

# LR Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association



Autumn 2017

## 2017/18 Committee & other posts:

**President:** Gordon Stredwick    **Chairman:** John Evans    **Vice Chairman:** Jon Harvey  
**Hon. Secretary:** Dorinda Nellis    **Hon. Treasurer:** David Carslaw  
**Other members:** Jane Cook, Meriel McCarthy, Angus Raby, Chris Knox  
**Web Master:** Brendan Nellis.



*Scow Championships 2017 – photo by Midori Claridge*

Dear Members

Well, the summer has come and gone, and I think it's fair to say that we've all known better, weather-wise. But there have been enough good days in between for most of us to have enjoyed time in our scows – either racing or pottering.

The LRSCA Championships were kindly hosted by Lymington Town Sailing Club. 38 dinghies competed over the two days, and 75 people shared a sociable evening in between at the Annual Dinner. See page 3 for more details.

Sadly, however, the AGM was poorly attended on the Sunday morning – perhaps many of you were too busy tweaking your rigging or conserving your energy for the racing ahead to have time to join in (or even send apologies) ...?!

In the last Newsletter, John Evans warned us about the dangers of metal fatigue in the older bridles, and, having recently seen (from the vantage point of ARO) how

annoying it can be if it 'pings' in the middle of a race, I would urge those of you who have not yet checked yours, to do so as soon as possible. This does not only apply to older boats ... some of those affected have been less than 3 years old.

If, over the long evenings ahead, any of you feel inspired to take up the gauntlet thrown down by John Turner, and write a useful POTTERING PASSAGE GUIDE, that would be wonderful. Equally well appreciated would be any contributions to either the Tell Tales section of the Newsletter, or the Trail Sail section (with the added bonus, of course, that you might win one of the coveted trophies!)

Meanwhile, good luck to those of you still racing as the days grow shorter and colder; and to all of you fair weather sailors – there are sure to be glorious days this autumn – *carpe diem!*

Wendy Stickley  
[wendystickley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendystickley@hotmail.co.uk)

### Association matters

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

##### **Full:**

Jamie Dutton-Forshaw                  Misbourne                  561

##### **Associate:**

Boris Webber (non owner)

##### **Transfer of Ownership:**

Philip Field                                  Sea Fever                  435

#### **New LRSCA Committee members:**

Following the AGM in September, we are pleased to welcome David Carslaw as Honorary Treasurer at this year's AGM and Chris Knox as a new Committee member. Next year, a number of committee members will have reached the end of their term of office. In particular, we will be seeking a new secretary. If you are interested in joining us, please let someone on the committee know!!

### Dates for your diary

**The annual Lyminster River Scow Class Association Championships are to be hosted by Keyhaven Yacht Club  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3rd 2018.**

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The **2018 AGM** will be held at 18.30 hours on 15<sup>th</sup> September at the Royal Lyminster Yacht Club, to be followed by the Annual Dinner

## Maintenance Tips – John Evans

The secret of **winter maintenance** is in two parts - wash, wash and wash again - and then make certain everything is dry and kept dry until next spring.

Unless you are lucky and have a dry garage with good lighting and heating, working on your Scow outside is much better put off until April and the weather is warmer.

It is sensible to check the rudder and centreboard for nicks and scratches; I have yet to master the art of filling the nicks and then painting the rudder to any acceptable standard so I book the boat into John Claridge for a 'service.'

For those with the Mark 1 trolleys, the non-U version, it also pays to check the hull for the effects of 'wheel rub' on the hulls; it happens when enthusiastic helpers drag the boat on to the trolley and up the slipway before the hull is properly centred.

So wash and wash again the hull inside and out with fresh water, allow it to dry and store it with one or two buoyancy tank hatches removed.

Again soak the sheets and lines and make certain all the salt is washed away. Then dry them.

One tip - try and keep all the boat bits together in large plastic bucket ... it will be much easier to find everything next spring.

The same goes for sails - I tend to just use fresh water and spray/rinse a few times. And then make certain they are dry before rolling them up round a length of plastic drain pipe.

In answer to a recent question - no, I do not recommend using the washing machine to get the sails clean. This can be done professionally by Pete Sanders but is not recommended on newer sails.

And don't forget your foul weather gear. This all need thorough rinse and wash too. A small amount of silicone grease on the zips will make it easier next spring to make them work easily.



## LRSCA 20th Anniversary Championships

*The Championships were held this year on Saturday 16th September 2017. Here is a report from Clare Sleigh on behalf of the hosts for this year – Lymington Town Sailing Club:*

2017 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Lymington River Scow Class Association. Over 300 of these delightful little boats have been built by John Claridge in Lymington, with association members belonging to around 30 sailing clubs.

