

Christmas Times

WEATHERING THE STORM!

WELCOME to the inaugural issue of the Royal Solent Times.

In these difficult and ever-changing times we thought it more important than ever to stay in touch with our members; to review what we DID manage to achieve after the first lockdown and, more importantly, look forward to what we CAN bring you during the winter months ahead and into next season.

It is the time to adapt, to reach out to our members near and far, especially those who for whatever reason have been unable to visit the Club.



With this in mind the usual annual Spring magazine that has served us so well in the past was far too distant to meet the needs of the membership in these times. Something more immediate, more relevant, was needed to inform and stay connected with our members.

And so, WELCOME to the first of, what we hope will be, a regular newspaper, packed with up to date stories of what has been happening at the Royal Solent and exciting news of what to look forward to over the Christmas period and the months to follow in the run up to spring.

Miles Peckham, Rear Commodore House

SAILING ROUNDUP: Rear Commodore Sailing, Katie Davies reports on an unusual sailing season.

LOCKDOWN COMMUNITY: Club members supporting the West Wight.

THOM D'ARCY RETURNS: The completion of a singlehanded 4 year, 37,000 mile circumnavigation in a 28ft boat.

GOLF AND SHOOTING: Off the water activities are on the up.

WHAT'S ON AT THE RSYC: Winter programme enclosed.



**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**





A triumphant return

After 4 years away, Royal Solent member Thom D'Arcy returns to Yarmouth after his single handed 37,223 mile circumnavigation. A fleet of RSYC and YSC Yachts and members were there to meet him at the Needles.



Left: Thom waves to escorting craft.
Photo by Keith Allso.



Right: Reunited with his family.



Thom crosses his outward track in February 2019.



The last few miles. Thom D'Arcy returns in Fathom after his single handed circumnavigation. Photo by Keith Allso.

When I set sail from Yarmouth in May 2016, I was unsure how far I would go but knew without doubt that I was ready for an adventure.

Cutting land ties and giving up an income had not been easy and I remember feeling a mix of excitement and apprehension as I drifted down the Western Solent, wondering what I was getting myself into and when I would be back in home waters.

I write this now onboard *Fathom*, moored in Yarmouth Harbour once again. When I look out of the companionway towards the quay and the hustle and bustle of harbour life, it is almost like time has stood still and nothing has changed since that day I left.

Have I really been away over four years and sailed 37,223 miles around the world? Beyond a quick glance it's clear the country I have returned to is

very different to the one I left in 2016 with the Brexit Referendum taking place whilst I was away and now the challenges of a global pandemic.

It's not just a strange time for me as I attempt the transition to land life and to find a job, it's an unusual time for everyone.

When I look back on the voyage, I realise that it can be separated into two quite distinct parts.

The first, which makes up less than 20 percent of the total time, is that on passage. The weeks alone at sea; having to switch into the mindset of being self-sufficient; to accept my boat and I are just a tiny insignificant dot within the immensity of the open ocean; that there is no one to help if things go wrong.

Lying in my bunk on a dark stormy night, thousands of miles from land, trying to catch a few minutes of sleep

whilst *Fathom* sails on unattended into the blackness rolling beam to beam took some getting used to.

The 38 days at sea from Panama to the Marquesas in French Polynesia with nothing but the odd dolphin for company, yet with a limitless sense of freedom, was completely unique. I tried to embrace the solitude of these long ocean passages and realised it was possible to be alone, but not lonely.

The second part was a complete contrast; the times spent with others; the camaraderie with fellow sailors as we explored new landfalls together; the group adventures; buddy boating between islands; being a part of a floating community; lifelong friendships forged over sundowners and music jam sessions beneath the palm trees. So many amazing memories.

Thankfully, the bad days were few and far between. Having said that I will always remember being knocked down by a breaking wave off Australia, having to squeeze into the cockpit locker waist deep in water with the boat half sunk to plug a hole whilst in the middle of the South Atlantic and suffering engine failure a hundred metres off the breakwater of La Coruña, a lee shore in 25 knots of wind.

All of these certainly contributed to me returning with far fewer hairs on my head than when I left!

There are too many highlights to mention here, but my encounters with wildlife particularly stand out; from swimming with humpback whales in Tonga; alongside 3m wide manta rays in Fiji; to gliding beside 9m long whale sharks in Saint Helena. It was very humbling to be a temporary visitor in their underwater world.

