



Commodore's Report

Ahoy

Only a few more weeks until we formally start our 124th sailing season. The sailing programme and start boat / galley / bar rotas are out by this edition of Tops'I, my thanks to Neal Ricketts, Godfrey Whitehouse and Kate Hattersley for their combined efforts in putting it all together.

Please look to see when you are down to do your turn; we have taken on board requests for dates but invariably we can't accommodate everyone. If you need to change please find a swap in plenty of time. Your efforts on the start boat, in the galley and on the bar make the season, and so the Club, a success.

The AGM was well attended. After many years hard work Patrick Robertson stood down as your Cruiser captain and also as a committee member; I am sure we all want to thank him for that work. Neal Ricketts is your new cruiser captain. Herbert Macgregor is not on this year's committee, I would like to thank him for his enthusiasm and ideas over the last year. David Robinson has stood down after many years service as our honorary accounts certifier, a big thank you to him. Gerald Sturtridge has kindly agreed to take on that role, thank you to him.

This edition of Tops'I has a new editor, Colin Walls. My especial thanks to the retiring editor, Charles Potter, for all his hard work in recent years.

I have been following in the steps of 'Jack Sparrow' for the last few weeks, sailing in the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean on board Jonathan and Gabrielle Lyne's Discovery 55 *Aqualuna* from St Lucia to Grenada and all points in between; and jolly good fun it was with the trade winds blowing us along, great sea food, good local beverages and wonderful scenery.

See you on the water; clean bill of health (at the moment).

Tim Baker

Commodore



Membership Matters

1. Welcome to our New Editor and Thanks to Charles

Welcome to Colin I hope you enjoy the trial and tribulation ahead and that you will be as considerate as Charles when dealing with my bad grammar and poor phraseology. Also, of course, thanks to Charles. I greatly enjoyed your time as Editor.

2. Welcome to New Members

Please welcome our new members who have joined since the last issue; they are Dr Jan Hunter and Mrs Kay Hunter-Pollard with Cadets Sarah and Joshua and also Mark and Rebecca Moreland with Cadets Natalie and Caitlin. We look forward to seeing all of them around the Club and on the water.

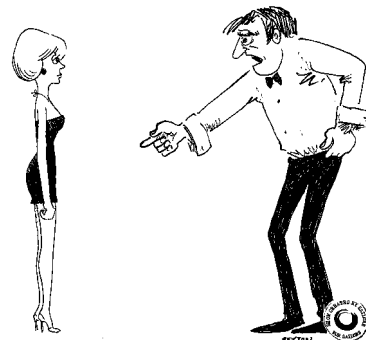
3. Your Visitors

As you know visitors are welcome at TSC, please introduce them to me as I will encourage them to become members and the records show that we need an average of five new members a month to maintain our current income from subscriptions.

Phillip Chesterfield

Hon. Membership Secretary

A Sailor's Priorities ...



"You mean to tell me that's the same price as a spinnaker!"

Yawl Report

It has been an enjoyable start to the year with two very well attended events at the clubhouse. The yawl skittles & social night saw about 50 people turn up with many new faces. For those of you interested in purchasing a yawl the Devon yawl website (www.devonyawl.org) has a well managed For Sale section. (Prices start at around £3,000 for an older yawl going up to £15,000 for something brand new.)

Thank you to Andrew and Ed for providing a fun and informative rules night last month. This provided us all with a clear understanding of the new rules 2009 - 2012. For those of you who couldn't make it, it may be worth buying *The Rules in Practice* by Bryan Willis (£10.49 on Amazon) Thank you to Debbie Ricketts for providing the model boats, which were used to demonstrate racing scenarios. These boats may be quite useful at advisory meetings/future training - please treat with care as very delicate, (unlike yawl sailors!)

The next Yawl Forum is on the 17th March so please come along. In the 2009 programme there has been an error. The members of the Yawl Fleet Race Committee need to be formally accepted at the next Yawl Fleet Forum if you can spare the time. There are various topics we need to discuss and votes to take on some important issues.

On a final note I'll be drawing up the race officer duties for 2009 shortly and will email round to all. **Please, please** make a note of the date you have been assigned and make alternative arrangements with others if you need to swap. All weekend races will be starting from the TSC clubhouse start line.

