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**Diary Dates**

Sat	30 Sep		Punts/dinghies to be gone from Harbour
Tue	3 Oct	2000	Winter Walks planning get together
Sat	7 Oct	0500	Craning Ashore 2006 - see below
Sat	7 Oct	1930	Craning Ashore Supper booking req'd
Fri	10 Nov	1930	Spuddle & Prizegiving
'07	27 Jan		Dinner dance (village hall)
'07	3 Feb		LSC AGM

**Social****Craning Out Supper**

A group of members are organising a Craning Out Supper for 7.30 on Saturday 7th October. In order to accommodate as many as possible this will be buffet style - Lasagne, Salad and Garlic Bread will be provided at £5 per head. To reserve a place either put your name on the list in the Clubhouse or call me on 274104,

Anyone willing to help or to cook a Lasagne, let me know.

**Winter Walks**

There is a meeting to discuss organisation of Winter Walks on Tuesday 3rd October at 8.00pm in the Clubhouse. Anyone interested please come along.

**Friday Event Nights**

During the winter on Friday nights it is good to have some entertainment - music, presentations etc. Anybody willing to provide some input please contact me. We usually try and schedule an event for an hour to an hour and half with a break for drinks.  
*Judith Carter*

**Craning Ashore Info.**

Craning ashore will be on Saturday 7th October, starting at 5.00am. High tide is at 7.30am. Mary and her team will have tea & coffee available and bacon butties will be on sale as usual.

**Bar Roster****Friday Clubnights**

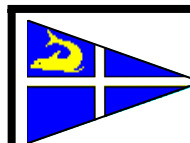
29.9 Moss-Gibbons D  
6.10 Ridge B  
7.10 Tolson R - Saturday  
13.10 Salter P  
20.10 Tidmarsh S  
27.10 Trapnell P  
3.11 Wells L  
10.11 Goult I

**Dinghy & Punt Removal**

The National Trust will be clearing trees and undergrowth from the cliffs around the harbour during the week 2 - 6 October. To avoid damage to boats, please remove all sailing dinghies & punts from the harbour by Sat. 30th Sept.

**Skittlers**

Competition was hard on the Dolphins first practice night! It was between watching the stormy waters, the lifeboat, a parachute flare & news of breakaway Lympstone boats & bowling a few skittles. The former was probably more interesting but we had a good evening & formed a team for our first match this season at Exe SC against their Ladies on 4 October. Next get-together at the Club is Thursday, 28 September. *Diana*



# Lympstone Sailing Club Newsletter

October 2006

**Drama on the Water - Thursday 21 September**

As the remains of hurricane Gordon hit the estuary, two boats from Lympstone went walk-about - *Helena* and *White Lady*. I first heard about it when Richard Giles rang at 1800 hrs to say that he couldn't see *Helena*, and on arriving at the Club found my boat had drifted up river, but appeared to be stationary.

It was a stroke of luck that Jason and Toby Ingham, Chris Cooke and Graeme Wheeler were there and we immediately launched the safety boat.

By this time the conditions were bad - high wind and high waves, but Chris and I managed to board *Helena* from the safety boat, and start her engine. The conditions were such that it was impossible to steer for the harbour so we ran with the wind and made for the more sheltered moorings at Turf. With the help of the safety boat crew we managed to secure *Helena* to a spare, and hopefully, secure mooring. On the way to Turf the safety boat crew saw *White Lady* drifting up river by the RM Camp and were able to release her anchor in the hope that it would prevent any further drift. We were surprised to see Topsham S.C. cruisers racing in these conditions.

Returning from Turf in the safety boat was horrendous, and thanks to Jason's superb seamanship he was able to get into the harbour safely, with a cold & very wet crew.

Early on Friday, when conditions were calm, Richard Crisp took *Curlew* with a crew of Richard Bland, Geoff Wright and his son Martin to retrieve *White Lady* and find a suitable mooring near to her usual berth. Then we retrieved *Helena* and picked up Alan Harwood's vacant mooring. We also retrieved *Helena*'s ground chain and one anchor. The ground chain had broken near to the connection with the riser, and the boat had dragged one anchor until it either snagged or dug in.

There is a lesson we can all learn from this. How often do we expose the whole of the

ground chain & inspect it for wear? It's usually deeply buried in mud - out of sight out of mind - it only takes one link to fail. The force required to pull out the single anchor was an indication of the extreme conditions at the time. My chain had been down for about 8 years & I was shocked to see the amount of wear on the 3"x1½"x½" links.

I would suggest some moorings still in use have been down longer. I expect we shall see many excavations taking place over the winter!

Sincere thanks to all who helped to secure and retrieve our boats - a great Club effort.  
(Di. - sorry I missed the skittles practice.) *Don G*

*Met Office recorded southerly winds at Dunkerswell averaged 23knots over 3 hours with gusts at 38knots over a 2-hour spell, 29 knots was seen on the readout of the new pier-end anemometer.*  
*Ed*

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## Sailing Secretary's Review

**A sailing thank you!** As we near the 'official' end of Lymptone's sailing season I'd like to say thank you to all those who have helped out with the sailing related matters this year. Race Officers & Safety boat crews, those who helped reorganise the dinghy park, people who work on the club boats & members of the back up teams at events – nothing much would happen without your participation so – thank you!