I will never forget the welcome as I returned to the Solent back in August. I may have sailed to 19 countries and 80 islands, incredible places such as the uninhabited coral atolls of the Tuamotu's in the South Pacific.

I visited isolated villages in Madagascar and iconic landmarks such as the Opera House in Sydney Harbour, but nothing beats the sight of the Needles appearing on the horizon after such a long time away.

Thank you to the Commodore and flag officers of the Club for helping organise the flotilla and to all the members that came out to wave me in.

It was a special day and a perfect way to finish my voyage on the River Yar, surrounded by friends and family at the very place I learnt to sail in my Optimist dinghy all those years ago. The question I'm often asked, and can't answer yet, is: 'What now?' ...



WE'RE HERE FOR OUR MEMBERS



Bingo night. There are some winners!

Normally, I would be writing an article for the annual magazine reflecting on the year past. However, there is nothing "normal" about this year. We – the Flag Officers and Committee Members – spend our time thinking "outside the box" in terms of how to run the Club, how to keep our Members interested and entertained. Therefore, the idea of a Royal Solent Christmas Times really appealed to me.

We are certainly sailing through stormy waters but, to date, we are holding our own. In fact more than holding our own – the visitors we have welcomed over the summer months have sent some incredible messages – ours was the first club to get sailing, the first club to open whilst above all being safe and welcoming – something of which our membership can be proud. One member even referred to the Royal Solent recently as their "port in the storm of 2020."

However, at the time of writing, we are about to go into a second lockdown period. Hopefully it will be short lived, but during November we will still be here for our members with virtual quizzes and talks, plus a weekly curry take-away.

There is no doubt that we have had a successful sailing season, we may not have been able to hold the Taittinger Regatta but we managed some events - Folkboat Week, the Royal Artillery Regatta and some excellent club racing. This has been down, not only to the sailors themselves, but the race officers and volunteers led by our Rear Commodore Sailing, Katie Davies. The winter series started well – even I have taken to the water and dug out the thermals and oilskins! We hope this can start again at the beginning of December.

Winter is with us and the skies are darker and, despite a further closure, we are still very positive about the future. It is a difficult course to steer – ensuring that the Club re-opens and operates within the rules and regulations. We are fortunate in having a clubhouse large enough to maintain social distancing and at the same time create an atmosphere by way of themed dinners and lunches.

The quality of food is better than ever, with some memorable meals and there are more exciting evenings planned. The staff have to work hard with table service etc. but their welcome is as genuine as ever – I can assure you that, under the masks they



Virtual Quiz.



Anne Kyle, Commodore RSYC.



Book Club.

are still smiling. Many of you have appreciated the welcome you have received from the duty officers and this we will continue to do in busy times.

As you are all aware, during lockdown, a team of our members worked in the community – helping with food deliveries, delivering prescriptions and many other acts of kindness. The community of Yarmouth is very important to us and, once more our team have sprung into action.

To the future, none of us know when life will return to normal but we are learning to live with the situation. The Club has therefore become an even more important part of our lives – somewhere we can visit, get fed, see each other, and feel safe. We will continue with the restaurant environment as I think it will be some time before we will be able to shed our masks and mingle.

We are already planning the sailing season ahead, we may well start racing earlier next year as this past season demonstrated everyone was keen to get out on the water. Those classes initially unable to sail because of

restrictions in the make-up of crews, still got out on the water by taking to the Club Lasers. We had a record fleet out this year and I am fully confident we will see the same this coming spring.

We continue to evolve with our in-house entertainment. Nick Measor's hugely successful online quiz is a regular feature along with our themed food evenings, newly-formed Book Club and Bingo nights and further virtual entertainment.

Our Treasurer tells me that, despite the closures and restricted trading, we are holding up and this is thanks to the support of the Members. Times undoubtedly will get tougher (winter is always a low trading period) but with the continued support from you, we will weather this storm.

Christmas is around the corner and for many of you it will be a very different affair but let us look at the positive side, we live in a very special place and are so much better off than others. The Club will do its upmost in making your Christmas special. A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Anne Kyle, Commodore



You're my Superstars

A selection of testimonials:

Re: Helpline - thank you what a brilliant initiative. You are Stars! Did I say Stars? No you are Super Stars!

