

L R Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014



“Rounding the mark, Inter Club Challenge. See page 9

Dear Member

I think you will agree that this season has on the whole been a good one, dare I say, even better than 2013. Many events have been organised by the local clubs, our Championships by Keyhaven Yacht Club, and The Inter Club Scow Challenge by the Royal Lymington Yacht Club. Barts Bash was possibly the most memorable event for those of us that took part. More about it on page 5. Most boats are now tucked up for the winter but organising events for 2015 goes on during the winter and to this end The Royal Lymington Yacht Club has already started on Our Championships for 2015.

Please do send me your anecdotes or photographs that capture your adventures with your scow past or present for the Tell Tale Trophy which is awarded annually by your committee and presented at our AGM. Use the dark winter nights to put pen to paper, look out an interesting photograph or draw/paint a picture. Let's have a good entry for 2015.

David Howden. Editor
davidhowden@talktalk.net

LR Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

Association matters

AMENDMENTS for the Yearbook 2015.

Would members please inform the Hon. Secretary of any changes to their address, telephone/mobile numbers or email addresses before the end of year printing of the Yearbook.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP PROCEDURE

The Class Measurer asked that this procedure be clarified for those selling second hand boats privately so when selling your boat please return your Owner's Certificate to the Hon. Secretary for details to be noted and a new certificate issued.

Dates for you diary

The annual **Lymington River Scow Class Association Championships** are to be hosted by the Royal Lymington Yacht Club on the weekend of 20 and 21 June 2015.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Friday, 25th September, 2015 at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club at 6.30 pm. followed by the **ANNUAL DINNER** at 7.30p.m.

For summaries of the Committee Meetings please see our web site.

Association Website www.lymingtonriverscow.org

2014/15 Committee & other posts:

President: Gordon Stredwick; **Chairman:** John Turner;

Vice Chairman: Peter Blick; **Hon. Secretary and Website:** Brian Buckingham;

Hon. Treasurer : David Weller

Association Class Measurer: Dan McCarthy. **Other members:** Dubbie Robinson, David Howden (Editor of the Newsletter)

Notes from your Chairman.

The more active part of sailing this year is drawing to a close for many of us, unless you include the several suppers scheduled. But don't move your LR Scow from the dinghy park, there's many a bright day with moderate breeze to surprise us yet and so to enjoy with sufficient warm layers. However if sailing alone this might be the time to consider fitting the extra buoyancy on the gaff that was advocated in our Spring 2014 Newsletter (available on the webpage) and in discussion after the recent AGM. Your committee ruled that out for use in official races but is otherwise neutral on the subject.

LR Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

The other issue raised in discussion after the formal AGM was that of a minimum age for competitors in the Nationals. Having previously considered all views the committee maintains the '8 years old or over' rule for 2015 but if any member wishes to have a full debate and vote on this matter it needs to be proposed as a motion for the AGM in 2015.

Is it too early to look ahead to next Spring and the annual buoyancy test? Perhaps, but be advised that the 'testers' may also be looking to see that your boat complies with Class Rules, including carrying an anchor and oars. These not only contribute to the required weight of the LR Scow but are also a safety feature and reflect its historic origins as a small, general purpose boat.

Finally, historic origins? Check with that know-all, 'Wikipedia' and you will find that the name comes from the Dutch *schouwe*, a flat-bottomed boat suitable for shallow water. That's OK, but read on: in New Zealand the scow was used to ferry kauri gum and cattle (not in mine, mate!) and was typically 60ft long; in the US the fastest form of inland scow requires a crew of six and even the smallest C form is 16ft long. Anyone fancy telling them about *our* Scow?

Best wishes for the Winter Season.

John

November 2014.

Letter from the President of Salterns Sailing Club to The Association

Dear John

I am very sorry but I won't be able to make Monday evening for the AGM.

On behalf of Salterns Sailing Club can I thank you again for the gift of Emily? This year Emily has been used nearly every week during the season (April to November) and is very popular with all the members. Several families have asked about buying scows and participating in racing on Mondays and certainly the older children have enjoyed taking the younger ones for joy rides around the pond in the scows regularly most weekends.

Emily was used for the Nationals and Youth Week - 2 of our flag officers Emilia and Amelia sailed her this year.

We hope to make the Nationals again next year and she will certainly be being used at Youth Week as well.

L R SCOW News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

We also used her for Barts Bash and 4 very young children enjoyed themselves enormously.

Emily is in good condition and is being maintained by John Claridge on a regular basis.

Hope the AGM goes well.

Best wishes

Gina Bassett
President
Salterns Sailing Club

FLEET NEWS

News from The Royal Lymington Yacht Club, SCOW DIVISION 2014.

The Scow Division enjoyed a great year, with membership increasing to just over 160 and record numbers taking part in all our activities. More precisely, 71 boats took part in one or other event, with 55 boats sailing in at least one race and 45 in at least one potter. Single handing seems to be proving more popular, with the majority of Potterers sailing solo and the racers splitting 60:40 on most evenings.

