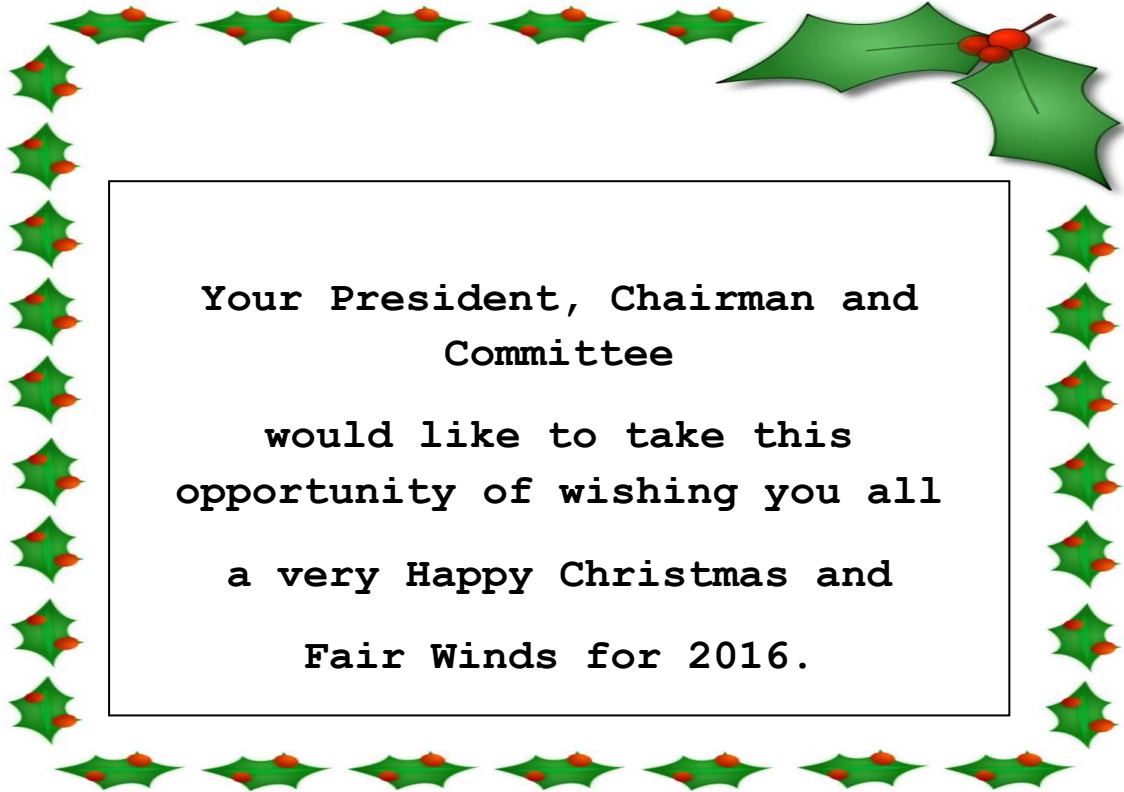


L R SCOW NEWS

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Late Autumn/Winter 2015



Your President, Chairman and
Committee

would like to take this
opportunity of wishing you all
a very Happy Christmas and
Fair Winds for 2016.

Dear member

The 2015 sailing season has been one of mixed fortunes due to some very telling conditions at times which have resulted in a number of fixtures being postponed or cancelled. Most of our Scows are now tucked up for the winter with some of us perhaps contemplating buying a new suit of sails and giving the boat a complete makeover!

The organising of events for 2016 has already started and to this end Keyhaven Yacht Club have agreed to host our National Championships on 9th and 10 July 2016.

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 2016. This year we had four entries, the winner being Wendy Stickley whose poem is to be found on page 3.

David Howden. Editor
davidhowden@talktalk.net

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Association Matters

Welcome to the following new member to the Association:

Andy Peter 548 Petrel KYC

AMENDMENTS for the Yearbook 2016.

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.

Dates for your diary

The annual **Lymington River Scow Class Association Championships** are to be hosted by **KEYHAVEN YACHT CLUB** on the weekend of **9TH AND 10TH July 2016.**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Friday, 23rd September, 2016 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

2015 AGM and Annual Dinner

The 18th AGM of the Association was held on Friday, 25th September 2015 at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club and was attended by 50 members. John Turner chaired the meeting, prior to handing over to a new Chairman at the end of his 3-year period in post. He opened the meeting by talking about the previous 12 months for LRSCA including a brief review of the Nationals, Scows that participated in Bart's Bash that Liz Sagues was appointed as the Association's Representative for Chichester Harbour as well as buoyancy tester. Liz had again organised a potter around Chichester Harbour followed by supper and 4 members towed their Scows to this event. John also advised that the committee had re-appointed Dan McCarthy as Class Measurer.