James McNaughton

Yawl Fleet Captain

Cruiser Report

Just a brief note from me this time - key dates to note for your diaries: The cruiser fleet spring meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 8pm. There should be plenty to review and discuss before the new sailing season, and if you need to swap bar / galley / race officer duties, there should be plenty of others around with whom to make your changes. Your new Handicap Committee (or should that be 'Race Committee?') will have met to review the few matters arising from the autumn meeting and will be preparing for the first race on 08 April.

The other, is Saturday 9 May when we are running our Exe to Dart Race, this year under the banner of Stagecoach. This is the club's major cruiser event for the year - for those who haven't taken part previously the race to Dartmouth is only the start. This is followed by parties on the pontoon at Darthaven and then at the Royal Dart Yacht Club who have kindly agreed to host us for meals and the all important prize-giving. Entry forms will be available in April at the Club and on the website.

Neal Ricketts

Cruiser Fleet Captain

Dinghy Report

On Friday February 13th there was a dinghy skittles evening at the club. There were 26 youngsters of roughly cadet age accompanied by their parents. I think I am safe in saying that a good time was had by all concerned, about fifty people. That impression was gained from watching the beer drinking and skittles.



I would like to thank Lisa Woodward, Pia Murrell and Godfrey Whitehouse for arranging and making this evening happen. If the dinghy section supports them they will lay on good things for us like dinghy training and, in due course, racing. I say this because I know that the club as a whole supports the dinghy section and all we need to do is be at whatever is arranged and have our say about what we want.

There were ten new members present and I have passed their details to Philip Chesterfield, The Membership Secretary, whose details are on the Club programme. They should be hearing from him soon.

Club members and new club members can make application to keep dinghies in the yard. These should be sent to me or left in the pouch on the dinghy section notice board. The forms are available from the TSC Web Site or from the stack on the dinghy notice board.

Dinghies should NOT be brought to the yard before speaking to me about time of arrival, position etc.

All trolleys should be marked with boat's name or sailing number and owners name. It is in your interest to make sure that the dinghy is identifiable.

John Domaille

Dinghy Captain

Summer Storage 2009

Applications from Members for storage of Outboards and Punts on the Club Quay for the coming season should be made by signing up on the lists provided on the Club Board, please give all the details requested in order to make identification easier at a later date if needed. The list will be removed at the end of March and a storage plan put before the April Committee and an agreed plan for Punt storage will be published on the Club Board. Please remember that the Club's punt racks are designed to accommodate punts which do not exceed 9 feet (2.74m) in length and the Outboard Racks for small motors of 2 - 2½ Horsepower.

For the benefit of new members the storage period is from 1st April until 30th September with discretionary extensions of Punt Storage whilst the mother ship is still afloat and for Yawls racing in the late series. Any punts remaining on the Quay after late December will be charged at the full cruiser storage rate for the Winter. There is no discretionary extension beyond 30th September for Outboard storage because to operate the Yard we need the frames and the space.

Please note that it is a condition of storage that ALL punts and outboards are properly marked with the owner's name or boat's name (perhaps both!), and also that there are no facilities for storing fuel on the Club Premises for members boats.

Cruiser Launching

The first launch will be on 14th March, but the main activity will be from 25th March onwards and hopefully the Yard will be clear by the end of the month. The draft Programme is on the Notice Board as always subject to weather and conditions, but be prepared to be asked to go early!

Bill Ricketts

Yard Marshal

RIB training

Those of you still wanting to do RYA Powerboat level 1/2 may like to express an interest to Dave Penn on thenibs@ukgateway.net. There will be courses at Starcross YC coming up. There may be places on Saturdays 14th and 21st March. Can you let him know if you want to be considered? Also if you have obtained PB 1/2 already or are suitable for direct one hour assessment you could ask about the Safety Boat course over easter weekend Fri/Sat April 10/11

Kate Hattersley

RNLI Sea Safety

Pete Williams, assisted by Tony Watson from Teignmouth RNLI, gave an excellent talk on sea safety on the 6th February, followed by a lifejacket clinic.



He pointed out some crucial considerations, such as: A lifejacket worn without crotch straps tends to ride up and force the wearer's head forward and down into the water. A small yacht with a 3inch hole 12 inches below the waterline will sink in under 2 minutes.

Yachting is as safe as it is only because we all take care.



ICE

(In Case of Emergency) ICE is a method of providing contact details during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE'. The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but the emergency crew didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose.

Social

The Commodore offered to present a talk on his recent Caribbean voyage. It was agreed that the most suitable date for this was 1st April.

Bill Ricketts will present a 3-Peaks talk on 13th March.