Ashore we also enjoyed a good year. The Walks were well supported despite the incredibly wet winter. Amazingly on almost all the Thursday mornings from November into April we were blessed with dry conditions - well, maybe not underfoot but at least it wasn't raining. Most walkers stayed on for the lunch in one of a number of attractive pubs, a most agreeable way to pass a few hours with friends on a winter's day.

Our own Winter Talks were well attended, as were the suppers which followed. We heard from Malcolm McKeag, a witty look back over the many years of America's Cup racing ("America's Cup -Full Circle"), from Chris Willard on Birds of the Solent and from Jonathan Cook who took us on Wainwrights walk "Coast to Coast". Finally Rory Paton and Mike Urwin gave a talk on how to sail your scow to win, illustrated with video footage captured by Barry Dunning and featuring five members of the Division in action. This proved so popular that Barry video'd a complete Monday evening race in May and then showed the (edited) film on two evenings, adding his own expert and pithy commentary.

L R Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

This year's big Potter was across to Yarmouth, under the bridge and up the Yar for a sail in sheltered waters and a convivial picnic clustered around the supporting RIB's. Conditions were pretty well ideal and those who went voted it a wonderful trip. The other "long distance" Potter, to Newtown Creek fell victim to the weather and was cancelled. We hope to be luckier next year.

The racing was very well attended with 31 boats coming to the line on one Monday and the average staying about 20. This led to congested starts and loud calls for room at the various obstructions down the river and currently the Fleet is debating whether or not to divide into two for 2015.

At the end of August we played host to 5 visiting teams for the annual InterClub Challenge. Conditions were ideal at the start, 12-14 knots of breeze and some sunshine but as the afternoon wore on the wind increased to 20 knots and more, causing one set of visitors to retire and several boats to capsize. Worthy winners were the Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society, consisting of RLymYC members



The winning team: Luke and Emma McEwen, Jeremy and Max Vines, supported by former world 505 champion Peter Bainbridge and his crew George Nurton.

LR Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

The completing clubs and results:

1st	Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society	43 Points
2nd	Team Merlin (LTSC 2)	60 Points
3rd	Keyhaven YC	80 Points
4th	RLymYC	81 Points
5th	LTSC	108 Points

On 11th October Rory Paton, crewed by Eric Williams and John Evans, represented the Scow Division in the Club's Champion of Champions competition, sailed in XOD's and won, a fitting end to a great year.

Dick Moore,
Vice Captain, Scow Division

News from the Keyhaven Yacht Club 2014.

What have we done this year? At the beginning of the season I was worried that our scow racing fleet was waning. However, I need not have worried. We have had an influx of new racers, all experienced and also rather good! New life and competition has been breathed into the fleet and two of our new squad have made life quite exciting for us. Spinnakers at dawn and wisker poles appearing from the back of garages! So you see the Sunday Racing series has proved interesting. We have also had the best ever turn out for Wednesday Evening racing.

The big event of the year, was the LR Scow Class Association National Championship hosted by KYC. LR Scows came from as far as Chichester and Axemouth and we had a great weekend of sailing.

Some of the Keyhaven LR Scows ventured further afield with a trail/sail to Dell Quay. A fun day pursuing an ice cream seller around Chichester Harbour! We were treated to a lovely supper by the members of Dell Quay.

We were also invited to sail with Christchurch SC but a combination of dates/tides/ weather defeated us from taking our LR Scows to CSC. We did however visit by car and had a great time sailing with CSC in their own scows.

Team KYC (defending champs.) took part in the Scow Interclub Challenge hosted by R.LymYC. We lost our title but came a very creditable third place.

Our KYC LR Scow *Jubilee* has been used for Junior Training, Ladies Sailing, pottering and she is now regularly turning out to enjoy racing.

LR Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

As a footnote, after three years as KYC Scow Captain I have decided to step down. Jon Harvey (one of our new breed of great racers) has taken over the post. I would like to wish him lots of luck and I know he will have the support of a lovely group of scow racers at KYC.

Carolyn Howden

KYC Scow Captain. (retired).

KYC Potterers' report 2014

There were 16 potters during the season with up to 4 each month, excluding August which brought gusty winds in spite of sunny days. Numbers of boats ranged from 2 to 24 – with the highlight being the threading of the Needles on 4th September.

Under the expert leadership of Jon Goddard 24 boats made a successful passage. Two boats retired because of strong gusts and rough seas just outside the river mouth, but by the time we rounded the point the sea was calmer. With an east wind we sailed straight through and round the lighthouse. The return journey was a beat which spread the boats out, but all arrived safely on the Spit for a picnic.

There were two treasure hunts and one orienteering challenge as well as two evening barbecues on the spit, after a local sail. A potter to Tanners Lane had to be curtailed at Pylewell as latecomers held up the rest and the tide had turned before the destination was reached.

Also included this year was a visit to Christchurch Sailing Club on 18th June. KYC members were taken out by host sailors in their boats, which differ quite considerably from LR Scows as they are not designed to take a crew. We had a good day with them and enjoyed lunch in their attractive clubhouse over looking the upper reaches of the harbour.

David Pawley has kindly offered to take over the position of Potterers' Captain and I know his long experience will ensure a very successful season next year.

