

# RVYC NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2010

## ***'MY LAST CONTRIBUTION!'***

Here we go. Please forgive any wonky punctuation, this is a Mexican keyboard and seems to have a mind of its own!

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all from your Flag Officers and staff at the RVYC. By the time you read this the 2009 season will be a happy memory and, in between singing carols, splitting logs and plucking turkeys you will be making exciting plans for 2010. This newsletter also marks my last as Commodore, accompanied by a mixed feeling of relief and regret. As I have said before to anyone who would listen to me, this has been the most rewarding job I have ever done, and I feel we have come a long way in the last few years. None of that would have been possible without a number of dedicated people doing a vast amount of voluntary work to make our Club the success it is on and off the water. By reading the rest of this newsletter, as I know you will, you will see the enthusiasm, drive and pride that those people have in what they are doing, and I would just like to thank them for all the support they have given me, and you, for all the support you have given them, over my time as Commodore. This Club couldn't exist without all the work done by all the volunteers.**

**On the note of supporting your Club, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on January 28th, an important date in the Club's calendar (and our 165th consecutive AGM!), so you can hear more of our plans for the future, and welcome your new Commodore and his team. To 2010 and all who sail during it,**

**Your Commodore,  
Steve Warren Smith.**

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## **THE SEA PILOT'S PSALM**

*The Lord is my Pilot I shall not drift,  
He guides me across the dark waters,  
He steers me in deep channels.  
He keeps my Log.*

**Captain John H Roberts - 1874**

## **STOP PRESS**

**Three new dinghies have been purchased by the Club and they were duly delivered in their wrapping paper just before Christmas. There are two new Laser Picos and a Bahia. This addition to our fleet of Club owned boats gives more boat availability for our training classes. This section of the Club is expanding rapidly and hopefully will bring more new members to the Club and improved racing skills in our fleets.**

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**AGM DETAILS included with this issue of the Newsletter - see page 7.**

## **CRUISER ORGANISING GROUP (COG)**

As we approach 2010, the Cruiser Organising Group can look back on a very productive and positive season with a number of successful events from the opening rally to Yarmouth in May through to the COG dinner in November.

While it is nice to reflect on a successful year COG are far from being complacent and are deep into the planning for the 2010 season. This will include our mid-winter COG Social event, the Horse Race Night scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> February (a date for your diaries). The rally schedule is also coming together and will be based on the suggestions of the members, indicated by a survey of popular destinations (please return forms a.s.a.p.). As ever we will try to include one or two new venues. COG hope to have the 2010 schedule available on the website for comment by the New Year so that we can get feed back and modify it if necessary to suit the members aspirations.

Next year, more than ever, COG will be looking for help to lead rallies, so if you are willing to be lead boat on a rally please let COG know.

The COG committee look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, on the water again in May, and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable festive season and a productive and prosperous New Year.

### **AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR FOR FISHBOURNE SAILABILITY CLUB.**

We started the year having just purchased the vessel now known as

*'Dougal'*. The Spring saw much work in preparing the vessel for the Naming Ceremony in April.

*'Dougal'* became an immediate success. We soon had new members, particularly, wheelchair users, many who thought they would never get afloat again. Within weeks St George's School had become our first Group Member. Five sessions, each for five pupils, were arranged and proved of very great value to the pupils and teachers alike. To quote from Rogers Unsworth, Deputy Head of St George's School:

*"Overall, it was a thoroughly uplifting experience for one and all — especially the students. It has played an integral part in our desire to provide our young people with the opportunity to improve their self-esteem, confidence and independence skills."*

We expanded on our work with other organisations, such as the UKSA, Yarmouth Sailing Club and the Disabled Sailors Association, with use of a Drascombe Gig from PGL Little Canada.

Next year is full of challenges. St George's School have already requested ten sessions with *'Dougal'* as have the IOW Amputees Group. We are being asked to speak to an increasing number of other organisations, and are looking to make even closer ties to other Island, and mainland organisations to continue to increase the range of opportunities available to our members.

We thank the RVYC for their continued support through the year and making us their Charity of the Year.

## **From the Vice Commodore**

I've been fortunate enough to have been away cruising on several occasions this year; sometimes around the Solent, and also further afield to the Isle of Scilly. It's struck me just how fortunate we are to have the Royal Victoria as our Club.

Not only is it on the very edge of the Solent, giving us access to literally dozens of ports and anchorages, but we have a wonderful Club House where we can meet with friends for a meal and a drink, knowing that our Club will be open at most hours of the day. Other Solent Clubs value this too, and the warm welcome I get at other Clubs is due in no small part to the excellent efforts of our Club Manager and Caterer. That the Club always looks cared for is because of the weekly efforts of our Wednesday Group, who carry out a lot of the day-to-day maintenance, and some projects, around the Club and on the water. It is also due to our ambassadors in our COG, whether individually or together in a Rally, they are the face of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club that other Solent Yacht Clubs see (I'm sure our dinghy sailors are also good ambassadors!).