Fitting Out Supper to be on 21st March.

Mary Lambert is proposing a joint meeting at the Topsham Museum for a talk on Weather with a speaker from the Met Office - 18th June - further details nearer the date.

New Charts



Can't find your way out of the Exe? Maybe you need the new Imray chart 2300.6 on special offer (£8.50) at the Retreat boatyard

A past editor's thoughts

After nine years, the idea of not having to think about the next edition of *Tops'l* seems strange. I am reminded of the articles sent in or cajoled which have informed, annoyed and at times, amused members of the Club. I would like to thank the many contributors I have got to know over the years and without whom there would be no *Tops'l*.

Special thanks are due to John Fisher and Monica at Optima Graphics who dropped everything to set up *Tops'l*, Ann who patiently checked each edition and Mary and Philip Chesterfield who had the envelopes labelled and ready to go as soon as the edition arrived hot off the press, then stuffed, sealed, posted and delivered them to distributors within hours. A true team effort! Once again, a big thank you to all for allowing me to play a small part in the running of Topsham Sailing Club.

Charles Potter

A new editor's welcome

Hello, *Tops'l* readers, and welcome from your new editor. I hope to keep up the high standard set by Charles Potter, while being open to positive innovation. However, I can't write the thing myself; I'm only the conduit for your contributions, so keep them coming! We're especially short of pictures. Remember: all pictures are good; pictures of people are very good; pictures of people doing something are fantastic.

If you're putting something on the noticeboard, why not send a copy to me as well?

If any new contributor would like to discuss how they can help, ring me on 01395 519 275 or email topsl@colinwalls.me.uk

Colin Walls

Tops'l Editor

Tops'l Guff

Well, they're obviously weighing something on those kitchen scales, but what? (Answer at the bottom of the page)



RNLI

Many thanks to all those who have volunteered to collect at the **Rydon Lane Tesco** between 8 am and 8 pm on 2nd March. There are still a few 'one hour' slots vacant during the day so if you can spare the time, please ring on me on 01392 876677 or email: candapot@hotmail.com

Charles Potter

RNLI coffee morning on 4th April 10:00 to 12:00. Admission £1.50 Raffle, RNLI shop, cake stall and supper on the same night. All at the club.

Jill Grant

Summer Coffee Morning

Back to Anchor House courtesy Nigel and Sandra Atherton

Saturday 25th July from 10.00 am Admission £2.00 Meet your friends and enjoy a coffee overlooking the river. Possible visit from the Inshore Lifeboat (Subject to call out) RNLI Souvenir Shop, Raffle, Cake Stall, Bric á Brac Stall

'Show of Hands Concert' Exmouth Pavilion Sunday 17th May In aid of RNLI Tickets £17 (£15 concessions) from

<http://www.ledtickets.co.uk/>

or Exmouth Pavilion Box Office on 01395 222477

Adverts

Jeanneau Sun 2000 for sale
'Isabella' Price £13,500 Based on the River Exe. Purchased 2006
4 berths. Navy blue hull in beautiful condition with cream decks and sails. The hull has been anti-fouled in preparation for the 2009 season. Lifting keel. Draft Min: 0.3m (1'0")
Contact: David Collett 01395 224 606 or 07890 020 938

10 ft fibre glass sailing dinghy for sale equipped with Mariner 2hp outboard, wooden oars, launching trolley, all in superb condition. Price: £500- proceeds to the Matthews Hall modernisation fund contact Steve Preston 01392 873 434 steve.preston@eclipse.co.uk

Mooring Wanted for 2009 season; rent or buy; 8m boat; lifting keel; David Jeffery, Tel: 01392 464 818, djjeffery@aol.com

For Sale Moody 27 "Alouette de Mer" Patrick Robertson Tel: 01392 823 299; Mob: 07872 823 299

Super Seal 26 for sale (due to bad back). No. 64 "Team Spirit" originally belonged to Colin Leach. £16,000 Mike Saffin Tel: 01392 250 347, Mob: 07870 336 752

Wanted: Laser sail, any condition Dick Tel: 01392 218 974, Mob: 07799 035 307

Small outboard motor for sale, suitable plastic pram dinghy; also children's lifejackets for 7-11 yr old E. Edwards Tel: 01392 877 856

Lots more adverts like these, on the club member's notice board.



Editor – Colin Walls

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email topsl@colinwalls.me.uk
Articles, photographs, adverts always wanted

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