

LOCKS NEWS



March 2008



Commodores Report

Dear Members,

We are now entering a very exciting time of year as the days get lighter and the weather starts to get warmer.....or at least that's what used to happen!! However, regardless of the somewhat unpredictable and un-seasonal weather, the start of the season is almost here.

Of course, it goes without saying that our Honourable Sailing Secretary has once again organised a full calendar of top racing for us to look forward to. This year will see us temporarily losing some of our regulars, like Chris Flewitt, who will be concentrating on some single and double-handed racing in his Contessa 28 with wife Sue. However, on the plus side we will be seeing some old faces back on the water, so in balance we will have a good strong fleet.

I am delighted to say that Lucy Jones has now officially taken up the role of Social Secretary. I know that her energy and enthusiasm will be an asset to the club's social scene. In addition, Simon Palmer has come on to the Committee to fill a vacant position which has been vacant for some time. Thanks to them both for coming forward to support the club. We still have one more vacant position left for anyone who would like to take on a more active role in the club.

A new RIB has now been ordered and will be here hopefully in time for Easter. We have also purchased a camcorder which will be used for training events and will enable us to improve the way we provide feedback from the water. Coaching and training is something which a number of members have mentioned to me that they would be keen to have. There are a number of experienced racers in the club who are happy to help those wanting advice or tips, so if you feel you could benefit from support, don't be shy. If you let either Jack Miller or myself know that you would like support, we will make sure when we run training events your needs are catered for. Improving the standard of sailing in the club helps everyone and gives us a better team when we enter the FED team event each year.

Geoff Holt kindly came to the club in early February to share his story about sailing around Britain. It was an excellent evening and the money Geoff raised he has donated to sailability. I am delighted to say that Luke and Emma McEwan will be coming to the club on Saturday 31st May to present the second part of their 'Round the World' voyage. I strongly recommend to everyone coming along as the first instalment was incredibly interesting and informative and I know from their various emails that the second part of the journey was every bit as exciting.

We have the Fitting Out Dinner on 5th April to kick off the season and will be presenting the Terry MacDonald Memorial trophy at the event for extraordinary service to the club.

Christian Reynolds

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Membership Cards 2008

Please let me know if you would like a printed membership card this year. Since members' renewal details are kept on the Club database, the hard copy card seems irrelevant unless members particularly want one.

Please do not hesitate to let me have your views on this issue.

Christine McDonald

Hon. Membership Secretary
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Sailing Secretaries Report

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the Spring Section of what's going on and what has been going on, on the water.

Autumn Series 2007

Another successful series with plenty of boats on the water in sometimes challenging conditions.

The fast Fleet podium winners were Geoff & Bernice Holden in their laser 4000, followed by Christian Reynolds & Lucy Jones with James Seed crewed by James Vince initially and latterly Simon Matthews coming in third.

The Medium Fleet had John Reynolds & Martin Tice taking first, followed by Lee Russell and Brian Davies third.

Prizes for this will be awarded at the Fitting Out Supper.

Safety Boat

Saturn has been serviced and will commence the season, as the new boat will not arrive until the end of March. The hull is in and I understand we are awaiting the engine. The new boat is the same size as Saturn and the intention is to relegate Saturn to the Junior Training boat and back up for emergencies and the old Junior Rib, Juno, which was bought with part of the proceeds of an Award for All grant of £5,000 around five years ago, will be sold to help fund the new rib.

Use of both boats will be covered in our Safety Boat policy, which will be updated when the new boat is commissioned.

Part of the Club policy is ideally to have all rib drivers qualified with powerboat level two. Desirable though this policy may be, we know it is not always possible to adhere to it, so part of our procedures is also to ask members with little or no rib driving experience to have had a basic instruction from the Sailing Secretary or Committee member. Running of these types of courses also enable us to get our more competent Cadets, who race with the senior fleets, added to the safety boat rota.

As with any discussions regarding the use of these boats can I please remind you that you must have the kill cord attached to you, preferably your leg, at any time the engine is running.

Calendar for 2008

The latest version is currently on the website and by its very nature it is a constantly evolving beast. As you read this there were 50 odd unallocated duties. I have sent e-mails to those who have not inserted their four choices and unless they are done soon then I will just insert their names wherever.

