

SALCOMBE YAWL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2001



BARNEY'S BUMBLINGS

Well here we are at the end of another excellent season for the Yawl Class. It is always difficult to make each year better than the previous one but we hope to provide an even better one for next year. Your Committee met at the Yacht Club on Friday 2 November and even with starting half an hour earlier we still did not get through until throwing out time. The main point of interest is the change in the format for 2002. Please see the Yawl Programme for 2002 in an easily cut out box. Now what about Cork? Are we going or not? So far we have seven deposits from, Barney Greenhill Y138 Betty, Paul Ellis Y157 Tease, Geof Gilson Y170 Guillemot, Ian Stewart Y169 Rum Tum Tigger, Michael O'Brien Y166 Zenga, Simon Gibbens & Seve Reed Y167 Shag and Martin Beck Y137 Puffin. Great interest has been shown from Woody Woodward Y141 Puffin, Clive Jacobs Y171 Chicken Run, Charles Thompson Y162 Willow, David Lees in his new boat, Stephen Parker-Swift Y65 Avocet, Jan Matthews Y74 Albatross, and Mark Dowie Y130 Lyra. Come on lads, we need to know if the event is to go ahead so please complete the enclosed final invitation and return it to Paul Ellis Y157 Tease (and Y98 Sandpiper, For Sale!!) a.s.a.p. in the enclosed window envelope which is addressed to Paul. We need to let the Royal Cork Yacht Club know by the end of the year. A once in a lifetime opportunity not to be missed, perhaps the event should be called the Salcombe Yawl Worlds!! (unofficial of course). The three super helms mentioned in my final paragraph would be very keen to helm at Cork for anyone interested in taking their Yawl but of less certain ability. If you have any further questions Paul's 'phone numbers are on the enclosed invitation.

There are several new boat owner members who have joined the Association this year who have not previously been mentioned. They are Clive Adamson Y101 Win, Caroline Trace part owner of Y118 Ngombo with Peter Bieneman, Bill Fellows and Kit Harding both part owners of Y49 Blue John with David Newman, Tony Godfrey Y33 Redstart, Will Henderson part owner of Y168 Storm with Jim Stone, Clive Jacobs Y171 Chicken Run, John Mason Y27 Winchat and Hugh Ridgway Y128 Lambury Lass. Interest from others who have joined as Associate members are Sally Hosking (Jane Starey's sister), Pam Kyte (Harris Thorning's partner), Chris Millward (Explosures photographer), Richard Murray (reliable crew), Peter "Spud" Rowsell (sometime boatbuilder), James Simpson (crew of Y78 Topaz), Caroline Thompson (Harris Thorning's niece), Roger Tushingham (superhelm of Y141 Nuffin and poetry reader in public) and last but by no means least the intrepid Michael Hicks who has paid for 2002 already. You are all most welcome to our Association and I hope that you all derive much enjoyment from it.

Sadly as we go to press we have learnt that our Hon. Measurer's father John Donovan senior passed away following a fall aged 93. As many of you are aware there was a tribute to him in the local paper. JD was active in the

Yawl fleet well into his eighties and took great delight in beating those 40 years younger than himself, especially Nic Rowell. He commissioned Yawl 82 Jay Dee in 1971 paying the princely sum of £610 for her as she was given an extra coat of varnish!

There were some difficulties with last year's Yacht Club Regatta regarding in which fleet some Yawls should sail. The problem arose when the Blue Fleet had over 30 entries. The matter was resolved but not entirely satisfactorily. The Committee's view is that people should sail where they feel comfortable and enjoy their racing whether in a new boat or old according to their ability. To this end and with the possibility of more entries for 2002, the Committee felt that it would be better to divide the Class into 3 fleets allowing helms to decide which fleet suited their abilities and wishes. This would allow for a potential of 90 boats but realistically accommodating comfortably about 20 in each fleet. The prizes for each fleet would be the same with Trophies for the third fleet to be determined. There is the possibility that one of the fleets may sail in the mornings. All this has to be endorsed by the Yacht Club. Soundings so far are very favourable. This leads me nicely onto the help given or rather not given to the Yacht Club during Regatta week. There was distinct lack of help from Yawl sailors last year which led to a rather cryptic note from our Rear Commodore Sailing being put on the Yawl notice board. Quite frankly the help from Yawl sailors was just not good enough. Next year the Club must be helped by more than is needed by the Yawl sailors. After all there were over 100 people sailing in Yawls during the Regatta. Many of you who live away do make a weekend visit to do your Saturday Race Series stint and it is much appreciated and good to see you on the water taking such trouble. Many Yawl Owners' names do not appear on the Saturday roster at all so please, please do volunteer next year to help. Rear Commodore Sailing works very hard during Regatta week. All he wants is some help with tasks that will be explained to you. He does not want to spend his time during Regatta week cajoling people into helping as he's got too much else to do. The Club is run by the members for the members. Please do your bit, it's actually quite fun and informative.

