

RVYC NEWS

Newsletter for June 2010



From the Commodore

"This will be my last piece as your Commodore." see insert

The sailing season has started in earnest, and already we've had the English "four seasons in a day" weather. A promising spring turned into a week of balmy summer weather, to be replaced by very unseasonable cold northerlies, with the uncomfortable sea state that brings rolling seas into the Club. Nevertheless, racing is now in full swing, and I'm delighted to see the Club featuring regularly in the *County Press*.

Cruiser rallies started in May with a visit to Yarmouth that was well attended, but only one boat made it by sea due to the unpromising forecast which never actually developed. Since then I've been pleased to see lots of cruisers getting out on the water, with a good example set by our Wednesday Group. By the time you read this, the ever-popular 'Creeks of the Solent' week cruise will have finished. Always well attended, I'm looking forward very much to joining the rest of COG on this - thanks again to our stalwart organiser Mark Weeks.

I made a lone foray to the east coast in June, motoring and sailing up to Waldringfield for a friend's house warming. Coming from the Solent, the Thames estuary seemed very empty of shipping, and I became used to sailing with about two metres under the keel. All the local boats seem to tow a rigid tender astern wherever they go; mainly it seems so they can row out a kedge to haul themselves off the mud when they run aground. Mooring and marina

prices drop too of course. Thelma and I had a leisurely motor sail there and a bracing sail back! We enjoyed the hospitality of Waldringfield Sailing Club, and it's very pleasing to see our Club playing host to so many visiting sailors, either as rallies or individuals. This Saturday I counted two rallies and a number of visiting yachts as well. Well done to Jon Dyer for keeping our Club full and busy.

It is such a beautiful view from the veranda and restaurant, and we're a friendly Club that mainlanders join just for our facilities. Do remember that you too can book the Club for parties and functions.

We have several important events coming up next month. Over the weekend of 10-11 July is the Club Regatta; our annual event for all members of the Club. I know that our Rear Commodores Helen Vrba and Neil Griffiths have been working hard with their committees to make sure our Regatta is a fun and successful weekend, and they'll be telling you more about it in this Newsletter.

Another important event follows a week later - on Saturday, 17 July the Club runs its annual Open Day for People with Disabilities. This began 30 years ago, and is an opportunity to give back into the community. Sue Harold, who has tirelessly liaised with all the local groups and individuals, and coordinated their arrivals, describes it marvelously as a "trail a hand in the water day". For the first time in many years, Patrick de Peyer, who vigorously managed this event for many years, won't be

on hand to oversee the activities, as he has a prior family commitment, but he's made an excellent hand-over to Bernie Forward, from whom you will read more later on. Come and support the event - it's a fun and rewarding day.

Also fun, because it says so, is our excellent caterer Gail's Fundraising Day on Saturday, 21 August. The Club needs to maintain its expensive assets, and Gail promises that this will be an enjoyable way to be parted from your money, and all in a good cause - in fact two good causes. Read what Gail has to say ...

An important part of Club life is its relations with other Clubs. I'm delighted that our Club races with Seaview are now becoming a regular part of the sailing fixture. We're also establishing firm links with the Cowes Classic Week, through that excellent event, the 1908 Olympic Centenary Celebration, and our Squibs will be racing as part of that event. Speaking of that successful event in 2008 which did so much to raise the profile of our Club, I must mention Henrietta Smyth and her excellent book on the RVYC and those years. It's due for publication in the next few months, and you'll hear a lot more about it then. I can tell you it's beautifully written, designed and produced, and excellent value for money; something the Club can be very proud of, and on sale soon.

It's not all sailing and partying - behind the scenes there are many hard working volunteers beavering away at the boring but essential business of ►

The starting line

This summer edition of the RVYC Newsletter has been produced by Brian Bowers, Mark Way, and Louisa Mamakou (with help from Tom in the office) and its main objective is to bring to the attention of all members three major events going on at the Club during July and August.

