



Issue 201 September 2011

The Island Sailing Club Reading

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



'Sailing for all'

Issue 201 – September 2011

Editor Bill Taylor

President	Bill Taylor
Commodore	Tom Lori
Vice Commodore	
Rear Commodore	Rose Blake
Training Principal	Steve Warwicker
Membership Secretary	Dennis Ollington
Race Officer	Geoff Planner
Social Secretary	Maggie Page
Treasurer	Steve & Teresa Savin
Safety Officer	Dennis Hanslip
Secretary	Bill Taylor
Bosun	David Blake

Committee members' contact details are available on the club website under [members' area/club officers contact details](#).

Please make a note in diaries for the End of Year Dinner
and Prize Giving.

Saturday 3rd December 7 for 7.30 at the Crown Inn at
Playhatch.

Tickets £30.

More below

From the Editor

It's been quite a busy Summer for the club, with 6 adult members and some Juniors trained; We have new members and we've had more boats out on the water this year on Sundays and on Wednesday evenings. For 2 consecutive Sundays in August there were 8 boats on the water, a very gratifying sight. We had a particularly successful Work Party in August when the front fence was repaired, with the finishing touches still to go. We've had some good Social events as well with the Longest Day race, the Summer Party with a difference and Commodore's Day. All-in-all a good year.

All these activities are organized and executed by members in their spare time and huge thanks go to them, and others who work behind the scenes.

A particular mention and thanks go to go to Dennis Ollington for the ducking and diving on e-bay to buy the 2 toppers and then for organizing their storage in the compound and the boom/masts in the club house.

Hello, Goodbye

While we're talking about Dennis, he writes

Each year we welcome new members to the club and say goodbye to Old friends. This year is no exception.

We are pleased to welcome: Gavin Barnard, Craig Little, Roger Bull and Family, Stephen Tait and family, David Turner and family, Harry and Brenda Tait, Mark Dyer and family, Duncan Proctor and family, and most recently Helen Bull. Many have already taken part in the RYA training and the Junior Activity days.

We hope that you all enjoy your time at The Island.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to members who have contributed to the club over the years. Most significantly David and Judy Young, both long serving committee members, David was also Commodore in the 1980's. Also, Ted Wright who boldly took on the task of editing our newsletter, The Island, for several years.

Moving away, but unable to leave are Steve Warwicker, our Training Principal, and Mike and Joy Jeffries. There will be more about Mike and Joy in our Summer Party article

End-of-year Dinner and Prize giving

Christmas Fayre

Starters

Roasted tomato and red pepper soup with a freshly baked roll.

Homemade venison terrine with a cinnamon and pear compote.

Severn and Wye beetroot gravalax on toasted sour dough with chef's remoulade.

Mains

Roast turkey with all the trimmings.

Sirloin steak, hand cut chunky chips, seasonal vegetables, and cognac and sechuan peppercorn sauce.

Pan seared sea bass on herbed new potatoes with baby carrots and a zesty hollandaise sauce.

Wild mushroom en crouete with garlic pomme puree and a white truffle veloute.

Dessert

Christmas pudding with brandy butter.

Vanilla and clementine mousse cake

Duo of ice cream in a homemade brandy snap basket

Selection of local cheeses, biscuits and grape chutney.

This year's dinner and prize giving will be held at the Crown at Playhatch. Tickets will be £30 each. The post code is RG4 9QN for those who have satnavs or want to find out where it is using Google. We start at 7 for 7.30. For the newer members, it's a chance for us all to meet in a social rather than sailing setting, away from boats, weed and geese. The year's series winners will receive their trophies. See the box for the menu choices.

Please let Maggie know how many tickets you require by completing the list on the notice board in the club house or by sending her an e-mail to harrassme@waitrose.com WITH YOUR CHOICES please.

Summer Party

This year's Summer Party was a bit different as Maggie Page, Social Secretary explains....

The Summer Party took place on Saturday July 7th. It was different from normal in that this year it was turned into a Surprise Thank You party for Mike and Joy Jeffries who, although they are still members, have recently moved to Corsham in Wiltshire and will no longer be such a fixed part of the fabric of the club as they have been over the past 35 years.

After months of planning and secret squirrel messages, so that Mike and Joy were not alerted, the morning of the party arrived. Watches had been synchronised for a 9.00am.start and the myriad of jobs which

needed to be done began. Cleaning, hoovering, erecting of canopies and gazebo, removing all the clutter from the clubhouse into the gents, decorating the clubhouse, washing and drying all tables, chairs etc.

Three hours later all was ready and the working party disappeared for a well-deserved lunch and afternoon rest and watches were re-synchronised for 5.30pm.

