

COMMODORE'S LOG – No. 5

At the last Executive Committee meeting a wide range of issues were discussed regarding the programme of events for 2010 and other matters important to the Club.

I summarise the relevant matters as follows:

“The Westward Room”

I am delighted to announce that the Bailiff, Michal Birt has agreed to officially open the Westward room on Wednesday 31st March at 1830 and attend a reception for members and guests hosted by our Vice Commodore Colin Taylor. I hope many members will take this opportunity to attend the opening and celebrate this important new chapter in the Club's future. The date coincides with the 100th anniversary on the launching of the original Westward, an auspicious day indeed.

The Club will also be presented with the renovated model of the “Kitty”, that has taken over 400 hours of work having been put in to the renovation by David Turner and Roger Hamelin the result of which is truly magnificent. The Club is bestowing Honorary membership to both David and Roger for their contribution to the Club and making a donation to the RNLI at their request in lieu of payment.

Harbours

As you may be aware Senator Alan Maclean has instructed Harbours to reconsider their plans and consultation process for the future of St Helier Harbour and is in the process of setting up the Marina Development Group (MDG) to consider plans and their impact on the old harbour and the marinas. The club will be represented as part of this Group to make our voice heard. I have written to the Senator with some reservations and he has responded positively, his letter is on the board and web site. My concern is that the MDG will be represented on the East of Albert group and I need to be satisfied that that representation reflects the clubs position adequately. It is also important that the work started by the Marine Leisure Growth Group is taken into consideration and continued.

The New Executive for 2010 will consider forming a committee of interested members with the aim of producing a list of priorities concerning the harbour and marinas, including the surrounding amenity land and facilities required, but not the commercial shipping aspect.

The merit of such a committee will be that the Club can demonstrate its commitment to consultation with a clear idea of the issues that are important to us in a positive way, rather than reacting negatively to Harbours proposals that may only be seen in isolation and not part of a larger overall plan. I hope this may be a joint initiative with St Helier Boat Owners Association as our interests are so closely aligned.

The AGM 21st April

I am delighted that we already have nominations for the executive received from Mike de Figueiredo who the Committee is pleased to propose as Hon Secretary, the post is currently held by Daniel Reed who is stepping down at the AGM. My thanks and that of the Committee go to him for all his hard work behind the scenes over the last 3 years.

The executive is rather a male dominated committee and should a lady member be prepared to able to represent the fairer sex, in the direction of the club business she would be encouraged to stand for election. Please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the executive for further details.

The AGM report will be sent out to members on the 8th April.

Planning and Strategy

This document outlines the Mission and values of the Club in line with the constitution and the aims of the Executive and each Sub Committee for the next year or so. This "member's document" is freely available to any member from the office and written comments and suggestions will be most welcome.

The 2009 document was useful in setting goals and priorities for the year. The 2010/11 plan will be decided by the new Executive, but I will be advocating the improvement in communications with members especially those who are not frequent visitors to the Club and to promote the facilities and events put on by Social and Sailing to them.

70th Anniversary of the Evacuation

This is a big year for the Club with the 70th Anniversary of the Evacuation of St Malo on the 18th June Steve Pearl and Rodney Challinor are organising not only the usual night race but also a rally for cruisers, motorboats and RIBs. There will be a Vin D'Honneur reception for all the participants and guests.

Sailing

The Carey Olsen Yacht Race Guernsey-Jersey on the 26th June

In July the Bi Annual off shore race to La Trinite in Brittany 350 miles starts on the 30th July with a departure reception on the evening of the 29th July a real highlight of the sailing calendar but sadly currently without a sponsor.

As well as the usual packed calendar of regattas and races

Rib Section

A programme of events has been put together for this year, including advanced RIB driving skills. The programme will also be arranging trips to adjacent ports in company. Log on to the club web site, as this section now has its own page and if you sign up for notifications it will automatically advise you of planned RIB events and details.

Harbour Security

Now the season is fast approaching boats and their contents may again become vulnerable to theft or damage. Please help prevent this problem by putting the **Boat Watch** telephone number **(01535)447705** in your mobile and alert the authorities of any situations requiring their attention.

Building Renovations

Mike Stevens and his committee have been very busy with the refurbishment of the Dining room and clubroom. The works are nearing completion, the new carpet is due to be laid shortly and overall improvement to the comfort and appearance will be dramatic.

2010 Jersey Boat Show

We have been given advanced notice of the 3rd Jersey Boat show on the 2nd 3rd and 4th May. The event has quickly becoming an established date in the calendar, enjoyed by sailors and non sailors alike. I would very much like the Club to be represented in some way, promoting what we do and raising the profile of the Club.

Members

Membership is slightly down on last year to 3591 from 3604. And about the usual number of resignations and lapses will fall due on the 31st March. It is with this in mind that the Executive suggests only modest increases in membership fees for the year 2011 this year having elected at the last AGM no increase in fees for 2010.

It is important to maintain the income from membership fees in line with increasing costs and budget for future property expenses whilst continuing to improve the offering and facilities that the Club can provide to its members and guests. Adequate cash reserves are required for contingencies and growth and we are fortunate to remain in a healthy financial position through careful financial control.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and wish you an enjoyable and safe 2010 sailing and boating.

David Langlois

Commodore

Thursday, 04 March 2010