I have had to ask for four duties per person as our season now runs for eight months and almost 80 races.

We probably need around 3.3 duties per person so I have needed to round up not down.

Once I have all the names in the calendar I will arrange for an A3 copy to be produced and posted in the Club.

A few hard copies will also be printed and left in the club and a version posted on the club computer for when the bar is open and the PC is on.

For those who have obtained a password and have been on line on our site www.lockssc.co.uk your e-mail will have been captured. It is proposed that during the season you should then get a reminder about your up coming duties by e-mail and furthermore you will hopefully also be able to swap duties when the situation arises that you cannot do a particular event.

Races

I have again tried to incorporate sensible and practical suggestions from the last Dinghy Meeting.

I have kept the evening series as two events as there are more actual races as per last season. I have tried to avoid the need to start after lighting up time as I was accused of last year! And hopefully with sensible course we can get over the possible lack on water on some HW neap tides.

It is also proposed that we run some training sessions before the HW starts where the start time is between 12.00 and 3.00 pm as there is usually sufficient water for a 1 hour session, trip back ashore, quick break and back out again for the race.

The club has now purchased a video camera for use with these training sessions as well as for use with the Junior Fleet, which should help all to improve their sailing skills.

These sessions are available for all members and not just for the faster boats. The intention is for all members to improve their abilities so please come along all of those who want to.

I have inserted the dates for both HISC Junior Week as well as Federation Week so get out your diaries and please insert these.

Junior Fleet

The above date for the HISC Junior Week is the first thing that the Junior Fleet should be inserting in their diaries it is a great time.

We also will have our normal full programme of Junior Evenings, 3 Regattas, Adult with a Junior Crew and the single-handed adult races on the calendar races all have a separate competition with in them for the Junior entrants. The current crop of Junior hotshots, Tim Miller and Matt Holden are too old and big to race in the Junior Fleet but hopefully both will be on hand to help the get the present fleet to sail faster and higher!

I will arrange a Junior Meeting before we start our evenings to get all registered and sort helpers for the various events.

New Members

We are always looking to increase the number of new sailing members into the Club so if you know of friend who is interested in sailing with us then please put them in contact with us. The Compound is full I understand at the present time but we run a waiting list.

Happy Sailing.

Jack Miller

Hon Sailing Secretary

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Portsmouth & Langstone Sailing Association

Report December 2007

Water Standards

PLSA and others are concerned about the difficulty of access to data about water cleanliness in Langstone Harbour, which does not fall within the areas covered by Bathing Water Standards. However, it is understood that where tests are carried out by Havant BC, these standards would be met. Portsmouth CC are reported to see no requirement to monitor water quality in the part of the Harbour under their jurisdiction, which includes Broom Channel.

Due to their interests in Chichester Harbour, the RYA is advocating an additional 'Recreational Water' designation which would be welcomed.

There has also been unease surrounding knowledge of historic outfall discharge points around the Harbour. Very helpfully volunteers from the Friends of Langstone Harbour have walked the perimeter to compile a record of visible outfalls.

Southern Water carry out tests and advise interested parties such as the Harbour Board about discharges into the Harbour of a potentially pollutant character.

There are occasionally emergency discharges of storm and other pollutants into Langstone Harbour. The route for communicating warnings to users is an area which is felt to need improvement.

The subject will remain high on the Advisory Committee Agenda.

Jet Skis (PWC's)

I have previously reported on 'Personal Water Craft', this being the politically correct terminology. After an initial disappointment, the Haylinh Island Personal Watercraft Club (HIPWC) was formed on October 4th 2007. This club is supported by the PWC Partnership and will shortly achieve affiliation to the RYA.

Strong support comes from the Harbour Authority who believe it will have a positive improving influence on rogue behaviour about which many Harbour users complain. The Harbour Board is making changes to Jet Ski permits. Daily permits are being withdrawn and replaced with an annual permit only, priced to encourage Club membership, penalize the casual cowboy and thus influence behaviour.

Harbour Board Staff

A proposal going before the Board in December is the creation of a new post – Senior Patrol Officer. The purpose is to improve compliance with Harbour Byelaws, particularly by extending patrols into evenings and increasing them at weekends during the high season between Easter and end of September.

