

COMMODORE'S LOG – No. 3

The Executive Committee do not meet in August but the work goes on nevertheless. The sailing programme has endured a rather mixed bag of weather and is currently readying itself for the Brewin Dolphin Jersey Regatta on the weekend of the 11-13th September. This joint Regatta is the highlight of the sailing season and is made possible by the joint efforts of your Sailing Committee and the RCIYC and in particular Bill Harris to whom we are all grateful. House are finishing up the snagging and have recently made progress with the 52" TV in the Function Room to be installed this week and the very attractive planters decorating and protecting the front of the club. I ask all members to respect the parking restrictions outside the club to allow clear access for disabled parking. The Social Committee are organising the Regatta party and disco on Saturday 12th September and the ever-popular Bingo season also starts this week

New RIB

The new RIB is due to arrive in early September! The Sailing Committee will be holding a Naming Ceremony to commemorate this auspicious event and is open to suggestions for an appropriate name. Please put suggestions in the box or email the club, the responses will be put on the notice board (do bear mind the name has to be broadcast on VHF!!).

Rib training

For those prepared to help the Club with the youth section, sailing and boating activities the Club will provide RYA training up to level 2 **free of charge** by our own recently qualified instructor Chris Lanyon. Please see Julian Barber regarding the commitment required and spaces available. This exciting initiative gives the opportunity to put something back into the Club whilst receiving a useful qualification. Please put yourself forward to help, I am sure you will find it rewarding.

Harbours

Following on from the earlier meeting of July and its aims detailed in my previous log, Harbours arranged a meeting in the Function Room for the Executives of both STHYC and RCIYC, St Helier Boat Owners, and other interested parties as part of the consultation process concerning the development of the new Harbour Project.

Whilst the detail will affect individual boat owners to varying degrees, the fundamental strategy of both the States and Harbours is to increase the contribution to the economy from the marine leisure industry.

Harbour's aims are to increase the number of berths, resulting in more boats and more business. Which, together with greater efficiency of berthing, both logistical and financial should increase the potential contribution of the existing and new berths.

This is not about increasing costs beyond the usual annual cost of living, but adding value and growing the market, whilst giving berth holders a greater choice of berthing facilities ranging from very basic to full service and to price each accordingly.

It is somewhat ironic that amongst this major drive to attract more business, hangs the threat of increased fuel duty that is guaranteed to have a negative and dramatic affect on both local and visiting yachtsmen and motor boaters.

To add value, not only in terms of numbers, but also services such as marina attendants, security and facilities. I believe the vast majority of members will welcome these plans when the current concept plans are refined and announced towards the end of September. In the mean while all the organisations present at the meeting are submitting representatives to help in the design process and ensure that the views and requirements of current users are taken into account.

The SHYC group will comprise of Colin Taylor, Steve Pearl, Julian Barber and Charles Blampied who, in particular will address the issue of cradles, and the Old Harbour area, including the French and English drying areas.

I believe some of the plans are technically challenging, ambitious and exciting but also deliverable in a phased timescale over 5 years or more and, will no doubt, change and develop during that time in response to the demand and resources available for investment.

These recent meetings have amplified the many roles the Harbours play and to the competing and sometimes contradicting demands on the limited resources available. I look forward to the presentation by harbours of their concept scheme to the membership.

Harbour Security and the Parish

The **Harbour Watch** scheme is now operational and will be officially launched this week in the JEP and local media. Please put the telephone number in your mobile **01534 447705**, to alert the authorities if you see persons requiring assistance, potential problems or people acting suspiciously. The Harbour watch will act both as a deterrent and assist harbours in maintaining security and service to all who use the marinas and port

Any member resident in the Parish of St Helier aged between 20 and 68 who would like further details on joining the Honorary Police please contact Constable Simon Crowcroft on Tel 811811 or email constable@posh.gov.je If we all play our part in maintaining security, then we can reduce the incidence of such appalling and mindless vandalism that occurred earlier in the year at the Elizabeth marina.

The Function Room

Following my request for a new name for the Function Room three alternatives have suggested they are: **The Westward Room**, **The Commodore's Room**, and **Member's Room**. All of which I find acceptable and will arrange an informal ballot to see if an overall favourite emerges.

I am also arranging an official reception and naming ceremony for end of September early October to celebrate the work and effort and contribution the members have made in making this facility possible.

The new television and satellite system will be functioning shortly. The TV is also suitable for lectures and can be linked to a laptop for lecture purposes

The Rib Section

Continues to attract a great deal of attention, the second trip to the Ecrehous on Battle of Flowers Day was a resounding success, despite setting off in misty conditions, the sun came out and the sea flattened off for a fast trip home after a memorable BBQ. A dedicated notice board is being organised to advise on the programme of events and training

New Members

I have invited several potential members to join, who thought you had to own a boat or be an experienced sailor, if you know of people who would make good members and have a genuine interest in sailing and boating, and even increasing their knowledge by taking RYA courses then please promote the club to them and ask them to consider becoming a member

David Langlois

10th September 2009