Guests began to arrive at about 6.30pm and continued arriving until, by about 7.20pm, all were assembled, and the only problem was that there was no Mike and Joy! I had expected them to be there by 7.00 but by 7.30pm there was still no show.! Harold Hunt thought it a good idea to employ the race starting sequence as Mike notoriously always arrived just before the 5 minute signal, Mike P. obliged, but still no sign. At this point some people 'light heartedly' began to suggest that perhaps they had got the wrong date although I knew this was not possible inside a slight feeling of unease began to take hold. Luckily Tim Lockyer, who although unwell insisted on coming to the start of the party, offered me his phone and I rang them. Joy answered and said they were just approaching Junction 12 to pick up some food and would be with us soon.

When they arrived they were clearly a little bemused by the large number of cars but were totally unaware that all this was in their honour. I think Mike began to get the idea when he saw Ken and Ray {old friends} while Joy, despite the round of applause that greeted their arrival was as normal, getting herself ready to help with the food. Joan B, eventually broke it to her that this was a party for her and Mike.

Fifteen minutes later Bill called everyone together and gave a short speech thanking Mike and Joy for all they have done for the club and wishing them well in their new Adventures. He then presented them with the Stained Glass window which had been financed by donations from both old and new members. Then a rousing three cheers rounded off the formal side of the evening. Mike and Joy were overwhelmed a little by all this fuss on their account but delighted with the window which I think everyone agreed was beautiful. It was only later that Joy told me she has always loved coloured glass and indeed had in the past, experimented herself with stained glasswork.

The rest of the party involved eating (What a wonderful selection the members provided both savoury and sweet), chatting, laughing and catching up with old friends, it was also really nice to see old members meeting new members and enjoying each other's company.

Finally people began to leave some had long journeys to make home and needed to be on their way. By 11.00pm most had departed and after a very cursory tidy up the final few locked up and went home.

Mike and Joy were staying the night with us in Mortimer. When we all arrived home they were both 'on a high ' and needed a few cups of tea , a more careful look through their various cards and gifts and a good chatter before they were ready to sleep.

It is difficult to catalogue all that Mike and Joy have done for the club over the years but the attendance at the party by so many both old [19 previous Commodores attended] and new members was a testament to the great affection in which they are held and how much their efforts have been noticed and appreciated. So once again THANK YOU Mike and Joy.

Maggie P.



From the Junior activities Day

Wednesday Evenings

The Wednesday evening sessions have been very successful this summer with usually a good turnout. Our thanks go to all those who came and got a boat out onto the lake and to those who organized and helped with a special thank you to Steve Warwicker.

Commodore's Day

What a day!! After the worst start to any day at the club that I've seen, with an hour of very heavy rain while about 5 boats raced, the sun came out and we had a dry and sunny afternoon for the fun race, which involved paddling around the island, and the racing challenge. This racing challenge was a sort of relay race with crew changes and with each crew having to touch each racing mark in turn, then finally deducing the answer to a picture puzzle.

To finish we had the photo and fancy hat competition followed by tea and cake.

Our thanks go to Tom for being our Commodore and for presenting all the prizes and to the many organisers, helpers, cake makers, salad makers and bar-b-q –ers.

Here are a few photos...







The Longest Day Race

The Longest Day Race takes place on the Sunday closest to June 21st, the longest day of the year. It's essentially a relay race with several members in each team and one team per boat. It usually lasts about 6 hours. Mike Page with a bit of help from Dennis Ollington reports.....

The weather forecast was good, in that the strong winds and gusts from previous days were set to reduce and the number of showers to lessen. Fortunately people were prompt and everything was set for the briefing by the two Mike's at 10.50. Then there was a short delay as the course inner distance marker was moved. The course had a start line between an IDR and Buoy 2. The wind was very changeable but mostly from the NW, gusting anything up to 90 degrees off the main direction so that two consecutive gusts might be from completely differing directions.

This year we had 4 competing boats;

The Graduate all ladies team of Maggie Page with Melanie Wickens, Catherine Britton and Rose Blake.

The Enterprise team of Bill Taylor with Mike Jeffries, new member Mark Dyer and Geoff Planner.

The Skipper team of Dennis Ollington, Ian Finlayson, Mark Tait, Hannah Tait and Gian-Luca Cau.

The Laser team of Mike Page with Ian Wickens, Rob Howell-Jones and super sub Tim Jones.

The course was first mark number 1 then a gybe around 2 with the possibility to plane across to the gap between the island and the spit. On to 7 which was in a wind shadow or as one competitor later said was "The chance for a break and a rest". After 7 the breezes might come from three alternative directions, so vigilance was required. Once into clear air the race was on to 6 and 5 sometimes on a broad reach. Rounding 5 it was then a steady tack to pass outside of 4 and onto the start line "Gate".