Gill Davis

I'm writing to say how good it was to hear from the RSYC throughout lockdown and beyond. I've been marooned in Surrey since March. The RSYC newsletters were great for keeping in touch. And what wonderful work Miles's crew did delivering prescriptions etc. I felt very proud.

Elizabeth Watson

We had a delicious lunch yesterday served on the balcony. The staff were so attentive and pleasant. The beef was beautifully cooked and presented. Thank you all for making a 'horrid situation better.

Susie Craven-Smith

We talked to Abby and Vicky about the precautions the club was taking and decided it was probably the safest place to choose for our first meal out since March. We were very impressed by the arrangements, had a lovely meal and most important felt safe. It was such an uplifting experience for us.

Tony and Sally Thatcher

We want to thank you all for making our evening so pleasant and safe. We had a delicious meal and it was great to be back. You have all done, and are doing, a grand job to keep things together, for which we are most grateful.

Geoff and Ann Greateorex

May I take this opportunity to say how brilliantly the club have reacted to the Covid crisis from the community outreach to the courses and quizzes and of course getting the informal racing going well before any other Clubs.

Didi Nicholson

We visited the club for a drink on Friday evening and would like to say thank you to all those involved. The commodore made us feel so welcome despite having to deal with all the restrictions. We were so impressed with the efficient way the club has dealt with the restrictions yet everyone involved was so friendly leading to a safe but relaxing environment.

David and Barbara Jobson

Absolutely riveting talk about Yarmouth! Fascinating, as one knows bits of history, but now realise not much! Such a great presentation! I hope the Zooms continue as very nice for us off islanders to join. We have really enjoyed this talk and Susie's about being Lord Lieutenant.

Liz Garratt

May we, as members who have been in Lockdown and continue to be so for some weeks, take this opportunity to congratulate the Commodore, the Flag Officers, Committee Members, Club Members and Staff for not only keeping the Club affairs in good order but also for their outstanding contribution to the welfare of the local community. We thank you all.

Malcolm and Helen Peplow

CLUB AIDS LOCAL COMMUNITY



Rear Commodore Sailing Katie Davies's team of volunteers. From left to right: Vicky Tribe, Matt Courtney, Katie Davies, Alice Hall and Sarah Finch.

A conversation overheard by chance by a member was the catalyst for the Clubs' largest community aid project in our history.

We discovered that Tim Gibbs, our dedicated Yarmouth pharmacist, was regularly delivering between 100-150 prescriptions per week after the shop was closed often meaning that he was working until 9pm-10pm. This was before lockdown enforced restricted entry to the shop preventing many customers from collecting their prescriptions.

Following brief discussions, your Club approached Tim to ask if he needed help and our offer was swiftly accepted.

Under the management of Miles Peckham and Katie Davies, our Rear Commodores, a team of volunteers, both members and furloughed staff, was quickly assembled to process and deliver prescriptions to those unable or unwilling, due to Covid 19, to collect them.

It sounds a simple task but we soon discovered that it was considerably more complex than it seemed.

Medications don't all arrive at the pharmacy at the same time but via a number of deliveries through the day resulting in prescriptions being prepared throughout the day. This meant we would need to collect them for distribution twice a day.

Our team of volunteer drivers pictured (with the exception of Phil and Caryl Thomas), could not swing into action until the prescriptions had been sorted into boxes for each 'route' around the West Wight which would be covered twice each day.

Our steward, Matt Courtney, actually walked the Yarmouth route, including Bouldnor and Port La Salle, twice each day and also offered elderly, infirm, or isolating members, a delivery service from the local shops as well. A valiant effort.

To sort the prescriptions a back-room team including Nicky and Dug Henderson and Katie and Agatha Davies spent hours each day sourcing postcodes and labelling prescriptions to ensure that drivers had a logical route to follow on the road.

The delivery teams met to collect their product in the Club car park and, being in lockdown, this little bit of socially distanced contact five days a week became something we looked forward to.

It was soon discovered that "Google maps" is not ideal when searching for individual houses and fortunately we found www.explorer.geowessex.com, a wonderful website which individually names and numbers every dwelling in each postcode on a clear roadmap.

Even with this tool many of us spent what felt like hours searching for some elusive properties the first time we had to visit them. You wouldn't believe how many house names are hidden by foliage, simply not visible from the



Rear Commodore House Miles Peckham's team of volunteers. From left to right: Catherine Holmes, Brenda Fishwick, Anthony Davies, Miles Peckham Matt Courtney.

street or just missing altogether! Many of us grew up on the West Wight but still found roads and addresses we never knew existed.

