

May 2009

Lympstone Sailing Club Newsletter

Editorial matters

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LSC Contacts

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Social Sec. Judith Carter 274104

This 'n That

- **Vacuum packer** The Club has one! Contact Samuel Woolley to borrow it 01395 277 881
- **Club Otter & GP** If you wish to borrow either of the Club boats, please contact Gavin Lowery with your booking - first come first served 01395 276 995
- **Training events:** sign up soon as places are becoming fewer. Contact Brian Ridge 01395 275432

Social Events – May & June

Sunday 3rd May 3-5pm Cream Tea & Cakes by Jenny Charles - just turn up on the day, or fit it in between sailing

Saturday 23rd May 7.30pm BBQ by Ron & Liz Gordon. TICKETS IN ADVANCE from Ron & Liz, Phone 263954 email ron_gordon@tiscali.co.uk
Prices: adult £6 , child £3.

Saturday 6th June 7.30 pm Moules Frites, (or Chicken & Chips) supper, by Lucy & Andy McCance Tel 263237 email lucinda_telfer@hotmail.com Look for a list at the Club nearer the time and put your name down or contact Lucy direct

Sunday 21st June 7.00pm Pasta Supper by Neil McCracken & Heather White, details to be circulated nearer the time

Look out for details on posters at the Club or by regular emails. If anyone is happy to lend a hand at any specific event let me know or contact the organiser.

FOOD AFTER SAILING

In addition to these events & in response to requests to have food available after sailing I am stocking the freezer with pasties, pizza, sausages, bread & rolls & some nice fish-cakes. There will be a price list inside the cupboard door by the sink in the kitchen where you will also find baked beans, bolognese sauce & pasta, tinned soup, coffee, tea, chocolate & dried milk.

If you want food when an event is not planned, you can help yourself, put the money in the box in the cupboard. There will be a note book to enter what you have had so I can keep make sure items are re-stocked.

All you need to do is to cook the food yourself & clear up afterwards.

Happy sailing & eating. Judith Carter 274104 judith_carter@hotmail.com

Social Diary Dates

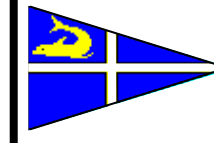
Sun 3 May 1500 Cream tea - see below
Sat 23 May 1930 BBQ - see below
Sat 6 Jun 1930 Moules Frites - see below
Sun 21 Jun 1900 Pasta supper - see below

Skittles

The Dolphins marked the end of the season with an excellent meal at the Club. Once again, Martin Hebdige retained the Men's Cup with an average of 50.77. He played as our anchor-man in all 18 matches, Roger Howell was runner-up. I very narrowly held on to the Ladies Cup with a modest average of 43.58; Adrienne Hebdige was hot on my heels. I expect the Dolphins to be 4th or 5th in the final league positions. Diana

For Sale

Suzuki Outboard Engine, Model DT2.2 two-stroke. Little used, fully serviced for the season. £175 JohnWelton 01395 271915



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Early Boater Catches the Trots!

