

**Editorial matters**

Richard Crisp, 17 Birch Rd 01395 273211  
 e-mail: r{at}rgtcrisp.plus.com  
 website: [www.lympstonesailingclub.org.uk](http://www.lympstonesailingclub.org.uk)

**LSC Contacts**

Commodore Chas McLennan-Wiggin  
 Membership Tony Gratton  
 Secretary Rosemary Maltbody  
 Social Sec. Alison Gall

**This 'n That**

- Answer from question on p.2: Rosie: a wastebasket in a cabin or wastebin in the galley
- A last minute reminder that Exmouth Boat Jumble is on the 8th May from 0900 -1200 at the Lifeboat Station
- Something for everyone! at the DEVON BOAT JUMBLE - NEWTON ABBOT RACECOURSE Saturday May 28th 2011- Gate opens 10am.
- So, a tenth of the duration of our boating season has already gone! How many times have you been afloat?
- What with sailing, Royal Wedding Party, Curry night, 150 years of the railway in Lymptstone, the Clubhouse has seen non-stop activity recently.
- Please check your Sailing Programme to find out when your OOD or Safety Boat duty dates are. Arrange your own swaps if need be, SP is also available on the website

**Website Update**

- Firstly, I'm glad to say that the non-functioning of the Clothing e-Brochure has been rectified by the supplier.
- The Sailing Programme states that the Safety Rules are on the website. Well, they are not, but I'm happy to oblige as soon as I receive them.
- The results of dinghy races are posted. Have a look! The pictures on page 2 of this Newsletter are also there in colour on the website. I expect to add cruiser results too before long.

**Diary Dates**

Sat	7 May	0930	Inaugural Motorboat Section event
		1030	snack lunches (see below)
Sat	21 May	1030	TSC 'Stagecoach' to Dartmouth
Sat	21 May	1030	Brunch

**New Section Launches**

The maiden voyage of the LSC motor boat section will take place Saturday 7th May. One or two of our boats have had few gremlins so may stay local or maybe extend to an overnight weather permitting. Other motor Boats/dayboats/cruisers are very welcome to join us I will be having a briefing at the Sailing Club Thursday 7pm to finalise arrangements, but are thinking of a start at LSC Sat 7th May 0930

*Bob Spencer*

**May 1st**

Dinghies & cruisers were tested on Sunday as the wind picked-up to a fickle gusting force 7. Capsizes were frequent amongst the intrepid, whilst others sensibly chose to decline the challenge. Any glow of achievement was dampened by a solid downpour at the end.

**For Sale**

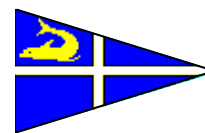
**Wet Suit** - fits 5'9" 14stone male. No reasonable offer refused - Editor.

**Lost**

An ICOM 31 hand held VHF radio – dropped on or near the boat park the day after craning. If anyone has found it or knows who has please get in touch with Chas on 01395 276368 or 07926575016.

**Good With Food**

- 7th May there will be bacon or sausage rolls available from 10.30am
- 21st May there will be ham or cheese ploughman's lunch available from 11am - watch out for a sign up sheet in the club house or phone 274112 to book a plate or to offer help!
- 4th June Moules/chicken Evening at 1900. Watch out for a sign up sheet or phone Andrew/Lucy on 263237.
- Early reminder that we are hosting the Squires Trophy Tea on 11th June so look in the Clubhouse for a sign up-sheet; if you can offer to bake a cake, make some sandwiches or provide a quiche. Thanks to all helpers.



# Lymptstone Sailing Club

## May 2011 Newsletter

**Craning Afloat**

For the first time in years, craning took place between 1530 & 1930 on Saturday 16th April under ideal conditions, & what a pleasant change it was too. A more formal but succinct safety briefing to all owners kicked off proceedings, followed closely by a well thought-out craning sequence which saw a steady transfer of vessels from hard to albeit empty brook ahead of much water. Nevertheless with the flood tide, a burst of cruisers sprang to their respective moorings returning by the efficient and dry(!) taxi service. Throughout the afternoon, the craning activity proved to be a very popular attraction to onlookers whilst hot drinks & biscuits sustained the participants with the final lift being Mary Rose (7.9tons) in the reverse direction from water to hard standing, for final hull painting & antifouling. Such was the smoothness of the whole operation from the Harbour Board's point of view, including a new craning company, with zero negative incidents of any kind, we can probably expect all future craning to be scheduled such that the crane arrives & departs in daylight. This of course puts further constraints on the number of days with suitable tides particularly for craning ashore. With the increase in the number of greater draught vessels requiring over 4m tides to reach the brook from their moorings, we can perhaps expect the previously published date for craning ashore in mid-October to change. In contrast to the slick craning operation, our cruising fleet have been relatively snail-paced when it comes to mast erecting, it seems to me. I daresay that if commercial rates applied to derrick use, preparation & execution would be done in a day or two at the most by the whole fleet!

**A Prompt Start to the Season**

Sunny Sunday 17th April, just day one after craning, I boarded Curlew at 1730, slipped the mooring & was bowled up the estuary on the flood tide following the channel to Turf, Topsham then under the motorway bridge by Retreat Boatyard & onto the trot moorings beyond. Tide still flooding, so moored by the bow, Curlew pointing downstream, allowing the late afternoon sun to fill the cockpit, glass of wine - perfect - except for the roar of the motorway. Block that out however & watch the swans, pens still watching over last years cygnets, whilst cobs inspect their territory & occasionally fluff-up in aggressive pose to ward off strangers. The water is surprisingly muddy & full of remnants of winter's flotsam, rafts of dead reeds & vegetation & many semi-waterlogged tree trunks. Slip the mooring at the turn of the tide, so potter downstream again, this time setting the autopilot on a bee-line for Lymptstone once leaving Topsham moorings. Whilst all other vessels diligently still follow the channel in spite of 4m of water, leaving me to concentrate on the setting sun change from orange to red with large flocks of geese adding transient silhouettes to the scene. Magic! There really is something special about being afloat at such times, especially in one's own vessel. New season resolution: to do much more of this than last year!