After a while most of us became familiar with the regular customers and were able to speed up meaning that each driver would be able to finish their round in an hour or so each day.

We found that some of the more elderly customers would be keen to have a chat when we arrived and we had to refuse numerous well-meant offers of tea or coffee from those who struggled to understand the social distancing rules! There were occasions when we could not ignore pleas for help with things such as clearing blocked loops and unpacking shopping.

We were of course gloved and masked with many pairs of gloves being kindly donated by Yarmouth RNLI and a large amount of facemasks donated by John Caulcutt. In addition to those of us delivering medications, there was a team of volunteers helping in the pharmacy answering phones and dealing with customer enquiries.

This team included Fiona Scott, Mo Kearns, Francesca Grade, Jonathan Whitehead, Teresa Fox and Sue Clement. Susie Hawkes also helped out at Harveys, sourcing and delivering shopping to Yarmouth residents unable to help themselves.

The contribution from the whole team was exceptional and Tim, who was recently visited by The Earl of

Wessex in recognition of his efforts to keep the West Wight healthy, said: "All of a sudden, what it would have taken me a week to do had become one day's delivery.

"Prescription numbers were going through the roof as patients were concerned about how they were going to obtain their medicines. A magical call from Miles at the RSYC changed everything. "He said: 'Not only will we deliver for you but we will organise your deliveries, just put the prescriptions in boxes and we will do the rest.'"

"The area delivered to was vast, from Alum Bay through to Newtown and Brook. The Club crew would call at 11am and 5pm daily and the green bins full of prescriptions would be delivered by all their amazing team.

"This went on until the end of June. I cannot thank everyone at the RSYC enough for what they did over a three-month period. I would have sunk like a stone without you."

Another example of Club members helping to keep spirits up during lockdown was the series of very popular quizzes ably written and run by Nick and Melinda Measor with around 35 regular participants taking part via Zoom.

These events are great fun so please join in and have a go. There is a chance for a little social interaction online before the quiz begins.

Anthony Davies

IN MEMORIAM Colin Campbell



Club member and former managing director of the historical Yarmouth boat yard, Harold Hayles, Colin Campbell, died in July aged 83. Colin was born in Sidcup Kent, and entered into National Service with the Royal Air Force aged 18. Discharged two years later, Colin worked at Selfridges (London) in their Architecture and Design Department and, thereafter, at Heal's (London). He was quickly recruited to hold senior managerial

positions at Interiors International (Meredew), Arkana, and Burgess, retailing fine furniture. With a passion for Yarmouth that never waned, Colin settled there and became Managing Director of Harold Hayles (Yarmouth) Ltd in 1972. He was a past Mayor of Yarmouth (IoW), a Yarmouth Harbour Commissioner and a Deputy Launching Authority at the Yarmouth Lifeboat Station, Colin was also a keen sportsman (swimming, water polo, and yacht racing). He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, grandchildren and sisters, who, along with his many friends and work colleagues, will greatly miss him.

Peter Garratt



A stalwart of the Club, Peter Garratt, died in September after a long illness, aged 71. He was born in Stanmore, Middlesex, the younger son of George and Queenie Garratt who helped develop a community spirit on their estate at the end of the Second World War. He learned from this and took this community focus throughout his life. Peter read engineering at Loughborough University and joined British Rail as a Civil Engineer on Track and

Signalling. He retired three times but was brought back twice to help solve seemingly intractable technical and legal problems on the railways including resolving the problematic Eurostar link from St Pancras to span the Kings Cross lines. Peter eventually made full retirement to Yarmouth and his beloved gaffer *Furstin*. Ever active he participated fully in the life of the Club. In 2016 he made a Transatlantic crossing as part of The Arc and joined the Nelsonian Tot Club in Antigua. On return he joined the Island branch immediately. He participated cheerfully in Yarmouth community life and was a volunteer driver and telephone line respondent for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice. The date of his death (September 15) coincided with both the anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the date of the death of his hero civil engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Sadly, the following members also died during the year.

Mr Nicholas Filbee, Mr Nick Hamilton, Mr Malcolm Rodwell and Mrs Peggy Busby.



