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FITTING OUT DINNER

Nearly 90 members and guests at last attended this occasion to mark the start of the sailing season



L-R: Caroline Norris, Trish Benton and RSYC Secretary Claire Hallett



L-R: Mark Hall, RSYC Commodore Anne Kyle, David Porter and Mary Hall



L-R: Pat Dawson, David Fox, Chris Fletcher and Hamish Fletcher



L-R: Morag Sims, Peter Sims, Win Nicholson, Bol Minchin and Joanna Minchin



RSYC Rear Commodore House, Miles Peckham with birthday cake. Happy Birthday Miles



L-R: Nicky Henderson, Anthony Davies, Brenda Fishwick, Dua Henderson and Alison Davies



L-R: RSYC Sponsors, Kerry Hucklesby, Stephen Hucklesby, Jamie Allen and Jen Allen



L-R: Maura Clarke, RSYC Vice Commodore Martyn Collinson, June Smith and Kathy Collinson



L-R: Ronnie Usborne, John Smith, Sandy Denman, André Usborne, Marion Smith and Chris Waddington

Prince Consort Charity Dinner

The Club's Prince Consort Race and Dinner helped raise £855 for the Commodore's chosen charity - the Association of Sail Training Organisations (ASTO).

After a delicious curry dinner, ASTO's General Manager, Lucy Grodie, gave an inspirational talk on the ways in which Sail Training teaches young and disabled people about their own strengths, talents and the value of teamwork.

There was a good attendance at both events, with 28 boats taking part in the race and 44 members attending the dinner.

Thank you to all those who supported this very worthy cause, including Hall Hunter who donated the strawberries for dessert and Eurovines who donated the wine.



L-R: Rudi Fortson, Jenny Grist, ASTO's General Manager, Lucy Grodie, Ken Grist and RSYC Commodore Anne Kyle



L-R: Martin Gotrel, Jan White, Patrick Farrell, Dingle Kirkwood, Kath Gotrel



L-R:, Pauline Lombardelli, Andrew Clarke, Mo Kearns, Chris Kearns, Katherine Clarke, Robert Lombardelli



ASTO's General Manager, Lucy Grodie,

ROUND THE ISLAND RACE

Members enjoyed an early breakfast and watched from the balcony



Actual Leader. Photo by Paul Brown





Jolie Brise built in 1913 amongst the fleet. Photo by Paul Brown After a murky start, the sun came out. Photo by Paul Brown



L-R: Tom Carlstedt-Duke, Nancy Campbell, Phil Thomas



L-R: Catherine Holmes, Caryl Thomas, Linda Lemonius, **Caroline Norris**



Tom Breare, Susie Hawkes



CLOUD CUCKOO LAND!



Club members Christopher Kearns, Andrew Clarke and Christopher Hewitt boarded the Folkboat, *Cloud Cuckoo*, at 04.30 and set off to motor to Cowes for the 07.50 start time.

There was not a breath of wind at that time of the morning, but there was a decent flood tide running which enabled them to throttle back the 2.5hp Honda engine room.

Kearns had packed his portable espresso and piping hot fresh coffee was enjoyed by all three of the crew just north of Newtown Creek.

On arrival at Cowes, following a quick pitstop at the Royal London YC, *Cloud Cuckoo* picked up a mooring buoy 500 yards short of the start line as there was no wind at all, and with a strong ebb tide running there was great risk of being over the line at the start.

The mooring buoy was released approximately two-to-three minutes before the gun, and the boat crossed the line with perfect timing, being

west of a Red Funnel ferry which came through the fleet at the same time, giving *Cloud Cuckoo* an excellent start.

West out of the Solent, *Cloud Cuckoo* stayed assiduously in the deep-water channel, and was jousting with much larger yachts through Hurst Narrows.

At the Needles turn, Cloud Cuckoo was called up as windward boat by a Lymington yacht, Jevita, a Ranger 9.9, inside the wreck of the Varvassi, with a Contessa 32 tight to windward.

Bearing away to St. Catherine's was a difficult fetch in the light but gently increasing winds. But, on reaching the lighthouse, spinnakers were broken out and *Cloud Cuckoo* enjoyed close boat for boat racing alongside fellow Folkboats *Pickle, Mistral, Stralende, Valhalla* and *Otter,* and an enormous picnic generously prepared by Mrs Maureen Kearns.