Firstly, the Club's annual Regatta is on Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 July. We are hoping to maximise participation in this event by bringing it to your attention. It would be super to have large turnouts of all our fleets – to see all the moorings and dinghy park empty! There is racing on both days and this should be a fun event with opportunities for everyone of all skill levels to take part. These races are separate to the weekly series that go on through the summer – more of a one-off cup series. We are making a special effort this year to make sure this event is not kept secret. Please fill in your entry form and be there.

Then, later in July is the Club's Open Day for People with Disabilities, and 2010 is the 30th anniversary of this event started by Betty Matthews, and continued by others, more recently by Patrick and Carol de Peyer. Full details of this day plus a request for support will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In August there is the big fund-raising event organised by Gail. Please, support at least one of the events during the day if you can. All monies raised will be shared between Sailability and the slipway fund.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be sent out in the middle of September. If you would like to contribute your comments, or ideas, please feel free to do so. We are always looking for matters of interest to members. Photographs would also be appreciated.

A final thanks to the Wednesday volunteers for 'stuffing' and addressing the envelopes.

Brian Bowers, editor.

continued from front

ensuring that your Club is well run, and complies with the increasing mountain of regulation that is out there. Although sailing is an incredibly safe sport, it is perceived as high risk, and our compliance with best practice and current legislation means that your management is doing its best to ensure that those who sail here have the opportunity to be well trained, and go on the water in as safe an environment as we can make it. There always will be incidents and near misses; we look at them to see what we can learn and if we can do things better in the future.

The fabric of the Club, and the surrounding lawns and flower beds, are all well tended by our ever expanding Wednesday Group, to whom we're all indebted for their skillful work, and I know how much we all

appreciate them. Coming ashore from the slipway the first view of the Club is the flowers, the freshly painted fascia and new welcome sign. They're keen to welcome new members, and it's not all work as there's sailing when the tide serves. Well done the Wednesday Group.

I sent out a Commodore's Questionnaire with the last Newsletter and I was hoping to summarise the responses in this edition. I've had five responses to date, predominantly very positive, with some good suggestions, but the statistics of small numbers means that a summary isn't sensible yet. So come on, don't be shy, dig out that questionnaire, fill it in and send it back. I promise I'll report in the next Newsletter, even if the responses stay at five.

John Clack

New members

The RVYC would like to welcome the following members:

Mr Don Young; Drs Majumdar; the Sewell family; Mr Milligan; Mr and Mrs. Minghella; Mrs C Alexander; Miss S Medley; Mr P Foster; Mr J Read; Mr I Chatting; Mr R Whitewick; Mrs D Ware; Mr A Moody; the Evans family; Mr N Huonnic; Mrs V Ching; Mr B Penn; Mr & Mrs Beeney; Mr & Mrs Westwood; the Verey family; the Bamber family; the Griffith family.

The advantages of being a member of the RVYC are many and varied. Here are a quite a few, but perhaps you can suggest some more.

- A friendly and welcoming Club
- Comfortable Club room and dining area
- Dining room with year-round catering
- Snug bar
- Club bar prices
- Car parking
- Good views of the Creek and Solent
- Adjacent to ferry terminal
- Hire of Clubhouse for private functions
- Full-time Marine Manager who manages the day-to-day activities of the Club
- Year-round social programme, including winter talks and quizzes
- Moorings in the Pool
- Dinghy park
- Pontoon berths with easy access
- Hire of Club boats (Squibs and dinghies)
- Use of launch *Victoria* in Pool - (for example to outer mooring trots for Squibs and up-river moorings)
- Club crane (SWL 1,000kg)
- Sail loft for stowage of dinghy sails
- Large fleet of RIBs
- Sunday racing
- Evening racing on suitable tides
- Winter frostbite series
- No racing fees
- Laser and Oppie fleets
- Cruiser owners' organisation who organise cruises and rallies
- Large Squib fleet with very active and enthusiastic Squib owners group
- RYA training establishment
- RYA courses in our own training room
- Sailing Office – information – equipment
- Affiliation to RYA – advice available
- Local Notices to Mariners available
- Extensive Cadet section - Friday night is Cadet night
- Cadet week in August
- Sponsorship – help with travel expenses when competing in mainland events
- National events hosted occasionally
- Club open every day

