



WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB

MAINSHEET

2012/13 WINTER EDITION

Editor: Roy Crookes

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editor's note:

I would like to extend my own warm seasonal greetings to all club members, with this winter edition of *Mainsheet*. As usual we have the regular features of membership renewal and reports of club business and news, epic sea voyages to warmer climes, our nature feature and next year's calendar of events. We also have the award of trophies and a mystery of the seas 140 years on, this month!

Commodores Christmas Message

Winter is upon us again and the summer seemed to have passed by in a howling gale and lots of wet weather - we did have some sunshine didn't we?

We have had another good year in the club with more people gradually coming onboard to help. We still have a lot of work to do and are aware that the dinghy racing fleet is

(most of it) sitting idle in the car park all season. Clearly the social sails organised during the summer were great fun and very successful, we'll be looking to have a few more of those but we do need people to help organise and run them. We will be trying to find ways to get members out on the water and to encourage people to take part in the racing.

A big thanks to my Committee (all of you) and my fellow Flag Officers for all the support and encouragement you've given me. I have been Commodore for two years now and would be quite happy not to stand again in March. However, being a woman.... I could change my mind! All Flag Officers have to be elected each year so if you'd like to be more involved with the club, either on General Committee or as an Officer, then please fill out a slip or talk to us - more about the AGM and election procedure in this edition of *Mainsheet* and on the website.

The social scene is strong with Gary Jobber at the helm of the House Committee. A big thank you to him and wonderful Wendy for the time and effort they put in. Watch out for the 'Bin Bag Ball' this New Year's Eve (optional 'bin bag' fancy dress) - sort of tells you a lot about our Rear Commodore but he'll fill you in with the social stuff.

I've tried to get us more involved with other clubs in the area and had a good response to the Wallet Ball AGM and Commodores Reception held in November with representatives from seven clubs attending. We have now handed over the responsibility of the Wallet Ball and Wallet Shield Race to Tollesbury Cruising Club for 2013 - phew! West Mersea Yacht Club and Colne Yacht Club are keen to get us involved with some cruiser racing later next year which is great, more details to follow.

Our Annual Dinner was attended by just over 80 members this year; we had a wonderful meal provided by Bespoke Caterers and the whole event was organised by the House Committee.

My speech this year focused on one essential ingredient to Wivenhoe Sailing Club WD40! You should know that I have a hero - the handbag sized WD40! It's like Lynx for women! I felt a little bit of internet research about this amazing product wouldn't hurt so..... Invented by Norman Larsen in San Diego, 1953, founder of the Rocket Chemical Company. He had an insatiable desire to create things that would help make life easier for people. This 'Water Displacement' formula was perfected on his 40th attempt! Originally it was used to prevent corrosion in nuclear missiles - just think what it could do for you? He also invented a very successful formula for hand cream, hair restorer and 'Green Giant Udder Ointment' for chaffed cow udders! You should know, (particularly the ladies), that men folk can't resist helping you when they see your little can! They come rushing over to admire it but will then produce a bigger one to 'do the job properly!' And that Ladies, is how you get the work done!

Finally a reminder that this is a volunteers' club run by the members - that's you and me! A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered this year for safety boat or officer of the day duties, scrubbing the hard, bar duty, helping out in the galley, hard working parties, fixing plumbing to name a few. If you think you can give a bit more of your time and would like to be more involved please speak to one of the Flag Officers or me and we'll point you in the right direction.

I'd like to wish you all a cosy and happy Christmas - who knows, it may even be a white one! No doubt I'll see you over the festive period for a glass or three.

Nikki Robinson Commodore

profile: Fred Gibby

Born in Colchester, Fred who has become a familiar figure in recent years with his wife Kerry and daughter Emma at WSC, moved

to Wivenhoe with his parents in 1985. He has developed a passion for sailing and its associated activities since his first introduction to the club in 2008 and subsequently joining in 2009. Shore-based RYA courses at the Nottage for Day Skipper and Radio operation in 2010/11 and level 1 and 2 dinghy sailing at Brightlingsea SC in 2011/12 prepared him for using his own boat, *Kalamaki*, a *Seal 22*, bought in 2010.



Since then Fred has gained experience on many short and extended voyages with seasoned sailors at the club. He went with Gary on *Ismael* to Pin Mill, to Bradwell (after the *Wallet Shield*), on the Ostend Rally and to the Isle of Sheppey. He has crewed for Ray on *Tambaroo* to the RHYC, with Bob on *Strider* in the *Gooseberry Pie*, with Bill on *Edith Kate* to Shotley and in this year's *Wallet Shield* with Nick on *French Herring*. He has now taken *Kalamaki* to Bradwell with his family and Heybridge in the highly successful 'sailing in company' club rallies. When possible he sails/races dinghies at the club or at BSC.

Fred is always ready to help around the club with practical projects ashore, like the tractor shed and boat and other maintenance, as well as afloat, with safety boats or Viking on open days, cadet nights and such. Kerry too, while less taken by the thrills of sailing, has put much of her spare time into helping provide the support for the social activities of the club. Emma is a member of both our and BSC cadets and is a sailing enthusiast in regattas, cruises and races and has taken RYA youth courses.

WS Club news

Now with the boats ashore we can, no doubt, look forward to some dryer weather. With the spring and early summer being so wet it must have been difficult for a capsized dinghy sailor to work out which way was up.

Unfortunately the Wallet Shield race was lost as there weren't the available boats necessary to exercise our usual tack-tick of cluttering up the river. Part of the reason for a lack of boats lay in a long distance Cruise-In-Company to Spain, undertaken by four of our boats, surprisingly as many as three of these decided to come back!

