
SSC NEWS



The Seafarers Sailing Club Newsletter

Issue No 36 – November 2010

Notes from the Commodore

Dear Seafarers

As our 50th year of sailing ends and the diehards squeeze in a few frostbite races from the final embers of the season, we are already thinking ahead for our next opportunity to sail. We intend to organise a fun race on New Years Day. January 1st 2010 was a bright sunny day and approx 10 boats enjoyed a lovely sail. Will we be lucky again to start 2011 in style? We will have to wait and see. If you are shy of the winter sea water temperature, why not come along anyway and enjoy a drink at the bar, or possibly hair of the dog if you need it!

We have enjoyed another successful season both on the water and the social events organised by the hard working ladies of the Coven. If you were unable to attend the AGM in November, there is a summary of the highlights in this newsletter. Alternatively, you can read the minutes online or in the clubhouse to see a full review of the year.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can find out about the social events planned for the end of this year and for early next year. The events you must not miss are the Prize Giving / Christmas Draw on December 14th and the Golden Anniversary Dinner at Lee on Solent Golf Club on January 29th. Please also remember the Anniversary Commodore's at Home Event on February 6th. This is open to all members.

I have enjoyed my first year as Commodore and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support. I look forward to another year working with the committee to provide the membership of SSC with a full program of sailing, social and fun events.

Next year I hope to see the early stages of a major new project to create a first floor bar and viewing area so that within the next four or five years we can really enjoy our magnificent beach side location. Please read the 2010 AGM minutes to understand what we hope to achieve.

Don't forget the club will be open Tuesday evenings and the first Sunday of the month throughout the closed season, so come and enjoy a drink and support your club. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and I hope to see you all at the Golden Anniversary celebrations.

**Peter Cox
Commodore**



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Highlights of the 2010 AGM

On Tuesday 9th November, 57 members attended the AGM. If you were unable to attend, you may be interested to know the highlights.

Commodore's Report

The Commodore considered that the Club's 50th season had been a successful one. Social events had raised £1,600. The bar had raised £1,000. The Club was financially sound and had more than adequate reserves to fund any unforeseen circumstances. Membership remained at an all time high. Racing fleets continued to grow. Only 4 or 5 out of 80 races had been cancelled due to inclement weather. Regatta Day and the Club's first Women on the Water (WOW) Day had been well supported and enjoyed by all who took part, as had the assortment of social events.

Membership was effectively limited by boat spaces. The Commodore told the meeting that, in August, the Club had submitted a request for additional land to extend the compound. Unfortunately Fareham Borough Council had rejected this. Racking for small boats had also been considered. The committee had concluded that this would be unpopular and the ramps required would further

restrict access within an already congested part of the compound.

The Commodore hoped to see improvement in two areas. Firstly, as always, attendance for duty. There had been more than 20 absences from duties during the season; on one occasion three people had failed to turn up on the same day! Members who are unable to attend for whatever reason should follow the guidelines on arranging substitutes. This means getting on the phone or writing emails to those members who had similar responsibilities and remembering to inform their OOD of any swaps. The Commodore also pointed out that much of the duty crew's work took place before the race began. Crew members should, therefore, check in with their OOD at least 45 minutes before the race start time.

Secondly, the Tuesday evening practice sessions had been a little disappointing. Attendance from cadets never went beyond 4 or 5 regular attendees. Club members supporting these sessions were, more or less, the same faces every week. At the beginning of the season the Commodore had asked for support for this event. With some exceptions, the support forthcoming was disappointing. The plan to extend the sessions to Saturday morning was shelved for this reason. Next season the Commodore looked forward to seeing more members volunteering to help out on Tuesday evenings. He also appealed to those members with children of sailing age to bring them down to take part and to get the whole family involved.

The Commodore thanked all those who had given their time and effort to the Club over the year. His first year as Commodore, he said, had been a huge eye-opener to him. He had learnt how hard members of the Committee and members with special responsibilities worked on behalf of the Club, so that members could enjoy the sailing facilities and social events.

Accounts and Budget

The accounts showed that the Club made a surplus of approximately £3,000 in the last financial year. This included a £1,000 contribution from the bar. The budget for the coming year would yield a net deficiency of approximately £3,500. However this assumed that patrol boat 2 was replaced. If, as was hoped, renovation was a success, the Club should see a net surplus again next year.