While on the subject of the Regatta I have to report something unsavoury that allegedly took place in the Blue fleet last year. Yawls were approaching the No. 2 Ferrymark Buoy when a Drascombe Lugger with a full family complement aboard, as you would expect, appeared in the way. An excessive amount of swearing was heard from a particular Yawl directed towards the Drascombe Lugger. The owner of the Lugger complained to the Harbour Master but failed to supply the culprit's number. The Harbour Office complained to Rear Commodore Sailing. So the matter was left unresolved with a smear on all Yawls and Yawl sailors. The Yawls in the vicinity of the of the incident who heard the swearing unfortunately did not protest the perpetrator. Foul language comes under the ISAF Rule 2 or 69.1(a) of good manners and unsportsmanship. Under these circumstances **YOU MUST PROTEST**. Get a witness if at all

possible and if the protest is upheld the helm would be barred from the whole Regatta and the matter would have to be reported to the RYA. The alleged incident, by a person who only sailed in the Regatta this year in a borrowed boat, has done much damage to the image of the Yawl fleet at a time when we have consciously been trying to improve it. This incident has made it clear to your Committee that our Constitution is pretty toothless and as such we are looking at appropriate amendments.

This column runs the possibility of being re-named Barney's Bleatings rather than Bumbings. I was very disappointed that some of those winning trophies in last year's Yacht Club Regatta disappeared as soon as receiving them along with others. I was unable to take photographs of all the winners together with their trophies as I like to. The matter of leaving the prize giving before all the trophies and prizes were distributed and the proceedings concluded was raised at our last Committee meeting and it was considered unsporting. My view is that having taken part in an event, if at all possible, I like to attend the prize giving from beginning to end whether or not I have won anything to show my respect to the winners. Maybe one day I will be a winner and I should hate to go up for my trophy in an empty Cliff House!

We have not been very successful on the skittle alley so far this autumn. With only one win to our credit we need some imported skill!!! No matches until the New Year now. For anyone interested the post Christmas dates are, Fridays 11 & 18 January, Friday 8 February, Saturday 16 February, Friday 22 February and Friday 1 March. If you are available and would like to play on any of these evenings please contact our Hon. Sec. Tim Bass.

As yet we have not had any applications for the post of Hon. Sec. Tim Bass is to step down from the post at the end of the next AGM. It would be most helpful if we could secure someone's help in fulfilling this job in good time before the next AGM. Tim has the job very much under control and he would be more than happy to tell and show whoever what's involved before they make a decision whether to do the job. It would be best suited to someone local, male or female but definitely someone literate. Whilst mentioning retirements I am now well past my halfway mark as your Chairman and hope to have my replacement on the Committee at the next AGM to give him or her a year's run in as VC. Would it be too much to ask for volunteers, or even one? It's not too bad a job really. Everyone buys you lots of beer and then they hurl abuse at you and then they tell you what a wonderful job you're doing as they don't want to do it because of the mucky bits. It's not up to the Committee to find my replacement, it's up to the membership, that's you, so please will you do something about it.

