

# COMMODORE'S LOG

Much has happened in the short time since the appointment of the new Executive at the AGM.

I am delighted to welcome Steve Pearl, (youth sailing) and Chris Lanyon (new RIB section) to the Committee. They join a hard working crew ensuring St Helier Yacht Club is a club to be proud of.

The Executive was charged with three tasks at the AGM, they were:

- 1) To write to Harbours advising them of the Clubs' declared opposition to the loss of drying berths in the East of Albert, French and English harbours. This was done By Chris Fairbairn on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.
- 2) The Club unanimously supported purchase of a RIB for patrol boat and other duties. This is currently being researched by Julian and his Committee, who will make representation to the Executive with the options and how the RIB will be managed and maintained.
- 3) Thirdly the club approved a budget of £50,000 for the refurbishment of the dining area and bar, Mike Stevens and his committee are currently working of the specification and programme to make this happen.

In the meanwhile, I was pleased to represent the Club at the Harbour's Reception for the Jersey Boat Show 09. It was pity that we did not have a stand promoting the Club and its activities but the notice given was not sufficient to put together a creditable presence. However, we will put something together for next year and I would be very pleased hear from willing volunteers to assist in manning a stand.

The Boat Show gave the opportunity for Tony Gilbert (Club RYA Training Principal) and me to meet Gus Lewis the RYA, Legal and Government Affairs Manager, to discuss UK government plans to introduce legislation concerning "Alcohol at Sea", and "e" Boarders.

The summer issue of the RYA magazine contains more information on both these subjects.

## **SOLAS**

Of more immediate concern and note is the Introduction of the SOLAS regulations on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

The regulations and requirements cover matters that any responsible and experienced Skipper would undertake as a matter of course, however, now this is to be embodied in law, the penalties are severe and onus to comply no longer voluntary.

These, together with rules of "Red" diesel, and when and if a boat should be "Coded", are all matters to be aware of when using your boat.

Personally, I believe that possible danger of drowning at sea seems now to be outweighed by the certainty of drowning in paperwork and legislation both current and planed.

It remains however, every skipper's duty to be familiar with the requirements of the law.

The Club is putting on a lecture of the 30th June to explain the requirements of the SOLAS conventions and regulations. A copy of the Harbours preliminary advice can be found on the Club Web site.

## **Function Room**

Last weekend was the first occasion that the Function Room was used for training purposes. In conjunction with the RCIYC, Chris Simon (International Umpire and National Race Officer) guided nine potential Race Officers through the intricacies of race management.

Chris also complimented the Club on the excellence of the facilities and volunteered to return to give a lecture on "Protests".

The St Helier Boat Owners and the Club also put on a talk on safety equipment, demonstrating the operation and maintenance of life jackets and rafts, and the safe disposal of out of date flares. This proved very popular with over 100 people attending. Our thanks to Leon Shaw from South Pier Marine and Martin Yates from the RNLI for an entertaining and informative evening

## **Welcome the New Life Boat Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

The next scheduled cause for celebration is the arrival of the "The George Sullivan", the new Tamar class RNLI lifeboat at 16:00. Those able to greet the lifeboat in traditional manner should join a flotilla in the vicinity of Noirmont point between 15:00 and 15:30 and follow her in or alternatively from the balcony of the Club.

## **The Executive**

The next task for the Executive is to finalise the "Future Strategy plan" that will outline the aims and ambitions of the Club for the next year or so. This will be a dynamic document that will evolve over time and contributions and comments on its contents will be most welcome.

**David Langlois**

Monday, 01 June 2009