Towards the end of July the weather turned good for the Town Regatta with plenty of sunshine, a light sea breeze and a strong spring tide to carry the boats upstream.



ship-shape and Wivenhoe fashion

We had a very successful hard working party in October which saw numerous maintenance tasks completed including: painting, weeding, cleaning and a general clear out.

John Austin again successfully delivered St. Nicholas to Wivenhoe Quay Ferry Pontoon

in what is becoming St. Nic's preferred means of transport.

The Lifting Group recovered 34 boats from the Colne and were all finished by the end of November, quite an achievement considering the reduction in available space. As this year the area behind the start hut has been reserved for dinghies only.

WODs – The WOD Association is presently enjoying a resurgence of interest, as well as the seeing a good number sailing on a race day, there has also been significant progress made with restoring some of the boats, with some completed and others underway. Adding to this well attended periodic meetings and fundraising events; the WODs future is looking bright.

Have a good Christmas - Phil Thompson
Vice commodore

Spanish Armada:

The 11th July saw *Tara* and *Ishmael* set sail from Wivenhoe; *Edith Kate* was to follow a few days later. On board *Tara* with Steve was Solveig, Nikki and Alan. *Ishmael* was crewed by Tony and myself. After a brisk crossing of the Thames estuary and with the wind strengthening, we cleared North Foreland with sails well reefed. We pushed on past the Kent coast, witnessing an impressive lightning storm overnight. The next couple of days bought some challenging conditions with, what can only be described as, steady progress to windward. An overnight stop in Brighton gave both boats' crews a short break, before pressing on to Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight.

After an overnight stay, off Bembridge, we sailed along the Solent, passing through the Hurst Narrows, catching a brief glimpse of *Gipsy Moth IV*, as we cleared the narrows. A few hours later and we were in Poole harbour; by now we were a little behind schedule, so after a combined crew meal in Poole, we headed for home for a short break, leaving both boats in Alan's care. Nikki, Solveig and Tony said their goodbyes and, a day or so later, Steve and I were heading back to the south coast to Poole Harbour Yacht Club, where we

carried out a few repairs and obtained the latest weather forecast.

Surface pressure charts showed an area of high pressure building over the Bay of Biscay. Mike had managed to get off work a day or so earlier than planned, so no sooner had Mike stepped aboard *Ishmael* and we were on our way to Plymouth. An overnight passage, passing Portland Bill several miles offshore, to clear the tidal race, took us then into Lyme Bay. The passage across Lyme Bay was calm and uneventful, apart from the usual array of pot markers! A few hours later and Start Point became visible and later that afternoon we arrived in Plymouth Sound. We had arranged to meet *Tara* and *Edith Kate* at Queen Anne's Battery. By early evening all 3 boats were safely in harbour. Bruce and Andrew arrived a short while later to complete *Ishmael* and *Edith Kate's* crews. Steve's son, Tristan arrived a bit later to complete *Tara's* crew. With all boats properly provisioned and checked and the promise of settled weather in the Bay, we set sail for Corruna, northern Spain. We shaped *Ishmael's* course to pass west of Ushant, off the French coast and we stayed in contact with *Tara* and *Edith Kate* by VHF, plotting our respective positions as we progressed out into the Bay and off the continental shelf..... Gary Jobber.

and in the antipodes

We were fortunate enough to spend some time down-under this autumn or spring as it was there – though the sleigh bells were already ringing in the stores!



on Pitwater approaching lion island

I visited Avalon sailing club just north of Sydney and went out on Pitwater. Later, walking round the headland towards Bondi we came across a rack of dinghies hauled up on the beach on timber lathes in the bay.



Stacking dinghies down-under!

In Hobart we also came across a replica of the *Lady Nelson* which used to transport settlers and prisoners from the mainland to Tasmania. Later we crossed the Bass Strait the other way, to Melbourne by ferry but without the legendary storms!



company for the Lord Nelson in Hobart

not so far away



A late November incident reported in the Essex County Standard (above) between a cargo vessel and boats moored at the jetty at Brightlingsea, caused considerable damage. The collision which damaged a sizeable length of pontoon and supporting structure, as shown above, was reported to have occurred in foggy conditions.

Mainteaser

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| | 18 | | | | | | | | | |

clues across:

- 2 mad about one of your five-a-day? (7)
- 6 a maxim written on your cap (5)
- 8 snake in the grass, don't count on it (5)
- 9 rope, sounds more like a sail (5)
- 10 uptight, going to windward? (5-6)
- 12 turn on the power (8)
- 14 not at the front of the boat (3)
- 18 & 16 vantage points *up the pole* (5, 5)

clues down:

- 1 battery units charging? (4)
- 2 adds tension to 5 down (6,5)
- 3 science of sailing from A to B (10)
- 4 tiny tots but not of rum (4)
- 5 brace, sounds more like a cover (6)
- 7 before or after shock? (6)
- 10 fixing for 9 across (5)
- 11 better in a stew than the loo? (5)
- 13 sunrise compass point (4)
- 15 Jack's a sailor, thanks (3)
- 17 alien on a bike? (2)

(solution page 17)

Wivenhoe Sailing Club

Minutes of 86th Annual General Meeting. Friday 9th March 2012, at the Clubhouse.

The meeting was called to order at 19.30, the **President** Tony Higbee in the Chair.

Present were the Club Officers and some 60 members. The president welcomed everyone to this 86th AGM in our 87th year.