He was followed by David Weller, Hon. Treasurer, who reported on the healthy situation of our finances. A motion to amend the Class Rules and a proposal on the age for Juniors entering the Nationals were debated and details of these discussions are included in "Notes from your Chairman."

John Turner brought with him to show the audience the new Association trophy that he has kindly donated - The Trail Sail Trophy. This has been beautifully crafted by Jane Pitt-Pitts and aims to encourage members to sail with others away from their home water and will be presented to the member who has made the most notable trail/sail in the 12 months prior to future AGMs. (A photo of the trophy was in the late summer edition of the Newsletter.)

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As is custom, the winner of the Tell Tale Trophy was announced and Wendy Stickley was presented by the Editor with a copy of "A Secret Marsh", a beautifully illustrated book about Lymington and Keyhaven marshes by local author Aimee Durnell.

The Tell Tale Trophy Winner 2015

A Scow at Keyhaven

*I push out the nose, let the wind fill her sail
I'm free as a bird – every stress is exhaled...*

*Waves lapping gently against the hull
Flocks of hungry herring gulls,
Swans beat their wings, flying higher and higher.*

*Burbling geese rest amidst the samphire,
Sunshine reflecting like millions of stars,
Overfalls marking the shallow sand bars,
Whitewashed lighthouse against clear azure sky
(Permanent grin on my face – can't think why!)*

*A quick flash of blue where a kingfisher darts
And the call of the curlew quickens my heart;
The wind's in my face and I'm covered with spray
All's right with the world on this beautiful day!*

*Feelings of wonder ... Keyhaven, I vow,
Is the most awesome place to be sailing my scow!*

By Wendy Stickley

Congratulations to Wendy!

Whilst considering the entries, your Committee were particularly impressed by James Kennedy's submission on when he took part in Bart's Bash. It was decided that James' should be awarded a junior prize and this was presented to him at Keyhaven Yacht Club. James' prize was a set of Lego and we all hope he enjoys it as much as your Editor enjoyed choosing it!

The meeting provided an ideal opportunity to thank John Turner, Peter Blick, Brian Buckingham, Mike Urwin and Dubbie Robinson for the hard work they have done for the Association, whilst serving on the committee. The new committee was confirmed during the meeting and is now as follows:

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2015/16 Committee & other posts:

<u>President:</u>	Gordon Stredwick	<u>Chairman:</u>	John Evans
<u>Vice Chairman:</u>	Jon Harvey	<u>Hon. Secretary:</u>	Dorinda Nellis;
<u>Hon. Treasurer:</u>	David Weller		
<u>Other members:</u>	David Howden (Editor of the Newsletter), Jane Cook,	Meriel McCarthy.	
<u>Web Master:</u>	Brendan Nellis.		

The AGM was followed by an extremely enjoyable Annual Dinner in the Restaurant which had been beautifully set up for us by staff at the RLymYC.



James Kennedy
receiving his prize from
Jon Harvey at KYC

Notes from your Chairman.

Last September, after the AGM, I was asked by one of the retiring committee members how I saw my role as Chairman for the next three years. I said "Progressive." It may sound a contradiction to support progress with the strictly one design class of Lymington River Scows. However, there are opportunities to build on the excellent work of previous committees and their chairmen. Let me focus on some things I consider important

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The Bridle

During the past summer wire bridles broke on at least three boats when they were out sailing. When I bought my Scow I looked at the plastic covered wire bridle on the transom. I did not like it. I asked one of the senior members of the patrol boats that follow our pottering what spares he carried. A spare dynema bridle was the answer. I removed the wire bridle and replaced it with dynema. More recently Mike Urwin measured a number of boats with both covered wire and with 'rope' bridles. He found a wide range of measurements in both wire and 'rope.' It was clearly time for a rule change in the interests of safety and consistency - a rule change too which will save owners money. At the AGM a new rule was passed which allows 'rope' to replace the wire bridle and also controls the maximum height of the bridle above the transom. Details on the web site.

Web Site

Brendan Nellis has done an excellent job of redesigning the web site. I hope you enjoy it and also contribute to it. It is your site for sharing news.

Buoyancy Testing

Whilst a valid certificate with an up-to-date buoyancy test endorsement is required for all boats sailing in the Nationals, it is not generally required for club racing or pottering. I think it important that all boats are checked annually for two reasons - (i) boats do fail the test every year, often due to minor leaks which can be repaired quickly; and (ii) a valid up-to-date certificate is an important document when you come to sell a Scow. I hope all class captains will support annual buoyancy testing for all boats.