The handover area was marked out by two red cones along the eastern side of the spit. Boats entered the handover area after buoy 4 and prior to going through the gate.

The race start was the usual casual ISC members approach to starting. No one was anywhere near the line when the horn sounded at 11.20. [Editor's note – see the training item below]. Then all of a sudden with the Laser and the Graduate having passed the first mark a sudden gust hit the Enterprise as it was rounding the mark. The boat hit the buoy, the boom swung over and the helm tried to handle it as an involuntary gybe forced it into the path of the Skipper, who taking evasive action themselves avoided a near miss collision. All this happened in less time it has taken to type this sentence. I believe the crew member of the Skipper received a grazed head, but no worse and no one actually informed the rescue boat, who was racing to their assistance. None was required and the two boats continued hastily to 2.

The wind direction and strength around buoy 1 is always questionable and it also claimed our first capsize a few laps later when Ian W. in the Laser smartly brought his body round and hardly touched the water before he was on his way again.

After the first hour there were some quick change overs with Rob taking the helm of the Laser and an odd female in the guise of Mike J. giving Maggie some respite whilst and until she could then return. This race has a rule that the helm cannot sail for over 1.5 hours in one stretch and since no other female was available to assist, Mike J proudly stepped up to the plate. He also wanted to catch the Laser and assist his own Enterprise team at the

same time. After two laps Mike J came off the water Maggie continued and then this occurred again when Mike P had a respite from the rescue boat thanks to Danny's arrival. Mike P then found himself also assisting the Ladies for a couple of laps. It is questionable if he actually assisted in that his bulk got in the way of the tiller extension and certainly at one mark after a slip his feet were seen above his head. Not a recommended sailing position.

Catherine B. arrived and with Maggie on helm the ladies were in full throttle once again. Whilst all this was going on the Skipper team were quietly changing helms and crews keeping up their progress. Then after 100 minutes on the clock it seemed to pack up. So the OOD went over to the nearest watch. Bill did not realise that Maggie's watch had not been changed over to BST. So his records were one hour behind the real actual time. There was some further confusion on the record keeping, but this was later adjudicated by the two Officers of the day. Around 2pm Rose and Dave returned directly from the ferry from their holiday in Brittany. Like most people this year they had tales of trailing their Comet Versa all the way, 300 + miles from Cherbourg to Brest and then only getting a minimal sail due to the totally inclement weather we are suffering at this supposedly holiday time. But back to the race.... Dave went into the OOD hut, Rose went out with Maggie whilst Melanie, who had been crewing for most of the race so far, took lunch.

Later, unexpected arrivals were gratefully included into two teams. These included Geoff Planner who immediately joined the Enterprise team and helmed for some time. Also Tim Jones of the Tonic, who does not usually sail a Laser, agreed to "Give it a go". So Ian W and Rob could also have a rest although for Rob this meant a stint in the rescue boat. When Danny then returned to the rescue boat Rob completed the race for the Laser Team whilst Ian W. took a number of photographs.

With the wind dying late in the afternoon Dennis wondered why the race had to crawl its way around after 5pm. Mike J was still in the Enterprise at this time, with Mike P in the hut the race was finally concluded at 17.50 exactly 6 hours after the start. This assisted in the calculations for the result, which was; 1st Laser, 2nd Enterprise, 3rd Skipper and 4th Graduate. At the presentation, which was only made after the sumptuous cream tea, with scones, etc, all prepared and laid out by Joy. Bill took over the ceremonial parts and thanked firstly Joy then the Race Officer's, rescue boat team, etc. Mike P embarrassingly accepted the cup for the winner's, as he had actually not sailed for the Laser Team that he captained during the race. But this finer point was not considered important to what had been a very successful and enjoyable day.

Special Projects Fund

Steve Savin, the club's treasurer explains the Special Projects Fund.

Note: *This fund replaced the earlier 49-er's fund, which was discontinued last year.*

The Special Projects fund provides the Club with a way of receiving additional voluntary income, which can then be used to provide extras to improve the club. The current round of expenditure has been used to add 2 secondhand Toppers to the Club fleet. The Toppers are primarily aimed at Juniors, but we have found that they can also provide an enjoyable experience for adults. We are also considering the purchase of a Skipper or Enterprise to replace some of our elderly 2 handed Club boats that are no longer serviceable.

So **please come and use the Club boats** (there is a selection available), which are available for a small hire charge (e.g. Topper £5/ day but free to Juniors, although donations are also appreciated). You rig it yourself (but someone will probably be around, if help is needed to get you started). Please ensure that you fill in the details in the Hardback Boat Hire Book and pay any fees to the Galley or any Committee member.