Summer 2010 sailing report



Bank Holiday 3, 31 May
(L to R) Dominic Mortimer,
Dan Stroud, Jon Evans, Emma Baker

Photographer: Steve Baker

The overall objective of the Sailing Committee over the last year has been to improve the quality and professionalism of the sailing within the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. Attaining RYA Training Centre status has been the vehicle for motivating and empowering volunteers, increasing membership, raising revenue and has also been the catalyst for having a structured and planned approach for the development and hence success of our sailing Club.

The Club can now boast 24 instructors and new sailing infrastructure (new RIB, Laser Bahia, and Picos) with the capability of delivering internationally recognised RYA powerboat, dinghy, and open keelboat tuition.

So if you and your friends would like to enrol on a course please either apply through the RVYC website or if there is a group of 4-6 people wanting a particular RYA course, we can now tailor a course to suit you and at your convenience.

For all enquires, please email rvyctraining@gmail.com.

Summer Training Courses are:

RYA First Aid course

Date: 3 July 2010
Time: 08.30 to 16.30
Cost: £65

RYA Dinghy Instructor course

Date: 19 to 23 July (5 days)
Time: 08.30 to 16.30 both days
Cost: £190 RVYC Members / £245 Non members

RYA Safety Boat Course

Date: 7 and 8 August (2 days)
Time: 08.30 to 16.30 both days
Cost: £75 RVYC Members / £115 Non members

RYA Power Boat 2 Course

Date: 9 and 10 August (2 days)
Time: 08.30 to 16.30 both days
Cost: £75 RVYC Members / £115 Non members

RYA Powerboat Instructor course

Date: 24 to 26 September (3 days)
Time: 08.30 to 16.30 both days
Cost: £150 RVYC Members / £220 Non members

RYA Dinghy Racing Level 2 Coach Course

Date: 11 and 25 September (2 days) TBC
Time: 08.30 to 16.30 both days
Cost: £30 RVYC Members / £75 Non members

Racing continues to be an integral part of the Club with the Committee's aim on increasing membership participation on the water. With this in mind we have programmed four special races (a one-class start, plus a novice start, all welcome) and applied for RYA Championship Club Status. The Volvo RYA Champion Club (VCC) Programme recognises those sailing clubs with a commitment to youth sailing and race coaching. It aims to encourage young sailors at grass-roots level, to stay in the sport and learn to compete.

As a VCC Club we have made the commitment to deliver safe, effective racing and race training in the RYA recognised classes. These are the Topper, Mirror, Cadet, Laser 4.7, Optimist, and RS Feva. RVYC have agreed to support (via well organised coaching as well as advice, expertise, and encouragement) the ongoing development of young sailors within our Club and help to facilitate their progression into regional competition and subsequently into RYA squad programmes. In short, if you are keen for your young sailor to

progress down the competitive dinghy racing route there is no better foundation of training. It truly represents the bedrock of the RYA's Youth programmes.

In addition, there is the annual Club Regatta on 10 and 11 July, which is open to all, with a novice race start planned, weather and numbers dependent. Starts are scheduled for 10.30 and 11.30 on Saturday and Sunday respectively, so launch your boat or hire a Club boat and participate in this great open event.

Cadets and Adult Sailing are well supported this year with over 60 and 30 persons registered respectively. Both activities are well structured with the aim of RYA certification awards to any participant, if desired. Revenues from boat hire have significantly increased, this year we have received £400+. We are operating our first OnBoard session with Mayfield Middle School in the month of June. OnBoard (OB) is the RYA's programme to introduce sailing as a sport for young people. Over 10 years, OB is working to introduce half a million children into sailing.

