

NEWPORT USKMOUTH SAILING CLUB



THE PENNANT



JANUARY 07

The Commodore's Address

May I first take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

We must be halfway through the winter season by now, with little activity in the boat yard due to the weather. So far we have had quite a good winter season. The social functions have been well attended and enjoyable. In December we had a great evening with the Silver band, the kids had a wonderful time with Father Christmas and the New Year's Eve party was a great success.

Next month we can start looking forward to the forthcoming spring, with our annual mooring meeting just around the corner (7/2) and preparations already being made for the A.G.M. (21/2). It is time therefore to get your nominations in and finish any outstanding work that needs doing, although by the time this goes to print, it may already be too late for that. We are finding it increasingly difficult to get tasks done as members fail to turn up to work parties. This is a problem that needs to be addressed if we want to continue to depend on manpower from within the club to get work done. Therefore please use your skills and energy to help the club to complete the outstanding jobs. You will find details of any remaining tasks on the notice board.

Plans for a new sailing season are now well in hand. We are all looking forward to another season of exciting races, interesting and challenging cruises and hopefully some good and well-attended club events such as the Cruiser Rally in May and the Regatta in September.

During these last few months we have had an entertaining social programme and the Winter Programme is coming along nicely. We continue to have full classes in our training programmes, which is no doubt largely due to the

professionalism of our excellent training officers.

There are of course a number of people who regularly put themselves out to take care of jobs that need doing to keep the club functioning the way it does. On behalf of the club, I want to thank them most heartily for all their efforts. I also want to thank the General Committee for the continued assistance and co-operation that I have had from them during my tenure of office, which is now rapidly drawing to a close.

Finally may I wish you all the very best this year and especially a good and very enjoyable sailing season.

Dirk Doorduyn

Commodore

Winter Programme

The Newport Ship

Tuesday 13 Feb 2007

Charles Ferris

Quiz night

Tuesday 13 March

Talk starts at 9:00 PM

AGM

Do you think the committee is useless or can you think of ways to improve the club?

If the answer is yes, then now is the time to offer your suggestions or volunteer to take a more active role in the running of the club. The 2007 AGM will take place on Wednesday 21 February at the club. For those of you who have not attended an AGM, it is the one opportunity during the year that the membership gets to elect the club's officers and general committee members.

At present we have vacancies for the Sailing/Dinghy Secretary, Social Secretary, Training Officer and for 3 general committee members. However, nominations are not limited to those posts with vacancies, with the exception of the Commodore all other flag officers, club officers and committee posts are open for election each year. So, if you want to help ensure that NUSC continues to be the best club in the channel then put your name forward for election. Alternatively, if you know of another member who you think would do a good job but is too modest to step forward have a word with him or her, get them drunk and encourage them to sign up. A list of the Committee member posts open for election is shown below.

President, Vice Presidents, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Secretary, Moorings Officer, Cruiser Captain, Treasurer, Training Officer, Membership Secretary, Houses and Estates, Bosun, Sailing/Dinghy Secretary, Social Secretary, Bar Manager, General Members (3)

All nominations for Officers and Committee members are to be sent to the secretary a minimum of 7 days before the AGM (i.e. Tuesday 13 February).

Another purpose of the AGM is to allow the club to update and change its rules. The majority of proposed rule changes over the years tend to originate from the

committee; this does not however have to be the case. Any club member is allowed to propose a rule change. The only requirement is that the proposal is seconded by another member and submitted in writing to the secretary at least 28 days before the AGM. (Tuesday 23rd January).

Over the last year there have been a number of grumbles about the decision to start charging storage for boats not launched in a 3-year period. This rule was introduced (by the club at the 2005 AGM) to prevent the club being used as a dump for old boats – there is however a view that this could penalise keen members who are just a little bit behind on their maintenance programmes. If you can think of better way of ensuring that the club can continue to support our objectives of promoting boating, seamanship and the sport of sailing – now is your chance to propose some alternative rules.

Other issues. The AGM is large meeting, it is therefore necessary that it is controlled and sticks to a predefined agenda. The commodore is therefore obliged to be very strict when chairing the meeting. We cannot allow members to introduce new items for discussion on the night. Consequently whilst any member is free to address the AGM on any topic of relevance to the club, notification must be given to the secretary of the intention to do so 28 days before.

Membership News

We would like to welcome another new member to the club. Paul Chen took the Day Skipper course last year and enjoyed the club so much he has chosen to join.