(1) Apologies were received from:

Richard and Libby Barnard, Jack Reddish, Gerry Poulson, Mike and Liz Taylor-Jones, Ann Hunter, Mike and Carole Mitchell, Eric Strudwick, Midge Hetherington, Brian and Jan Sinclair, Jo Hunter, Ivan Frost, John Austin, Arnold and Margaret Handley, Tony Frostick.

(2) Minutes of the 85th AGM, having been already approved by the general committee and circulated to the membership were adopted.

(3) Commodore's report.

Nikki Robinson commended the Annual Report, of which copies had been circulated. She said it had been a great year and much enjoyed. Long-held plans had been realised over the year, and as a result we have better facilities and better access for all. As activity increases, it is a challenge to improve our storage of boats and gear. The work continues to be done by volunteers who offer a skilled, expert and safe service to members. Our Open Day welcomed more visitors than ever, support for racing has increased, and we continue to celebrate with plenty of good food. The club had stepped up to organise the Wallet Ball which had been a great success. One aim for the coming year is to have more 'social sailing', to include more members and to get more boats wet! In conclusion she said "The club has been part of my life since I was a child - part of the family. I am grateful for the opportunities it has given me, and I thank you for all the support you have given me as your Commodore". The President said it had been a "cracking year" and thanked the Commodore who had put "heart and soul" into the job. He moved the adoption of the Annual Report; all were in favour and showed their appreciation.

(4) Treasurer's report. Guy Ward drew attention to the accounts on the back page of the Annual Report. He said that it had been a better year than expected, even though income had declined. Bar sales were down as a result of fluctuations in private events early in the year. We continue to aim for 30% profit on bar sales. Dinghy storage fees were down as a result of planned changes in policy. Capital expenditure of £15878 has resulted in great improvements to our facilities. The tractor shed cost of £7627 represents excellent value for money. Our deposits of cash at the bank have gone down by £6000, but the club continues to be well placed to face the future. Jane Valentine asked about cleaning costs, which appear to be somewhat reduced as materials have been purchased from the 'House' budget. The item for 'security' costs has increased as a result of additional work done to our security system. Guy thanked the Indoor Bowls group who have contributed £110 to club funds over the year. He also thanked Ann Hunter who had stepped in at short notice to audit the accounts. Ian Hunter proposed adoption of the accounts and all were in favour.

(5) Election of Officers.

The president expressed his thanks to retiring committee members Peter Cobbold and Alan Tyne for their long service to the committee, and presented them with engraved 'Bosun's whistles' as a token of the club's appreciation.

The Secretary explained that all officers are elected annually. All the nominations had been properly made, and there was one nomination for each of the following posts, being:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Commodore - | Nikki Robinson |
| Rear Commodore - | Gary Jobber |
| Vice Commodore - | Phil Thompson |
| Treasurer- | Guy Ward |
| Secretary - | Eric Strudwick |
| Membership Secretary – | Midge Hetherington |

Stuart Bannerman raised a point of order concerning the process for the nomination of officers. The Commodore said that this had all been properly done and minuted. It was noted that the AGM notice sent to every member set out clearly the process for all nominations. It was agreed that suggestions raised in discussion, and any proposed constitutional amendments would be considered by the Committee in due course. The meeting was asked to take the nominations en bloc, and they were affirmed with a show of hands.

It was noted that George Brown had withdrawn his nomination for Sailing Secretary as his work will be taking him away from the area. There is thus a vacancy, which the committee will seek to fill by co-option.

(6) Election of General Committee. The Secretary explained that committee members are elected for two years, there being between eight and ten. Those elected in 2010, and remaining for another year are Bruce Anderson, John Ashworth, Naomi Cunliffe, Rob Gordon, Ray Meddis, Andrew Raven, Chris Smith.

Roy Crookes had been nominated for one vacancy on the committee, and was duly elected by a show of hands. There are thus 8 general committee members.

(7) Auditor

Guy proposed that if she was willing to stand, Ann Hunter be nominated as auditor. This was approved by all.

(8) Any Other Business.

Tim Denham read from the 1926 minutes of the club - with a balance at the year-end of 9s 11d, it had been agreed that the club had been a success, and should continue! A stopwatch competition was announced (the winner of the watch being the one who correctly guessed the elapsed time when the box containing it was finally unlocked); also a 'Smoking Concert'. There had been a debate about Racing on Sundays.

Ian Valentine said that as a new member he had been greatly appreciative of all the work done in running the club by the committee and others, and the warm and friendly welcome to newcomers and visitors.

In Conclusion, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close at 20.30. All repaired to the lower deck for a supper of sausage and mash, and fruit pie and custard, all prepared and served by the cadets.

(Approved by the committee and signed by the Commodore)

Signed.....*Nikki Robinson*..... Date....April 6th 2012.....

Wivenhoe Sailing Club



Walter Radcliffe Way
Wivenhoe
Essex
CO7 9WS
Tel. 01206 822132

Membership Renewal 2013

Dear Member, December 2012

After careful consideration the General Committee has decided to increase the membership subscriptions for 2013.

Annual membership fees are due on 1st January 2013. Please pay promptly. As an incentive to get your cheque to me as soon as possible, you will receive a discount if your payment reaches me by the end of January. If you decide not to renew, it would be helpful if you could let me know so that I don't bother you with unnecessary reminders.

You will appreciate that it is important to keep records up to date so could you please complete the attached form and return it with your payment. During the year, if you move house or your circumstances change then please let me know as soon as possible. Our constitution requires that we keep a list of the names and addresses of current members in the clubhouse.