As soon as a sailing season starts it seems to be over as quick as a windshift. I couldn't help wondering the other day when I was contemplating not very much at all whether Yawl sailing is really an old person's sport. By old I mean not young; whatever that is. What is the average joint age of a Yawl crew? Well you just think about it and have a look around the next time you go out racing about like a mad dog, all at 5mph if you are lucky. When you have thought about it put your own joint ages into the equation and just say to yourselves what a great deal of pleasure this Yawl sailing gives both on and off the water. Betty's Yawl Yardstick next year will be 105!! Is that about average? Does it matter? Why are Tim Law, Iain McGregor and Mike Hicks still pretending to be young and macho by sailing in those silly Laser things? Who do they think they are, Ben Ainslie? Come on lads, come and join the oldies and sail a real boat. I'm afraid that it doesn't wash that you cannot afford it. Words

reported from the front end of a Yawl this season when the helm asked his crew to hurry up with the jib stick were, "do you mind, I'm nearly sixty you know!" I think I've bumbled enough and better sign off before I get certified. Winter well, Christmas well, Ski well and Best Wishes for 2002. Next season will be upon us before nods-a-winking. Let's make it a good one.

Barney

S.Y.O.A. Programme for 2002

Wednesday 6 March

Curry Evening - London

Saturday 4 - Monday 6 May

Open Meeting

Saturday 1 - Monday 3 June

Open Meeting - Including Crews Race

Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 June

Open Meeting Exmouth

Monday 15 - Friday 19 July

Cork Week

Sunday 28 July - Friday 2 August

Salcombe Yacht Club Regatta

Monday 5 - Friday 9 August

Salcombe Town Regatta

Sunday 25 August

Fleet Pursuit Race

Sunday 25 August

Association's Cocktail Party

Friday 13 September

Yawl Golf Day

Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 September

Open Meeting

EXE SAILING CLUB OPEN MEETING

Salcombe Yawl Open Meeting

Exe Sailing Club, June 8/9th 2002

Here is your chance to go foreign and at the same time create history - an open meeting on the Exe.

The event is to be shared with the Devon Yawls and weather permitting will be sailed out at sea over Olympic courses. Boats will be dry sailed and can be launched from the club. A prerequisite is a good launching trolley (pneumatic tyres) as the launching hard can be soft in places. A good length of rope to recover boats from the shallows is also essential.

Details will be sent out in the new year, but if you require further information, phone Andrew McAusland on 01395 272845 evening or 276458 day.

SYC v. SYC (Isle of Wight)

The weekend of 8/9 September saw the return of our friends from Seaview YC to Salcombe for the biannual team race.

Two years ago, Seaview luckily beat a strong SYC team in their Mermaids and came to Salcombe with an eight boat team looking to defend the Fowley Challenge Cup.

Did they really think they had a chance against Andrew Squire, Tim Law, Paul Ellis, Jon Alsop, Malcolm Squire, Simon Gibbens, Geof Gilson, Ian Stewart and chairman Barney Greenhill?

The answer after the first day was NO! They suffered a

near whitewash against a pumped up Salcombe side in a strong northerly breeze. They even resorted to hiring a professional helm (Martin Payne) to help their cause.

Saturday evening was spent, after the mandatory thirst- quencher in the Yacht Club, at the Winking Prawn Restaurant, North Sands. About 40 sailors and friends enjoyed an exceptional meal followed by a stand-up comedy act starring Payne, Reed and Greenhill. It proved that even if we lost the racing (ha!) we wouldn't lose the joke stakes.

Sunday morning with a few headaches finished the racing off with a comfortable win for SYC. Home advantage had come up trumps yet again. Prizegiving was held after lunch on the terrace on a delightful autumn afternoon (is there anywhere better?) when Barney received the clock and gave his normal amusing oration.

Weekends like this of course need a lot of helpers and generous Yawl owners. I would like to thank those owners who very kindly loaned their boats; these were Jim Stone, Mike Peake, David Howells, Sue O'Brien, Woody, Ian McCormick, Graham Murrell, Dave Gibbens and Roy Thompson. Without owners' generosity it would be impossible to arrange the team race. Also a big thank you to Wendy Palmerone, Sue Squire, Bernadette Law, Ann Woodward in the Watch House and Penny Reed, Kieran Squire, Tom O'Brien and others in the rescue boats. Apologies to anyone I've forgotten.

