

# Lymington River Scow Class Association



## AGM 2016 Chairman's Report

My report will be brief.

I'd like to divide it into three parts -

- to review some but by no means all of the many successful activities of the Scows over the last twelve months
- to thank the many people who have contributed to making the past year a success, and
- to look forward to the future of your Scow class

### **The last twelve months:**

It is almost impossible to add to anything that David Howden has not conscientiously reported several times throughout the year in his excellent newsletter. I am constantly amazed at the amount of information he gathers for each edition and how useful it is in keeping track of the many sailing activities of the Scows. I will come back to David's contribution later.

Membership remains at around a healthy 225. As always we lose some members but Liz Sagues has helped with new members joining from Dell Quay. However, the slow down in new-builds has meant that the 15 plus new members we used to have joining each year has fallen to just a few. Those buying second hand boats only partially replenishes our numbers.

The Year Book was up-dated and published albeit a little late. Its publication required a comprehensive review of our data base both on its content and structure.

Following on from this the web site was up-dated and now looks pretty impressive. We do try to keep it up-to-date and welcome contributions from the members.

Almost all our communications are now by electronic means saving money and paper for the Association.

This year saw the publication of Gordon's excellent History of the Scows - Your Committee was happy to fund the publication of this fascinating book and to arrange for its circulation to all members. Hopefully it will be widely read and attract new sailors to our boats.

You all know as much about this year's sailing as I do.

The very windy Nationals were excellently run by Keyhaven YC, which I thank.

Club racing, albeit with smaller fleets at Keyhaven, has been good despite as it is always said, the poor weather

Pottering, both organised and, dare I say it, sometimes disorganised continues at all the clubs with Scows.

Further afield Liz Sagues from Dell Quay recently sent me an e-mail saying saying fleets are growing at Emsworth and West Wittering. And Scows raced for the first time in Chichester Harbour Week. For the technical our Scows raced there with a lower PY number than Chichester Scows indicating that they were considered faster!

A first was the 'friendly' racing put on by the Royal Lymington Yacht Club and Beaulieu River Sailing Club with a race at Lymington in July followed by racing at Needs Ore earlier this month. From the racing and social view - both excellent occasions.

### **My thanks on your behalf:**

I somehow think that a long list of 'thank yous' can sound boring but it does give me an opportunity not only to thank on your behalf some of those who have made the year a success but also to make certain that you are all aware of how much the Association does for you.

I'd like to thank:

John Turner - for handing over an Association in such excellent shape

Gordon Stredwick - for continuing to provide guidance to the Committee and keeping a historical perspective on our deliberations.

Jon Harvey- for both overseeing the publication of the Yearbook and working with Keyhaven on the Nationals. I do not think he quite knew what he was taking on - and no wonder he has disappeared to Lake Garda this week.

David Weller - for his meticulous and diligent work as Treasurer. He will I hope entertain you with details of our healthy financial state shortly.

Dan and Meriel McCarthy - for carrying out over 80 buoyancy tests this year and checking boats at the same time for compliance with Class rules.

Brendan Nellis- who has taken on the task of developing and up-dating our web site. He is so enthusiastic that I think he does it for fun. I hope the decision to make him the Association's web master will not dampen his interest.

Jane Cook - for her contributions to the Committee and keeping a watchful eye on pottering.

Dorinda Nellis - who has worked tirelessly in support of the Association and the Committee. I and you are extremely lucky to have her as secretary

David Howden - I come to David last. He leaves the Committee and duties as Newsletter editor after three years and takes with him our thanks for all he has done for the Class. David, I would like to present you with a copy of Aimee Durnell's book "Secret Marsh.," signed by your fellow Committee members for all you have done as editor of the Newsletter for the Association. Thank you, David.

And in thanking David I welcome Wendy Stickley who is taking on the Newsletter. I have promised her that you all contribute to the Newsletter so, please, do not let me down. And finally to you all, I must thank the many members who have contributed so much to an excellent twelve months of racing, pottering and socialising.

### **The Future:**

Next Year's Championship.

The Nationals will be hosted by Lymington Town Sailing Club on September 16 and 17.

**Conclusion:**

You will all know that I much prefer looking forward instead of spending time on the past - to me it is the future of the class that is of paramount importance.

Later in the meeting you will be asked to vote on a proposal to establish a Working Party to look at the future of the Class. As you all know fewer new boats are being built, locally dinghy parks have waiting lists and the opportunities for growth in the western Solent are limited. Building on the success of the past I believe that the Class now needs to take stock and consider its options for the future.

I do not think it is appropriate to enter into discussion at this meeting on the many issues that the proposed working party will need to address.

You will all have an opportunity to contribute later, not tonight. Indeed this will be a real opportunity for you to contribute to the future of your Class.

I end by saying that just because a class is a one design class it does not mean that it cannot nor should not embrace progress.

Thank you

John Evans

September 23, 2016