

SYC Regatta Week

This year 40 Yawls came to the start line emphasising the current popularity of the class. There were three new boats, Y143 built by J. Stone for a new member (J. Smithers) Y144 built by M. Atfield for J. Alsop and Y145 designed by Phil Morrison and built by D. Gibbens for M. Squire. It was interesting to see how they all differed in appearance, so the new specification has not stifled experimentation.

Y141 (S. Gibbens) won the first race but after that it was a clean sweep for Y145 (M. Squire)

The best race was on the last day, Friday 11th when there was a SW force 3-4. The course set was Blackstone - Gerston - Blackstone - Crossways.

For the first half of the race Y144 had a comfortable lead with Y141 second and Y145 third. After Gerston, Y145 passed Y141 in the bag and the three boats were all in contention. Unfortunately Y141 broke its jib halliard off the ferry and had to retire. By then Y145 had caught up Y144 but some excellent close covering by Jon Alsop meant that Malcolm Squire could not overtake on the beat up to Blackstone. On the run down to Crossways Y145 did manage to slip past at the fuel barge and, by covering Y144 on the way back to the line, go on to win by about 45 seconds.

<u>Results</u>	Open cup	1. M. Squire Y145.	2. J. Alsop Y144.	3. S. Hitchen Y142.
	Paris Cup	P. Thorning Y93.		

AGM on 8th August

32 members and six associate members attended. Nick Rowell and Malcolm Squire were elected to the vacancies on the committee.

The constitutional change circulated in the agenda was passed unanimously. This means that any proposed change to the measurement rules must be notified to the whole membership one month prior to the general meeting and that it must secure a two thirds majority of those voting to succeed. In addition any such proposal shall be notified to the committee at least two months before the general meeting so that, if they consider it appropriate, the arguments for and against the proposal can be collected and circulated.

The proposals that forestays should be optional and the iron ballast keel should be weighed separately were passed by the necessary two thirds majority and are now incorporated in the specification.

Under "Any other business" Alec Stone raised the subject of brass keels and stated that he had fitted one to Y114. Some members were critical of the fact that he had raced a boat that was out of class without action from the committee. He subsequently withdrew from the Regatta. As there were a number of members who expressed a desire to see brass keels legalized, the committee will consider this and no doubt circulate details so that an informed vote can be taken at the next general meeting.

M. Honey brought up the question of whether seat side decks could replace the ordinary horizontal side decks which are required by the specification. Two boatbuilders stated that this change would in no way weaken the boat nor would it give any racing advantage. This was referred to the committee for consideration.

The Chairman announced that the Salcombe Yawl Class was now officially recognised and affiliated to the RYA. He went on to express his disappointment that there were a number of members who had failed to pay their dues despite three reminders. A motion was passed that subscriptions due on 1st May that had not been paid by 1st July would, in future, result in disqualification from racing until paid up.

The meeting fixed the subscription next year as: full members £10 and Associates £2.

LAKE BALA

Late June saw the annual convey of 6 Yawls heading for the inland championships in N. Wales.

In the Long distance handicap race on Saturday Scratch Hitchen (Y142) was the best Yawl in 5th position with all the yawls in the first 35 out of 120 starters.

In the three Sunday races - sailed in light flukey winds - local helm Bill Parker (Y92) set the pace to win the first race chased to the line by Barney Greenhill (Y138).

The second race saw the fleet stranded on the downwind mark and Mervyn Honey (Y134) found the way through to finish first.

In the final race it was on the third leg of the course that Honey split from the fleet to sail a long port tack the width of the lake to find the wind shift that was to prove a winner. This made Honey the overall winner to retain the "SILEDIA" trophy.

A good time was had by all and much interest is already being shown for the next year so why dont you take your Yawl and join the fun!

GOING DUTCH

At the end of July Alec and Kathy Stone took their Yawl to Holland for the Classic Wooden Boat Regatta at the invitation of the Amsterdam Y.C.

The fleet was divided up into 4 classes; they were in class 3 comprising dinghies and keel boats up to 20ft in length. Larger boats competed in other classes but all were classic wooden designs. Three races were sailed at Hellevoetsluis, a large inland sea, south of Rotterdam. On the last day the wind gradually increased until at the end of the 5 hour race it was blowing Force 8.

As well as winning their class, Alec and Kathy also won the cup for the best overall on corrected handicap. The trophy remains at Amsterdam Y.C. but they were presented with a replica to bring home. Well done!

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY OPEN MEETING ON 26th 27th and 28th

There were 34 entries for this series with a strong wind on the first day leading to 7 retiring but lighter winds on subsequent days. Y145 (M. Squire) again proved supreme winning 3 out of the 4 races and the crews race with Ian Squire helming. The last race was won by a newcomer to the fleet, John Smithers, helming his new boat Y143.

Results:-

1.	M. Squire	Y145	2 pts.
2.	S. Gibbens	Y141	7 pts.
3.	J. Alsop	Y144	12 pts.
4.	M. Payne	Y 91	16 pts.
5.	G. Murrell	Y105	20 pts.

A very well attended Cocktail Party was held on the Saturday night with the barrell of beer proving particularly popular. At the prize giving on the Monday evening, Tom Newberry won the Reg Phillips Trophy and Audrey Pettit was presented with a Yawl scarf in recognition of her work in organising the open meetings.

CLASS RULES:-

At a recent committee meeting it was resolved that the rules should be applied strictly and that no latitude will be extended in future to people who unintentionally step outside the specification. Therefore, if you plan to make a change to your boat, however trivial or innocent it may seem to you, please check first with our measurer, John Donovan (Tel. Kingsbridge 2342) so that conflicts and costly mistakes can be avoided. If you wish for a copy of the specification, it can be obtained from John by sending £1 to cover duplicating costs to him at 60, Saffron Park, Kingbridge.

GOLF DAY

Please will all golfers make a note in their diary that the Yawl Golf Day next year will be on Thursday June 14th.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Due to deteriorating health, John Barrett is having to relinquish this post and so the committee have co-opted Nick Walker to take over. His address and telephone number are given in the paragraph below.

IS THE FLEET GETTING TOO BIG?

The committee may have to consider whether it should divide up the Yawl fleet next year for the popular events such as the club regatta and the open meetings. This is partly because the harbour master has asked for talks about the numbers on the start line and partly because this year there were 41 entries for the Regatta.

There are many different options available. As soon as the maximum number of entries has been reached the list could be closed. Or the fleet could be divided up into 4 groups (as Merlin Rockets are) and each races all the other groups twice in regatta week. Or there could be an A and a B fleet with promotion/relegation at the interface. Another suggestion is that there could be a B fleet featuring older boats or smaller mainsails.

If you have any comments on these ideas or alternative views of your own please write or telephone our new secretary Nick Walker, "Fairwinds", Higher Warren Road, Kingsbridge Devon. Tel:- 0548 2812.

WEIGHING BOATS.

The measurer has now obtained a reconditioned suspension scale suitable for weighing yawls. The committee are therefore formulating plans to weigh a selection of boats from the racing fleet next season.

FOR SALE

Topaz (Y78) in excellent racing condition (finished 2nd in May Open Meeting)
Built by D. Gibbens. Two suits of sails and cover. No trailer £5,500 ONO.
M. Squire - Tel. Salcombe 3681.