What makes WSC special is that it is run by the members for the members, and to keep this up we need everyone to help in whatever way they can. Can I therefore

please ask you that you sign up to help with the bar, in the galley, in the rescue boat, as a race officer, or in any other way that will assist club activities.

Email is by far the cheapest way of communicating with members. If you are happy to receive WSC communications and newsletters by email, please enter your current email address(es) on the form. For family memberships you might find it helpful to let me have email address for both partners to ensure that you know what is going on.

Cadet membership is managed by the Cadet leader, Steve Hart, who should be contacted direct at the same address as above but email:

hartcraft@hotmail.com.uk

Thank you for your co-operation, and good sailing in 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Midge Hetherington

Membership Secretary.

01206 825639

midgehetherington@gmail.com

Membership Subscriptions 2013

Family
Single Person
Young Adult (18–25 years)

Before end of Jan

£75.00
£60.00
£22.00

After February 1st.

£85.00
£70.00
£27.00

WSC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2013

Family name: Title: Forename(s):

Tel:

Email address:

Additional Email address:

I would like my mail addressed as follows:

NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....

Membership: Family Adult

Young Adult

Payment enclosed £

Cheques made payable to Wivenhoe Sailing Club

Please complete and send with payment to;

Midge Hetherington
Brown Oaks

Alresford Road

Wivenhoe CO7 9JX

(or to the Clubhouse)

I would like to volunteer for the following duties;

(Please tick at least one.)

Bar duty: Race Officer: Rescue Boat:

Help in Galley: Gardening: DIY:

Anything else?

(For Race Officer and Rescue Boat please indicate your experience/ qualifications. The club may be able to arrange/ provide training. Please indicate if you would be interested in this.

Training can also be provided for helping behind the bar.)

For family members:-

Partner's name:

Children's names and ages (if under 18 yrs.)

.....

**Please complete and detach this page
and return it to Midge Hetherington
Wivenhoe Sailing Club.**

Calendar of events 2012/2013

| date | month | day | HW | start | Event |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| 16 | December | Sun | | | Children's' Christmas Party 2012 |
| 16 | December | Sun | | | Mince Pies & Mulled Wine |
| 21 | December | Fri | | | Christmas Gathering |
| 30 | December | Sun | 13:22 | 11:30 | Row and Ramble to Anchor |
| 31 | December | Mon | | 20:00 | New Years Eve Party & Buffet |
| 2013 | | | | | |
| 11 | January | Fri | | 20:00 | Cheese & Wine Tasting Evening |
| 26 | January | Sat | | 19:00 | Burns Night |
| 16 | February | Sat | | 19:30 | WOD Association Party - details to follow |
| 17 | February | Sun | | 10:00 | Nature Walk & Sunday Lunch |
| 22 | February | Fri | | 19:30 | General Boat Owners & Lifting Meeting |
| 2 | March | Sat | | | Wallet Ball at Benton Hall Golf Club |
| 8 | March | Fri | | 19:30 | Supper cooked by Cadets - after AGM |
| 15 | March | Fri | | 19:30 | Safety Boat Theory |
| 16 | March | Sat | | | Safety Boat Practical |
| 23 | March | Sat | 09:01 | 09:30 | Spring Hard Working Party |
| 30 | March | Sat | | 19:30 | WOD Association AGM & Dinner |
| 7 | April | Sun | 10:56 | 09:30 | Glozier Fitting Out Race |
| 7 | April | Sun | | 12:30 | Fitting Out Lunch |
| 12 | April | Fri | | 20:00 | Beer & Band Night |
| 14 | April | Sun | 15:29 | 14:00 | Sainty Memorial Cup |
| 26 | April | Fri | | 19:30 | Fish & Chips & Quiz Night |
| 3 | May | Fri | 19:28 | 18:00 | Evening Pursuit 1 |
| 3 | May | Fri | | 19:30 | Beer, Band & Curry Night (BBC1) |
| 12 | May | Sun | 14:30 | 13:00 | Can Race |
| 12 | May | Sun | | 12:30 | Sunday Lunch |
| 20 | May | Mon | 20:46 | 19:15 | Evening Pursuit 2 |
| 26 | May | Sun | 13:52 | 12:00 | Stuart Pawsey Cup / Ladies Race |
| 26 | May | Sun | | | WRYO Spring Rally Weekend |
| 27 | May | Mon | 14:40 | 13:00 | Bank Holiday Cup |
| 1 | June | Sat | 06:42 | | WSC Cruise In Company |
| 2 | June | Sun | 07:47 | | WSC Cruise & Blackwater Race |
| 9 | June | Sun | 13:31 | 12:00 | May Mug/Sykes 1/Scaly Capstan |
| 15 | June | Sat | 17:15 | | WSC Dinghy Regatta |
| 15 | June | Sat | | 18:30 | WSC Regatta Party with Live Band |
| 18 | June | Tue | 20:02 | 18:30 | Evening Pursuit 3 |
| 22 | June | Sat | 11:51 | | WRYO Gooseberry Pie Weekend |
| 23 | June | Sun | 12:45 | 11:30 | Upstream Race |
| 29 | June | Sat | 17:39 | | Rowhedge Regatta |
| 30 | June | Sun | | 12:30 | Sunday Lunch |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----|-------|-------|---|
| 2 | July | Tue | | | Evening Pursuit 4 |
| 6 | July | Sat | 11:49 | | WSC Cruise to Bradwell |
| 7 | July | Sun | 12:31 | | WSC Cruise to Bradwell |
| 13 | July | Sat | 16:10 | | Wivenhoe Town Regatta |
| 14 | July | Sun | | 12:30 | Sunday Buffet Lunch |
| 18 | July | Thu | 20:39 | 19:00 | Evening Pursuit 5 |
| 21 | July | Sun | 11:33 | 10:00 | May Mug/Sykes 3 / Bostock Cup |
| 28 | July | Sun | 17:08 | | Old Gaffers Visit WSC |
| 28 | July | Sun | 17:08 | 13:00 | Hog Roast & Visit from Old Gaffers Assoc. |
| 25 | August | Sun | 15:55 | 14:00 | May Mug/Sykes 4 / Farran Cup |
| 30 | August | Fri | 20:01 | 18:30 | Evening Pursuit 6 |
| 31 | August | Sat | 08:41 | | WSC Cruiser Regatta Weekend |
| 31 | August | Sat | | | Beach BBQ - Mersea Stone |
| 1 | September | Sun | 09:51 | | Mixed Relay Races - Dinghies & Cruisers |
| 7 | September | Sat | 14:09 | | Cadet Regatta |
| 7 | September | Sat | 14:09 | | WRYO Autumn Rally |
| 8 | September | Sun | 14:46 | 13:00 | Haward Cup |
| 14 | September | Sat | 07:23 | | WSC Cruise Weekend & Race with CYC |
| 21 | September | Sat | 14:08 | | WSC Open Day |
| 21 | September | Sat | 14:08 | 11:30 | WSC Open Day BBQ & Refreshments |
| 22 | September | Sun | 14:46 | 13:00 | May Mug/Sykes 5/Capriol Capstan |
| 27 | September | Fri | | 19:30 | Fish & Chips & Quiz Night |
| 6 | October | Sun | 13:44 | 12:00 | Rat Race |
| 11 | October | Fri | | 19:30 | Beer, Band & Curry Night (BBC2) |
| 20 | October | Sun | 13:43 | 12:00 | Glozier Laying Up Race |
| 20 | October | Sun | | 12:30 | Laying Up Lunch |
| 26 | October | Sat | | 09:30 | Autumn Hard Working Party |
| 3 | November | Sun | 11:37 | 10:00 | Winter Series 1 |
| 3 | November | Sun | | 12:00 | Bonfire & Hot Dogs |
| 8 | November | Fri | | 20:00 | Beer Tasting Evening |
| 17 | November | Sun | 11:40 | 10:00 | Winter Series 2 |
| 23 | November | Sat | | 18:30 | Annual Dinner & Prizegiving |
| 7 | December | Sat | | 18:30 | Cadet Supper & Prizegiving |
| 15 | December | Sun | 10:34 | 09:00 | Winter Series 3 |
| 15 | December | Sun | | 13:00 | Children's' Christmas Party |
| 20 | December | Fri | | 20:00 | Christmas Gathering & Prize Draw |
| 22 | December | Sun | 15:02 | 13:30 | Winter Series 4 |
| 22 | December | Sun | | 12:00 | Mince Pies & Mulled Wine |
| 31 | December | Tue | | 20:00 | New Years Eve Party & Buffet |