Tuesday 21st April, this skipper takes advantage of warm sunny afternoon, high tide at 1700, so am chugging from my mooring by 1545. I note the Ashtons busy at their mooring but no one else afloat. Wend my way up the channel, seeing a lone red sailed Mirror by Starcross then meeting a singled-handed clinker built also with red jib, main & mizzen, but the motif on the main looks like that of a Merlin Rocket. Just after buoy 20, a workmanlike-looking dory speeds past going south, but otherwise the estuary is utterly tranquil with plenty of sandbanks still dry. Past the quay at Topsham & TSC & then on through their moorings by the island, I see my neighbour Roger ashore, about to take to his tender to visit 'Lazy B' moored 50m away. I beach the bow of Curlew alongside the mini jetty & take aboard firewood that he was collecting for RdelaR. I then continue upstream, passing Retreat Boatyard then head for deep water under the right-hand motorway bridge span. Just in the shadow of the bridge, violent shuddering & the engine stalls. There is only one thing that can arrest the inertia of the massive flywheel on a 10hp SABB engine so quickly — rope wrapped tightly around the propeller shaft. So it turned out to be, a strop on the end of a heavy riser chain with a lighter line between this & a downstream trot buoy, but with no buoy at the end where I am entangled. After using the trot ropes to secure the boat, I try rather half-heartedly to untangle the offending rope without success so hail those on the Retreat pontoon & Simon rows out in an inflatable. It had been the Retreat's dory speeding to Lympstone that I had seen earlier! Simon further secures my boat on a trot buoy, borrows a fender to mark the offending trot-end & by then the dory has returned & takes me ashore, 6pm by now. Simon's dad was phoned from grandson taxi-ing duty to take me home with the plan for Retreat to recover & lift Curlew to remove the entanglement tomorrow! Accordingly, a phone message informed me that Curlew awaited my arrival on their pontoon once again fit for duty, which indeed it turned out to be. On enquiring what I owed for this courteous & efficient service, the reply was a friendly wave goodbye. It is good to know that whether club or commercial, we do have friendly neighbours on the Estuary & that assistance when in need is so generously given. Thank you Simon and The Retreat Boatyard. I know that such attitudes are prevalent in the LSC fraternity. Ed.

Craning Afloat—Saturday 11th April

Craning was possibly the most efficient yet. The first lift at 0700 & the last by 1030. Following a week of unsuitable weather, Saturday dawned sunny & calm, but with lingering ice & frost on beshadowed decks. A big thank you to all those of the Harbour Board & their helpers who arranged & carried out this task on behalf of us boat-owners.

Post-script to craning It has also been noted by the senior ranks of the LFHB that in spite of clear & timely notice of the first day when the harbour standing was to open for summer parking, several boats were brought to the area before that date. Because just one boat brought (maybe with permission) may be taken by others as a green light for all, any plans the Board for activity with heavy plant for instance may be compromised. So next time please take notice of the announced opening date (or closing come winter) & don't even ask for an exception—the answer is likely to be no.

Craning Supper Come the evening, the day was enjoyably rounded off by interesting tastes provided superbly by Karen, Rachael & Jill Dixon, Michelle Pryor & Jenny Charles

Editor's Entry

Its three weeks since craning, the weather has been phenomenal, but half the Lympstone cruising fleet are still fettling problems and most have yet to set sail! At least four boats have had mast-top problems, oh well, we are Lympstone and some of us enjoy the messing about in boats as much as anything its seems! For me, any embarrassment for not having brought the superstructure décor up to muster over the winter was immediately dispelled on finding what appeared to be every Exe estuary seagull's calling card covering the boat! However, by the time you read this, the dinghy fleet should have completed at least 3 races with more imminent. Strange that the weather forecast suggests more rain!

Mariners' Munches Many-thanks

The Mariners Munch enjoyed another successful season thanks to the input of many members - Diana, Rosemary & Don, Jenny, Jeanette, Roger, Anne & Richard, Jean, The Monday Ladies Art Group, Jill & Clive, Janet & Eric, & Margaret, Norma & Keith, Helen, Martin, Aline, Judy & Ken, Sheila, Francis, Judith & Chris, Liz & Ron, Gillian, not forgetting our 'customers'. Thank you all. We raised in excess of £320 so have asked the Committee to consider renewing the Veranda Chairs with some of the money. Hope you all approve.

Adrienne & Joyce

Membership Matters

As your new Membership Secretary, I decided to take time out of the busy renewals season to introduce myself & to cover a number of important issues with regard to my area of responsibility. Both Karen & I are keen cruiser sailors. We own a Hunter Pilot 27 called Big Ben & are looking forward to bringing her to Lympstone this season as part of the increasing Lympstone Hunter fleet! By the way, having dropped my ground tackle from the safety boat last evening I have just experienced the famous Lympstone mud at first hand on my first abortive attempt to settle it into the sea bed. If anyone out there has any practical mud-hopping advice to offer then I am all ears!

