



'In the Offing'

With our commodore Pat North being away, I am now in my third month as Acting Commodore and continuing with my role as Rear Commodore Sailing. I thought the New Year was a good time to share with you our many successes over recent months and let you know the exciting events coming up shortly. For a small Club we punch well above our weight and we could not put on the many events for which we are famous without the help and support of Members. Last year was the 30th Hamble Winter Series, and already coming up fast is the 50th Anniversary of the Warming Pan. I hope you enjoy the read, and look forward to seeing you at the Club.

In our wake

RYA Onboard Club of the Year. Yes, that goes to Hamble River Sailing Club and thanks to Peggy Dorothy's team of Tim and others. We received the award being adjudged the most active club in 2011 for the work done with schools, the Hillhead Regatta and organising the Onboard Regatta at the Southampton International Boat Show. Well done to all involved.

Peggy Dorothy meets Princess Royal

I was honoured to be able to accompany Peggy to a luncheon in November last year in London for the presentation of the RYA Volunteers' Life Time Achievement Awards. It was a very excited Peggy who met the Princess Royal, comfortably chatting with her whilst collecting her well deserved award and receiving recognition for her work in front of a packed and appreciative auditorium.

The annual Club Prize giving, held in November, was well attended and marked the pinnacle of club members' yearly sailing achievements. Notable winners were Mike and Louise Dellar as Yachting Couple of the year, awarded for their cruise around the British Isles. Both retired last year and as a retirement present, bought a Sigma 33 and set off around Britain. Now I'm not going to tell you anymore because I'll spoil it as they have agreed to do a talk one Friday evening at the Club.

The Dick Thompson Memorial Trophy is awarded for services to the club. This year it was awarded to a former flag officer, a Foxer sailor, a person who is quiet, reliable, ever present and willing to help and someone regularly seen running Wednesday evening racing. This year he was also Race Officer for the highly successful Autumn Championships for J80s, Quarter Tonners and SB3 Sports Boats. And it was when I got to that point in this citation that Ian Sumner suddenly realised that he was the worthy winner of this trophy!

The prize giving was followed by the laying up supper which was also well attended and a very low cost enjoyable evening in good company.

Children in Need You may have seen many of our cadets proudly presenting their cheque on the BBC Children in Need Programme at Beaulieu. River users generously donated to the pirate cadets to be allowed to continue their journey up the Hamble River, slightly the poorer for it but smiling, knowing they had done their good deed for the day!

The **30th Winter Series** and the **6th Garmin Hamble Winter Series** has been and gone and what a successful event it was, receiving many plaudits from some of the top racers in the country.

The Yachts and Yachting February edition has a three page spread and makes a great read - you must buy a copy as they are also one of our day sponsors. Here are some of the comments: 'There is no better racing in this country over the winter', (Tim Thuberon, Visit Malta Puma). 'The GHWS is a well organised event and the end of the season and has been a favourite of the Sigma 38 Class Association for many years.' (Vanessa Choules)

Other quotes from speaking with people include 'The Garmin Hamble Winter Series is great and the best of its kind because it's well run and provides great, competitive racing.' And 'Some of my best moments were hooning along downwind in glorious autumn sunshine.'

We were fortunate in that we had exceptionally good weather with good breezes and a competitive fleet of high class sailors making it such a memorable event.



The **Garmin Hamble Winter Series prize giving** was well attended and our little club house was bursting full of owners, crews and prize winners, all of whom were present to hear Garmin announce their continuing sponsorship for 2012. Prizes for Yacht of the Series and Sportsboat of the Series went to 'Jika-Jika' and 'J.A.T' respectively and all prize winners had a great evening. We are a very big 'little' club and this event is recognised as the largest event of its kind in the country.

The **Winter Series Volunteers Lunch** was held the next day at the Club House and to celebrate the 30th anniversary, key people who had been significant to the development of the series over the years were invited as well. It takes something in the region of 40 volunteers' per day to put on and run racing at this level. That is a considerable number of people for a small club to find so sometimes we have to bring in expertise in certain areas to augment our volunteer resources. I shall comment more on this a little later as we need more volunteers who are willing to help in certain areas.

Christmas is a busy time at the club because as soon as we have the winter series out of the way the cadet party and Christmas decorations come next. The **Cadet Christmas party** was held on Friday 9th December and cadets decorated the Christmas tree, were awarded their 2011 prizes and even had a visit from Father Christmas who came in by RIB to dish out gold coins!

Race management roles at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were announced and congratulations to Jamie Wilkinson and Jane Windsor, both appointed in Race Management roles for the sailing at the Games. Jane will be timekeeper with former club member Rob Lamb's team and Jamie is looking after the Skud and Sonar Classes for the Paralympic Games. We are fortunate to have such highly regarded race officers as members of our Race Management Team.

The club's **New Year's Eve party** was a great success thanks to all the hard work put in by Katie Vigar and her team of workers. The club was transformed from an everyday sailing club house into a into 'Fairyland'. A long line of tables led your eye to the glittering white light lit sparkling Christmas tree at the other end of the club. Everyone brought dishes to make this a low cost but brilliantly successful New Year's Eve party, with club member John Roberts providing the music, much of from the 60s. Next year the adults give way to the youngsters and families who will host the New Year's Eve party.