40 Lymington River Scows gathered at the Lymington Town Sailing Club over the weekend of 16-17 September for the class' 21<sup>st</sup> National Championship. Five races were planned, three on the Saturday and four of the Sunday.



*Picture by Midori Claridge*



*Robbie Claridge – winner of the single-handed class in 549 Sky Blue*

Competitors woke up on Saturday to a rather cold northerly breeze which proved to be light and shifting in direction. Combine that with the Solent current and you had a recipe for a very difficult day for the race officer, Rob Martin. In the event Rob eventually managed to run one race.

The class' Annual Dinner was held that evening in the clubhouse, with music to dance to by Vince.

Sunday dawned a little colder but with a little more breeze. The racer officer expertly managed to pack three more races in, testing the stamina of the competitors, but enhancing their enjoyment of the post-race tea and doughnuts!

The single-handed class was comfortably won by Robbie Claridge, son of the boat builder, in 549, *Sky Blue*. Eric Williams was second in 308, *Ida*, and Mike Urwin third in 424, *Nutshell*.

There was a comfortable win in the double-handed class also, for Nik Froud and Freddie Fitzsimmons in 490, *Chickadee*. Rory and Alex Paton were second in 314, *Wizard*, and Claire and Molly Bridge third in 461, *Birthday Girl*.

Nik also won the 'Newcomer' trophy, and Eric won the Single-Handed 'Masters' trophy.

**Next years' National Championship will be held at Keyhaven Yacht Club on 2-3 June. It would be lovely if you could join us!**



*Nik Froud and Freddie Fitzsimmons who won the double-handed class in 490 Chickadee - owned by Lindsey Froud and Kathy Tilbury*

**Here is a selection of comments from participants:**



*Picture by Wendy Stickley*

The championship was very friendly but competitive and although the sailing was tricky in the conditions, it was very close racing and any mistakes were punished with positions in the fleet changing on every lap.

It was a change for a championship to be based on skill rather than physical fitness of the more recent blows although for some of the double handers the heavier crews definitely suffered.

Overall it was an enjoyable championship but we must do more to get the juniors going again to ensure the average age of competitors does not

get higher although it is great to see that you can still be competitive no matter how old you are.

**James Young**

We had a great time, very close tactical racing and the spirit of bonhomie that the Scow competitors are famous for. Makes the racing thoroughly enjoyable and I hope we can take part again next year.

**Luke McEwen**

Fabulous sailing with such close competition, but very frustrating if you didn't get it right. Lovely to see so many young sailors having a go at Scow sailing.

**Sarah Richards**

The delights for me during the LRSCA Scow Nationals were the Dinner evening at the LTSC, the ingenuity of the winning criteria for the special prizes in celebration of the 20th Anniversary, the glorious rainbow across the Solent and the camaraderie of the event. Unaccustomed as I am to competing in larger fleets, from a personal point of view, the 4 races highlighted the sailing skills of other single-handed racers. The light conditions did no good for my back.

**Jo Lewis**

## Fleet News

### **Scow Potter in Chichester Harbour**

A joint potter and picnic was planned in Chichester Harbour to include all makes of Scow dinghy from three clubs. West Wittering S.C., Bosham S.C. and Dell Quay S.C.

The day dawned bright and sunny with a lovely sailing breeze blowing from the SW. Seven LR Scows, 2 Bembridge Scows and 1 Chichester Scow left West Wittering to meet up with the other fleets off Itchenor. Bosham Sailing club arrived in force with 7 Chichester Scows. Dell Quay mustered one Scow to join us as sadly Jean and Liz Sagues with their LR Scow were unable to sail, however they joined us by road for a picnic and chat on the Bosham Hoe shore.

We were kindly lent the use of a Jetty to tie the boats to and it was a colourful sight when all were moored. Many different colour sails adorned the jetty and more than one passing 'big' boat remarked on the colourful sight.

The West Wittering sailors left it a little late leaving the picnic site with a beat all the way home (time and tide wait for no man) and one sailor (who shall remain nameless!) had to wade through thick creek mud to complete her journey. She was still smiling when she made it home;



but her mobile phone was not! Lesson learnt, make sure the waterproof cover IS waterproof!

All in all a successful and very social potter which I am sure will be repeated next season. It is eventful trying to co-ordinate so many boats from different clubs; but it worked out well. The West Wittering boats had a 'buddy system' as a safety measure as no rescue cover was available. We each kept an eye on another boat to make sure they were alright – this worked well.

Ann Carnegie  
LR Scow 'Nellie' 453

**Tell Tales - for your Enjoyment and Entertainment**

NONE!!

... but here's a photo of last year's winner, David Barnett.  
Could YOU be next year's recipient??!



***And finally  
may we be among the first to wish you all ...***



***A Very***



***Happy Christmas!***