**Optimistic at Weymouth?**

Some time ago, our Club had a small fleet of Optimists, the most popular if not also the ideal boat for juniors to learn sailing in. Through lack of use, they were given to SYC. Well, the ex-Commodore involved with their initial promotion sent me a cutting of a new World Record created by Optimists at Weymouth. 318 Optimists, with helms aged between 7 & 15 had to navigate a 2-mile course whilst maintaining a continuous 'chain' of boats with no gaps greater than 2 boat lengths throughout! Perhaps our next pursuit race might try to re-enact this feat just with our miniscule fleet!

**Stop Press** See Page 4 for the 'launch' of LSC's new Motorboat Section

## Craning Images



^ First craning 1530

^ Awaiting the tide!



<  
Rory, with a shove off the beach, waded Cooking Fat out of the harbour, set sail & proceeded to his mooring - simple!



## Editor's Entry

Prior to craning, the Lymptstone fleet had never looked so smart on the hard I'd venture, thanks in no small measure to the efforts of Geoff & Rory who between them cleaned, polished, repaired & painted much of the fleet - thanks guys! Mind you, one day on, Curlew had been repainted with half a pound of seagull guano & a crab's leg & claw! And how one's memory plays tricks - OK I was looking into the evening sun, but the channel buoys south of Turf were nowhere near where I thought them to be!

I'm sorry to drag you metaphorically through this sailing season in a blink of an eye, but now that this Newsletter edition is published, I am starting a count-down to my Editorial 'retirement' at the AGM in November. So here we go, 6.....

## Royal Wedding

The Club balcony came into its own on the Royal wedding Friday, becoming **the** place to be to enjoy tea, cakes & conversation amongst the union & other flags, suitably draped. Whether one had been watching London events on TV or not, the ambience & aspect were the perfect spot for convivial relaxation in the afternoon sunshine - in effect a street party. Many thanks to all who contributed food, their energy & time.

## Test Your Nautical Knowledge - P

What is a Rosie ? Answer on page 4.

## New Editor Wanted

As Editor of the Newsletter I have made it clear that I will definitely relinquish the job after completing the November edition, prior to the AGM. If the Newsletter is to continue in whatever form, someone needs to be thinking about coming forward. Contrary to many requests for volunteers which either give no outline or seriously under-represent the commitment required, I shall tell it as I find it. But foremost is the requirement for a positive volunteer who is literate - for the sake of the reader - & is computer literate to enable the creation of the Newsletter itself. I have demonstrated that one does not have to be a Committee member to do this, in fact I have found that as copy has had to be supplied to me in by e-mail rather than hearsay at a meeting, a benefit. As readers may have realised, circumstances have often required that I create virtually all the text, although with such a large number of names with Club responsibilities now, I see no reason why the Editor should not be just that. Since I started, the regular production of 12 Newsletters per year on the turn of the month has met with approval, whilst the single sheet A5 booklet has remained unchanged. I have tried with limited success to reduce every contribution from inconsequentially referring to the weather but am often guilty myself. I have been allowed to maintain an editorial independence which I believe is essential to both efficient compilation & reader enjoyment! That privilege however, is one that has to be earned rather than assumed. So forearmed, how about it someone? There is sufficient time now for a very relaxed hand-over.

The tasks for the new editor do not include management of our website unless asked for. I do have some ideas for a full revamp next year, but if more communication is focussed on using the website rather than in the content of e-mails, (by all means send a timely e-mail saying look for important new/upcoming information on the website), then we will start to really benefit from the effort involved in its upkeep. However, volunteers to run the website are welcome too, especially if you know what you are doing website wise!

So, the nuts & bolts of the Editor's tasks are to create the Newsletter just before the end of the month, with a copy deadline a week after the Committee meeting (3rd Monday of month), to e-mail the Newsletter in printable format to the membership Secretary, who prints it & hands over the paper copies to a small team who distribute them to the by-hand postmen & deal with postal copies. How long does it take? Hmm, tricky, it all depends on how many contributions you receive & how creative you are in filling in the gaps. Personally I build an edition incrementally from the moment I have copy.

## Commodore's Corner

After a trouble-free craning afloat, sailing activities abound as big & little boats take to the water after the all too long winter break. Thanks must go to all those, particularly the Harbour Board for arranging & co-ordinating the day & getting us off the dry & into the water. As I sit here on White Lady writing this surrounded by passing sails, motors & paddles I can reflect on my own seasons start. Having been quick off the mark & been first under the Derrick to get my mast up I took the chance of the tides & fair weather for a peaceful trip down the coast to Babbacombe returning with half the sun lotion I left with, glowing cheeks & fresh caught mackerel for supper. More wind would have been nice but after catching a small amount of sea breeze you won't find me complaining. The only down side to my seasons start has been the loss of my handheld VHF radio dropped somewhere on or near the boat park at the beginning of the week. (*If you hear of an ICOM 31 turning up somewhere do let me know - It might be mine*). By the time this goes to print the first on water club activities will have been well under way & along with power boat activities of Honda Rib Coaching & Safety boat refreshers, evening skirmishes to Turf Locks and, I would hope, all will have managed to get their masts up whether large or small & taken advantage of the shake down sails & first races of the season or just being on the water for the fun of it. Have a great season everyone - I'll see you either on the water or at the bar to share the seasons yarns.