Staying inshore in Sandown Bay, *Stralende* opened a lead which she held to win the Class.



Cloud Cuckoo hoisted her spinnaker having rounded Bembridge Ledge boy and pulled out a lead on Valhalla, happily sailing south of the Nomansland Fort - the last time the Cloud Cuckoo crew competed together in the RTI race (about 30 years ago) the chore of rounding to the north in the fort's wind shadow being a distant memory! The beat to the line always presents the challenge of the shallows of Ryde Sands followed by the shifty gusts of the Norris Nadgers.

Valhalla having been 500 yards astern at the fort, caught Cloud Cuckoo to

within three boat lengths at Norris, but following a correction to the *Cloud Cuckoo* crew weight trim (copying *Valhalla!*), she held on to cross the line third in class at 16.35 in a time of 8:45.38.

It was a truly wonderful day on the water for the *Cloud Cuckoo* team, who were RTI Folkboat first timers. Apart of course for the three hours motoring home against wind and the flood tide. *Cloud Cuckoo* reached Yarmouth at 19.50. The crew looks forward to RTI 2022!

Andrew Clarke



David in Cruise control

Geoff Neary retired as Captain of Cruising in the autumn of 2020 and I was inveigled into taking over, even though my request for gold braid shoulder boards, in the style of a Russian Admiral, was turned down.

Jo Jo Minchin, Sailing Secretary, has taken a huge share of the paperwork and communications off my shoulders, and Katie Davies, Rear Commodore Sailing, has organised all the Zoom meetings. Jeremy Willcock and Roger Gradwell have been generous with support and advice, based on their long experience.

The first meeting was attended by just eight members, but the list of interested members has now grown to more than 70, including those who do not have their own boats but travel as crew or by car.

My aim is to continue the 'Out to Lunch' programme and to greatly expand the overnight and longer distance cruising outside the waters of The Solent. This will be either by agreeing venues, dates and times, to which members make their own way in their own time, or cruising of similar boats in company.

For example, Jez Butcher has booked us into Poole Quay Marina for two nights, with dinner on the second night and an option to anchor in Studland, or off Goathorn Point, for

David Temple will be joining the Tall Ships in Falmouth, via Weymouth and Dartmouth (he is also looking for crew) and Richard Malthouse is heading to the Scilly Isles.





Cruisers at the Basque Kitchen at Sheppards Wharf in Cowes



Jenny Grist, Ken Grist, Harald Schenk, Maxine Crawford

At the time of writing, we have had three trips. The first was Out to Lunch at the Lymington Sailing Club with 22 members, six boats and one car. We ate at picnic tables in the open or in a marquee. Because of Covid, the kitchen was short-staffed and rather slow, with a restricted, but good, menu.

Next, was Lunch at the Basque Kitchen at Sheppards Wharf, Cowes. This time, there were 24 members, seven boats and one car. This was basically a tapas bar, but with a specials' board and the choice of larger main courses. It was hugely enjoyable with very good food and drinks.

Finally, we had a BBQ on the spit at the entrance to Newton Creek. Personally, I think this was the greatest fun so far! Roger and Anne on *Impi* had overnighted and were able to direct others to vacant moorings. Hilary, on Layla, brought Dick and Pat, Martyn and Kathy were on Starlet and then Bear arrived and anchored with Katie, Gareth, Mo and Chris, Jill and Jonathan. James Ensor stayed on board keeping anchor watch.



Superb weather for the cruisers at Newtown BBQ



Out to lunch at the Lymington Sailing Club

I ferried bodies and BBQ's ashore, which was easy as the beach, being steep-to, meant that the warm water was only calf deep and one lady got just three toes wet!

The weather was perfect, everyone ate well and had great fun. Even James was not forgotten, having food ferried out to him.

Next time we must take some boules and have a competition?



David with RSYC cruisers at Cowes

Due to print deadlines, we have had others recently, but please bear in mind The Jolly Sailor Burlsedon (lunch), August 12; with an option for overnight and dinner.

We are open to suggestions and next year we hope to spread our wings and go over the horizon in boats both large and small, sail and power, and not forgetting the car!

David Porter, Captain of Cruising



WELCOME BACK



Ollie Dewar reflects on a near record-breaking Taittinger's weekend of mixed fortunes (turn over for full report and photos)







Photo by Jake Sugden

Following a year's absence from the racing calendar, the Club's Taittinger Regatta, drew 208 boats to the Western Solent.