Further Development of the Clubhouse

Early in the year members were invited to suggest ideas for the Ten Year Plan for the period 2011 to 2020. One suggestion that garnered some support was to further develop the clubhouse first floor. At the AGM Dave Grout, the Membership Secretary,

explained that, although the recently completed extension was considered a success, there had been suggestions that more space was required. Increasing the first floor accommodation could provide an array of options. A first floor lounge/bar would have spectacular views of the Solent. There could be merit in moving the kitchen upstairs and the men's shower and changing facilities downstairs. Other ideas included providing workshop space and providing stowage for sails, foils and spars.

At this stage, no funding was being sought. The aim of raising the topic at the AGM was to establish the degree of support for the concept. It was not known whether the concept was feasible or affordable, or if planning consent could ever be obtained. If the membership wanted the project taken forward, the next step would be find volunteers to man a working group to establish a design and to investigate engineering, planning and cost issues.

It quickly became apparent that, amongst those attending, there was tremendous support for the proposed development. This was borne out when the proposal that "*Further development of the clubhouse first floor be included in the Ten Year Plan*" was approved unanimously.

A sub-committee is to be set up to progress this project.

Honorary Membership

Eric Kettle stood down as Assistant Bar Manager in July. The Committee had recommended that Eric be made an Honorary Member of the Seafarers in recognition of his service to the Club. Eric joined in 1995. Within two years he had taken on the role of Assistant Bar Manager and a year later became Bar Manager. Eric served as Commodore for the first three years of the new millennium. In 2003 he resumed his role as Assistant Bar Manager - for the next 7 years playing "Statler" to Frank's "Waldorf". The Club had benefited from Eric's skills as an organiser and a motivator. His promotion of the Christmas Draw had made it one of the most popular events of the social calendar. It gave the Commodore, Peter Cox, special pleasure to propose Eric as an Honorary Member. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Personnel Changes

Kevin Forder has succeeded Eric Kettle as Assistant Bar Manager. There were no other changes to that valiant band of volunteers, the Committee and Members with Special Responsibilities.

More detail can be obtained by reading the draft AGM minutes. These are available on the website

(Club Meeting Minutes area of the Forum/Bulletin Board) and in the clubhouse.

Honorary Secretary

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The Golden Anniversary

The inaugural meeting of the Seafarers Sailing Club was held in Hammond Hall, Stubbington on Tuesday 31st January 1961. With just over a month before the 50th anniversary, you may be interested in a reminder of how the Club is celebrating the event:

(1) Anniversary Dinner - Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club - Saturday 29th January

Tickets are on sale at a cost of around £25 per person. The Golf Club can cater for many diners, but check the club notice board for more details. If you wish to attend, add your name to the list in the clubhouse then speak to Tricia about payment and menu selection. Unfortunately John Harmer, the Club's founder and first commodore who now lives in Canada, is unable to be with us. We remain hopeful that all other surviving ex-commodorees will attend.

(2) 50th Anniversary Commodore's At Home - Clubhouse - Sunday 6th February

Invitations to this event will be sent out at the beginning of January. Honorary Members and ex-Commodorees will, as always, be invited together with local councillors, representatives of local clubs and others who have helped the Club. A good turnout of current members would help to make this a special event.

(3) Souvenir Booklet

The booklet, which will include an illustrated history of the Club, will be published early in the new year. It will be distributed free to all members in February with the 2011 programme.

(4) Minutes of General Meetings

The minutes of all general meetings held from the formation of the Club until the end of 1999 have been transcribed and are now available from the 'Articles & Reports' page of the Club website.

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Darts

The 2010 – 2011 season has kicked off. We now have six teams competing in the league: Hill Head SC, Langstone SC, Portsmouth Harbour CC, Portchester SC, Tipner BAC and Seafarers SC. Tipner are new to the league, Portchester are returning with a team with only one original

member! We played them at home in early November and took a close fought victory. The evening came down to a decider in the last game between our men Roger Rudrum & new recruit Tony Mills playing the diminutive Sean and Luke from Portchester. Don Cripps briefly exited retirement to help us out in the doubles. Luckily for us in the same way Dirty Harry never leaves home without his Magnum, Don never leaves home without his darts!