Sailing has everything, from a relaxing leisure experience to high adrenaline, high-performance sport. OB gets you out on the water, teaches you new skills and lets you have great fun too. It is hoped that this is another vehicle to introduce new members to the Club.

Without the investment, particularly in time and effort of the Sailing Committee and volunteers we could not continue to deliver the programme of events the RVYC enjoys. Attaining RYA training status was key and this has allowed the Club to host new activities, Return to Sport (I.o.W. Council initiative), I.o.W. Optimist Academy, VCC coaching sessions, and OnBoard. All these events increase the profile of the Club, raise additional revenue and increase membership participation. So if you would like to get involved or want further information please contact the Sailing Committee.

Neil Griffiths
Rear Commodore, Sailing and
RYA Senior Instructor

Regatta party

Don't miss out on our fabulous regatta party on

Saturday, 10 July

with a really hot Caribbean theme

Enjoy a Caribbean buffet supper, Calypso music, and cocktails
How low can you limbo? Take the challenge

Dress Tropical

(and let's hope the UK weather is the lovely summer we deserve)

Tickets are adult: £17.50 - under 12s: £8.50

Full information will be on the posters appearing soon both at the Club and on the website
Booking forms will also be available shortly, at the Club and to download from the website

Why not make up a party for a great night out?

Squib fleet

The extended cold weather slowed the transit of boats from the tennis court to the moorings but we now seem to be catching up. The early season has produced some tight finishes and enjoyable racing, sometimes in lively conditions! The Spring Series was won by Ann and Martin Harrison in *Hussar* and they continued their dominance by winning the TST Series as well.

Four boats travelled to Felixstowe Ferry SC over the recent Bank Holiday weekend for the East Coast Championships. We were made most welcome and came away appreciating the advantages that we have at RVYC when it comes to accessing our moorings and the racing area. *Pani Munta* (Mike and James) were best-placed Vic boat with second overall in a weather-depleted four-race series. Six boats competed in the Westmacott Regatta in Portsmouth enjoying excellent racing with David Lloyd in *Blood, Sweat & Tears* winning the class. He and three other boats travel to Ireland for the Nationals at the end of June. We look forward to participating in the Cowes Classics



Commissioning Cup, 28 March
Andy Hough and Jane Dickinson
Photographer: Steve Baker

Regatta in July and to Cowes Week itself where 17 boats will be on the line.

There have been some changes of ownership within the fleet - we welcome Dominic and Amy Crouch who have taken over *Damp Squib* - and last season's newcomers are beginning to work their way up from

novice status to achieving better results. Together with a couple of new but experienced boats joining the club, the Squib fleet continues to improve its standards and reward those participating.