Malcolm Squire (Y145)

SYOA RACING RESULTS 2001 Season

Commissioning Race

1st	Solo 4124 Rosie	Chris Cleaves
2nd	Y16 Ariel	Geof Gilson & Jane Starey
3rd	Solo 4063 Bongo	Peter Sturgess

Spring Handicap

1st	Solo 4124 Rosie	Chris Cleaves
2nd	Y157 Tease	Paul & Susie Ellis
3rd	Y16 Ariel	Geof Gilson & Jane Starey

Early May Open

1st	Y160 Bluebird	Jon Alsop & Peter Howard
2nd	Y167 Shag	Simon Gibbens & Andrew Reed
3rd	Y157 Tease	Paul & Susie Ellis

Sailing Club Series

1st	166 Zenga	Andrew Squire & Mike O'Brien
2nd	Y170 Guillemot	Geof Gilson & Jane Starey
3rd	Y138 Betty	Barney & Juanita Greenhill

Late May Open - Red Fleet

1st	Y157 Tease	Paul & Susie Ellis
2nd	Y167 Shag	Simon Gibbens & Daniel Jacobs
3rd	Y168 Storm	Will Henderson & Tony Wakeling

Late May Open - Blue Fleet

1st	Y107 Foxy	Nick Walker & Maggie Hartley
2nd	Y16 Ariel	Clive & Daniel Jacobs
3rd	Y162 Willow	Roy & Charles Thompson

Summer Series

1st	Y157 Tease	Paul & Susie Ellis
2nd	Y170 Guillemot	Geof Gilson & Jane Starey
3rd	Y160 Bluebird	Jon Alsop & Peter Howard

Town Regatta - Red Fleet

1st	Y168 Storm	Will Henderson & various crew
2nd	Y170 Guillemot	Geof Gilson & Jane Starey
3rd	Y154 Olive Branch	Graham & Tessa Pike

Town Regatta - Blue Fleet

1st	Y78 Topaz	Jonathan & Helen Britton
2nd	Y105 Mandarin	Martin & Adam Brett
3rd	Y157 Tease	Paul & Susie Ellis

Yacht Club Regatta - Red Fleet

1st	Y168 Storm	Will Henderson & Tony Wakeling
2nd	Y167 Shag	Simon Gibbens & Andrew Reed
3rd	Y157 Tease	Paul & Susie Ellis

Yacht Club Regatta - Blue Fleet

1st	Y65 Avocet	Stephen Parker-Swift & Peter Hodges
2nd	Y69 Choski	Jesper & Harry Toft
3rd	Y17 Blinkie	John Gilliam & crew

August Open - Red Fleet

1st	Y107 Foxy	Nick Walker & Maggie Hartley
2nd	Y82 Jaydee	Charles Staniland & Tom Napper
3rd	Y162 Willow	Roy & Charles Thompson

Autumn Series

1st	Y160 Bluebird	Jon Alsop & Peter Howard
2nd	Y170 Guillemot	Geof Gilson & John Burn
3rd	Y168 Storm	Jim & Tristan Stone

PLAIN SAILING FOR YAWL GOLFERS

The Salcombe Yawl Golfing Society's annual championships were held this year on the 21st September at the Manor House Hotel, Moretonhampstead.

A quite exquisite sight greeted the early morning starters with beautiful autumn sunshine and a manor course in tip-top condition.

The first tee, as usual, resembled a condemned inner city playground: with old, creaking and rusty swings much in evidence. There were however a smattering of shiny new ones as well and these were most welcome.

The morning individual competition was won by 18 handicapper (no longer!) Toby Hodges. Congratulations Toby, fine pair of shoulders, show 'em orf, show 'em orf! Runner up was Dave Lees who also won the nearest the pin competition at the 3rd with a magnificent shot to 66cm. Only the mischievous among us would venture to ask Dave if he holed the putt? 3rd place went to Mike O'Brien who was also kind enough to sponsor the event. Malcolm the friendly Lion was 4th. The Long Driving event for the Payner Boomer Trophy was claimed comfortably by Seve Reed with 301 yards and the Mizzen Sail Trophy was appropriately won by sailmaker Jon Alsop.

The afternoon Greensomes competition for the Helm and Crew Cups was won by Peter Hodges and Stephen Parker Swift, 2nd Simon Gibbens and Andrew Reed, 3rd Paul Ellis and Toby Hodges, 4th Malcolm and Ian Squire, 5th Mike O'Brien and Andrew Squire, 6th Nick Walker and Richard Murray. The Best Lady score was won by Bernadette Law. It is also worth pointing out that Ollie Alsop won most promising new player, Sue O'Brien won the Ladies long drive with 200 yards and Dave Lees was awarded the Viking Trophy for services to marauders from the North, travelling South on false documentation.

