

Commodore's News Letter February 2011

Looking back over the last season may I take this opportunity to thank my fellow flag officers and their wives, also the management committee for all of their hard work over the past year.

A special thanks to Alison Woods who has left the committee, we send her and Darren our congratulations and best wishes.

I would like to welcome Claude Wheeler onto the management team and am sure that she will have an important contribution to make.

The last year saw the usual open meetings, Club regatta and Junior and Ladies regattas all of which were well attended and produced some excellent sailing.

Full reports are to be found on both our website and on the Yachts and Yachting site.



The club took part in the Mid Thames Trophy at Aquarius and retained the title, many thanks to all those who travelled whether to race or to sail.

There were also a number of Social events and these were well attended and really help to promote the friendliness and sense of community that is so evident within the club. With your help I am sure that we shall maintain this spirit.

Many of you turned out for the Dunkirk evening, where Trevor and Hywel spoke about their "Little Ships" and we had the opportunity of seeing a film of the 70th anniversary crossing to Dunkirk.

I know that some of you requested copies of the dvd and it is intended to make it available at a small charge.

Our **Laying up Dinner Dance** was at a new venue this year and we have to thank Oatlands Park hotel for providing such a great venue and excellent food. Thanks also to Maureen for all of her tireless work in organising this event as well as the other social events we have enjoyed throughout the year.

The children's party was held in the clubhouse whilst the AGM took place in the Church hall and it was nice to see some of the third and fourth generation of club members enjoying the afternoon and their visit from Father Christmas.



The normal weekly sailing was well attended with an average turnout of just over 15 boats, although this was down on recent years.



into our programme to help celebrate the wedding. More details nearer the time. Other socials will include a quiz night and possibly a themed supper later in the year. There will also be the usual barbecues and suppers after some of the sailing events.

Now for a reminder - **Working parties** – if you haven't managed to get to any so far, please do try to come. The club depends on your support to ensure that repairs, redecorating etc. are carried out and without our band of willing volunteers we would have to pay for this to be done. One reason we are one of the best value clubs out there is the self help ethos that we have. So for those that do come, many thanks, your help is invaluable. Those that have not managed to turn out, especially the newer members, please try it. We start around 10.30 and usually have lunch at 1.45.

Dates for the next working parties and cleaning day are:-

20th February / 6th March
20th March **Cleaning day**

Fitting out party is on March 26th at 8 p.m. with the first sail on the 27th.

If any of you have any sailing clobber you would like to donate for the auction please bring it to the fitting out party. It has also been suggested that we could sell homemade crafts, jams etc on this evening with participants giving a donation to the club. If you have anything to sell then bring it along on the evening.

A quick update on the Church land, where by the time you read this, we hope to have signed off the contract and will be awaiting the solicitors to finalise the transfer.

Finally, here's looking forward to another great year of sailing and social events at Hampton

Derek & Mary

The Carol concert was well attended despite the weather. All who were on duty and indeed those that sailed, served and sang deserve credit for their tenacity in turning out and making such an enjoyable day given the snowy conditions.

Boxing Day saw the first time in many years that the ferry had to be an ice breaker to get across to the club, congratulations to those that broke ice, defrosted pipes, ferried water and generally ensured that the club could function for the RNLI pennant race and following lunch.

We recently held a Skittles evening which was a great success and one that I feel sure we will repeat in the future. Many thanks to all who turned out and I am sure that you will have enjoyed the evening as much as we did.

As I write this, the evening at **Wimbledon Greyhound Races** is fast approaching and if last year's visit is anything to go by we shall have an enjoyable and, hopefully, a profitable evening.

With the forthcoming royal wedding to look forward to, we have included a social event