Congratulations to Derek Robinson on his recent marriage. Congratulations also to and to Julie and Simon Powell-Jones on the purchase of their new boat "Jessica" a MacGreggor 26 "

Orphaned Tenders

One question that I regularly get asked by new boat owners in the club is, "Are there any old tenders available to buy?" Despite the fact that a quick look around the compound reveals that, whilst there appears to be many abandoned tenders around, attempts to buy these once loved boats usually fails. The main reasons they fail is that the owners have either died, left the club or just forgotten that they owned the boat in the first place.

This year we have come up with a cunning plan to a) produce a source of cheap tenders to members, b) find caring homes for these orphaned vessels and c) clear up the compound. All apparently abandoned tenders will be moved to an area between the clubhouse and the river pontoon. If after 6 months they have not been claimed and removed back to the compound they will be auctioned by the club and sold to the highest bidder. All proceeds will be used to offset the storage costs.

If you are worried that this may happen to your own boat – make sure that it is clearly marked with your boats name and cannot be easily confused with an unloved wreck. If on the other hand, this article has reminded you that you have a tender that you no longer require, now is the time to sell. The market will soon be saturated with cheap boats. I have names of buyers waiting to give you cash for your tender.

Mooring Meeting

The Annual Mooring Meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 February. If you require a new mooring for the 2007 season, wish to retain your existing mooring or move to a better location it is essential that you attend this meeting.

Each year, as a result of the moorings owner's being away or choosing not to launch, a number of moorings become available for loan. These are usually also allocated at the mooring meeting – there is however a charge for loan moorings.

The rules for mooring allocation are quite simple.

- Only boat owning members may bid for a mooring.
- Vacant moorings are re-allocated on a strict seniority basis.
- Seniority is only earned by full / boat owning members.

Wanted - New Club Burgees

We have now exhausted the supply of Club Burgees. I have received a quote of over £20 each for getting new ones made up – this seemed a bit expensive. Are you able to while away some winter hours at sewing machine. If so this is another good way to complete your work hours and help promote the club.

Subscriptions

The annual subscriptions for club membership are due at the end of February. Details will be sent out with the calling notice for the AGM during early February, and as with previous years you will be able to make your payment at the AGM.

This year I will again include your personal membership details (address, partners name, email, phone number, boat name, etc) with your renewal note. Please check these details and make any necessary corrections to the renewal note and return it (even if no changes are required to your renewal note) with your payment.

If you don't intend renewing your membership during 2007, please let me know and return your club keys. They are of no use to you once you have left. The power station keys and compound gate keys can be easily deactivated and there is £5 refund for each club, security gate and outboard shed key returned.

NUSC MOORING MONITORING

Over recent sailing seasons there has been a deterioration in the condition of some of our mooring. In the river there are a number of anchors sticking out of the riverbed, a boat drying out over one of these could have disastrous results. Some moorings have come apart completely with the ropes disappearing under the mud. Others have worn shackles, and buoys which are not marked with the mooring number. Last year we had a few moorings fail resulting in boats moving out their mud bed, and in some instances rubbing up against neighbouring boats. It is important that the NUSC moorings are regularly maintained and are fit for purpose. The last thing we want is our insurance premiums loaded because of the state of our moorings.

Before the start of the sailing season boat owners must check that their mooring is in good condition and complies with the club's

WARNING

When checking your mooring - remember the mud is treacherous; wallowing in it for even a short period will sap your strength and could be fatal. Never go down on the river bed alone.

requirements. Briefly the four anchors, anchor ropes and connecting shackles are in good condition and buried below the riverbed. The shackles and thimbles at the fore and aft mooring bridles must be in good condition. Finally the tails coming onto the boat's bow and stern cleats must be joined with a buoyed line. The buoy marked with the mooring number. Moorings using the two-buoy system must be inspected in a similar manner. Members should also visually check the neighbouring moorings since a failure here will have an impact on your boat. Any mooring considered unsafe should be reported to the Mooring Officer or a Flag

Officer.

Remember –

The club will refuse to launch a boat if the mooring is known to be in poor condition.

Jim Warrington

Mooring Officer

Work Hours

The work hour book will be closed at the end of January. If you have not done your hours or recorded your hours now is the time to act. Once the subscription notes and work hour charge have been sent out, you will need to see one of the flag officers if you want the charges changed – **NOT the MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** who has no means of verifying your claims.

If you have struggled to complete your work hours this year at work parties, is there another way you can help? For example, it takes approximately 3 hours to print and post each edition of the Pennant, 30 minutes to send the

OOD reminders out each month and there is a list of many other jobs that need doing posted on the notice boards in the club.

Are there any jobs that you could do?

We are planning to issue a set of club rules to all members this year. Do you have access to a binding machine? Is this a task you could take on? If so let one of the flag officers know.

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.