

Locks News



December 2006



Autumn Series 2006

Commodores Report

On my first report as Commodore, I dwell over the past year and about the Locks in general as the season draws to a close. Personally I was sailing away much of the year at 2 National Championships, FED week, the Endeavour Trophy and with the Swiss Americas Cup team in Valencia. Speaking to friends and talking to Jack, as you will see from his report later, this year at the club was as busy as ever on the water.

Taking on the role of Commodore is very important to me as the Locks is truly in my blood. I have been a member of the Locks since I was 8 when my Dad bought a Wayfarer to race with John Druce. At the age of 10 I started sailing a topper at the club and realising the old adage, 'if you can't beat them, join them', I was lucky enough to team up with William Tremlett, who guided by his father Mike and brother John is a sailing talent second to none. So my learning curve was somewhat accelerated over the next few years. I've been on the Committee as Sailing Secretary, Rear and Vice Commodore and look forward to representing the club as Commodore.

I'd personally like to thank Andrew Adams for the superb job he has done as Commodore over the past few years, leaving me to take over the helm in calm waters. I'd also like to wish Andrew & Allison all the very best for the arrival of their first born, hopefully another future Locks junior!!!!

The Committee which is full of hard working volunteers continues to create and action plans for the improvement, development, and future of the club. Next year, we will see the clubhouse refurbished ready for our Centenary celebrations and my thanks go to Paul Phelan and his sub-committee for their hard work designing and pricing some options which we will be discussing and finalising shortly.

There will be a number of events throughout 2007, to commemorate and enjoy our 100th birthday. Working together, Jack Miller and Christina Holden have arranged some great Sailing and Socials throughout the year. In the Summer will be a Centenary Race day, which will be sponsored by a kind bequest from Ron Lucas, where we will have a new trophy raced for in Ron's memory, followed by a social evening with food and fun. On the 23rd of June, we will have our Summer Ball to recognise the 100th birthday of the club. This will be a top class event, starting the night with Champagne reception, followed by 4 course dinner and celebrity entertainers. We have already pre-sold 50 tickets for this event, and tickets will be available early in the new year.

So looking forward then, things look good for the Club. If you've been around the last few weekends when racing has been on, you'll have seen lots of people on the water and in the clubhouse. Plans for next year are well under way, and we continue to attract new members and provide good quality racing and a friendly atmosphere to enjoy a beer and some conversation.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the club soon, perhaps on boxing day for the last race this year.

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Winter 2006 Sailing Secretaries Report

Summer Racing

The annual Binness Island Race heralded the end of the summer season with twenty boats on the water. The Fast fleet winner was Chris Flewitt but the overall winner and Medium fleet victor was Bryan Davies in his distinctive yellow solo.

Autumn Series

With better clothing and keener crews the 12 race series has started well with 17 different boats having taken part. This makes for cramped space in the compound but it is good to see increasing numbers of members taking to the water on a regular basis.

The last race of the season will be a one off race on Boxing Day.

End of season dinghy meeting.

Twenty five members came along on the 13th October 2006 to air their views on what we have done this season. The statistics for the season, which are posted on the website, make interesting reading.

We had 68 races on the card for both fleets and lost 12 due to inclement weather. However, the most races started by any Locks sailor in their own boat were 24.

A number of points and suggestions were raised at the meeting, some it is possible to do and others not so.

The major items were:

- Endeavour to run two races on a day: The biggest problem is lack of water particularly around the start finish line, however it is the intention to have a weekend with a committee boat start separate from the Interclub race weekends and we can look to possibly arranging two races with one short and a second longer one using a committee boat in deeper water.
- Low water racing is always discussed; I picked up the Sailing Secretaries baton from my illustrious predecessor John Druce. Under

his tutelage the low water racing had graduated over time to start usually around 1.5 hours after low water. However it has been suggested to start them later to ensure more water up the slip on finishing and less mud when launching. Personally I believe that the later start will obviously mean an increase in the flood tide that the fleet will have to battle with, firstly to get to the start and secondly during the race. However I will experiment with a couple of starts at two, two and a half and three hours after high water respectively. Those members who take part in these races can then give their feedback.