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tomatoes and mushrooms to cheese and ice cream. In these challenging times, supporting our local businesses is more important than ever, and with our Wight Night dinner on Saturday 9th January 2021 we aim to showcase delicious island grown produce in a sumptuous 5 course dinner at the Club. We hope that this will be the first of many Wight Nights and we hope you can join us to enjoy the fruits of your island.



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WIGHT NIGHT MENU

Saturday 9th January 2021, 6:30pm for 7pm
£45 per head*

Mermaid Salt Vodka Cocktail (available separately)
Isle of Wight Distillery

Gourmet Oyster Mushrooms & Caramelised Onion Marmalade
with Garlic on Sour Dough Crostini

Isle of Wight Mushrooms, The Garlic Farm, The Island Bakers

Atherfield Prawn Salad with Piccolo Tomatoes & a Chilli Cherry Dressing
J&B Fisheries, The Tomato Stall, Wild Island dressing

Slow cooked Pork Belly with a Smallbrook Steamer Cider Sauce,
Braised Red Cabbage & Roasted Root Vegetables
Brownrigg's Farmshop & Butchery, Rosemary Vineyard Cider

Apple Panna Cotta with Black Cherry Ice Cream & Apple Crisps
Calbourne Classics ice cream

Selection of Island Cheeses & Chutneys
Isle of Wight Cheese Company, The Green Barn Dairy Goat Farm, The Garlic Farm chutneys

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* Non-discountable

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Top gun Graham is bang on target



RSYC Clay Shooting competitors at Bowcombe.

Graham Benton was top shot when the Club’s Clay Shooting competition finally took place in September.

Although shoots are planned for the Spring and Autumn each year, the one organised for Spring had to be cancelled because of the lockdown.

Bowcombe View Shooting Ground re-opened with revised operations

to maintain social distancing, so it was possible to compete for the Club trophy. We had 12 people sign-up for the day, allowing us to have three squads of four people, shooting at staggered start times.

This meant that the first squad off started in a blustery wind which dissipated through the morning, and the last squad started in sun but

ended with a damp last pair of stands as heavy squalls blew through. The winner of the highest guest prize was Geoffrey Hall from Seaview.

Graham lifted the trophy with 75 points (out of 100), second was Roger Sixsmith on 65 and third Andy Hallett, 64.

For those interested in joining us next year, the plan will be to organise shoots in March and September, and any members, and guests, would be very welcome.

Tom Carlstedt-Duke

Squad 1:

Andy Hallett

Charlie Anderson

Miles Norris

Graham Benton

Squad 2:

Tom Carlstedt-Duke

Richard Rivlin

Geoffrey Hall

Catherine Holmes

Squad 3:

Martyn Collinson

Brian Crawford

Roger Sixsmith

William Mills



Graham Benton (left) was top gun and winner of the Club Trophy presented by Tom Carlstedt-Duke.

MAGIC MILES MAKES HIS MARK

Miles Oldershaw was a clear winner as 13 club members took part in a golf day at Freshwater Bay GC. The day was run as an 18-hole stableford competition for both individuals and teams, together with nearest the pin, longest drive and a prize for the team scoring the most gross three’s or better.

Following a very warm and dry few months, the golf course was running fast which is always a challenge at Freshwater Bay, given the many sloping fairways.

Colin Smith was paired with David Jennings and Andrew Clarke while the second game on the course was led by David Lindsay, who played with Rob Quain and Don Appleby. The third match of Miles, Richard Price and Gareth Davies was followed by a final group of four; Harry Hall and Paul Peplow with two of our younger golfers, Dom Breen-Turner and Freddie Davies.

The individual competition was fought out by three golfers all of whom are members of both RSYC and FBGC. In third place was David Lindsay with a very credible 37 stableford points just one behind David Jennings on 38 points while Miles took top spot with 40 points.

It is notable that both David Jennings and Miles Oldershaw scored in the 70’s gross, which is very impressive indeed.

The strong individual performances by Miles and David Jennings also secured first and second places for their respective groups in the team competition. Freddie Davies in the last group knocked an ‘easy’ seven iron to four feet on the 14th to snatch the nearest the pin prize from Richard Price. Miles smoked a drive down 18 with a gentle fade to hold the fairway just short of the pit claiming the longest drive (finishing on the fairway) from Freddie Davies.

Gareth Davies



RSYC Golf competitors at Freshwater Bay Golf Course.

SUN SHINES ON DINGHY WEEK!