in and around the club house

Well folks as another year draws to a close it's time for a quick look back at what we've been up to in and around the club house over the last few months.

Sunday lunches are as popular as ever so you'll be pleased to know there's more planned in the New Year! Laying up lunch in conjunction with fund raising for the Russ Foundation was well supported by our club members; so much so, we had to seat you all upstairs. Thank you to all those of you who helped out with this event and the other lunches we've put on over the season. I hope to have a short report/talk from Will Harrigan on his trip to India which we'll try and publish in Spring *Mainsheet*. The quiz evenings we've run have been well attended so we'll be running these again, next year.

Hard-working party saw club members out in force. As ever, you did yourselves proud; we now have a new storage unit in the entrance lobby, thanks to Alan and very smart it looks too!

Louise organised a bonfire & hotdog event. Clearly you lot enjoy a good boat burning session, so we plan to burn more in the new year....just kidding!

A quick reminder of what's coming up over the next few weeks: bar training sessions (dates to be confirmed); we are keen to see

some new faces behind the bar. We can pair you up with some *old hands* for those of you that might be a bit unsure of what to do. Nenah Troendle is looking after our bar rota, so please help us to keep your bar running and sign up for a bar duty. The children's Christmas Party is on Sunday 16th Dec.- details on the notice board.

The 21st Dec. is our Christmas Gathering and *ugly mince pie* competition - don't forget they have to be edible!

Last but definitely not least, is our New Year's Eve Party & *bin-bag ball*. This is your chance to get creative - there will be prizes for the most creative/adventurous! Come and join in the fun; for details contact me at:

rearcommodorewsc@gmail.com or
01206824970

or Nikki at niknak68.robo@virgin.net.

Well I think that's just about it.....except to say did anyone hear the Commodores slip of the tongue at the annual dinner?

Wow, I know I won't forget it; still it's probably best not to mention it, you know how quickly these things get round the club!

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Gary Jobber, Rear commodore

Annual Dinner 2012

As has already been mentioned the Annual Dinner was well attended and enjoyed with the usual toasting and dancing as well as the presenting of trophies to the prize-winners.



some of the happy prizewinners

Phil Thompson and Wendy Jobber made a grand job of the official part of the evening keeping the mood of the event, with a good natured delivery of the many cups and other trophies to a wide spectrum of participants.