It was a remarkable number of competitors considering the stripped-back schedule of the regatta's social events and just short of the record entry number of 214 boats in 2019.

Lead sponsor, Taittinger Champagne, was joined this year by local Yarmouth businesses the River Yar Boatyard and Wight Marine in the role of supporting sponsors.

The Club raced two fleets - Black Group numbering 90 entries and White Group, weighing in with 118 entries.

Two races were completed on Saturday in roulette-wind conditions; however, all racing was abandoned on Sunday as The Solent transformed into a ripplefree, tidal pool.

Saturday started in sparkling conditions with a weak NE wind and one race was completed in these light and variable conditions.

In a bold move, the event's Race Committee postponed racing further until the predicted sea breeze filled in. This took an agonising length of time but, eventually, by approximately 1600hrs, there was a decent and steady breeze from the SW. This enabled racing in all classes to be completed.



Photo by Jake Sugden



Photo by Jake Sugden

Making best use of the now-steady SW wind, Sailplane, capitalised on their second place in the first race, winning the second race comfortably and making them IRC1 winners. In the J111's, Tony Mack in McFly had two 1st places, and in IRC2, Jooped also managed two 1st places.

New to The Solent scene, the Cape 31s made their first appearance at the regatta with five entries; sadly the rest of the fleet was stuck in Cape Town. However, Russell Peters in Squirt achieved two 1st places.

Meanwhile, in White Group, Simon and Jemma Osgood of the Royal Thames Yacht Club had a fight on their hands with their Folkboat, So! Simon said afterwards: "I think this is the first time we've sailed back in the UK in a regatta, so understanding tides again is a bit of a culture shock.

"But we have reasonable local knowledge and I'm just glad we got two races in on Saturday. I think the hardest job was done by the Race Committee making the calls on postponing and all credit to the Club's organisation for putting the event on." Speaking about the team's 2-1 score in the 23-boat Folkboat fleet, he added: "We sailed the best we could. It was very tight with Claire Locke on *The Otter* who pushed us really hard.



Fortunately, our third crew member is Jamie Lee and we've sailed together for 20 years, so we tend to understand each other after all these years!" At the Club's 2017 regatta, Nick Bradley and his crew on Contessa 32 *Merak II* won the event overall and the local sailor was back on peak form winning the 11-boat Contessa class with a 2-1 scorecard.

He said: "It was challenging as the breeze didn't fill in for a couple of hours on Saturday, so we had a bit of waiting around, but the Race Officers did a spectacular job and got two races in."

Racing with his son on the foredeck and a regular crew onboard, the team worked seamlessly and he said: "We've been sailing together for 20 years and have just about got the hang of it now! "Weirdly, they all look the same as they did 20 years ago!"

As veterans of the regatta, the *Merak II* crew missed the hectic social element of the event which was heavily trimmed-back this year due to Covid restrictions.

Nick said: "We missed the Taittinger Reception on Friday and the epic Towers Party and it's frustrating the restrictions will now lift so soon after, but there's next year and we're not going to miss it!"

The regatta's slimmed-down social element was of little concern for Jacqueline Tooes of Nik Atkinson's NHC A entry from the Royal





Northumberland Yacht Club, Caveman, although the lack of wind was frustrating.

Jacqueline said: "There really wasn't enough wind for us and the races were a bit short. However, Tooes nevertheless, came third in the 19boat fleet with a 3-3 score. Racing with seven crew and staying onboard the Elan 40 presented no entertainment problems.

She added: "We had a lot of crew with us who are new to sailing, so this was a great introduction and we always do a proper social side onboard. We always keep a well-stocked fridge!" With flags limp on the Royal Solent Yacht Club's flagstaff on Sunday morning, racing postponed with many yachts from both Black and White Groups

waiting in a static mass of bare poles in Bouldnor Bay and under Cranmore Cliffs east of Yarmouth.

At 11.30, flags 'N' and "A' made an unwelcome appearance, cannon signals were made, and an apologetic VHF announcement confirmed that further racing had been abandoned. Most of the Black Group competitors returned to the event's prize-giving on the Clubhouse lawn.

One of two new prizes this year, was a seven-night stay in the 1889 Panorama Suite of Austria's luxury Edelweiss & Gurgl Hotel. The lucky winner, drawn from all the class winners, was Rob Bottomley of the Royal Southern Yacht Club, first placed boat in IRC1 with his Mills 41 boat Sailplane.



