

Editorial matters

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Exe Estuary Approaches

The result of the hydrographic survey of the Exmouth Approach Channel, carried out last October, is posted on the Club Notice Board, copies are on the Bar & on our website. It is now considered likely that the main buoyed channel will close-off during the winter. Trinity House have given approval to buoy the alternative Swashway Channel with a Safe Water Mark to the south of Pole Sands & a 'preferred channel' mark in the vicinity of the existing Number 8 buoy's position. This alteration to the buoyage will take place early in the New Year following further surveys to check for obstructions in the new channel.

Further discussions with occur Trinity House to cope with these extreme changes. Meanwhile, all potential navigators should note that the East Exe Cardinal Buoy & Buoys 1-6 will have to be abandoned & discontinued for the 2008 summer season, leaving the Swashway Channel as the sole remaining access to & from the estuary. The channel seems to be reverting to what used to exist possibly a hundred years ago, when there were leading light marks on the Beacon above Exmouth.

Diary Dates

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|-----|--------|------|-----------------------------------|
| Fri | 1 Feb | 1930 | LFHA AGM |
| Sat | 9 Feb | 1930 | LSC AGM |
| Fri | 15 Feb | 1930 | Exmouth Shanty Men |
| Wed | 20 Feb | 1930 | LFHB presentation in Village Hall |
| Thu | 20 Mar | 1930 | Dolphins' Supper |
| Mon | 7 Apr | | Craning Afloat |
| Sat | 18 Oct | | Craning Ashore |

Public Meeting

A presentation by Lympstone Fishery & Harbour Board will occur in the Village Hall from 1930 on Wednesday 20th February. All villagers welcome.

Skittles

The Dolphins may be on a slippery slope! Having scraped a win by 2 points against Exe Ladies and a slightly better win against Exe, we came well and truly unstuck against last season's champions, Cockwood Anchors. We contributed handsomely to the Lifeboat pot, if nothing else. However, the very nice supper provided by The Anchor was some compensation for a good hiding. Will we be able to pull ourselves together for the local Derby (v. the Lympets)? On present form the answer is likely to be "No!" Advance notice: Dolphins supper date is 20th March at the Club.

Police Estuary Patrol

The Police estimate that they will not have much time to allocate to operating the Estuary Patrol this summer season. Suitably qualified local people (with Police or similar experience) are asked to volunteer. The boat is serviced and is being made available by the Harbour Authority, Exeter City Council. There are still ample monies within the budget (held by Exmouth Town Council) for fuel for the coming season. Interested parties should contact Exmouth Police Station.

For Sale

- **Wanderer** 14' sailing dinghy, 1480, Gypsie: navy blue hull. Wood & steel centreboards, comprehensive combination trailer fitments for single-handed launching & recovery, lockers & outboard mount give 'dayboat' aspect. Contact the Editor
- The Club's old large white **marquee** is for sale – cheap to good home. Contact Ian on 222136



Lympstone Sailing Club February 2008 Newsletter

Another First Sailing Memory

Life begins at 40 for some boaters! With no boating experience (unless being rowed or punted on the River Wey counts) I volunteered to be chief cook & bottle washer from Le Havre to the Mediterranean via the rivers & canals of France on a Westerly Berwick. The width of the Seine, the number of enormous heavy ships & barges & the size of the locks were at times scary. Easter week in Paris (with ice on the decks) restored nerves before entering the tranquillity of the River Yonne. Then followed the Canal du Nivernais, which proved to be a little too shallow for comfort for our draught. Days of torrential rain meant we crossed the River Loire in full flood, gratefully entering the Canal du Centre & exiting via the deep lock into the Saône. At Chalon-sur-Saône the river was running many metres above its normal level with no navigable space remaining under its arches for the next five days. When we were able to move, our luck on the Rhône was little better with another enforced four day stop at La Voulte, due to a ship sunk against the main rail bridge, which gave us time to explore the surrounding countryside. Because of the strength of the current there we were unable to fight our way back up the Rhône so the yacht was literally locked into a hydro-electric power station pound (gates for pedestrians closed at dusk & opened at dawn). When a side arch of the bridge had been surveyed, it was considered safe to proceed & we went on to Lock Bollène with its 26m drop & arrived the next day at Avignon. The mosquitoes in the Camargue were a nuisance & it was a pleasure to celebrate Whitsun at Sète, a wonderfully colourful port. After six weeks, hundreds of locks of all descriptions, steering, mopping bilges, cooking & washing (what other use is there

Dinner & Dance report

Wow, what a wonderful 'Night at the Movies'. Under a new Director, Liz Gordon, Ron as Co-Director, the Dinner & Dance was a huge success last Saturday with support act from 2 daughters & a son-in-law. 122 party-goers were squeezed into the Village Hall to enjoy a sumptuous meal produced by *Food with Flair* followed by dancing to *Carnaby Street* – the best '60s band in the west! It took some time to feed the masses so speeches were cut short (much to everyone's delight) but a short award ceremony took place – 'Oscars' going to just a few of a very long list of players & backroom staff.

The Hall looked incredible, decorated with posters of Stars from the past, Oscars & over-size film negatives, balloons, flowers & party poppers on the tables. Debbie Mitchell produced some superb artwork again & assisted Daphne & Brian with setting up. Our younger members did an excellent job as waiters / waitresses & washing up team - it turned out to be a long night for them. With so many excellent prizes the raffle made an excellent return – some to be donated to a charity. Thanks to all who donated prizes & to Jane for co-ordinating. Lynn, Chris & numerous others worked their socks off & the turn-out for 'Blue Peter' night on Friday as well as setting up & cleaning up Sat/Sun was impressive & most appreciated – & good to see new members playing their part amongst the 'old timers' who help & support the event year after year. Too many names in the cast to list but thank you to one & all – we hope you had fun on the night!