- There was a request for a round Hayling Cruise or race. I assume we need a high tide around three in the afternoon to do this with a view that we are at the top of Langstone Harbour on the top of the tide. At Langstone Bridge we will either have to capsize and move the boats under the bridge or liaise with Langstone SC to borrow trailers to move boats across the road. So I can allocate a day all I need is a volunteer to organise it.
- In 2006 we put the Locks Regattas for the juniors and Adults together on the same weekend. The Adults regatta being on the Saturday with a Social event afterwards. The suggestions from the floor are for this to be reversed with the Adult event on the Sunday so I shall switch the days for 2007. This event will be on the 14th & 15th of July
- The topic of out of Harbour racing was discussed. Obviously we normally race in the harbour on high water races as we have 20 odd square miles of easy accessible & sheltered water. It seems to me that in these times most people tend to turn up, sail and go, as we all seem to lead such busy lives. Again, the High water races statistically are far more popular than the low water ones. So to race outside on a high water race there is a choice of using a committee boat and taking the start outside to Hayling Bay or starting from within the harbour. Starting outside will be a long day, as we have to sail out there race and then come back in. Alternatively starting inside from our normal line would necessitate the use of a turning mark such as East Milton prior to the Fairway Post followed by any other subsequent out of harbour marks. In reality this option would have to be down to the opinion of the officer of the day when he or she arrives at the club.
- There was discussion on varying the start times for the high water races so that we do not encounter the exact tidal conditions on every race. I have done this on some of the Autumn Series events, admittedly, a couple by accident. There are possibilities of continuing this during the summer series. However one of the drawbacks is that we have Windy Corner as a windward mark for many courses. Some of the boats such as the RS800's, RS600's and now a 49er have fairly deep dagger boards that can obviously get caught in the mud particularly if we are not starting on or near to the top of the tide. However every cloud has a silver lining and as a fast fleet sailor in a RS400 with a centre board that can be pulled up, maybe I should allow

the start times to lag as it is probably the only way I can get my hands on some silverware, hmmm.....

Race Calendar for 2007

The Sailing Secretaries for the Langstone Clubs have had their end of season meeting. I have endeavoured to include other requests from our end of season dinghy meeting.

We are to have four Interclub Races with three out of the four to count for the prizes.

The first three will count for the Langstone Tiller Trophy that Locks & Tudor compete for annually. We retained that Trophy again this year so congratulations to those members who raced in the series. Locks will be OOD and the Committee Boat for two of these events. It is our intention to invite the Victory Fleet to join us again if they wish.

Langstone SC will hold their regatta on the 30th of July and also their Junior Regatta on the same day. Locks SC can therefore take both ribs and the Junior Fleet thus enabling those Locks members who wanted to have a race on the same day as the Juniors Regattas to have their wish. Our safety boat can take the sign sheet from Locks and hand it directly to the Langstone Committee Boat and this along with their changed policy of not charging for entry should help us to take a bumper adult fleet to support their event. Those sailors who wish to go ashore afterwards for their regatta tea will just have to take funds along with them. The Langstone SC Prentice Plate race will take place on the Sunday

Tudor SC has also been extremely helpful in their Regatta arrangements. This will take place on the 16th & 17th of June. Again Tudor has agreed to some changes to encourage more boats to compete. Their event takes place over two days with two races on the Sunday and one longer one on the Saturday. Two out the three count for the silver ware. Competitors do not need to pay to enter only should they wish to stop for lunch between the Sunday races. Again our rib can take a signing on sheet and drop that ashore and as Tudor race using set courses they intend to let us know these in advance and will signal the letter of the course from the Race Office prior to the start.

For our Regatta we intend to have free entry as in recent seasons. We intend to start from a Committee boat with a single race finishing on our HW line. This gives a shorter distance for other sailors to sail to as this is normally against the current when coming from Tudor & Langstone.