Fabulous weather during Dinghy Week provided a backdrop for our first regatta of this rather different year. Everyone from competitors to race officers was excited and extremely pleased that we actually managed to run the event.

The 35 or so sailors were split into bubbles of six. Tom Symes expertly devised a colour coded system and with the help of ribbons, wrist bands, and designated zones in the dinghy park, social distancing was maintained.

A combination of Laser radials, Laser 4.7s and Picos had perfect conditions for their 10 races, only

losing one morning of Pico racing during the week. The competition was strong and extremely competitive and as a race officer very exciting to watch.

All the sailors seemed to have fun, judging from the banter and noisy chatter emanating from the water. Important lessons were learnt, not least that the race officer is not always right, and it is imperative to tell them if you have a grievance!

Although there was no social this year, I think it was a great week and much of this was down to the help received from the numerous volunteers.



Sunny conditions for the competitors at the Royal Solent Dinghy Week in August.

Special thanks go to Tom Symes, Mark Hall, Nick and Melinda Measor, David Fox and David Porter as well to our sponsors - The Delphie Lakeman Trust and Harwoods - whose continued support definitely adds to the event.

RESULTS:

Laser Radial: 1 Harry Hall, 2 Alex Gallimore, 3 Laurie Holdsworth.

Laser 4.7: 1 Oli Maltby, 2 Patrick Tate, 3 Fay Murray-Smith.

Pico: 1 Henry Olmi, 2 Archie Perkins, 3 Joe Collins.

Katie Davies

Rear Commodore Sailing

Ben coaches youth sailors

Once again senior RYA coach, Ben Kimbell, ran another successful week of Laser coaching in August, for our youth sailors.

This year he was assisted by Max Bradley and Helen Sceales as assistant coaches.

With Covid restrictions in place, numbers had to be limited to 10 sailors a day. Nonetheless, with groups of both sailors transitioning into a Laser and a more advanced group, 20 sailors aged between 13 and 17 in a mix of 4.7 and Radial rigs thoroughly enjoyed the week as

well as learning the skills needed to sail this boat.

If last year was the year for Big Wind sailing, this year was notable for a lack of wind. Land based theory is all jolly useful, but not so much fun, so the coaches came up with some innovative ways of keeping sailors on the water when the wind didn’t blow.

A highlight was getting the advanced group to ‘swim’ a triangular course (at slack tide fortunately), as if they were a dinghy, to simulate a start, port and

starboard tacks, mark roundings etc. This event has run for the last five years, and its success is being seen in the increased number of youth sailors participating, very competitively, in the Club’s regular Wednesday evening and Sunday morning Laser racing, not to mention dinghy week and the sunset series.

Laser training week is a perfect introduction into the Laser class for those transitioning from Pico’s, Oppies, and other junior classes, as well as for those looking to

improve their technique, without the pressure of a full on racing environment.

As ever, the week couldn’t happen without the Club’s support. Particular thanks go to Adam and Josh, those helping with RIB support and crew; Commodore, Anne Kyle, who presented some carefully chosen fun prizes (courtesy of Harwood’s) and parents of all sailors taking part for supporting the week.

Nick Bradley

New Club RIB



Our new South Boat 9m RIB, *Marksman*, is a great addition to the Club’s fleet and will enhance the Club’s capability and profile at major regattas throughout the season. Sourced at a very competitive price thanks to Richard Pierrepont, *Marksman* arrived shortly before lockdown, but has already proven herself in the short sailing season that we had. Powered by a 440Hp Yanmar engine through a Hamilton jet drive, she is considerably more manoeuvrable than her predecessor. Club Boatman, Adam Preece, has no doubt of the benefit she will bring to the Club in her role as a mark laying and launch vessel. “It has made the boatmen’s jobs on the water much easier and safer. The old boat was slower and less agile and with her larger engine and streamlined hull, the new RIB is saving the Club huge amounts on diesel.”



A BUSY SEASON!



After the Covid restrictions were lifted, the Lasers kicked off the racing season. Photo by Paul Brown.

At the beginning of this extraordinary sailing season we were firmly locked down with not a single boat on the moorings, all the boatyards shut, and the harbour closed to locals.

The RSYC sailing fraternity kept themselves entertained with virtual sailing, Zoom racing rule talks given by the international judge John Doerr and race officer workshops ably run by David and Teresa Fox. However, behind the scenes the race management and sailing committees were working hard to ensure all was ready when sailing was permitted.