Marigold de Jongh

Captain of Pottering

LR Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

Lymington River Scows in Chichester Harbour

The number of Lymington River Scows sailing on Chichester Harbour continues to grow – and their presence is becoming more visible. The combined fleet of visiting boats from Keyhaven and Harbour Scows from Dell Quay and West Wittering made particularly colourful impression in July when they sailed to Bosham and Itchenor (as reported in the last newsletter).

Largest – and most active – Harbour fleet is at West Wittering, from where Ann Carnegie reports:

‘We are known as the ‘Wittering Scowlers’! Eight Lymington River Scows turn out come rain or shine to join in the fun at the club whether it be racing, cruising or just mucking about. The Scowlers started with a group of ladies who wanted to ‘do their own thing’ but have been joined by some MEN who enjoy the boats just as much and add to the banter on and off the water.

‘The big race of the season, known as the Higgs Handicap, is a pursuit race with 45-50 entries. Needless to say the Scows started off ahead (by some margin) of the faster dinghies and we were not to be caught. In past years, the faster dinghies have overtaken the Scow fleet before the last mark and relegated them to also-ran status – but this year we were untouchable! Lymington River Scows took the first four places – Up the Wittering Scowlers!

‘Now there is some muttering about handicaps!’

At Dell Quay, only one of the two LR Scows races (the other is a regular in the club’s Women on the Water sessions), but its results show how competitive the design can be. ‘Fubbs’ won this season’s Late Trophy handicap series, prompting the following clearly envious description of Scows from the handicap captain (who sails an RS400) in the DQSC winter newsletter: ‘Cute little boats that are blessed with PY numbers so high that they could cross the finish line the next day and still come first on handicap!’

The challenge for 2015 will be to bring other Lymington River Scows on the Harbour – there are boats at Mengeham Rythe and Emsworth SC certainly – more into class activity and encourage the Harbour fleet to go on growing.

NB 1: LR Scows at both WWSC and DQSC race with a PY number of 1429, calculated as the RYA recommends for dinghies without listed numbers.

NB 2: Liz and Jean Sagues at DQSC are approved buoyancy testers and are happy to check LR Scows around Chichester Harbour, to ensure they safely comply with class rules.

L R Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014



Bounancy testing
at West Wittering
Sailing Club

Liz Sagues and Ann Carnegie

BART'S BASH

What a great sight it was to see so many boats racing in the western Solent (where I was) on 21st September in Bart's Bash (well over 100 dinghies under Keyhaven Yacht Club's burgee alone)! And what a great experience it was to be part of the largest sailing race in the world ever (24 hours, multiple venues)!

Bart's Bash was a race run by clubs all around the world on behalf of the charity, the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation. The Foundation was established in Olympic gold medallist Andrew's memory in 2013 to inspire the next generation of young people through sailing in the UK and around the world. Andrew (Bart) tragically lost his life in a sailing accident that year whilst training for the America's Cup in San Francisco Bay.

L R Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

Astonishingly over 30,000 sailors from more than 60 countries sailed just under 18,000 boats at over 500 clubs, racing collectively a distance of more than twice round the world, and raising over a quarter of a million pounds for the Foundation.

Some 45 Lymington River Scows entered at 6 clubs, close to our record entry in a race of 48. Some crews even dressed up...



That's Sue Sutherland and Sarah Unsworth, *Scottbailer* 287, hiding behind the Bart Simpson masks!

Results were aggregated across the venues and around the world using a special 'Bart Number' handicap system. Congratulations to Belinda McGill, sailing *Gule Gule* 251 at Beaulieu River Sailing Club, who was the first Lymington River Scow sailor and 2977th overall!

L R SCOW News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn 2014

However I suggest that all those who participated won! Such was its success that Bart's Bash 2 is scheduled for 20th September 2015. Why not put the date in your diary? Let's raise money for the Foundation, celebrate our sport, and in

addition to helping break the record for the number of boats in a sailing race let's break the record for the number of Lymington River Scows in a race!

Gordon Stredwick
Hon. President

A Tell Tale

This is a land-based tale of the misfortunes of a scow in transit. I had been told by the Sailing Club at Waldringfield where I kept my scow, that I could no longer keep it in their dinghy park as it wasn't a racing boat, but that I could keep it at the top of a long hill in a field by the car park – where it would be impossible to drag her up. So I joined the Ipswich Sailing Club on the river Orwell.

I had bought a new trailer for the boat and was towing it over the Orwell bridge – a long bridge on the A14 dual carriageway. Suddenly there was a scraping noise and I saw one of the wheels disappearing over the horizon in front of me. I stopped rapidly and ran to catch it before it went over the top and down the other side. But before I reached it, a lorry swung over into the slow lane and just touched the wheel making it fall over. So I was able to retrieve it. A police car appeared from nowhere and they closed the inner lane so that we were able to put the wheel back into place before driving to a garage to have it secured properly.

Fortunately this all happened before I picked up the boat, and the rest of the journey to Ipswich was uneventful. I asked Radio Suffolk to thank the lorry driver for me. When I contacted the supplier of the trailer, they told me that a youngster had fitted the wheels and just made the nuts hand tight!

Marigold de Jongh