

## Commodore's log – No6

It is barely 6 weeks since the AGM and already we have had two Executive Committee meetings and a special meeting to discuss the future of the RYA training centre. Sadly not all the news I have to report is good.

### AGM

At the AGM questions were raised by Dr Rodney Challinor regarding the running of the RYA Training Centre and the number and type of courses offered and their promotion. The current Principal, Captain Tony Gilbert has since tendered his resignation, pending a replacement being found. The Executive is therefore requesting that any member who may feel able to take up this role contacts the office for a full description of what is involved in this administrative role.

The Executive and I are very grateful to Tony and his team for all the hard work they have put into the RYA training centre, managing the changing demand for courses in an increasingly competitive and challenging environment.

The Executive has formed a sub committee comprising of Steve Pearl, Julian Barber and Bob de la Haye, to consider three options for the future of the training centre and report back to the Executive with their recommendations. I believe the training centre is a vitally important facility for the Club and what ever option is adopted will have my support and the backing of the Executive.

### Club Website and Email

A second question was also raised concerning the Club's use of the website and the information it contains. It was felt that not enough was being made of this resource. The Executive took these comments on board and has now delegated the responsibility for each sections page to an individual sub committee member who will keep their page up to date.

We are also looking into the option of a member's only page accessed by password and considering the technical, policy and cost implications of this.

With increasing costs of postal charges to write to every member would cost over £2,000. It is essential that the Club keeps in contact with its members and email is an obvious solution. However we only have 800 addresses out of 3500 members and many of those are out of date. The website has an easy link to update and request information on specific items such as social, sailing, rib section. It would be of great assistance to your Club if you could log on to [www.shyc.je](http://www.shyc.je) and complete the information request and update your email addresses to avoid unnecessary costs to your Club and keep you informed of the latest news. Naturally if you are not on email the Club is happy to continue to correspond by letter.

### Harbours

I was a little surprised that no one raised the matter of Harbours and their plans at the AGM. Whilst the old harbour flooding is no longer a point of contention there are many issues still to be addressed that the Yacht Club can make a positive contribution to,

especially regarding the new lay out for the town marina, berths 4 & 5 , parking and other facilities.

Initial discussions have taken place in a joint initiative with St Helier Boat Owners Association and will cover many areas of concern to our Members and provide a platform to advise and promote the plans for consultation at an early stage. The minutes of our next meeting with Harbours will be posted on the notice board and website to keep our Members informed and also to invite comment.

### **Honorary Treasurer**

It is also with deep regret that I must advise you that Charles Blampied our Hon. Treasurer has also tendered his resignation.

Those who attended the AGM will know how much I and the Executive valued the contribution Charles has made over the last 5 years, undertaking a complete overhaul of the Clubs accounting system, overseeing the complex and protracted lease and building negotiations and providing wise council at meetings. His dedication and professional expertise in support of the Club has been outstanding and will be sorely missed.

I am pleased to advise that Mike de Figueiredo has agreed to become Honorary Treasurer so we can be confident that the good work done by Charles will continue.

### **Planning and Strategy**

This document is now out with the sub committees for their input and a draft copy is also held in the office for members to inspect and contribute to. For those who are unaware of the scope of the Executive's role and the many issues it has to deal with it may prove interesting.

The Executive is also producing a Business Risk Assessment document on the advice of our auditors to ensure that the Club follows best practice by putting in place policies and processes to raise standards of performance. We are also putting together a spreadsheet for the calculation of future maintenance expenses for budgetary purposes for future years.

### **Sailing**

The sailing season is now well underway and the next major club events are the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Evacuation on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> June in St Malo. We already have 80 boats registered to join the flotilla in St Malo for a reception and commemoration of this heroic event.

The Carey Olsen Yacht Challenge takes place on the 26<sup>th</sup> June between Guernsey and Jersey which will be a first for the new sponsors. Your Commodore has been pressed upon a 60ft racing yacht for the occasion and is looking forward to an exciting days sailing.

### **Club House**

If you have not been to the Club recently you should visit and I am sure you will appreciate the improvements and redecoration to the dinning room and bar. New furniture is planned pending budgets and priorities but will add the finishing touches to a Club to be proud of.

## **2010 Jersey Boat show**

This year's event proved popular and enjoyable for both sailors and non-sailors alike. I was impressed by the marquee put on by the RCIYC for the benefit of their Members and would like to do something similar next year for the Club; in order to achieve this we will need volunteers to resource an event. Please make yourself known and we can plan for next year.

I wish you fair winds for the coming season.

David Langlois  
Commodore

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