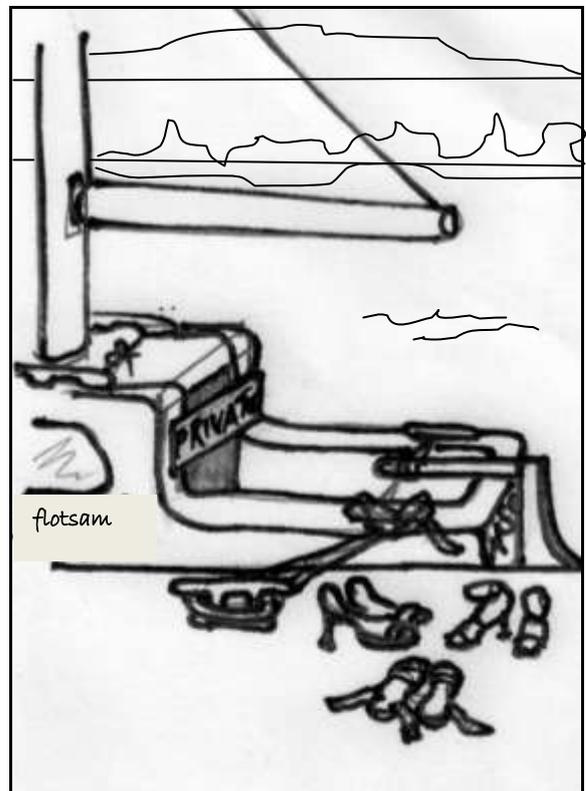
here come the girls!

The club dinner also served us a telling reminder, if we needed it, that WSC is not only a trailblazer but that it is in good company on the Colne. Apart from our own Commodore, Nikki Robinson, our kindred clubs, Colne Yacht Club has President, Jane Long and Commodore of Brightlingsea Sailing Club is Alice Davies. With Bruce Long and Ray Davies, both were guests at the annual dinner making responses to the toasts.



three degrees - to port?

And don't forget we've already had Pauline Hart as Commodore and past President. So they are not only fraternal but sister clubs!



Colne club Commodores get-together afloat

WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB PRIZEGIVING: 2012

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Bank Holiday Cup | Individual handicap race | Steve Hart | Bubbles | Nigel Cook | Peewit | George Brown | Duet |
| Black Buoy Rose Bowl | Ladies Rowing Race | not raced | | | | | |
| Bostock Cup * | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Race Cancelled Aug 2012 | | | | | |
| Cadet Cup | Best overall position All races count | Robert Demarini-Jones | Topaz | | | | |
| Cadet Nutcracker | True spirit of Cadets | William Fenton | | | | | |
| Can Race | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Bruce Anderson | Bubbles | Tom Taylor-Jones | RS400 | Nick Blower | Coretta |
| Capriol Capstan | Individual race for all WODs | Nick Blower | Coretta | Chris Osborn-Jones | Gosling | Nigel Cook | Peewit |
| Cousin Jack Tankard | Evening Series (Currently pursuit races) | Stan Fenton | Brunette | Nigel Cook | Peewit | Tom Taylor-Jones | RS400 |
| Farran Cup * | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Nigel Cook | Voyager | Nick Blower | Coretta | Steve Hart | Duet |
| Geof Bailey | WSC Regatta WOD Race | | | | | | |
| Glozier Fitting Out Cup * | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Bruce Anderson | Bubbles | Dave Garratt | Laser | Tom Taylor-Jones | RS400 |
| Glozier Larvine Up Cup * | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Steve Hart | Bubbles | Andrea Gibson | Heron | Gary Jobber | Ffarfetched |
| Halfway Cup * | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Tom Taylor-Jones | RS400 | Nick Blower | Coretta | Chris Osborn-Jones | Gosling |
| Haward Cup | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Steve Hart | Bubbles | Nigel Cook | Peewit | Nick Blower | Coretta |
| Ladies Race | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Not raced 2012 | | | | | |
| Laser Cup | Best overall position All races count | Dave Garratt | | Nigel Cook | | Bruce Anderson | |
| Long Distance | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Not raced 2012 | | | | | |
| May Mug | Handicap Series. All classes except WODs | Chris Osborn-Jones | Gosling | Tom Taylor-Jones | RS 400 | Steve Hart / Nigel Cook | (Joint 3rd) |
| Mik Goody Trophy | First WOD in the Rat Race | Nigel Cook | Peewit | | | | |
| Moss Cup | Series of 7 races marked with * All classes eligible | Steve Hart | | | | | |
| Rat Race | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Steve Hart | Bubbles | Chris Osborn-Jones | Gosling | Nigel Cook | Peewit |
| Sainty Memorial Cup * | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Stan Fenton | Brunette | Steve Hart | Bubbles | Nigel Cook | Peewit |
| Scaly Capstan | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Andrea Gibson | Heron | Nigel Cook | Peewit | Bruce Anderson | Topaz |
| Stuart Pawsey Cup* | Individual handicap race All classes eligible | Not raced 2012 | | | | | |
| Sykes Trophy | WOD Series | Nick Blower | Coretta | Nigel Cook | Peewit | Stan Fenton | Brunette |
| Thelma Worsp Plate | Best overall position. All races/classes count | Steve Hart | | | | | |
| Webster Cup | Upstream Race | Chris Osborn-Jones | Gosling | Bruce Anderson | Laser | Rob Gordon | Saganaut |
| Winter Series | General Handicap Series | Steve Hart | Bubbles | Nigel Cook | Peewit | Tom Taylor-Jones | RS 400 |
| WOD Cup | Best overall position All races count | Nigel Cook | Peewit | | | | |