David Longford
Squib Class Captain

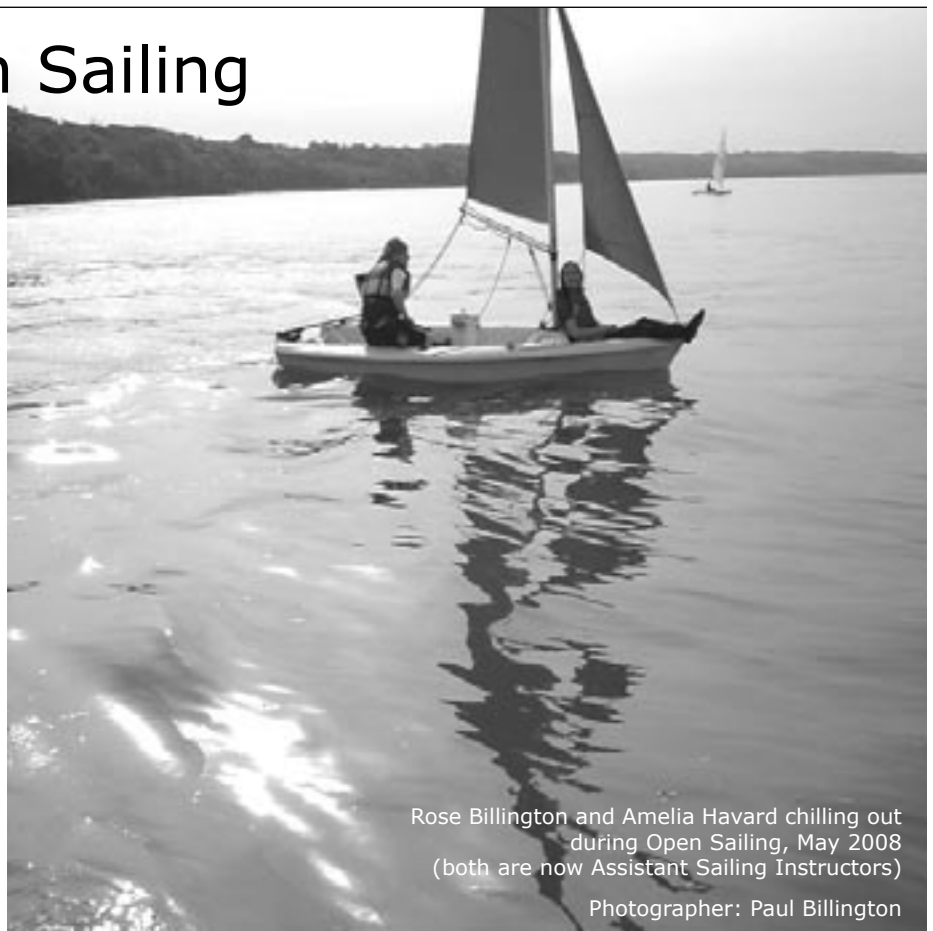
Saturday Open Sailing

There are still plenty of chances to join in with Open Sailing and relax on the water at the weekend; on 3, 24 and 31 July; 7, 21 and 28 August; and 11 September. See Club website for times.

Club boats are available for hire if needed and can be booked in advance through the Club Manager on telephone 882325.

We are lucky that our Club is situated in such beautiful surroundings, so make the most of those lazy summer Saturdays and come on down to enjoy some casual sailing! Food is available over lunchtime and for evening meals from Gail - so bring family and friends too.

In order to run these sailing sessions we need volunteer rib drivers and crews, as well as a shore-based OOD. If you would like to help or to find out more, call Louisa Mamakou on 562702.



Rose Billington and Amelia Havard chilling out during Open Sailing, May 2008 (both are now Assistant Sailing Instructors)
Photographer: Paul Billington

Wednesday morning volunteers

We are looking forward to sailing/ cruising on Wednesdays when tides and weather are favourable. There is an all day cruise to Newtown Creek planned on 21 July – early start. Wednesday, 7 July has also been earmarked as an all day cruise. When not sailing, this group are working through a long list of maintenance needs at the Club. So far this spring the front of the Clubhouse has been painted, new fascia boards fitted, as well as a new sign erected. Ongoing at present is the refurbishing of the garden furniture, as well as tidying up the garden area. Numerous small repairs are carried out from plumbing, to checking moorings at low water, to taking an old fridge to the tip! This group is multi-skilled and talented and enjoy meeting every Wednesday morning.

Repairs have been carried out to the numerous pot holes in the drive; the speed humps marked and the disabled parking bay clearly marked. We will continue to paint/ repair the exterior of the building during the summer, but sailing will come first.



Repainted Clubhouse with new fascia boards and a new sign fitted

Dinghy Park

Please, would all owners, ensure Dinghy Park stickers for 2010 are prominently displayed. Dinghies without stickers may be removed. Please help us to administer the Dinghy Park. All dinghies must be registered and fees paid.