Signal from LSC General Committee - 16/01/08

It is a great shame that a general lack of communication has resulted in a lot of confusion & antagonism surrounding the harbour area & urgent reconciliation is now essential for the benefit of all concerned. It should be possible for compromises to be made to restore harmony within the village at the same time as protecting the needs & belongings of boat owners, the sailing club & local residents.

We feel it is time to clarify the position on ownership & management as it seems members may not all be aware of the setup. We own only the club house & the land it stands on. The dinghy park, slipway & foreshore are either owned or leased by the LFHA. Boat owners become part of the Harbour Association on paying dues for keeping their boats there. At no time have sailing club members not possessing boats, villagers or visitors been excluded from using the area & no-one, including LFHA, would support any such exclusion in the future.

It would be disappointing if LSC boat owners supported the application for a public footpath through the dinghy park, which would encourage unlimited access by strangers & likely lead to more pilfering & damage than last year. Should this go ahead, insurance costs would inevitably increase, dinghy space would be reduced & the problems of formally closing a right of way for craning would severely threaten the viability of the Club. We do hope a speedy resolution can be achieved to the satisfaction of everyone.

Club Matters

Safety & Officer of the day duties We shall soon be adding names for Officer of the Day & Safety duties to our 2008 race programme. Our list of potential people will be based upon last year's data so if you have previously volunteered for these types of duties but will not be able to undertake any this year please let us know. If you are happy to help but know that you will be away at certain times we would also like to know as this will hopefully save you having to organise a replacement.

Club Boats Offers of help for a pre-season tidy up of the Otter & GP14 would welcomed. The Otter needs a good clean, The GP has a better mast/boom awaiting someone to fit it & needs a toestrap re-fixing. I also hope to have some nice new spinnaker bags for it.

Dinghy Park Sam Watts has kindly volunteered to assist me this year with a view to taking over the reins next year. Please help us to manage the area by keeping your boat & trolley shipshape & the area around your boat tidy.

New crews / helms If there is anyone who wants to helm or crew this year but who feels they need a bit more experience please contact me. Our GP fleet expanded considerably last year & these are an excellent, stable boat to learn in & to gain skills. We can team up novices with an experienced sailor.

LFHA Meeting of 5 January

Members who attended the LFHA meeting on 5th January would have heard that an application for a Right of Way had been submitted to Devon County Council. The route of the Right of Way went through the dinghy park. This was greeted with dismay as it was realised that if granted that the loss of facilities and thus income would be so severe that it would jeopardise the existence of the LFHA. Since the meeting, the LFHA has been active in working towards a compromise with all parties and a progress report will be given at the LFHA Annual General Meeting on 1st February 2008.

LFHB

Commodore's Signal - Message from Marrakech

Yes, I am abroad again! I can assure you, not on holiday in a five star hotel, but performing the 'other role' of wife, secretarial support, bag carrier and confidant at a NATO workshop on water & human security, the only UK representatives at a truly international affair. Why didn't I practice my French a little before leaving home?! Our accommodation is a 'holiday village' owned by the electrical company (not many working light bulbs or sockets!) - fairly basic, delightful in its way but in the process of winter maintenance (empty swimming pool), a warm welcome from the staff but chilly weather. It's possible to escape, however - when you dare - to explore the souks; wander in the square watching the snake charmers, story tellers, music and acrobats; visit gardens, mosques and minarets in the city; brave the buses and battle with the taxi drivers for a reasonable fare home!

It's hard to believe we are approaching the AGM and my first year as Commodore is coming to an end. A good year, though at times a sad one when I reflect on how many much loved members are no longer with us. Your enthusiastic support has been appreciated - I look forward to seeing you at the club on 9th February to take part in the democratic process and welcome new volunteers to the committee. An opportunity afterwards to discuss ideas and issues for the year ahead.

The year has kicked off well, with the Mariner's Munch starting on 11th Jan with Adrienne & Joyce Malster on cooking duty followed by Rosemary Govan & Diana de la Rue on the 18th, then Jean Bland & Jenny Charles. The start of a long list of volunteer chefs, so thank you to you all for offering your time and expertise. The event is extremely popular, most convivial and what a lovely excuse to be lazy at the end of the week and enjoy someone else's delicacies!

Sadly the problems and confrontations in the village in respect of the Harbour are putting rather a damper on the start of 2008. The Committee's Signal reflected our views at the last meeting. Our constitution states "The object for which the club is formed is to promote and facilitate the sport of sailing and boating" - this is what we must do. Members who may have supported the application, albeit probably unaware of the full implications, have unwittingly worked against this ideal. Happily, however, steps are being taken towards an amicable resolution. There will be a Public Meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th February to update everyone, by which time a solution may have been found and long term lines of communication & understanding developed. I really hope the issue will soon be resolved to the satisfaction of all members of the village, sailing club and harbour board. A rift of this sort in a village known for its friendliness and neighbourly support has got to be bridged.

Editor's Perch

As the Joni Mitchell chorus says "...you don't know what you've got 'til its gone..". The dedication of our long-serving retiring Membership Secretary goes way beyond chasing the perennially reluctant members to renew their subscriptions. Every month, ensuring the Newsletter once printed is delivered to various postmen efficiently & on time, is a significant commitment. Few appreciate & are prepared to do such tasks. Thank you Christine. In an move to reduce our carbon footprint (more like less trees cut, paper & ink spent, to say nothing of £3 a year postage and deliverers' shoe-leather), I'm suggesting the new team uses our website more to distribute Newsletters, weekly prompts & colour images. To encourage those of you who do have access to the website, there are 46 colour images there now, most from the Dinner & Dance - thank you Ron.