CRUISERS

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Daily Mirror Trophy | Upstream Regatta Race First WSC | | |
| Guy Harding Trophy | First WSC Yacht - SC Regatta (Fast) | | |
| Harold Meadows Memorial | First WSC Yacht-Wallet Shield Race | Nick Baker | French Herring |
| Isaac Stokes | Yacht to cruise furthest | Mike Taylor-Jones | Tsunami |
| Phil Dan Trophy | Special Cruiser Award | | |
| Spinner Trophy | First WSC Yacht - SC Regatta (Slow) | | |

Now for our tradition of all of two years - the festive season ghost story- or not? – Ed.



from *the scream* by Edward Munch

The Marie Celeste

[Adapted from - www.maryceleste.com: *The true story*]

At 9am on the morning of Friday, December 13th 1872 people on the waterfront saw a small two-masted sailing vessel entering the Bay of Gibraltar. The ship was the *Mary Celeste* of New York, a Canadian built 100 foot brigantine of 282 tons registered in New York. Her master, Benjamin Spooner Briggs was known in Gibraltar to be a staunch abstainer and devout bible reader. But of the good Captain Briggs, his wife Sarah, two year old daughter Sophia Matilda, and the crew of seven, nothing was to be seen or found ever again.

[NB Conan Doyle's short story about the *Marie Celeste* (he changed the name from *Mary*) turned the puzzle into one of the most famous legends of the sea, for a fee of £30 a respectable sum in 1884.]

The *Mary Celeste* had sailed from New York on November 7th bound for Genoa with a cargo of American alcohol. She was followed on 15th November by the *Dei Gratia* taking a roughly parallel course across the Atlantic. On the Afternoon of December 5th 1872, half way between the Azores and the Portuguese coast the *Dei Gratia* came up with a brigantine which

Captain Morehouse recognised as the *Mary Celeste*. He knew Captain Briggs and had dined with him before he sailed. He was puzzled to see the ship yawing, coming into the wind and then falling off, she was out of control. He knew Captain Briggs to be a good seaman.

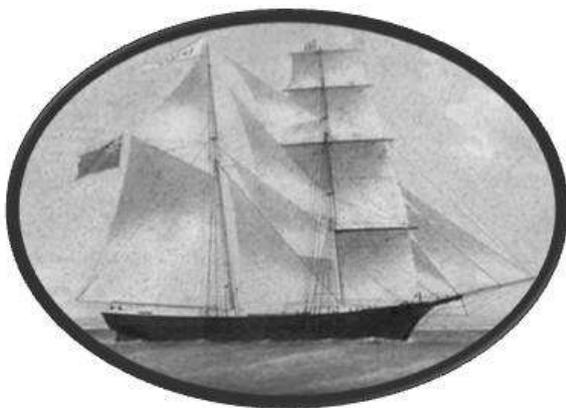
There were no distress signals, and after watching for two hours and hailing her and getting no reply they set off in a small boat and duly boarded her. Oliver Deveau the Chief Mate of the *Dei Gratia* was in charge of the boarding party. He found one pump out of order, and only used the other on his way to Gibraltar. He found the fore hatch off and also the lazarett hatch off with a great deal of water between decks. The clock and compass were spoilt and destroyed respectively. The Court record states that he found no beer or spirits in the ship, and the cargo had not shifted. The Chronometer, the sextant navigation book and the ship's register and papers were also missing. There was not a log line ready for use. At the inquiry the ships main owner James Henry Winchester gave evidence that the Captain was a courageous officer who would not desert his ship except to save his life. The second-in-command, the Mate, was Albert Richardson, who was also considered by Winchester to be fit to command himself.

The vessel was found to be in good seaworthy condition and the general impression was that the crew had left in a great hurry. They had left behind their oil skin boots and pipes. Captain Morehouse's explanation was that they had left in panic thinking the vessel to be sinking. The last entry on the ships slate showed she had made the island of St Mary in the Azores on November 25th. The court record states '*The Galley was in a bad state, the stove was knocked out of its place, and the cooking utensils were strewn around. The whole ship was a thoroughly wet mess. The Captain's bed was not fit to sleep in and had to be*

dried.' Charles Lurd, crew member states 'We found no boats on board' he could not state how many there should have been; he felt sure there had been a boat at the main hatch from the fixing there. In the cross examination of Augustus Anderson in the Admiralty inquiry, he states 'there were ropes hanging over the side'. If they were trailing behind the ship, waiting to see if she exploded, perhaps suddenly, the wind took off snapped the rope, maybe sinking the small boat at the same time. Even if it did not, it would have been difficult to keep afloat in a small boat in bad weather.

Solution to *Mainteaser*

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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From Wikipedia, an 1861 painting of the *Amazon* (later renamed *Mary Celeste*)

The poor *Mary Celeste* did not enjoy a good fate either, she became regarded as a ship, seamen, and owners wished to avoid. She changed hands frequently. Twelve years later she sailed from Boston with a mixed cargo and was wrecked off the coast of Haiti.

oOo

Barnacles – the bane of every sailor’s life

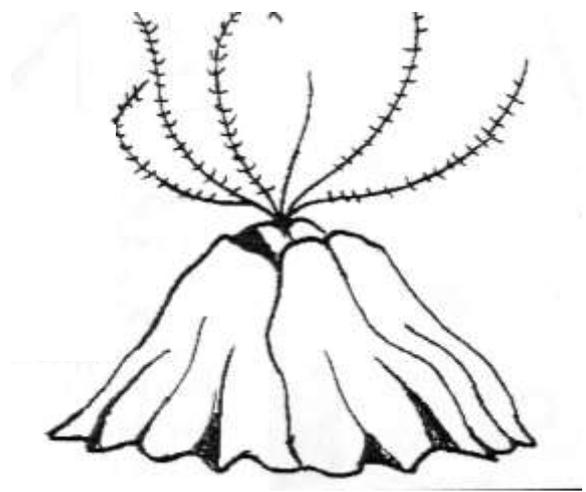
Balanus balanoides are the most common barnacles found around our river – acorn barnacles. Local fishermen, for generations have referred to them as nuns; and no-one I have ever asked has known why. I suspect it is because their conical shape resembles a nun’s habit since conical buoys in North America are known as nun buoys. So this supports the nun’s habit theory.