In the offing

As I write this we are putting the final touches to the 2012 club programme. This takes a great deal of time, and needs all class captains to have made their plans early so that we can avoid the last minute rush of getting things to the printers in mid January. If I am involved next year I'd like to have this sorted by early September and before we get into swing of preparing for the Winter Series.

The **50th Warming Pan** is in the offing now and we'd like to make this a celebration event. It is hard to believe that we have been holding this traditional sailing season opener for 50 consecutive years. And can you imagine what it must have been like 50 years ago when the weather and water was probably far colder than it is nowadays and we didn't have all sorts of high tech clothing to keep us warm in the event of a capsize?!



Photo : Malcolm Donald

The Warming Pan is a two day regatta held on the river for Merlin Rockets, National 12s, Fireflies and Foxers. Picos are also invited and will sail in the pool near the School of Navigation. I'd also like to have one more class which would be suitable for racing on the river with the faster boats. The Scorpions and Enterprise fleets have shown interest. However if any readers can think of another



suitable class that could muster between 10-15 boats, then we would be interested. We normally have around 70 boats which makes a great spectacle on the river.

As it is the 50th anniversary of the event, I thought it would be good to have **50 Sponsors each putting up £50**. So it could be the **50 x 50 Hamble Warming Pan**. I have already had a lot of interest from many of our local sailing partner companies. And I also need your help and ideas as to who else might be interested.

You may ask '**how would this benefit them?**' Well when an event like this comes to Hamble we have an influx of around 200 people, all of whom in some way add to the economy of Hamble and its environs. They need to buy food and drink, stay somewhere in the evening, buy ice creams and tea and coffee whilst they watch the spectacle of the boats racing on the river. When we had a two hour postponement before one of the winter series starts, all of the eating establishments were packed out with sailors waiting for the off.

We also intend to offer commemorative T shirts for all competitors and helpers. Each shirt will have all the sponsors names printed on it. In addition we will have a disco on the Saturday evening, probably with a buffet supper. We will also have a media board with all sponsors names shown, and good prizes.

We have also had sponsorship pledges from private individuals, some of whom used to sail in the events and others who just want to support it. I am still interested in other suggestions that you may have to celebrate this notable event.

As always, **we need helpers** to run this event because it's not possible without you. In particular we need people to help us **staff the galley**. Nothing complicated but assisting with bacon rolls, teas and coffees and serving cake and other snacks is an invaluable service and keeps competitors happy.

We also need people to run the racing from the Club and on the water staff to drive ribs and lay marks. This is a vital area as if we don't have qualified and able people we cannot run top class events like this no matter how much sponsorship we get. We will train people, we will help you get the skills and with that you will experience being a part of a successful team. So if you can help at all, please make contact with Jane Windsor, who is putting the manning together, or Debbie at the office who will take details. This is an ideal opportunity to come along and learn race management, so please get involved.

On the Horizon

The club **Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday 17th March** to be followed by the Fitting out Supper. Please put this date in your diary and also please think how you can contribute towards the smooth running of your club.



The club needs people to help run it. We need volunteers who would be willing to stand on the General Committee and the Sailing Committee. We would also like to restart the **House and Social** Committee so that the workload does not just rest upon the goodwill a few people. We intend to hold a drop in evening so that, should you be interested in serving on one of the committees, you could come along and talk with us and look at job descriptions and where your skills may fit with what is needed to provide better services for our members.

Skills that I have in mind are **publicity and press**. It is so important these days that we communicate effectively with all our stakeholders. Perhaps we should be using Facebook and Twitter and perhaps someone can help us use the media better?

Having a **skilled and energetic web master** would be such a help to us and improve our public image beyond recognition. Keeping our new website up to date, submitting articles and race news plus new photos along with the everyday running of the club has been a challenge..... *So if you have these skills and some free time with the desire to help, we love to hear from you!*

We have a diverse club with members who sail boats Big Boats like TP52s through to Class 1s, XODs and Foxers. We'd really like our committees to reflect this diversity in their makeup, so as you read this and recognise which category of diversity you are in, please ask yourself what you can offer to make us an even better club, and get in touch.

Friday Evening talks are scheduled for the following dates; Friday 17th February; Friday 2nd March and provisionally Friday 23rd March.

Topics will be 'Sailing Round Britain', 'The Psychology of Sailing', 'Race preparation, Sail Trim and getting the best out of your sails'. These should be interesting topics and each will be followed by a supper at **Debbie's Diner!** More details to follow in near future.....

Wednesday Evening Racing begins again on the 28th March 2012 starting with the Early Bird Series. Our Wednesday evening racing is the lifeblood of this club. It is vital that we get as many people out on the water on these evenings, enjoying and hour's race in the mid Solent and then back to the club for supper and a chat about how the racing went.

So please, if you know of people who would enjoy this low key sailing, try and encourage them to come along. I know that some people feel they'd find it difficult to get crew. And yet I know that there are many of you out there who would like the opportunity to go sailing. Let's try and bring you together so please get in touch through the office.

Well that, I hope, has covered what is in our Wake, what is in the offing and coming up soon and what is on the Horizon or beyond. If you have comments or contributions, please get in touch.

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