

NEWPORT USKMOUTH SAILING CLUB



THE PENNANT



NOVEMBER 06

Another Season Has Come and Gone

The river is empty, the boatyard is full and another season has gone. Most of us consider the season that is just behind us in the same way as at the end of the year, when people look back at the past year and wonder whether they have done the right things, made the right decisions etc. I hope that you can all say that you have had a good season; the beautiful weather we enjoyed this summer must have helped all those fair weather sailors (like me) and should have attracted even more of us on to the lovely muddy water of the Bristol Channel. Even so, it is still amazing to see that there are still so many boats that have not had a chance to have a dip in the briny deep this year. Let us try and do better next year!

This is the beginning of the **social calendar**. We had a most enjoyable Trafalgar Night, although we had hoped that more members would attend.

Ahead of us is the **Laying-up Supper, Carol Service, Children's Party, New Year's Eve, Ladies Night and Eve of Season Supper**. By that time the boats should be ready to go back in the water for another sailing season. Time will fly, it is as simple as that.

There is one aspect, which gives me reasons for worry. The response to requests for **working parties** is abysmal. The committee is completely behind me when I say that members ought to show more interest in helping to get the jobs done that need to

be done. After all, many hands make light work, but at the moment it's a case of few hands make hard work. Some of our club members put a great deal of time into the club – often several times the minimum required – and much appreciated but this can only be sustained if work put out to working parties is indeed taken care of efficiently. A new list of **outstanding jobs** has been put on the notice board; will you please all help to get these out of the way. Some of these jobs can either be done alone or working alongside others.

The **winter programme** will soon start with a "New Members Night" on Tuesday 14th November. After that we shall have a special evening every Tuesday in the month. **PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB ON TUESDAY EVENINGS !!!!**

We shall shortly be looking for some new additions to our Committee, including a new rear commodore. If you would like to contribute to the club or wish to nominate a club member, please let us have a short note with the relevant details.

I wish you all a very pleasant winter season.

Dirk Doorduyn

Commodore

Changes to HM Coastguard weather forecasts on VHF

HM Coastguard is proud to announce that it has enhanced its broadcasts of weather forecasts and navigational warnings, developed in full consultation with the Royal Yachting Association and Conference of Yacht Cruising Clubs representing recreational mariners. It will begin on 1 February 2007, in the following form:

- HMCG will broadcast forecasts three hourly, that is eight times a day and will complete most transmissions around the coast within one hour. Four broadcasts will provide new forecasts and four will be repeats.
- Two of the new forecasts will include gale warnings, the shipping forecast and in-shore waters forecast and outlook, as well as navigation warnings and the three day fisherman's forecast when applicable.
- The other two new forecasts will include inshore waters forecasts, a repeat of the previous 24 hour outlook and any gale warnings or strong wind warnings. Mariners will thus have new inshore waters forecasts every six hours.
- The repeats are for the benefit of mariners who missed the new forecast made three hours previously and will consist of the inshore waters forecasts and gale warnings and any new strong wind warnings.
- The full broadcasts will be based on 0710 and 1910 start times so as to catch navigators at the beginning of the sailing day or night passage. All broadcasts will be in local time to avoid confusion between UTC and BST.
- Warnings for all forecasts will be transmitted on VHF Ch 16, indicating the forecast on VHF Ch 23, 84 or 86 (perhaps 10), which will remain unchanged. Aerials will be combined for the warnings to avoid apparent repetition.

Warnings will be brief – “All stations – this is Stornoway Coastguard – for a weather information broadcast listen channel 83” - but made slowly. The forecast broadcasts will be made clearly and at dictation speed.

Power Station Security

We are still getting visitors arriving at the power station gate unannounced. Whilst most of the guards will try and contact the OOD to check a visitor, they are not obliged to do so

If you are expecting a visitor – please make sure the gate know they are coming, if not don't complain if they are not let in.

NUSC benefits considerably from the security offered by the Power Station.

Don't spoil it.

Pollution from Alpha Steel

I doubt if many of us have failed to notice the disgraceful pollution emitted by Alpha steel recently.

Over the last few months there has been a concerted effort to photograph the smog, with a record of the times and dates it occurred and to report it to the Council and Environment agency.

We live in hope that they will act on our behalf.