For a long time, barnacles with their shells of limy plates were thought of as molluscs – creatures with a large muscle foot like a limpet. Only when their development was really studied were they revealed as crustaceans – hard shelled, mainly aquatic animals with no muscle foot and closer to lobsters, crabs and shrimps. Like other shellfish such as the oyster, the young are free swimming. At a certain stage of development, which starts in the surface waters as the tide comes in, they fix themselves head downward on to a rock, buoy, ship or your yacht. They become protected by a series of plates to make a dirty white chalky exo-skeleton. As an adhesive, the cement used by barnacles to secure themselves to sea-washed surfaces has yet to be bettered by man. It is so strong that when you scrape off, the barnacle’s shell will break before the cement gives up.

Some rocks get completely covered by barnacles. They have been known to be in concentrations of 30,000 or more to the square yard. In other words: a thousand million along a mile stretch of shore! They use their thoracic appendages – used in other crustaceans for swimming or walking – as a means of catching food. These appendages are feathery and rather like the bent fingers of your hand, constantly protruding from the shell then returning with the captured food. When covered by the tide, the feathery fingers pulse in and out between the barnacles’ plates, trapping minute food particles and oxygen. When exposed to air, barnacles avoid drying out by closing these impervious plates.

They shut their shells when levels of salinity become uncomfortable – i.e. lower than their body fluid. Sea salinity is 35 parts per 1000 and our rivers are 25 parts per 1000 but may swing down to 5 pp-thousand because of the mudflats, tide and freshwater drainage. Barnacles can cope with this and survive for some time. So they won’t drop off the bottom of your boat despite a weekend in Heybridge freshwater basin!

Some yachts may find stalked or ship’s barnacles attached to them. These barnacles are unable to live between tide marks: needing constant immersion. They attach themselves to drifting wood, buoys or ships. They have plates similar to the acorn barnacle but larger and not so hard. Their stalk is hard and tough and they get their name because it looks like a goose neck. In the past it was believed to be the very young stage of the development of the barnacle goose!



the acorn barnacle

No wonder anti-fouling struggle. It is poor advice to suggest that you miss most of the sailing season and launch in July or August when the free-swimming juveniles are not so prevalent, or to sail only in winter, when the temperature is too cold for growth. The sea urchin eats barnacles; using its five pointed teeth to prise the barnacle from its

rock. The bristle worm, similar to the rag-worm, leaves the mudflat where it lives and swims into crevices in search of barnacles.

Wooden boat owners have to anti-foul to protect against worm as well as barnacles. But lethal home-made concoctions are not the answer – you have to consider the environment.

Very tough creatures are nuns!

Tim Denham

So Bruce – are you still *Nun the wiser...*
(last Winter edition of Mainsheet)? – Ed.

Advance notice of the 87th WSC AGM, March 9th, 2013

The Annual General Meeting is called to approve the previous year's accounts and to elect the members of the General Committee which is responsible for the management of the club. All club officers are elected each year. Currently we do not have a Sailing Secretary; it would be really great to fill all flag officer posts at the next AGM. Other members of the General Committee are elected for two years and this time there will be 9 vacancies to be filled.

More detailed information will be sent out in the New Year. In the meantime, you can find out more about the running of the club or standing for election, from the *Members* section of the club website or from the club Secretary. Eric Strudwick, Club Secretary.

more old rope:

Chris's rope-work classes –these useful informal sessions will be held on the last Sunday of the month in January, February and March, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

All you need to bring is a selection of different diameter ropes and a short length of broom handle or such to practise your knots. All welcome! Chris Mullins.

finally, a minor moan:

Just a reminder, it appears some club members are using the facilities stored in the new tractor shed without replacing or taking them back. This is not only inconvenient for other users and can hold up club activities, like lifting but could lead to them becoming lost.

Please replace tools after use!

stern locker:

For sale: SAILFISH 18 and trailer;
At WSC, 18'6" red and white; lifting keel.
Tel: 01206 824098

WSC: MAINSHEET

Member Address

stop press:

Friday, 21st December,
Christmas gathering
Sunday, 30th December: 11.30am,
Row & Ramble to Rowhedge;
Monday, 31st December: 8.00pm,
New Year's Eve Party & Buffet;
Friday, 11th January: 8.00pm,
Cheese and Wine tasting;
Saturday 26th January: 7.00pm,
Burns night;
Saturday 16th February: 7.30pm,
WOD Assoc. Party
Sunday, 17th February: 10.00am,
Nature Walk & Sunday Lunch;
Saturday, 23th March: 9.30am,
Spring Hard Working Party.
Saturday 30th March: 7.30pm,
WOD Assoc. AGM and Dinner.

Next Mainsheet: April 2013

small ads:



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