Whisperer Evening

We arranged for Steve Cockerill who is a laser radial past master champion as well as well as being hot in both an RS300 and a Blaze to appear at the Locks for one of his Whisperer Evening presentations. Fifty sailors from Locks, Langstone and Tudor spent three and a half hours learning or relearning the art of keeping the plastic bit of the boat under the metal bit. No

doubt there will be much confusion over the rest of the Autumn Series as we all try to master the technique. Thanks again to Christina for organising the food, which was part of a good evening's entertainment.

Locks Juniors

We held our junior prize giving on the 14th of October to celebrate another good season on the water.

Emma Mahoney crewed for Paul Phelan and they were the winners of the Adult & a Junior Crew race.

The Top Cadet Single hander in the Adult Single handers race that was sailed on the same day went to Tim Miller.

The Top improver for 2006 went to Jo Holden in her laser radial who has come on by leaps and bounds this season.

First overall in the medium fleet was Laurie Sayer and in the laser Fleet was Tim Miller. We are looking forward to Laurie & Joe Fisher both moving up to the laser fleet in 2007

Tim was also narrowly the victor in the Youth Cup that was really contested by him and Matt Holden. These guys have just turned 17 and have two more years as Cadets. Their speed in a laser is awesome and I am very glad that they mostly race and persecute the medium fleet as opposed to the fast fleet!

Many thanks again to all the parents and members who turn out on a regular basis for the Junior Evenings and Regattas that these Cadets participate in. There is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that the Locks Juniors operate in a safe and fun atmosphere, which would not happen without your help.

Jack Miller

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Bosun's Winter Notes

The usual autumnal movement of boats into the compound went really well with the cruiser owners and those dinghy sailors, targeting the Autumn series, cooperating to ensure that there were no major problems. There is however still quite a bit of debris from the cruisers and their trailers littering the area along the wall and it would be appreciated if this could be tidied up over the next week or so.

Compound fees have been paid promptly by all but a slack handful of the regular slow payers which means that the Club is currently short of cash

which is still sitting in their pockets. If you are one of these non payers can I ask you to get your cheques to me asap so that I can spend my time doing something useful with my spare time rather than chasing you up and also so that your Club can remain solvent. The Committee may well consider giving priority for compound space to the prompt payers.

While on the subject of compound fees and spaces etc can I please emphasise how important it is that your yellow/pink forms, depending whether you are a dinghy or a cruiser sailor, are filled in fully and correctly. It is the only way that the Langstone Harbour Board can get the details of your boat so if it's upside down in the harbour or washed up on a beach somewhere they can trace you or your nok. Also I am happy if you return your dinghy/cruiser fees and forms to me or the membership secretary; whatever suits you best.

To ensure that we all kick off our new season with a clean and tidy compound I would ask, as many of you as can, to get down to the Club early in the New Year with your brushes, secateurs, wheelbarrows etc. to spruce things up and I'm suggesting that we target 10 o'clock on Saturday 27th Jan with the 10th Feb as a back-up in the event of foul weather or more work being needed. Also there is a Club Rule that states that "All tender pool members shall attend the maintenance sessions necessary to keep the tenders up to the required standards. Maintenance to be funded by the Club". If the Cruiser members can fix this for the same week ends it would seem sensible and if anyone fancies the coordination of this task they should give me a ring please.

Good luck with your refitting and refurbishing during the long winter months and I'm already looking forward to another great season of racing.

Brian Davies

Bosun

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Membership Secretary's Appeal

It is renewal time again, and your invoices for membership and boat fees are enclosed with this Newsletter.

May I appeal to your good nature, in which I have complete faith, to keep these renewal forms at the top of your things to do list and settle up before the end of January. It makes our work a lot easier to know who will be continuing with their membership and all of us on the committee would very much appreciate your co-operation.

Have a lovely Christmas, and I know we can look forward to an exciting centenary year ahead.

Christine McDonald

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A Note from the Editor

Following his elevation to the dizzy heights of Commodore, Christian has reluctantly given up the task of editing the newsletter and I have been 'volunteered' to take over. Any contributions to future issues; photographs, announcements, gossip, scandal, etc. would be welcome. Also, a reminder to members of Christian's appeal in the last issue for any club memorabilia to help mark the centenary next year.

