November for Services to the MCA and Fishing Industry (More in the Spring Newsletter)

## Programme 2014

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 8 Jan                     | AGM<br>The Naval Club  |
| (Feb/Mar*)                | Lecture<br>Royal Thames YC                                   |
| 15 Feb                    | RNSA/RNVR YC<br>Fitting-out Supper<br>Liverpool YC           |
| <b>22Feb-<br/>- 3 Mar</b> | <b>Caribbean Cruise<br/>Antigua</b>                          |
| 22-23 Mar                 | SW Weekend<br>Berry Head Hotel                               |
| 6 Apr                     | Fitting-out Party<br>Royal Southampton YC                    |
| 3-5 May                   | May Bank Holiday Meet<br>Yarmouth<br>Royal Solent YC         |
| <b>1-9 Jun</b>            | <b>Annual Cruise – NL70<br/>St Vaast &amp; Ouistreham</b>    |
| 21 Jun                    | Round The Island Race<br>Solent                              |
| 5-6 July                  | East Coast Meet<br>With RNSA/Orwell Meet<br>Royal Harwich YC |
| 27Jul-<br>-3 Aug          | 5 Harbours Cruise<br>Solent Area                             |
| 20-21 Sep                 | East Coast Meet<br>With RNSA to Bradwell<br>River Blackwater |
| 11-12 Oct                 | Autumn Meet<br>Hornet Services SC                            |
| 12 Oct                    | Laying-up Party<br>Royal Naval Club &<br>Royal Albert YC     |
| <b>14 Nov</b>             | <b>Annual Dinner<br/>Royal Thames YC</b>                     |
| 8 Dec                     | Christmas Party  |

## Programme 2015

- |        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 14 Jan | AGM<br>The Naval Club |
|--------|-----------------------|

(\* tbd. idc. To be detailed—in due course!)

## Past Events in Brief:

### Club Sailing Weekend

#### Bradwell 21/22 September

7 yachts and 24 crew participated, with *Moonfleet* making the longest passage from Grays. The most intrepid voyage was that of Alice a Mirror dinghy from Brightlinsea with a leak below the waterline keeping crew well occupied in baling. *Sulair* left West Mersea at 1030 for Maldon encountering a spectacular racing fleet of traditional yachts and barges enroute. Other yachts were *Kumala* from Heybridge; JulieMarie in *Succesor*; Chris and Pat Jones in their new boat *Dancing Bear*. Moonfleet hosted the pontoon party/assembly prior to an excellent supper at the Bradwell Quay Yacht Club. Low water at 0839 on the Sunday allowed for a Whitby Brunch at 0930, delegated to *Sulair*'s team. Fog lifting at 100 allowed for the timely departure of remaining yachts. (Extracted from **June Berridge's** article on the website)

### Autumn Meet—Chichester

#### 12/13 October-Northney Marina

Always a jolly meet when members gather on the last sailing event of the season to recount salty stories and tales of daring-do undertaken earlier in the year. This year was no exception with the participation of *Alouette*, *Spirit of Avalon*, *Wild Swan* and Peter and Pat Bryan's recently acquired Jeanneau 34.2 *Blue Shadow*. (Extracted from **Tom C's excellent account which awaits publication in the next 'Newslater'**. Scribes)

### Laying-up Party

#### Royal Naval & Royal Albert Yacht Club 3 November

The laying-up party and lunch, this year, was once again held in Portsmouth at the Royal Albert Yacht Club. Members congregated in the upstairs bar for pre-lunch drinks and to reminisce over the season's activities whilst taking-in the spectacular view of the Solent. It was the first time that many had met since the Baltic cruise and

much discussion ensued over the advantages and disadvantages of box moorings. A fine lunch was provided by the Royal Albert Yacht Club, served using a clever colour-coded system on the place names to ensure that *nearly* everyone had the dishes they had ordered! The Commodore thanked the host club and brought the assembled company up-to-date with the current situation over the purchase of a new club yacht. A good time was had by all.

**Martin Frith**

### Annual Dinner

#### RAF Club 15 November

With yet another change of venue the challenge has become one of navigating the nether regions of Mayfair, Piccadilly and St James. However, for those members attending, who were staying in the Naval Club, this involved a pleasant out-of-hours stroll through Shepherd's Market and various Passages to Piccadilly and the RAF Club. 105 diners assembled at 1830 for pre-dinner bubbly (...and 'warmers into the bank') with a degree of overspill into the main passageway prior to a timely and brilliantly executed 'Hands to Dinner' piped to perfection by Lieutenant Stuart Challice on the boatswain's call at 1923.

A silence was observed for The Fallen and grace delivered by our padre, Father Peter Gamble. Dinner was served by a professional, friendly and attentive staff and after a welcome order to 'ease springs' we settled for the main events of the evening, the addresses by our two Guests of Honour. AVM David Niven, who had sailed with the club in past years. He regaled us with his experiences as a sea-going 'crab' serving with 845 Naval Air Squadron embarked in HMS Hermes, sometimes bemused by the antics of his 'fish head' brethren upon their 'lawful occasion'! Cdre Andrew Jamieson (CMR) then took the stand and provided an interesting appraisal of the current State of the Reserve. Formalities

were drawn to a close with the customary presentation of awards and trophies, reflecting the multitude of endeavours undertaken by members throughout the year. With time for reflection and chat in the bar afterwards and an opportunity to offer thanks to the organisers, members dispersed at around 2330 after a memorable and most enjoyable evening.

**Nigel Hayler**

(By Scribes: Pictorial account will be rendered in the Spring Newsletter.)

### 'COLREGS' Lecture

#### Vice Admiral Paul Boissier

#### Royal Thames YC-21 November

The Royal Institute of Navigation hosted this lecture given by our member, Paul Boissier, CEO of the RNLI. The RIN kindly invited the RNVY YC to attend and 20 members so did. Paul brilliantly delivered a most thought-provoking and informative presentation on how a yacht might conduct herself in a developing close quarters situation; how well, or otherwise she might, or might not be seen by a merchantman; the timing dynamics, as distances were closing and bearings were steady, indeed, how to survive by best avoiding a close quarters situation in the first place.

It was a truly excellent evening made all the more so by dinner taken afterwards in the gracious splendour of the RTYC dining room.

**Tom Cunningham**

### Anymoose

It happens to all great and small  
Especially when caught in a squall  
Despite expertise

On the moment we seize  
And all manner of ill may befall.

**Colregs** simply must be observed

To do otherwise - simply absurd!

But when in a fix

You can't just do nix

'Avoid Contact' the cry to be heard

We've all of us been there before

And at risk of becoming a bore

If we make a wrong turn

Admit it and learn

'Fair Cop'-don't challenge the Law.