The season will run from now until early April when the presentation evening will be held at Seafarers. This is currently planned for 16th April and will be a special social evening open to all.

The Seafarers match fixture list is shown below.

Date	Fixture
Saturday, 4th December	Seafarers vs Langstone
Saturday, 11th December	Hill Head vs Seafarers
Saturday, 8th January	Seafarers vs Hill Head
Friday, 14th January	Portsmouth vs Seafarers
Saturday, 22nd January	Seafarers vs Tipner
Friday, 11th February	Langstone vs Seafarers
Saturday 26th February	Portchester vs Seafarers
Saturday, 12th March	Seafarers vs Portsmouth
Saturday, 19th March	Tipner vs Seafarers

There are vacancies for new players both men and women. The secret of the league is the socialising not the darts. We have all made friends with people we had never previously met and it is also very interesting to visit other clubs and learn how they operate. For home matches, players are asked to bring along snack type food for the buffet. That's the only requirement, the rest is easy!

Clive Dakin

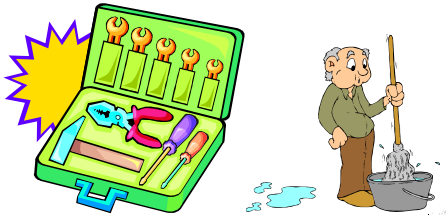
Darts Captain

Disclaimer

It should be noted that the term 'Dirty Harry' refers to a fictional film character. It does not refer to any

current or former member of Seafarers Sailing Club who did or did not have a liking for Ice cream.

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Maintenance

The maintenance team has had a much busier year this year, but has done a sterling job.

We also now have a cleaning rota and about every three weeks the Club has a big clean. Those involved have done a great job, but the more the merrier so if you are able to help out next year then please add your name to the list and I will contact you.

Please remember that if you find anything damaged or missing on club boats or in the compound or clubhouse please let a committee member know so that we can keep on top of any problems.

We are planning to have two weekends in 2011 for working parties to do some maintenance jobs before the start of the next sailing season. Dates are Saturday/Sunday 26th & 27th February and Saturday 12th March so please make a note in your diaries and come along. More information will follow on the Club website, on emails and on notices in the Clubhouse.

Tim Wadham
Rear Commodore

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WINTER PARKING

Winter Parking seems to have been a success last year with approximately 30% of the membership taking up the new opportunity. With a few late takers this year, it looks like we will pass 50%! If you have not paid your winter boat space fees, then by the time you are reading this, your boat should have been removed from the compound.

If you require Winter Parking 2011/12, then please

ensure you pay your fees with your renewal fees for 2011.

David Grout
Honorary Membership Secretary

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Interclub Snooker

Seafarers S.C. is again joining the Snooker League, which also involves the following local Sailing Clubs:

Fareham S.C., Hill Head S.C. and Lee on the Solent S.C. - who also provide the two excellent Snooker Tables.

We can usually manage to find a team of 8 players for each match, but we would also welcome any new players who may be interested. The matches are played in a friendly atmosphere and are enjoyed by all.

We play alternate Wednesdays with a longer break at Christmas. A copy of the fixtures is on the Club notice board.

A match involves 8 players from each of the two Clubs taking part. The players play in pairs – 2 frames per pair. 8 frames are played in all with a `supper break` after 4 frames.

Unfortunately our first fixture was cancelled as Fareham S.C. could not get the minimum of 4 players to constitute a match. It is hoped that this will not affect Fareham S.C.'s ability to find a team for the remainder of their fixtures. Also an effort is being made to reorganise this fixture. However, all 8 members of the Seafarers team agreed to attend for some practice – in fact a singles knockout tournament was played and enjoyed by all.

We always feel confident this will be our year but have yet to pip LOSSC to the league title.

Anyone who would like to join us in this friendly but competitive Snooker League please contact any of those below.

Mick Merson 01329 315375
Roger Poulson 01329 665458
or Frank in the Bar.