Pool moorings

There is one mooring available (at the time of going to print). If you are seeking a mooring you can be placed on a waiting list; strictly in order of application (subject to size restrictions on some moorings).

Wild and windy in the Med

Sunshine, sparkling seas and great sailing were all on the menu in May during a week's holiday spent match racing at Wildwind in Vassiliki, Greece, with no less than Skandia GBR's match race coach Ewan McEwan! It was an amazing experience being coached by someone at the top of their game and really fun, although he worked us all very hard, starting after breakfast and often not finishing until around 1930 in the evening!

The Wildwind centre is the only sailing school in the world that allows sailors to go out when the wind blows over 20 knots – and the instructors are renowned for their heavy weather skills on dinghies, especially catamarans. The match racing group used Laser SB3s and we went out in all conditions. One of my best memories is blasting downwind in a high Force 5 with Ewan on spinnaker in our boat – and thinking, "I will probably never get to sail with an Olympic coach again, but hey, this is the way to

make it memorable"! Every year Wildwind run training courses at the beginning of the season with the likes of Chris Gower, Ewan McEwan, and others, and yet it doesn't cost

any more than the normal price of a holiday there. If you want to know more, go to www.wildwind.co.uk.

By Louisa Mamakou



Match racing SB3s in Greece

Sailability at the RVYC

I have been asked by a few members what plans the RVYC has to cater for the disabled now that Fishbourne Sailability Club has moved to the UKSA. My answer is that we already cater for the disabled, and plan to continue to improve on how we do so.

I went to a talk at the end of May by a 'disabled' person. She has invented a new word. She hates to be referred to as 'having a disability', and asks that people say that she has a 'difability'. Let's not look at what I can't do, but what I can, or what I can do or need to do differently. Difability infers having a different ability, rather than a lack of ability.

This is a brave and positive way to look at yourself, and an attempt to get us neuro-typical and able-bodied persons to look again at how we label many who have huge frustrations dealing with an uncompromising world. We need to approach those with different abilities that want to sail in the same way.

Our choice of boat regularly reflects what we can do and want to do. From the one-man high performance dinghy to the heated motor launch, there is a huge variety of ability and skills required and there is a big difference in the attitude to getting afloat. The RVYC has both types of member and welcomes the variety and range; some choose to involve themselves with a number of different groups, whilst some fanatically choose to become the best they can be in one area – this is all allowed and accepted.

The analogy I like to refer to is the education system. There are 'special' schools - on the Island we have Medina House and St George's - that cater for severely disabled children, and only disabled children and their support workers attend. We also have the 'mainstream' schools such as Cowes High School that have an 'Inclusion Policy' which includes the statement, 'Some students need a degree of support throughout their school life while others may just require short-term provision to overcome a specific problem'. They have special needs advisors and classroom assistants all of which ensure that the disabled pupils are integrated as much as possible into daily school life.

In the same way we have the Fishbourne Sailability Club, a specialist club for the disabled (or difabled) on the Island, and our own 'mainstream' club. I believe that the aim of the RVYC is to be and to grow as an open Club which includes everyone whether disabled or not. We should aim to give the invitation to sail to as many people as are brave enough to try, then to enable them to have a first-rate experience of the sport and the recreation. We of course have to achieve our aim through members' voluntary efforts, and will allow the support workers of disabled members free use of the club whilst with their disabled member. Disabled members can buy specially designed boats, or adapt existing ones; we have got wheelchair accessible pontoons and waterside facilities, our Clubhouse is accessible to all and we have suitable changing rooms. The RYA approved training that we provide is also available to disabled members, and alongside our other members we can even assist disabled sailors to compete in national and international events.

From the Vice-Commodore, Nigel Talbot.

Ed. note. The Club now has a large disabled parking bay.

P.S. Fishbourne sailability are very short on helmsmen on Tuesday night (club night at Cowes) and wondered if there were any persons available to help.