Photo by Jake Sugden

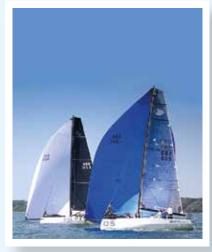


Photo by Jake Sugden



Chris and Hannah Neve. Winners of the Jeroboam of Taittinger Champagne. Photo by Jake Sugden.

Second new prize was a Honda 2.3hp As guests and competitors enjoyed outboard engine, kindly donated by supporting sponsors Wight Marine, which was drawn from all the boats entered and won by Robin Leather of saying: the Sonata Sonic.

The Regatta's overall winners, Chris and Hannah Neve of the Royal Lymington Yacht Club with J80 No Regrets, were the proud winners of a Jeroboam of Taittinger Champagne. They found the conditions on The Solent challenging, but a distinct bonus.

Hannah admitted: "It was a tough weekend and the weather helped us. We were up against 25-30ft racercruisers in our class and in many conditions, we wouldn't have a hope. But we were nippier than they were and could tack further inshore than the bigger boats and get out of the tide, the competitors who create such a although we had to work a lot harder!"

The hard labour on No Regrets produced a 1-1 scorecard in the 19boat NHC A class.

the late-afternoon sun following the prize giving, Commodore, Anne Kyle, reflected on the regatta,

"I'm very happy and extremely relieved. In many ways, it's probably the most challenging Taittinger Regatta that we've had to run. Every day, there's been a new challenge to face, but we've got round everything and adapted quickly to every obstacle appearing in front of us. Together with 90 of our members stepping up to volunteer help and our staff have been amazing and totally tireless. Just to have held the event is quite something. It would have been so easy to cancel it for yet another year, but we were determined not to. As always, it's wonderful regatta and it is to them that the Club is really grateful."



STRONG AT HEART

Anthony Davies reports on the Club's continued success

The Royal Solent appears to have done better than many other Clubs in retaining strong membership levels through the pandemic with current membership 969 against 990 before April 2020.

We asked returning member Brenda Fishwick and new members Bill and Pauline Freshwater what motivated them to join us.

Brenda was a member for some 24 years, but resigned in 2019 with plans for extensive foreign travel which have now been put on hold due to Covid. She now intends to use the Club more regularly as it is a "warm, safe and friendly environment where I can meet old and new friends".

Brenda has also joined the Cruising Section and hopes to hitch a ride for some of their outings as she no longer owns a boat. She also praised our staff for their unfailingly cheerful welcome.

Bill Freshwater and his wife Pauline recently moved to Yarmouth from Chichester and became friendly with neighbours Catherine Holmes and Penny Woodbridge who suggested they join them in the Club where they met the Commodore and Rear Commodore House and felt very welcome.

Bill is a lifelong sailor and owns a 22ft 6in Bermudan sloop built in 1935 by Silver Marine on the Clyde. He will be keeping her at The River Yar Boatyard and looks forward to sailing her here.





Bill Freshwater

Brenda Fishwick

They look forward to meeting more people and to enjoying the wide range of activities this Club provides. They have particularly enjoyed chef Tom's curry nights and look forward to more!

Both Brenda and Bill have felt comfortable and secure in the RSYC since we were able to reopen in April and we look forward to when we can again have Open Days to attract more members to the best views and finest service on the Solent.

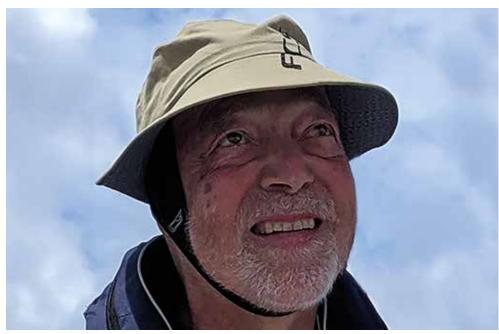


NEW MEMBERS

The Commodore & Flag Officers would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members of the Royal Solent Yacht Club:

Mr	Thomas	Bignell	Mr	Mick	Laurie
Mr	Thomas	Board	Mrs	Jacky	Laurie
Mr	Stuart	Boyd	Mrs	Jill	Lindsay-wood
Revere	nd Peter	Dyson	Master	Harry	Minchin
Mrs	Nicola	Dyson	Miss	Willa	Read
Mrs	Brenda	Fishwick (rejoin)	Miss	Marina	Read
Master	Edward	Ford	Mr	James	Reed
Master	Alfred	Ford	Mrs	Annie	Reed (rejoin)
Mr	William	Freshwater	Miss	Florence	Reed
Mrs	Pauline	Freshwater	Master	Ambrose	Reed
Miss	Margot	Giepmans	Mr	Michael	Rutland
Mr	Graham	Giles	Mr	George	Slawek
Mr	Simon	Gordon	Mrs	Dora	Slawek
Mrs	Ellen	Gordon	Ms	Dianne	Walker
Miss	Aurelia	Hall	Captai	n Allan	Willy
Mr	Chris	Hallam	Mr	Craig	Wilson
Mrs	Kate	Hallam	Mrs	Frances	Wilson (rejoin)
Mr	Timothy	Hayward	Mrs	Katie	Campbell (rejoin
Mrs	Sandra	Hayward	Ms	Maura	Clarke (rejoin)
Mr	Robert	Hickman	Mr	Paul	Peplow (rejoin)
Mrs	Annette	Hickman	Mrs	Denise	Peplow (rejoin)
Mr	Richard	Horton	Mr	Richard	Thomas (rejoin)
Mrs	Ann	Horton	Dr	Ian	Thomson (rejoin
Ms	Clare	Howes	Dr	Wendy	Thomson (rejoin

Martin Le Gassicke 1946-2021



Martin Le Gassicke was a Royal Solent Yacht Club Guardian, former Commodore, Class Captain and long-standing member. He joined the RSYC in 1999 when he and his wife Helen retired and moved to Yarmouth. Martin came to the Club with LaMouette, a Starlight 35 cruising yacht, along with his infectious enthusiasm

and raconteur skills. Martin enjoyed many sailing holidays to the West Country, Brittany, Channel Isles and the Isles of Scilly.

Cloud Cuckoo was added to his fleet in 2007 in order to race competitively in the Folkboat Class. This resulted in many successful campaigns, winning the Folkboat Class Wednesday

and a first Yarmouth Folkboat in the Regattas of 2014, 2015 and 2016 from strong competition.

He became class captain in 2018 and became involved with the organisational side of the Club. He stepped up from his position as Vice Commodore to Commodore in 2004 when the post unexpectedly became vacant and steered the club through this challenging time for the remainder of the term. Most recently he joined the illustrious group of Club

In 2019 Martin fulfilled a major life time desire to complete the double handed Azores and Back Race (AZAB). This mammoth 3,000-mile task was achieved with huge challenges and momentous moments.

Martin was born in 1946, grew up in the UK and America and finishing his educational qualifications in

Evening Series in 2014, 2015 and 2018 engineering. After an early sales career in the fire detection industry, he and Helen started a company producing power supplies for the telecoms industry. They have two children and four grandchildren and he will be sadly missed.

> Since our Christmas Newspaper, the following members have sadly died during the year:

Mr Robert Fisher Mrs Angela Clarke Mr Graham Cooper Mr Martin Le Gassicke Mr Nicolas Taylor Mr David Bryant Mr David Jupp Mr William Morgan Mrs Cynthia Gamwell

The Flag officers of the Club would like to send their sincere condolences to their families.

It's a joy to be open once more



RSYC Commodore, Anne Kyle

What an extraordinary 16 months we have lived through – a Commodore of another club visited us recently and asked whether I was also becoming known as the 'Covid Commodore'!

Yes, the past year or so has been challenging, but there have been many highs as well as lows. Spending so much time at the Club (when we have been allowed to open) has

certainly been one of the highs as I have met so many more of you than I would probably have done otherwise. However, you will forgive me if I don't always remember your name or recognise you without a mask!

The lows have been the ups and downs of lockdown, one minute we're open and the next closed. There has also been the stress of wading through reams of Government and Public Health documents and working out how it will affect us.

Life at the Club will, we hope, gradually get back to normal but as you know, we are not rushing it. We now need to take responsibility for our own safety and act responsibly. It is a joy however, to mingle a bit more. I am hoping that the current weather continues so that we can spend as much time as possible outdoors.