Training

RYA Training Programme for 2011

Next season we will be offering two RYA courses: RYA Level 1 & 2 (Start Sailing and Basic Skills). This will start on Tuesday evenings from 3 May and include the Spring Bank Holiday half term (28 May – 4 June) and Tuesday 7 June. This has been an extremely popular course in the past. If you are interested in taking part please fill in the application form and return it to me as soon as possible. If it is oversubscribed there will be a draw for places on the course.

We are also planning to run an RYA Start Racing course for members who have sailed for at least one full season and would like to learn more about racing. The course will run on two Tuesday evenings and two Saturday mornings during the season – dates to be confirmed.

In house Training for 2011

Patrol Boat Drivers and Crews. Training for those newly selected as drivers and crew will take place over the two weekends immediately preceding the start of the season. The programme of refresher training for existing drivers and crews will continue during 2011. Dates for refresher training will be advised in due course.

There will be a half day training/briefing session for **OODs and DOODs** before the start of the 2011 season to discuss topics such as course setting, signalling, timing and other aspects of running a successful race. This session will take place on a Saturday morning (date to be advised) and OODs and DOODs are strongly encouraged to attend.

Carol Wealthy
Training Secretary

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The Social Scene



Many events organised by The Coven during this past year have stood out as highlights. A new event was the **Chinese New Year** in February,

followed in April by **Liner Dining / Cruising Seafarers Style** when the main lounge room turned into a splendid ocean going vessel serving magnificent food. **Gun Deck Dining** in October celebrated Nelson's victory at Trafalgar in a slightly different way to the traditional meal. Many smaller events linked to sailing have taken place during the year including the **End-of-Training-Week BBQ**, the **Commodore's Challenge** ploughman's lunch and of course the **Regatta Day BBQ** in August. The **Jumble Sale** raised lots of funds for the club, as did all these events - so your attendance and support really is important. Hopefully these occasions have offered an enjoyable range of events to attend.

Following the AGM on 9 November, the annual **Laying Up Supper** was held on 27 November, just before you read this Newsletter. A gazebo was erected to house the catering side, thus allowing more people to attend this informal evening with dancing. It was decided to hold this notable event at the club house this year to differentiate from the special one-off **Golden Anniversary Dinner** due to be held in January 2011 at the Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club.

The next event will be the **Prize Giving and Christmas Draw** on Tuesday 14 December, when the sailing prizes will be awarded and also a few special prizes outside the racing event ones. The lucky Christmas Draw winners will be announced from the large raffle board and there are always lots of prizes - together with mince pies and gluhwein. The fun filled **New Year's Eve** event on Friday 31 December always goes well with buffet food and fantastic games. This event will need booking with names on the notice board list to assist the catering arrangements.

The start of 2011 will be dominated by the very special 50 years Golden Anniversary events to celebrate the formation of our sailing club. This starts with the **Golden Anniversary Dinner** due to be held on **Saturday 29 January 2011** at the Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club. A list for names is already on the notice board. We do hope as many people as possible will make a special effort to attend this main event, with several past Commodores joining us. This will be closely followed by the **Commodore's 'At Home'** special 50th event on Sunday 6 February at the club house, again with additional guests to mark the occasion. All club members are welcome to join us.

Many more exciting events will follow later in the year. Don't forget the club bar is open on Tuesday evenings from 2000 and also on the first Sunday of each month from 12 noon to about 1400 - so do

come along. Everyone is very welcome. The bar will be open on Sun. 5 December and then on Sun. 2 January 2011, Sun. 6 February etc.

Look out for e-mails giving further details of all events in the 2011 social programme. All proceeds from these social gatherings go straight back into club funds which enable regular maintenance work on the clubhouse and the club boats to take place, plus any new expenditure such as replacement club boats etc. Any suggestions for possible future social events are always welcome.

And finally, as a lot of events do need prior booking, if you cannot get to the club house to put your name on an event list yourself, then online reservations can be taken for most events – contact:

socialsecretary@seafarers-sailing-club.org.uk

Unfortunately a few events with limited numbers cannot utilise this service.

Happy socialising.

The Coven

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Comic Corner

Thank God for church ladies with errant keyboard skills. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

Ø Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

Ø The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Ø This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ø The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Ø Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

Ø The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Ø The Priest unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'

Ø Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember. Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair.

'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?' 'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so's not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

That's all for now Folks and a very Happy Christmas to you all

