



COMMODORE'S REPORT SPRING 2006

You will notice that there is no Newsletter in this mailing. This is because the General Committee has decided to change the normal format and introduce, in October, a Royal Solent Yearbook. This will be a more comprehensive publication, will be issued only once per year and will concentrate more on the coming twelve months. The key events of the year just passed will be covered by the Report of the General Committee that always accompanies the papers for the Annual General Meeting. The yearbook will contain Members' names and addresses, boat names, planned boating and social fixtures, tide tables for the forthcoming calendar year, racing results, articles submitted by Members etc. The website has been redesigned and will be updated and extended as an ongoing process to allow you to keep up to date and also to update the administration on changes to postal and email addresses etc. to ensure that the Club records are accurate.

From the AGM papers you will see that I have decided not to stand for election as Commodore for a third year. It has been my intention from the outset to only serve for two years, as Helen and I have many cruising and travelling plans we wish to fulfil. I have enjoyed the not insignificant challenge of the last two years and wish to thank all those who have given both Helen and me so much support. A new team will take up the mantle on 22nd April and I am very confident that the considerable efforts made by all those concerned over the last twelve months in particular, has put the Club into a very strong position to begin to generate surpluses whilst at the same time setting aside a prudent provision for the replacement and maintenance of our assets.

We are indebted to the Rear Commodore House for sorting out the first floor and being instrumental in the employment of our chef Lee Ray and steward Mick Fletcher. Both are doing a first class job and are committed to providing a high quality and flexible service to meet the wishes of our members wherever possible.

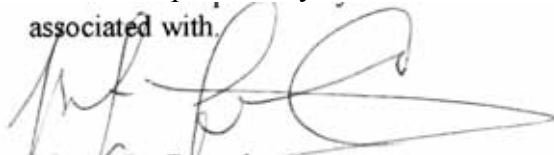
The Vice Commodore's committee has a programme to improve the amenities of the Clubhouse with particular regard to the refurbishing of the toilets and the provision of better facilities for the disabled and elderly including disabled toilets and a lift access to the first floor. I would like to stress, however, that only work that can easily be afforded and paid for out of our reserves, whilst at the same time still leaving a prudent surplus, will be carried out. The Membership will be fully involved if any additional funding is required before the associated work is started or committed to.

Our sailing programme for this summer is even busier than usual with a number of prestigious regattas for visiting clubs and class associations. To ensure that the non-racing and motor boating members are also catered for, Chris Waddington has prepared an excellent rally programme.

The House committee has prepared a programme of complimentary events throughout the season with the highlight being the Caribbean themed Summer Ball on 17th June. This promises to be great fun and not one to miss.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to all our very capable staff who make it possible for us to get so much from our club and to extend my best wishes to the new committee and all the Membership. The Royal Solent Yacht Club is a great club and one that I am proud to be

associated with.



Martin Le Gassicke
Commodore

NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected to Membership during the past six months

Valerie Andrews
Steve Butler
Royston Evans
David Fox
Teresa Fox
Timothy Francis
Brenda Garlick
Peter Garlick
Jennifer Hindle
Ann Hinton
David Langford
Hilary Langford

John Lewis
Brenda Lewis
Alison Martin
Elizabeth Noakes
Fiona Rattray
Sandy Rattray
Cassie Symes
Jeremy Waitt
Robert Watkins
Sally Watkins
Jan White
Carl Whitewood
Martine Young

OBITUARIES

It is with much sadness that the Club records the deaths of the following Members.

John Andrews
Bill Davies
Dennis Hare
Maurice Lickens
Gordon Pearce

Our sympathies go to their families

CLUB CLOTHING

The range of new Club clothing will be on display over the Easter Weekend and at the AGM. Order forms will be available on the display and from the office. See also the website www.royalsolent.org for details.

RYA Courses

We will soon be taking delivery of our new RIB, an XS-600 powered by a Yamaha F100 DETL outboard. The RIB will seat 4 people in complete safety on individual jockey seats and is certified to carry up to 10 people if required. This is a superb craft and is ideally suited as a teaching platform for the RYA National Powerboat Courses as well as the wide range of duties she will be responsible for as the 'Club RIB'.

Firstly, apologies to those people who had their names down for courses last year, I was not able to run as many courses as I had hoped. This was due primarily to the seating arrangements on the old RIB, which only allowed for one student per course. The new RIB will allow me to teach up to a maximum of three students on each course. I have the names of people who showed an interest last year and I will be contacting you over the coming weeks.

This year I hope to dramatically increase the number of courses available, not only for members, but for the public too. This will I hope produce revenue for the Club.

Earlier in the year I advertised SRC (VHF) Radio courses. The response was rather disappointing with only five names on the conversion course and none on the full one-day course. This may have been due to the quiet time of year and the fact that details of the course were not sent out to members. As a result I had to cancel the courses. I do intend to advertise further courses throughout the year and hope for an improved response – you cannot all have SRC's!

Below is a brief outline of the courses, including the cost, currently available at the RSYC.

RYA National Powerboat Course Level 1 (coastal)

Cost: £100 per person

Duration: 1 day

This course is designed to teach basic boat handling and safety. The course assumes no previous knowledge and is aimed at those new to boating.

RYA National Powerboat Course Level 2 (coastal)

Cost: £200 per person

Duration: 2 days

This course again assumes no previous knowledge. However this course is more comprehensive and is designed to teach boat handling and safety including high and low speed manoeuvring, coming and leaving alongside, man overboard and anchoring. The course also includes some theory on basic chart work and collision regulations (IRPCS).

This course will allow the successful student to apply for the International Certificate of Competence (ICC) for powered craft up to 10 metres in length. This certificate is mandatory if you intend to take your craft into European waters.

SRC (VHF) Radio Operators Course & Exam

Cost: £70 (plus £20 licence fee payable to the RYA)

Duration: 1 day held in the West Room

This course is designed for skippers **and** crew! The exam is not difficult and has a high pass rate. No previous experience is necessary, although students should learn the phonetic alphabet prior to the course.

The VHF radio is an important piece of safety equipment on board small craft. The implementation of the Global Maritime Distress System (GMDSS) has introduced changes to the way we use VHF radio. This course will teach you the basics of VHF operation, including distress and emergency procedure.

At the successful conclusion of the course you will be issued with a Maritime Certificate of Competence and Authority to Operate VHF/DSC equipment.

SRC (VHF) Conversion Course & Exam

Cost: £45 (plus £20 licence fee payable to the RYA)

Duration: ½ day held in the West Room

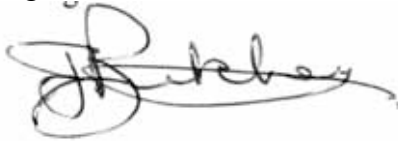
If you hold the 'old style' VHF certificate (non DSC) this course may be suitable for you – provided you can remember correct procedure! At the successful conclusion of the course you will be issued with a Maritime Certificate of Competence and Authority to Operate VHF/DSC equipment.

It is important to note that the use of VHF/DSC equipment without the correct certification is an offence and you may have a fine imposed and your equipment confiscated!

The cost of the courses applies to members only and represent excellent value compared to other RYA schools. If you are interested in any of the courses please **contact me (tel: 07774 226287 or 760212)** or give your details to the staff at the office. The courses can be run during the week or at weekends throughout the year, subject to Club events – and the weather!

Are there any other RYA courses that you are interested in, e.g. CEVNI rules? Let me know. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a great seasons' boating!

Regards



Jeremy Butcher
RYA Principal RSYC