Commercial Fees

My previous Report advised of the Secretary of State for Transport's decision on increased fees which supported the Board's position and brought Langstone in line with similar facilities. This rejected objections from the aggregates industry (United Marine Dredging (UMD), Kendalls and others). UMD have now made application for a judicial review of SoS's decision which will be held in 2008 if successful.

Brian Tansom

Bosun's Notes

The Compound clear-up took place on a glorious Saturday morning in mid February with around 20 to 30 dinghy sailors braving a freezing southerly to clear the build up of shingle at the top of the slipway, move the dinghies out and then sweep the compound and driveway and trim back the vegetation before putting everything back in place. There was also magnificent back-up

from the galley-crew who kept up a constant flow of bacon sarnies, biscuits, tea and coffee. Many thanks to all who turned up and worked so hard to produce a clean and shiny compound for the new season. Our only problem was shifting those boats with flat trolley/trailer wheels so if yours is one of them please get it fixed before the season starts.

Virtually all the compound fees have now been paid and many thanks to you all for being so prompt with your payments of the new annual fee; it really does make life much easier and also enables the Club to use the income for the benefit of us all.

It seems that Locks Sailing Club is the club of choice for the discerning dinghy sailors in Langstone Harbour and we're getting regular enquiries regarding new members wanting to bring their boats into the compound to join in with our great racing programme. However the ongoing problem of lack of space means that we've had to institute a waiting list for new members so, if any of you decide that you are not going to be using your boat this season, and can move it out, please let me know and I'll happily refund you your compound fee.

Enjoy the remainder of your winter break and I hope to see you on the water early in the season.

Bryan Davies

Club Bosun

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Messages from Martyn

Moonlit Memories Walk

I am looking for anyone who would like to do this walk, 12 miles on June 21st, in aid of The Rowans hospice, as I am getting a small team together. Please call me on 07753935257.

And...

A reminder that the key for the bridge is now kept in the radio locker.

Martyn Winfield

Social Events

This Year so far

On 7th February we were privileged to hear Geoff Holt talk about his 'Personal Everest' in becoming the first disabled sailor to sail single-handed around Great Britain. It was an inspiring talk that took us from when Geoff became disabled at the age of 19 through all his personal challenges to his life today. Fifty club members attended and with the ticket sales and a donation from Club funds we were able to donate £350 to Sailability.

The rugby has been a success, filling the Locks with more than 40 people on each occasion. Lets try and keep the club full all year long!

What is going on soon

Easter is only just around the corner; there will be four days of racing and a BBQ on Saturday afternoon from 13:00. Please come along!

The Locks is going **back to the 60's** for 1 night only. Sue Sharpe has kindly arranged a 60's disco so dig out your party frock and come have a boogie. Tickets £6.50 available from behind the bar, through Sue or myself.

The **Fitting Our Dinner** is on the 5th April, it is being held at the Quarterdeck function suite, Southsea Caravan Park. Tickets are now on sale for £16 per person from behind the bar or give me a call or send me an email to reserve your tickets.

There will be a second wine tasting on May 17th with more details to follow. It will probably be Old World wine versus New World wines. If anyone has any request for future wine tasting please pass them on.

Luke and Emma are coming back to the Locks to put on another fantastic photo presentation, with photo's and stories from around the world on Eagle Wing. There will be a BBQ from 18:30 and the presentation will begin at 20:00 for anyone who would like to come along.

If anyone has any ideas of events that they would like to organise or be involved please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lucy Jones

Locks Social Calendar 2008

Date	Event	Time
March 2008		
Saturday 1 st	Quiz Night	20:00
Saturday 8 th	England v Scotland	15:15
Saturday 15 th	England v Ireland	15:00
Saturday 15 th	Quiz Night	20:00
Saturday 22 th	Easter BBQ	13:00
Friday 28 th	60's Night (Organised by Sue Sharp)	20:00
Saturday 29 th	Quiz Night	20:00
April 2008		
Saturday 5 th	Fitting Out Dinner	19:00
Saturday 12 th	Quiz Night	20:00
Saturday 26 th	Quiz Night	20:00
May 2008		
Saturday 10 th	Quiz Night	20:00
Saturday 17 th	Wine Tasting	20:00
Saturday 24 th	Quiz Night	20:00
Saturday 31 st	Presentation by Luke and Emma on their Round the World Adventures	20:00