Our Commodore, Steve Warren Smith, has made it a goal to ensure that the Club is an active sailing and social venue, and it is good to see how successful that is. It is an excellent base on which to build on for the coming years.

John Clack  
Vice Commodore

## **Sailing Committee Report for 2009**

What a year of achievement for our sailing club this year, both

achieving RYA training centre and RYA on board status. These milestone achievements for our club are the key to the sailing committee's on going strategy of growing and improving of sailing activities on the water for all. I have been amazed at the membership's enthusiasm to train as RYA instructors which has enabled us to provide a RYA nationally recognised sailing qualification for all our members. I must say these achievements could not be undertaken without the support of all the volunteers and the sailing committee, so a big thank you to all.

Cadet week this year was a great success in terms of number of RYA qualification achieved by all cadets, great weather and a good profit, over £2500 has enabled the management committee to invest in the sailing clubs future in terms of new boats and equipment. The cadet were also successfully of gaining a local grant of £9,200 to fund a new rib which will be delivered to the club in the New Year.

We have worked closely this year with Andy Hooper and Susie Moore of the RYA and we have had over £3,000 of grant funding for courses and equipment. In exchange we are able to operate both water and land based courses to improve both our members sailing skills, confident and ultimately raising the standards within the club to a new professional level. I hope members can see a difference but we are always trying to improve and I would welcome any feedback.

You also maybe interested that during the winter months the club is

still offering very competitive shore based courses for 2010 which include:

January	Radio Course VHF /DSC updates training £30
February	Power Boat 2 £60
February/ March	Day Skipper Navigation Theory £175

Further details can be found on the club's website or by contacting [rvyctraining@gmail.com](mailto:rvyctraining@gmail.com)

Next year will be about consolidation and delivering the *On Board (OB)* programme, *OB* has been developed by the RYA (the people who run sailing in the UK), this programme is to help introduce sailing as a sport for school children in our local area and potential club cadet members.

Sailing has everything, from a cool and sociable relaxing leisure experience to a high adrenalin, high-performance sport. *OB* gets our community out on the water and teaches them new skills.

Lastly if I could remind all member before the hiring of all club boats whether taking a leisurely sail or participating in a race that any payment could be made at the bar prior to your activity. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year .

**Hot News**, on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 09 the club took delivery of three new boats, a laser Bahia and 2 new Pico's all can be hired to all club members next year.

## CELEBRATION OF FIFTY YEARS AT FISHBOURNE IN 2011

**Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, Evening Talk**

**35000 TIDES AT FISHBOURNE - 1961 – 2011**

*Recollections of the highs and lows of the last half-century followed by a chance to give your ideas for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. Presented by the Commodore and other members.*

1845 is the date of the foundation of our Club at Ryde. However there is a great milestone to be celebrated in 2011: the half-century of the Fishbourne enterprise.

In the 1950s the old Club was in a downward spiral with membership in steep decline and playing bridge had eclipsed yachting as the major activity. Some of the last few members had the vision of a new type of Club **and** the energy to carry through their project. The result was that our Club at Fishbourne was born as the old RVYC took its last gasp.

Our membership now consists of a very few who were members at the amalgamation of RVYC and the existing dinghy clubs in the Creek (Wootton Creek SC and Fishbourne SC) on January 1, 1961. These 'founder' members were joined through the Sixties, Seventies, Eighties, Nineties and Noughties by the rest of us. Over all these years at Fishbourne, many have worked most energetically at different times to nurture that inspired proposal so that the Club has become what we enjoy today.

On the water, the fleets of Fireflies, Albacores, Cherubs, Wayfarers and Mirrors have given way to the Oppies,

Lasers, Squibs and RS varieties. Our facilities have been transformed from a boathouse by a slipway to our present Clubhouse, pontoons, moorings and watercraft – and RYA Training establishment status.

We invite you all to an evening at the Club so that everyone who has joined over the decades has an opportunity to give their input into how the anniversary could be celebrated. There will be a short presentation giving highlights of the last 50 years followed by an opportunity for discussion of potential plans for 2011.

Anyone with photographs of Club activities on and off the water (particularly early years and pre-2000 unless exceptionally spectacular), please contact Hilary Martin ([whizzard623@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whizzard623@hotmail.co.uk) or 07721 014985). JPEG files sent electronically are preferable. Prints will be scanned (and returned!). There will be a prize for the best photograph for each decade used in the presentation (judged by the audience!). Disclosure of amusing incidents also welcomed. Entries close on February 15, 2010. We would also like to hear from anyone knowing of a vintage Cherub, Firefly or Albacore, whether seaworthy or not, which could be displayed.

Do come down to the Club on Wednesday March 3, 2010 – Galley open at 1900 – Presentation at 2000.