Membership News

We would like to welcome two new members; Vernon Higgs and Paul Relph.

Vernon has just bought TESS with his brother Martin and Paul is joint owner of the 3rd Westerly 25 in the club with our Bar Manager, Bryan Morgan.

Did You Know?

In a typical year the clubs shore based training programmes make approximately £2000 profit and result in 3 new members joining the club.

Racing Round Up

The club race series continue to play an important and enjoyable part of club life with as much time spent discussing the outcome, rules and tactics ashore, as spent competing on the water.

This year we have had another good season, helped by favourable tides we were able to offer a full programme of 27 races spread across the Knickertwister, Tide Race, Day Race, Cruiser Rally and Regatta. Once again the Knickertwister races proved very popular with 19 different boat entering at least one race, whilst well over 20 boats either competed in the Regatta racing or just joined in the "Parade of Sail" to mark the Transporter bridge's centenary.

As usual the actual racing was dominated by Archie in Sprack, who won both the Knickertwister and Tide Race series. However the scheme to adjust ratings throughout the season did make him work harder

Oh I Wish

Oh I wish I had a boat
 A sailing boat that will float
 Just for me and my family
 But it seems it is not to be
 Until I am least 23!
 The pennies I am saving hard
 Oh how I wish I had a credit card
 At the young age of eight
 I have a long time to wait
 This dream of mine to win a race
 To see the look on my granddad's face
 When he sees who put him in second place
 Me, his grandson the winner of the race

Lewis Thomas Age 8

than in previous years. Next year the intention is to continue adjusting the ratings to keep Archie on his toes and to reflect the actual performance of the boats on the water. This should make it easier for each crew to see how their performance changes during the year.

The Day race series was was not so popular. With only 3 entries, from 2 boats for all the 4 races, it looks like the members have effectively voted to drop these races from our calendar. So next year, unless I am deluged by demands to include them, we will not have a Day Race series.

It is also with some regret that we lost the Western Plate to Portishead. The disappointment of the loss however was at least partially offset, for those who competed, by extremely exhilarating day on what was our last race of the season. The race day saw Red Eye, White Satin and Aquila leaving

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Newport before dawn with Force 6 winds expected, on the day of the highest tides of the year. These conditions helped us to enjoy the 45mile round trip to Portishead, Barry and back home. Hopefully we will regain "our trophy" next year after Portishead have given it a polish.

For those of you boat owners, who have not joined in with any of the racing, why not aim to give it a try next year. The Knickertwister series is particularly enjoyable, with mid week start times at about 7pm, it is amazing how smug you can feel thinking that it is only a couple of hours since you were in work or reflecting on the fact that if you were paying £2000 - £3000 a year to keep your boat on a south coast marina, you would not be sailing that evening. Also, nothing improves your sailing quicker than joining in with a race. The boat handling and sail trimming skills you learn trying to beat against a foul tide to the sewer buoy may just make the difference one day when

your engine fails on a lee shore. The shouting and swearing at the start is not personal. The healthy discussions on the racing rules and the ratings in the bar and on the patio afterwards help to round off an entertaining experience.

For the non boat owners who do not race – we need you. On a number of occasions this year we had boats being raced single handed and others left on their moorings because of a lack of crew. No matter what your experience or your preference come and give it try, on some boats you will work hard all the way round the course, on others drinks are served to celebrate the rounding of a mark and it is not unknown for three course meals to be served during the race. If you want to race – turn up an hour or so before the start and say hello to the collection of individuals arguing about the course in the club house.

Andrew Preece

Winter Programme

Once again this year we have a Winter social programme planned for the second Tuesday of each month. There was/is (depends on when this was posted) a new members evening on Tuesday 14th November and Trevor Auld, the Harbour Master will be giving a talk on 12th December.

Look out for notices in the club for more details. Or contact the Rear Commodore, Alex Liberson

The Laying Up Supper – Return of Trophies

Just in case you didn't know the Laying Up Supper is on Saturday the 18th of November.

As usual, we are still missing a few trophies. If you won one last year and have not returned it yet, please give it a clean and bring it back to the club.

Comments on this issue, or contributions for future issues of the Pennant can be made in person to the Editor, Andrew Preece, sent by post to the club, or by email to aquila@nusc.co.uk.