The sun certainly shone on us for the Regatta and the atmosphere was great, despite restrictions being in place. You can read a full report on the Regatta in the centre pages of this newspaper. Enormous thanks go to our sponsors, Taittinger Champagne, Wight Marine and the River Yar Boatyard.

This year, we had some additional prizes - a seven-night stay at the luxury hotel Edelweiss & Gurgl Hotel in the Austrian Alps; a Honda outboard engine from Wight Marine, together with a ticket for dinner for two at On the Rocks, courtesy of the River Yar Boatyard. The remaining summer is packed with many other events, both off and on the water, so check the 'What's on leaflet' and get booking. I have been particularly delighted to welcome many new Members to the Club and, once again, when visiting the Club, I do urge you to make yourself known.

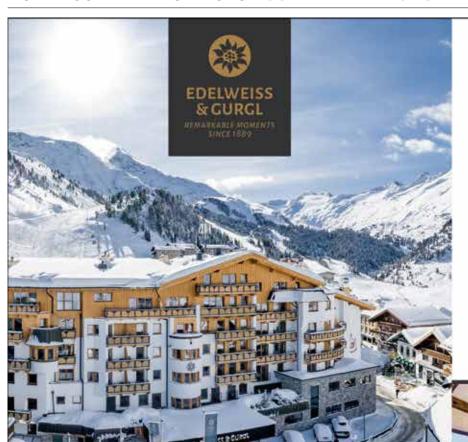
It has been difficult to meet other Members in recent months, but I am sure that you will be very soon drawn in and involved with the Club.

Where do the staff get their stamina from? Spending much time over the past few months whilst on meet-and-greet duty, I have seen at first hand their work ethics and their organisation. I am not just talking about the staff we see front of house, there is a well-run kitchen, the front office, the sailing office and heading it all up, our Secretary. It is no wonder that we receive countless compliments about our team.

The future and economy is still very uncertain but we will continue what we have been doing and keep the Club running, meeting, I trust, Members' needs. After all, without you, we would not have a Club, and again, I thank you for your continued support.

Anne Kyle, Commodore





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WELL PLAYED WELBY!

Ian scoops top prize in annual golf day

Ian Welby took top spot, and then helped his group take the team prize, in the Club's annual golf day at Freshwater Bay Golf Club.

A total of 15 members took part in a stableford competition with prizes for individuals, the best team of three players, nearest the pin on the 14th hole and the longest drive down the final fairway.

The competitors were led off by David Lindsay, Allan Cooper and Rob Quain who were followed by Keith Geddes, Peter Jennings and Harry Hall.

Match three comprised the younger players of Ian, Dominic Breen-Turner and Freddie Davies. In the fourth group, Colin Smith made his annual appearance, sartorial as ever in a Taylor Made visor, playing with a colourful Nick Agar and Andrew Clarke. The final group included last year's winner,

Miles Oldershaw, David Jennings who had just returned from three days' golf in Cornwall, and the event organiser, Gareth Davies.

In the individual competition, there was a strong showing from the younger golfers with Ian claiming the top spot with 40 points, whilst Dominic finished in third place with 35 points. Keith put together an excellent round accumulating 37 points to claim second place.

The team prize was won by Ian and Dominic whose 75 points were further augmented by the third member of their group, Freddie, contributing a credible 34 points; evidence that putting lessons with James Veal make a difference! Their combined total of 109 points was 15 points clear of second place.

The nearest the pin competition on the infamous 'Drop' proved to be a challenge with no golf balls having finished on the green as the final group arrived on the 14th tee. This was not due to poor shot making, but the unusually firm conditions around the green, and the hole playing shorter than usual against the easterly breeze.

David Jennings hit the penultimate shot on this hole with a seven-iron and his ball was unlucky not to cling onto the putting surface. The final shot was hit by your correspondent who was able to hold up his seven-iron approach against the breeze with the ball landing softly on the front of the green then running out to 10-ft from the flag.

As the players made their way to the final tee, they were greeted by Commodore, Anne Kyle and Rear Commodore (House), Miles Peckham. The rules for the longest drive had been modified this year to allow shorts finishing in the pit or to the left of the fairway in the FBGC's 'Valley of Sin' to be measured. Again, this prize was claimed by a player in the final group with Miles outdistancing the drives of the younger group.