## **Carol de Peyer's Resignation**

*Although some of you will have read the email setting out the statement below, because not everyone uses the internet it was agreed to include the statement in our Winter Newsletter. Unfortunately, due to an oversight, it was omitted, but it has been included on the electronic version.*

Our Honorary Secretary and Membership Secretary, Carol, had said that she would not be standing for re-election at this coming AGM, but would continue in post until that date. Carol feels that, due to the change in access to the Club Office, she can no longer carry out her duties, and has resigned with immediate effect. The Commodore and Flag Officers, on behalf of all the membership, would sincerely wish to thank Carol for her hard work and commitment to the Royal Victory Yacht Club as Honorary Secretary over the last ten years.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

Another year has flown past and it's been a spectacularly busy one for the club. Our major social functions have been well attended and successful but it has been disappointing to have cancelled two events. The House Committee recognises the demands on people's time and that not everyone can attend every event round the year. For this reason, we will be concentrating on our key, strategic events for 2010—winter talks, new members evenings, Fitting Out, Regatta, Laying Up, the Christmas party and New Year's Eve.

That's not to say the Committee will have time on its hands—far from it.

*The House Committee needs you!*

The House Committee has many roles and functions within the Club.

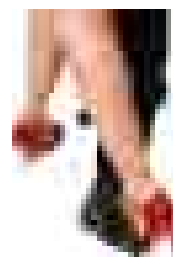
As well as organising (and encouraging you to attend!) social functions through the year, we are involved in all the non-sailing activities. This includes the bar and catering, the furniture and fittings and whole appearance of RVYC. In other words, the 'domestic administration' (as it says in the rules), of the club.

Would you like to be involved? If so, ***we'd like to hear from you.***

The House Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month. If you'd like to join us helpers or just like more information on what may be involved, please contact Rear-Commodore House Helen Vrba at helen.vrba@tesco.net or call me on 615013 (evening and weekends) or 07969-850986.

## STRICTLY A SUCCESS

In a change to starting the programme of talks in the autumn, the club became a dance studio on Wednesday evenings in September, October and November. About 20 people responded to an initial email to gauge interest—expectations were far exceeded when between 40 and 50 people turned up! Although numbers did drop as the evenings 'drew in', around 20 people continued to put on their dancing shoes right through the sessions.



Our thanks go to Richard and Becki Blachford for their patience and enthusiasm. They have asked if we'd like them back in 2010—the response was a resounding 'yes'.

## WINTER TALKS

13 January	Malcolm Barnsley (Vestas) Fast sailing machine development. Malcolm has devoted many years to designing and building the fastest yacht in the world
20 January	Paul McCathie of Goodleaf Tree Climbing Recreational tree climbing (check out modern tree climbing on goodleaf.co.uk)
10 February	Tony Gale Illustrated talk on coastguard stations of the Isle of Wight
17 February	Chris Lacey First Aid on boats—all you need to know to be safe at sea
24 February	Tony Saunders Marine model making—Tony will be bringing some of his models to this talk
3 March	35,000 tides at Fishbourne : 1961 to 2011 In 2011, we have been at Fishbourne for 50 years. This evening is your chance to recollect the highs and lows of these years and for you to put forward your ideas how we can celebrate this achievement.



Talks are at 8pm.  
Supper is at 7pm  
— please book ahead for supper

We're also a great venue for parties, dinners, meetings and conferences so do get in touch with Jon if you've got an event to plan. This is your club; it's here for you, whether you want to sail or just socialise — we look forward to seeing you soon.

## AGM 2010

This year the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Club at 2000 on Thursday 28 January 2010. **Please note the change of day.** You will find attached in this mailing the Agenda for 2010 and Minutes of the 2009 AGM. Please note the following important points about the accounts, and changes to the Rules.

### Annual Accounts & 2009 AGM Minutes

Copies of the Annual Accounts for 2008/2009 and the Minutes for 2009 will be available at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 28 January 2009.

Copies may be inspected before that date on the Club web site - an email will advise when the Accounts are available.

Those members who require a paper copy may collect one at the Club from 2nd January 2010 onwards, or can request one to be posted to them by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Club Manager.

We feel that not only does this reduce the printing and postage costs to the Club but also reduces our impact on the environment.

### Rule Changes

Some minor amendments are required to tidy up the rules, these relate to Section 4, Membership - *Election and Expulsion Members*.

On page 5, the Management recommend the following change: Rule 4.3.5 is to have the clause requiring application forms to be posted for fourteen days to be **struck out** as shown following. Members will note that your committee still has the power to refuse membership and has

used this power within the last few years.

4.3.5 Upon receipt of an application for membership, the Secretary shall enter such application in a Register of Candidates ~~and shall cause the application form to be prominently displayed in the Club premises for at least fourteen days before the next meeting of the Management Committee at which the application shall be considered.~~ The committee may refuse membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute.

In addition, on page 6, to bring the right of appeal against expulsion into line with that for refusal, the **addition** of a new sub-clause to Rule 4.5, *Expulsion of Members*.

4.5.2 Appeal against expulsion may be made to the members at a General Meeting.

It is worth repeating that the RVYC is a members' Club, and these amendments do not affect the ability of the Club to refuse membership or expel members.

Included for ratification are the 2009 Bye Laws as updated by the Management Committee.

John Clack  
Vice Commodore