RVYC Open Day for People with Disabilities

The Royal Victoria Yacht Club is celebrating its 30th anniversary of their Open Day for those with disabilities on Saturday, 17 July, continuing the tradition started in 1981.

This year we are expecting over 170 visitors and it's going to be a busy one.

It's great that so many of you have 'volunteered' to help. This is an important day in the Club calendar and we still need more help from our members to make this a memorable day. If there is anyone who would like to help at any level with teas, drinks, life jackets etc., please contact Bernie Forward on 883686 or email rvycopenday@googlemail.com for further information.

We also require large floatation jackets, plastic garden chairs, tables, and gazebos. Once again, if you can help with any of these items please contact Bernie as above.

The Club is going to need every bit of space on the pontoon and in the car park and we would be grateful if members would refrain from any car or boat movements between 07.00 and 20.00 that day. However, car parking space will be provided for members in the old Aluminium Shipbuilding car park area.

One way that we finance the day is by running a large tombola. Please bring any items; tins, bottles, small gifts etc., that you are happy to donate, down to the Club and deposit them with the Club Manager or contact Sarah Talbot on 882655.

Finally, there will be a briefing for helpers, skippers, and crew on Thursday, 15 July at 19.30 in the Club – drinks and nibbles will be provided!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Galley news

The weather has been kind for the beginning of this year's season; let's hope it's here to stay.

To this end I am starting up the afternoon teas on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer holidays. So if scones and clotted cream on the Club lawn while watching the Solent wanderings sounds like an ideal afternoon, you may find me out there.

Also, with the weather being so good, I have been including a salad option to the Sunday carvery for a lighter meal, and most Sundays there is a fish dish on the buffet. This will carry on now through the summer. Unfortunately, I can't guarantee being able to feed everyone that does not book, although I haven't let anyone down as yet, I would prefer that not to happen. It would help to know rough numbers by Saturday morning.

As you know, every year I hold a fundraising day for the Club. This year is no different and the theme will be "The Roaring Twenties" and it will be in aid of 'the sinking slipway' and Fishbourne Sailability.

There will be a coffee morning with cake stall and games on the lawn. Then in the evening, there will be a 1920's ball with cocktails and canapes on the lawn followed by a four course dinner, and dancing to the jazz and swing of the "Unity Stompers", and finishing with a more modern disco for the last hour. Ticket price is £35 per head for the evening. If you are interested, there will be tables of 8s, 10s, and mixed tables. Dressing in the fashion of the era is optional.

From Gail
Gail Force Catering

*P.S. Due to a family wedding, there will be a BBQ on Sunday the 14 August instead of the normal carvery.
Nick will be officiating.*

Fundraising Day

The RVYC Fundraising Day will be taking place on
Saturday, 21 August
in aid of the sinking slipway, and Fishbourne Sailability

Coffee Morning from 11.00 to 14.00

~
tea and coffee

~
cake stall

~
games on the lawn

~
cream teas

~
Free admission during the day

There'll be dancing in the evening from 19.00

Back to the 1920's dance to the

*** Unity Stompers ***

~
Cocktails and canapés on the lawn

~
Prawn Cocktail

~
Medallions of fillet beef

~
Duo of Chocolate Pave

~
Coffee & Mints

Closing with a disco
Evening Tickets £35.00 per head

FOR SALE

Fishbourne Sailability has two Wayfarer sailing dinghies for sale. Each boat has a launching trolley, two covers (one suitable for use on a mooring) and extra sails. The boats are currently ashore at RVYC. Guide price £750 each but any reasonable offer considered. Contact Brian Gay on 883619, or email gayb@talk21.com.

Where has your sailing holiday taken you this year?

If you have a story to tell, then let the Club know so we can include your adventures in a future Newsletter.

And finally...

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."
Mark Twain

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails." William Arthur Ward

Did you know?

Great Britain was the most successful sailing nation at Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, and Beijing 2008, winning four of the 11 gold medals.