The organisers would like to thank the Manor House Hotel, all the sponsors, and the course marshals Sue Squire and Wendy Palmerone for their generosity and hard work in making the day possible.

A wonderful evening of food, drink and merriment followed with Steve Womack, courtesy of Mike O'Brien, providing a hilarious blend of music and mirth with much audience participation. Thanks Mike and thanks Dave for doing the Master of Ceremonies with great aplomb.

That only leaves me to thank everyone who attended and report that next year's event will be booked for the Friday before late August Bank Holiday or a Friday in early September - whichever is deemed to be the most

popular and to wish everyone a happy golfing and Yawl repairing winter.

P.S. If you have Toby's Cup, which should have been presented to him for winning but was not returned on the day, please let him or the old feller have it.

Phil Holland (Y103)

AGM AFTERTHOUGHT

The 2001 Salcombe Yawl AGM was largely occupied with discussion on a proposition by Jeremy Hobbs which if it had been passed would undoubtedly have damaged the class. There is an old saying, *If it's not bust don't mend it*. The Salcombe Yawl Class is in a very healthy state, if the number of boats racing, both new and old, is anything to judge it by. There are also as many new boats on order as at any time in the class history. Clearly this will make it even harder to find a suitable and safe secure mooring. Surely the most important thing is to encourage as many boats as possible to arrive at the start line irrespective of where the Yawl has come from to get there. It is more important to encourage ownership than to introduce restrictions that will cause difficulties to some owners and deter some potential new owners and which will inevitably result in resale values falling.

The Salcombe Yawl is a traditional class with a very long history and all the time that I raced Y16 I considered myself very privileged to be the custodian of this boat that first raced in Salcombe in the year 1948. Of course in those days when Yawls were kept on moorings everybody rowed out to their Yawls in wooden rowing boats. No outboards and no dories for tenders and owners sailing their own boats and using cotton sails.

Times change and things move on and owners should be encouraged to keep their own boats wherever they are able to, to maintain them to the highest standard and to race, if that is their desire, as often as possible.

Please allow the class to continue to grow as it is and let's not introduce any new petty rules.

Geof Gilson (Y170)

THOUGHTS FROM A BLUE FLEET RACER

I have to be honest and say that in season 2001 we didn't cover ourselves with much glory on the racing front. True, of the older boats, we occasionally did all right and we worked out what our Blue Fleet pecking order should be! We needed a serious "Salcombe factor" to enable us to get close to the newer boats - and if we fitted the "auto jib-stick" it would certainly deprive the crew of using much hard acquired skill in setting and resetting the old trusty pole.

Wet and dry sailing, blue fleets and red fleets, fouled and anti-fouled bottoms - lots to think about and mull over in the coming weeks.

One of the highlights of the season was taking grandchildren Polly and Jack for a sail on a bright, breezy day during regatta week. Polly, aged two, thought the outing was great and didn't mind that the mouth of the estuary was "very wet and bumpy".

We were reminded of a sail some twenty-five years ago in Y92 when three adults and five children sailed to a beach, near Gara Rock, for a picnic tea. The highlight for our then four-year-old daughter was to see her uncle swim ashore from the anchored yawl with all, yes all, his clothes held above his head in her red plastic bucket!

Being lucky enough to own and sail a yawl is an enormous pleasure - and the fun for us is not only to be had in racing. We do prefer to have our boat on a mooring and couldn't contemplate starting our sail from Shadycombe car park. Certainly weed and slime has to be scrubbed off and the "dry-boats" with their shiny anti-foulless bottoms will, or should, go quicker - but we need some excuse for our often poor performance!

We hope the debate in the class on dry v. wet and the composition of the fleets will not become acrimonious - but, what the hell, we will try next year to have more picnics on distant beaches, maybe catch a mackerel and let the committee decide as to whether the auto jib-stick is an acceptable addition to the traditional Salcombe yawl.

Perhaps we should paint the hull a different colour for next year, perhaps a lighter main-sheet, perhaps both helm and crew should lose weight, perhaps ...

Martin Brett (Y105)



Discussions continued in the Red Fleet at the Windward Mark.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Anything printable to the Ed. please!!