As soon as the restrictions were lifted and we were allowed out in our boats, informal member-run racing for the Lasers began. Nick and Melinda Measor and David and Teresa Fox ran races on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings from mid May helped by David Porter as RIB support and Gareth and me as mark layers.

The racing cruisers soon joined the Lasers together with those day boats able to sail within one household or those brave enough to race single handed!

When the one metre plus rule was implemented the day boats soon worked out a way that allowed them to race while following government guidelines. The moorings filled up and official club run racing began on 15th July, well before most other south coast yacht clubs.

There have been two Spence Willard WER series, both with lots of competitive and fun racing. The winners are as follows:

Series 2:
Class 1: *Walk on By*
Class 2: *Toledo*
Class 3: *Gleam*
Folkboats: *Njord*
Lasers: Miles Norris

Series 3:
Class 1 and 2: *Toledo*
Class 3: *Arrow*
Folkboats: *Njord*
Lasers: Miles Norris

On Sundays, the XODs and Folkboats have traditionally raced in their own series, however last year they were joined by the racing cruisers and this year for the first time the Lasers competed on Sunday mornings.



Our newspaper sponsors Wight Marine & River Yar Boatyard off Cloudy Bay.



Miles Norris (right) and Alex Leonard.



We are hopeful this will continue next year, they all looked like there were having a great time and it was a lovely spectacle for those watching from the shore.

Sunday Series winners:
Class 1 and 2: *Cloudy Bay*
Lasers: Miles Norris

The XODs have been competing on Saturday afternoons for the George Cup and other stand-alone trophies. Numbers have been excellent, definitely better than a normal year and the competition has been ferocious. The George Cup was won, by James Meaning in *Gleam*.

As well as our weekly club racing, we held various stand alone events. Sunset Series was a lovely week of evening racing from 17th – 20th August for classes 1,2 and 3, the Folkboats and all rigs of Laser. The sun shone and there was plenty of wind which made for a great week.

Honours where taken by:
Class 1 and 2: *Cloudy Bay*
XODs: *Gleam*
Folkboats: *Svane*
Laser Full Rig: Nick Bradley
Laser Radial: Max Bradley
Laser 4.7: Henry Olmi

Thanks to David Fox for all his hard work and perseverance, we had a fabulous Folkboat Week from 23rd – 29th August. There were thirty-three boats competing and they really did enjoy all the brilliant racing provided by the PRO, Jeremy Willcock, and his team. The final result came down to the last race of the week, when the competitors had to battle to get out of the harbour in a northerly before they were even able to compete the series; however, those that made it out had a great race. The week was won by Ed Donald in *Madelaine*, with Harry Hall, an RSYC member, in *Svane*, coming second and *Jen* was third. Colin Eales sailing *Mistress* won the classic class. Many thanks go to our sponsor the Lymington Yacht Haven, for all their support.

As the season came to an end, we held the Royal Artillery YC regatta over the weekend of 5th and 6th September. It



The XOD Fleet. Photo by Paul Brown.



Thirty three Folkboats competed in the 2020 Folkboat Week. Photo by Paul Brown.

Folkboat socially distanced gathering



Martin Le Gassicke, Folkboat Class Captain, presents his wife Helen with The Otter Trophy for their first place in the 2019 Sunset Series in their Folkboat Cloud Cuckoo. Photo by Teresa Fox.

The Folkboat class held a socially distanced gathering on 4th November in lieu of the 2019 Folkboat Prizegiving, which was originally postponed from March due to the first lockdown and then again from 7th November due to the second lockdown.

was lovely to be able to welcome them back and to fire the cannons from the committee boat in their honour, for the first and last time this year.

On Saturday 26th September, we had the annual Centenary Chase, a fun pursuit race, run by Nick Measor. It was a nasty northerly which meant we lost most of the gaffers and XODs but all those who raced thoroughly enjoyed the course even if it was a bit wet!

As the year comes to a close, we hope soon to be able to resume racing on a Sunday morning culminating in the Boxing Day Race. Please wear your thermals, start time will be 10.30am and all communication will be on VHF channel 72, hope to see some of you there!

Katie Davies,
Rear Commodore Sailing



Harry Hall off *Svane* came second in Folkboat Week, receiving his award from Sally Kalis.



Colin Eales, winner of the classic class in Folkboat Week.

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