Miles Oldershaw and Gareth Davies in action. Photo by Miles Peckham



Golf Trophy winners. Photo by Miles Peckham

Unlike last year, when due to restrictions we hung out around the practice putting green enjoying BYO beers, players were able to enjoy the hospitality of Freshwater Bay's Clubhouse with competitors relaxing both inside and outside.

Looking forward, there was talk of a visit later in the year to Sandown and Shanklin Golf Club and possibly an event nearer to London in the autumn



RSYC Golfers. **L-R:** Freddie Davies, Miles Oldershaw, Keith Geddes, Ian Welby, RSYC Commodore Anne Kyle, Gareth Davies, Dominic Breen-Turner, Rob Quain. Photo by Miles Peckham



It's great to be back on

Sailing started this year on Easter Sunday, with the first race in our inaugural, if slightly short Spring Series. There were lots of eager Class 1 and 2 boats, Folkboats, XODs, YODs and even a few intrepid Laser sailors



Puritan (tan sails) and the cruiser class during Wednesday evening racing. Photo Adam Preece

It was fantastic to see so many sailors on the water after what we will all agree, was a grim winter. Since then, Wednesday Evening Racing has started, and all classes are back to full crew numbers with spinnakers. Racing has been well-supported, particularly as we are now able to sit on the lawn afterwards at big tables and discuss the race!

I am hoping to start announcing the results after racing very soon which will be fun. The first series winners were as follows: Class 1 and 2 was

won by *Thursday's Child*; *Svane* won the Folkboat Class; Class 3 was won by *Puffin* and Nick Bradley took the honours in the Laser Class.

As ever, Class 1 and 2 are well represented particularly on a Wednesday with more boats joining every week, which is great to see.

There seems to be a good fleet of Folkboats competing on both Wednesdays and Sundays with the really keen racing in Lymington on Thursdays as well! The XOD fleet is incredibly healthy, and has been further buoyed up by a couple of additional boats visiting from the Cowes Division. Hopefully, we will give them such good racing, they will stay.

The George Cup, as ever, is the one to win and is both lots of fun as well as being fiercely competitive. It is also a joy to see the YOD's out on the water as they did not sail last year, and it is lovely to have them back. Racing at the RSYC seems very much back to pre-Covid normality, with the junior

regatta being held at the Boathouse at the beginning of June.

The sailors all seemed to have lots of fun, as well as learning something, and were brilliantly coached by Helen Sceales and Sophie Whitehead. The Laser 4.7 Class was won by Oli Maltby and the Pico Class by Henry Olmi.

On June 3/4, we welcomed back 60 Old Gaffers. They had a fabulous time, the sun shone, and David Fox and his team provided them with some excellent racing.

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the water in numbers



Y8 Puffin. Photo Adam Preece



Photo by Rudi Fortson



Xs and Ys in light airs. Photo Adam Preece



The Laser fleet. Photo by Rudi Fortson



Old Gaffers plus X135 Mollymawk racing in June. Photo by Keith Allso

On June 12, we ran the Prince Consort race. It's a long race east to the Prince Consort buoy in Cowes, although we actually went to Quinnell, which caused a little consternation, and was only slightly less difficult to get to!

A total of 28 took part, and the overall winner was Alan Hans Hamilton in Y2, *Diatom*, who sailed a blinder. The XOD class was won by *Gleam. Ajax*, who was only put in the water the day before, took honours in the Folkboat

Class and *Skysmoke* won in Class 1 and 2. As ever, everyone had a great, if rather tiring time, and all the entry fees were donated to ASTO and UK Sail Training.

The Cruising group are going from strength to strength under David Porter's leadership. See Page 6 for his full report.

Congratulations to Susannah Seely and Didi Nicholson who have just returned from sailing round Great Britain, in what seems to me, super-



X133 Leda. Photo Adam Preece



Countdown and Kelpie. Photo by Keith Allso

quick time. They say they had a brilliant trip, so hopefully, we will be able to persuade them to come and give us a talk when they have recovered from their adventure.

Following the annual Taittinger's weekend (see pages 7-9) Laser training is on August 2-6, followed by Dinghy Week from August 9. Sunset Week, one of the nicest regattas of the year, runs from August 16, followed by Folkboat Week, starting on August 22.



The Folkboat Raev. Photo by Rudi Fortson

All the details are on the website or look out for my 'Sailing News' emails which will give you all the relevant information. Otherwise, we'll see you on the water soon.

Katie Davies, Rear Commodore, Sailing