Outreach

It is important to develop contacts with Scow owners beyond the Western Solent and in late November I met with a dozen or so Scow owners at Dell Quay SC where we discussed both the issues facing your committee and their interests. This excellent evening was organised by Liz Sagues. A further meeting is planned to meet Scow owners at West Wittering SC in the spring

I met Rupert Scott (Captain of Scows) and Mary Montague-Scott (Commodore) of Beaulieu River Sailing Club where there are some 30 Scows built by John Claridge. The Association is going to help with a programme next year to buoyancy test these boats so that their certificates can be kept up-to-date.

The Age of Juniors at the Nationals

Except on one occasion, entries by Juniors ("Under 16") have averaged less than five boats. Last year there were only three entries and these boats had to race with the double-handed fleet. It is hard to consider a championship as a championship with less than ten boats in a fleet. At the AGM there was strong support for raising the age to "Under 18." I trust the Committee will support an increase in the age to "Under 18" for next year's championship.

"Bed-blocking"

Club dinghy parks are full - and at many clubs there is a waiting list not just for Scows but also for other dinghies. This means that Scow fleets cannot grow and potential buyers are put off. In many clubs there are boats that are seldom used taking up valuable space which could be used by more active sailors. I will be urging Scow fleet captains to raise this problem with club management committees and club officers.

Most Important

Do please contact me with any comments on the above issues or anything else that might concern you about the class and its future.

John Evans, Chairman

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Fleet News

News from the Royal Lymington Yacht Club, SCOW DIVISION 2015.

Despite the atrocious weather, which caused the cancellation of 5 Monday evening races, all but one of the Scow special races and no fewer than 8 Potters, the Scow Division of the Royal Lymington YC had a successful and an enjoyable season.

For the Monday evening races the fleet had decided to split into two, Gold and Silver, with each helm deciding the fleet he or she felt most appropriate. Gold was said to be for the keener racers and Silver for those "looking for a more relaxed racing experience". A helm could change fleet during a series but would lose any points accrued up to the time of the change. This change, which was intended to reduce congestion at starts and at marks and obstructions in the river, worked extremely well and will be continued in 2016. Record numbers went afloat, with a combined total of 36 Scows racing on one evening, although the average was about 24.

In May we held the Hinxman Trophy, four short races on the one evening, all boats racing together with prizes for the first three single handers and double handers. Sadly the Alexina was postponed and then cancelled (too much wind and then none at all!) and the Captains Trophy and the Figure of Eight race were also blown off. It's not uncommon to lose one event, but three sets a new kind of record.

It was our turn to host the LTSCA National Championships and we secured the weekend of 20-21 June for the event. For once the weather was kind and all 5 scheduled races took place although Race 5 was sailed in winds gusting to 25 knots or so and tested those who stayed out on the course to participate. Gillie Pearson and her volunteers provided the traditional tea on the Saturday afternoon and we had a record attendance at the evening supper, which for the first time was open to ALL LRSCA Members. Over 70 came and were entertained by a couple of musicians playing in the marquee on the Club balcony.

The by now traditional Inter-Club Challenge took place in early September. Visiting teams came from Keyhaven YC, LTSC, Christchurch SC, Beaulieu River SC and Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society. Conditions were very light and fluky for the first race but luckily the breeze filled in and competitors enjoyed close racing in the other two. OCSS and Keyhaven YC tied on points but Keyhaven were declared the winners having the boat with the best individual score. The RLymYC team were third. *(See page 7, photograph of the winning team. Editor)*

Pottering, as has been mentioned, lost almost one in four of its scheduled outings, including the main event, the visit to Yarmouth and up the Yar River to picnic. However we did get to Newtown, had a number of pleasant sails to and around Keyhaven Harbour with a picnic stop on Hurst spit and, for the first time in a long time, enjoyed the hospitality of the Cruising Division in a joint meet and lunch on the big boats anchored off Hurst.

Sailing seems a long way away at this sad time of year, the boats in their winter quarter and their crews otherwise engaged but plans for the new season are being made, schedules drafted. If the weather will only be kind we'll soon be enjoying ourselves afloat again.

Dick Moore,
Captain, Scow Division

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(Editor's Note: For those of you who are not familiar with Inter Club Challenge the RLymYC invite clubs from around the Solent to take part in a team challenge. RLymYC members very kindly provide three scows per team. They can be sailed single or double handed. This event is always very well supported and the tea and cakes ladies are always winners!)

The KYC team: (l to R) Angus Raby, Jon Harvey, Genie Webb with crew.



And finally...

It just remains for me, as Editor, to add my good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and to say that I hope to meet with you during 2016, be it at the Nationals, on the Sail/Trail, at the AGM and Annual Dinner or out on the water enjoying our beautiful scows!

David Howden. Editor
davidhowden@talktalk.net