Now down to business. Thank you to the great many of you who have already renewed your annual membership subscriptions. For those of you still in possession of your blue renewal form, this is a gentle reminder that the due date for subscriptions was 1st April, 2009. It is time to search out your forms, dust off your cheque books & renew your subscriptions! Forms should be sent to me at 1 Malt Field, Lympstone, Devon EX8 5ND. Your Club's main source of income comes from these subscriptions, so they are very much the life blood of LSC. Without them, we would be unable to make the Club House available & to host the many sailing & social events which are so much a part of village life.

From a practical point of view, the renewal forms provide us with vital data with which to administer the Club's activities. It is our main point of contact with you, the Membership, & allows us to update our database with changes to your details & preferences with respect to many aspects of your involvement with the Club including racing, training & duties.

Since the new sailing season is now upon us, I would also like to remind you that for those taking part the General Committee requires you to sign the Safety & Insurance declaration on your blue Subscription Renewal form. Anyone wishing to race must already have done so; otherwise you will be unable to take part in Club races. While I will be chasing-up anyone falling into this category soon, if you are affected why not be proactive & get in touch with me first?

It seems as though many of you have been changing internet service providers during the course of the year. If this affects you, please take the opportunity to let me know your new email address, either via the blue form or by emailing me at tony.gratton@fintecs.com with

"LSC email address change" in the title. This allows us to maintain your email bulletins & will be increasingly important in the future.

As Membership Secretary, I have plans to make available as many membership services as possible electronically, without of course affecting the paper-based services we provide to those of you either without email or who prefer paper. This will make us a greener club, since we will use less paper. You benefit by obtaining information quicker & helping us to keep your details up to date.

As a starter, I would like to remind everyone that the monthly Newsletter is available electronically. It can either be downloaded via the Club website at www.lympstonesailingclub.org.uk or alternatively I can email a copy direct to your inbox (average size 2MB). The Newsletter is available via either of these methods a few days earlier than the paper copy. If you wish to receive the emailed Newsletter please email tony.gratton@fintecs.com with "LSC email newsletter" in the subject line. To forgo the paper copy in favour of downloading the Newsletter from the web site then please email me at the above address with "LSC cancel paper newsletter" in the subject line.

Finally, here are a couple of interesting facts regarding the Membership. Our furthest flung member is Graham Thoms in Canada, while our longest serving members are Richard & Pat Giles who have 56 years of continuous membership! Unless of course there is anyone out there who has been a member for longer? If so, please let me know!

P.S.: I am often to be found propping up the Club bar on a Friday night with the Vice Commodore (known as 'Vice' for obvious reasons) & the PB Bosun!

Tony Gratton, Membership Secretary

Mike's Message

My recovery has been nothing short of miraculous. My springtime malaise detailed in the last Newsletter is past, my grass is only ankle high and I am reconciled to my sloping meadow rather than a lawn. Retirement and the gentlemanly pursuit of croquet remains some 8 years off.

The annual panic to complete all boat preparations ran its course and the cooperative of owners had a successful craning - well done everyone. These activities define the changing seasons and before looking forward to the 2009 season, I wish to acknowledge briefly those who keep the Club thriving in the winter months. The land based activities of walking, skittling and munching have been well supported and we have had a very interesting series of Friday evening talks. Thank you to all those who keep these valuable institutions going and the participants who keep a small income trickling into the coffers during the winter months.

Last week end's fine weather saw a small fleet of dinghies out for shakedown sails. I believe my Laser was the first capsized of the year instigated by a wind shift whilst it was still on its launching trolley! No embarrassment there then. I'm already working on excuses for the next few aborted outings.

Some ten or more boats turned out for the first dinghy race in a very fresh easterly wind. Thank goodness for our handicap system - viewed in global terms, the Otter and the 29'er had a good close quarter battle. Brett exercised considerable discretion using his radial rather than full Laser rig. This decision limited his capsizes to one complementing those of the junior helms. Great fun everyone, keep it up.

Today it is blowing hard, too hard for some of us and I fear sailing will be curtailed to enjoy the first catered evening of the season. The seasons have changed and its good to be back. Don't wait for the Spuddle if you have suggestions. Talk to any of the Committee Members or email us at: talk2thecommodore@googlemail.com

In closing: fair winds and favourable seas..... please, please, please.