On the formal side, I must particularly thank John Balding & Jeremy Chew for their sterling work on the Race & Safety teams & Don Govan for doing the results, Richard Crisp for putting up with my constant stream of revisions to sailing instructions and all those who put together our sailing calendar in the first place. Jeremy & John Bennett as Dinghy & Dayboat fleet captains and Don with the Cruiser elite have also put in loads of work to encourage sailing – well done.

I'll not steal the Commodores thunder by specifically mentioning all the others who make the club function but you know who they are. We, the sailors, appreciate your efforts very much indeed.

**An opportunity awaits.** As hoped, we will have the two club boats available for continued use after craning out. If there is sufficient demand I will try to ensure they are available right through the autumn & winter. Let me know if you hope to use them so that I can plan ahead.

**Why not.....**continue your sailing this year? Most of you will know (because I keep on about it) that SYC open up their doors to autumn/winter members for a modest fee. They don't take kindly to those just looking to park their boats but if you want to race regularly you will be welcomed. I have ulterior motives of course in that the skills you enhance over winter will make you even better sailors when we start up again next year!

**An apology** particularly to our newer members. The infamous 'perch' off the end of Quay Lane, used for many years as one of our racing marks claimed a couple of victims in a recent race. The combination of several knots of tide, a SE wind & rusty metalwork took their toll. I shall be seeking opinions on whether we try to make the perch physically safer (which may alter its rustic appearance somewhat) or simply stop using it. Do you have a view? Personally I'd like to continue using it as it encourages good tactical thinking(!) but do let me know what you would like.

**What do YOU want next season?** In percentage terms the number of boats being sailed/raced at LSC is OK but its always nice to have more boats on the water. We invite you to tell us the sort of things that might encourage you to sail or race more. Would you prefer two short races rather than one longer one at each event, separate courses for slow handicap boats. More or less races, special trips, training, tuning, free beer? We have a sailing Spuddle on Clubnight Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. together with prize giving. If you can't come on the night do let me have your thoughts beforehand ideally *Ian*

## New Harbour Authority Progress

As reported in the autumn issue of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership publication 'Exe-Press', Exeter City Council (ECC) and the Exe Estuary Users' Association (EEUA) have agreed Revised Harbour Revision Order proposals which water down ECC's initial ideas and now recommend:

- No Harbour Authority mooring licences.
- More user recognition in the board.
- Reduced overall costs and so reduced harbour dues (currently envisaged to be about £35-£65 pa for a moored yacht and £8-£10 pa for a dinghy).
- Reduced scope of the Harbour Authority.

The revised proposals have been seen by the Department of Transport's Ports Division, who do not have a problem with the overall concept in principle, and proposals will be formally submitted to the Ports Division in November 2006.

Nearly there, so keep your fingers crossed. For the latest Estuary-wide news and events log onto the Exe Estuary website: [www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org)

## Commodore's Signal

August, we all did our own thing. September has blown by, the martins have left & the geese arrived, skittles carpet laid and walkers digging out their Dubbin – the end of another sailing season is nigh.

Afloat, there were huge wind against tide waves (strong easterly & ebbing 4.4m tide) out by number 9 as we made our way to the east Exe Buoy for the start of the Fulford Challenge end of season jaunt to Brixham a couple of weeks ago. A quick reach/fetch down, and lots of courtesy pink Champaign at BYC (thank you Fulfords!) as well as many familiar faces to swap tales of the season over a beer. The only bad news is that BYC no longer sell draft Bass!

Last Friday saw the final LSC sailing event of the season – the handicap results are eagerly awaited as there's silverware at stake! Which reminds me, some LSC trophies have gone astray in recent years. We're backtracking, but would you check whether you have any pots gathering dust which should have been handed back. So, having stowed the hooter and flags I congratulate Jerry Chew and John Balding, as well as all the OODs and safety crews, who have turned out & worked tirelessly to enable sailors to enjoy our wonderful sport. Thanks also to the galley crews too – wasn't it a great American Brunch on Bank Holiday Monday? No doubt the craning ashore supper will be an enjoyable evening – sign up on the list at the Club.

Tony Clark has continued powerboat training – the water is still quite warm; do give Tony or Brian Ridge a ring if you want to gain some qualifications this Autumn. Tony just loves being out on the estuary and will be delighted to help if he can.

Ashore, first aid courses are planned. Do let me know if you have ideas for Friday evening talks/events.

I was pleased to be able to represent LSC and take Jane to Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club's "at home" recently. What a hospitable club, and wonderful clubhouse (by that I mean bar!) in the Brunel Tower. They have over 600 members and open the bar 5 nights a week – and they have draft Bass! (But a tad smoky.) Definitely worth a visit!!

I hope you have had a good season. Please gather your thoughts & make a note of anything we could do better or another way. Either have a word with a committee member, or come along to the "Bring a plate Spuddle & Prize giving" on 10 November. The much-sought "Darling Rock Trophy" will also be awarded, the current holder, Tony Clark, would be very interested to learn of any candidates you may wish to suggest. This prestigious trophy is awarded for the biggest "cock up" of the season – consequently, potential winners are reluctant to nominate themselves, so we need you to spill the beans! Please ring Tony if you have any nominations! The Spuddle is an informal event and we need your thoughts so we can plan 2007 – we already have the tide tables!

Please don't forget to remove your punts & dinghies from the harbour area this week so that the National trust can work on the cliffs before craning out. Talking of craning ashore, the crane is booked to arrive at 0500hrs, Saturday 7 October, so we need a number of volunteers to man the safety boat and ferry skippers to their boats.

Please phone/email me if you can do a watch. An excellent opportunity to practise your boat handling skills!

*Chris*