Whilst writing I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to contribute to the Special Projects fund. There are no limits set but for guidance, we currently have 11 members who contribute about £5 per month each. Payments are normally made by a monthly Standing Order payment, directly into the ISCR bank account, so members remain in control. The Committee is aware that finances are tight but if others could help by contributing to the Special Projects fund it would be much appreciated.

If you would like a **form** to set up a Standing Order (by simply submitting it to your bank) then please let me know (steve.savin@yahoo.co.uk or 0118 941 2587).

Your own boat?

Don't forget that it's only £45 per year to keep your own boat in the compound. A second hand boat isn't usually expensive, £300 and upwards depending on the model and age with a good selection on the internet. The more experienced members would be pleased to offer advice.

Training

Results of the Club's training effort have been;

- RYA level 2 in May, four members, Mark Tait, Ian and Melanie Wickens, David Blake.
- RYA level 1 in June, two new members, Craig Little and Gavin Barnard.
- RYA level 1 in Sept underway, Mark and Nikki Dyer, Helen Bull and David Turner
- We are hoping to run a Power Boat level 1-2 course for November.

Also we are running a programme of courses on Duty Training, Racing Rules and Racing Techniques to try and raise the standard of sailing. (Some of the more experienced racers have noticed that as a club, we are too far from the start line when the race begins!!)

If you are interested in any of these courses then please inform Geoff Planner or Bill Taylor or Dennis Ollington face to face or by e-mail.

Web site changes and plans

Please keep an eye on the club's web site. We are improving it steadily and have already replaced the front page. If you have any ideas for what it should show or what information that it should give then please let us know.

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

Also, it contains links to weather forecasts at Windguru (forecast for Burghfield Lake) and the Met Office (5 day forecast for the club's postcode).

Work parties

The Work Parties this year have achieved quite a lot. We have managed to clear quite a lot of weed from the compound and along the eastern side of the spit. The front fence was damaged over the winter, we think by the weight of snow and ice on top of the brambles, all pressing down on to fence. This has cracked the concrete posts and pushed over a 20M length of fence. The posts have been replaced now and the fence tied to them. There is a bit more to do, extend the height of the posts a bit and run some barbed wire along the top.

The work of keeping the club surrounds clean and tidy never ends and there is another Work Party planned for October, probably the 15th. Please try and find a few hours to come along and help.

Sunday Duty Rota 2nd October 2011 till 29th Jan 2012

Date	Duty Officer	Race Officer	Ass. Race Officer	Galley
		Wetsuits	Optional	
02-Oct	Tim Jones	Catherine Britton	Melanie Wickens	Nicola Jones
09-Oct	Danny Walsh	Steve Savin	Stephen Rudman	Teresa Savin
16-Oct	David Blake	Rose Blake	Tim Proctor	Ann Proctor
23-Oct	John Beech	Bob Ferryman	Ian Finlayson	Joan Beech
30-Oct	Denis Handslip	Melanie Wickens	Ian Wickens	TBA
		Wetsuits	Required	
6-Nov	Bill Taylor	Gavin Barnard	Mark Dyer	Galley
13-Nov	Dick Sawdon Smith	Rob Howell-Jones	Dennis Ollington	Suspended
20-Nov	Geoff Planner	Rowan Chattock	Simon Chattock	Till
27-Nov	Steve Dyer	Maggie Page	John Walker	March
		Wetsuits	Required	see
4-Dec	Mike Page	John Frake	Craig Little	notes
11-Dec	Peter Cawthraw	Catherine Britton	Steve Savin	
18-Dec	Tim Jones	Nicola Jones	Mark Tait	
		Wetsuits	Required	
1-Jan	Brass Monkey	Volunteers	for Duty	Please
8-Jan	Geoff Planner	Ann Proctor	Tim Proctor	
15-Jan	David Blake	Rose Blake	Ian Finlayson	
22-Jan	John Beech	Bob Ferryman	Stephen Rudman	
29-Jan	Denis Handslip	Melanie Wickens	Ian Wickens	

11/9/11 Dennis Ollington

Notes: This list is only valid on print date. Committee members indicated in green.

Changes may occur due to swaps on Dutyman

The Dutyman link: www.dutyman.biz/dmmain.aspx?id=I0001364

Club races start at 1200, 1400 (and 1530 whilst on BST)

Please make every effort to turn up on your duty day as without your attendance the day is disrupted.

If you are unable to carry out your duty, please exchange with someone else. If that fails please notify the Rear Commodore at least two weeks prior to date so that changes can be made.

All officers should arrive at the club at least one hour before the start of the first race. They should have buoyancy aids with them and be prepared to man the safety boat in an emergency.

The duty officer is responsible for the general management of the day's racing.

GALLEY: Please could you bring 1 Litre (two pints) of milk with you, for which you will be reimbursed.

When there is no galley cover milk will be provided by the Duty committee member please.