Malcolm Weaver

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Social Secretary's Report

The social life of the Locks is in full swing at the moment having just had another very successful Prize giving Dinner and Dance at the Royal Beach Hotel. The numbers were up from last year and it was very heartening to see so many of the younger and new members joining our annual event. The evening was started with Christian's first official speech as Commodore, with an interesting and relevant response from Colin Beeston, the Vice Commodore of the Eastney Cruising Association. Jack Miller, (sailing secretary) had complete control of the prize giving and made a wonderful job of the proceedings. Also the band "The Hit Squad", led by our very own dinghy racer, Dan "the guitar man" Jarman, were fantastic.

Previously, the firework night was very successful, thanks to all those who contributed to the fine display, and the Chilli was pretty hot as well!!

As we approach Christmas, tickets the Christmas prize draw will go on sale this week, so buy your tickets soon as you could win one or more of the great prizes. Keep the social diary to hand for all the Locks social events.

The quiz nights continue to be a very entertaining social activity within the club and are always well supported.

As you all know, next year is our centennial and we will be celebrating this with a summer ball and a centennial day at the club. Start saving your pennies now as this event is not to be missed.

Please look for social notices put up on the club notice boards.

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Check out the web site for further details www.lockssc.co.uk



LOCKS SAILING CLUB SOCIAL CALENDAR 2006/2007

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
DECEMBER 2006		
Saturday 2 nd	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 16 th	Christmas Quiz Night	8pm
Sunday 17 th	Christmas prize draw	1pm
Sunday 24 th	Christmas Eve Party	8pm (Bring a present)
Sunday 31 st	New Years Eve Party	8pm (American Supper)
JANUARY 2007		
Monday 8th	Q.G.M.	8pm
Saturday 13 th	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 27 th	Quiz Night	8pm
FEBRUARY 2007		
Saturday 10 th	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 24 th	Quiz Night	8pm
MARCH 2007		
Saturday 3rd	Autumn prize giving	7.30pm
Saturday 10 th	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 17 th	E.C.A. Quiz Night	7.30pm
Saturday 24 th	Quiz Night	8pm
APRIL 2007		
Monday 2nd	Q.G.M.	8pm
Saturday 7 th	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 21 st	Quiz Night	8pm
MAY 2007		
Saturday 5 th	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 19 th	Quiz Night	8pm

JUNE 2007

Saturday 2 nd	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 16 th	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 23rd	Midsummer Ball	Boathouse No. 7
Saturday 30 th	Quiz Night	8pm

JULY 2007

Monday 2nd	Q.G.M.	8pm
Saturday 14 th	LSC Junior Regatta	TBA
Sunday 15 th	LSC Adult Regatta	TBA
Tuesday 17th	Commodores Eve	7pm (All welcome)
Saturday 28th	Quiz Night	8pm

AUGUST 2007

Saturday 11 th	Quiz night	8pm
Saturday 18th	100th Birthday Party	TBA

SEPTEMBER 2007

Saturday 8 th	Quiz night	8pm
Saturday 22 nd	Quiz night	8pm

OCTOBER 2007

Monday 1st	A.G.M.	8pm
Saturday 6th	Junior Prize giving	7.30pm
Saturday 13 th	Quiz Night	8pm
Saturday 27th	Quiz Night	8pm

NOVEMBER 2007

Saturday 3rd	Prize Giving D & D	Quarterdeck Bar
Saturday 10 th	Quiz night	8pm
Saturday 17 th	E.C.A. Quiz Night	7.30pm
Saturday 24th	Quiz Night	8pm

DECEMBER 2007

Saturday 8th	Christmas Quiz Night	8pm
Sunday 9th	Christmas prize draw	1pm
Monday 24 th	Christmas Eve Party	8pm (Bring a present)
Monday 31 st	New Years Eve Party	8pm (American Supper)

Dates may be subject to change.

Christina Holden

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