



Commodore's Corner

This is my first article for the newsletter after taking over as Commodore from Geoff Vote. During his tenure, Geoff worked tirelessly for the club and he will be a hard act to follow. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for leaving me such a tidy ship with the club in good shape in every aspect.

Since Steve Tachauer took over as full-time (well, almost) steward, the clubhouse has become a much busier place during opening times, not least due to the great food that Caroline prepares at more than reasonable prices. I understand that the guest beers on offer on an almost weekly basis do no harm to the attendance either!

The social events have also been very successful with Burns Night, the Sloe Gin competition, St. Patrick's and the fitting out supper to name but a few. Many thanks to Gill Willson and all others involved. Keep an eye on the newsletters and the posters in the clubhouse for announcements of forthcoming events and join us for the next one, you won't be disappointed!

During winter, Peter Matthews organised some great talks. Charles and Glenis gave us a great presentation about their voyage from Australia to Tollesbury (where else?). Nigel Cowell told us all about how to do the round Britain trip and, most importantly, gave some great tips about where to eat at the stop overs.

Please contact Peter if you have a topic for the forthcoming talk season.

It's fitting out time again. Cruisers have started to vacate the yard and once again dinghies are taking their places. The club boats have been fitted out and are ready for action due to the efforts of John Clarke and his volunteers during the Easter weekend. Let's hope that the weather in the coming season will be somewhat kinder than last year and that summer will last a bit longer than four weeks this time.

Do continue to join in with the club activities both on and off the water to make this season another successful one. First timers are always



Jilly, going for a hike!

welcome too, whether socially or for the sailing. Have a great season and see you out there.

Kees Spitters - Commodore

PHIL LENOIR

It is my sad duty to report that Phil Lenoir passed away on the 11th of February at the age of 65.

Phil was a long-standing member of the Sailing Club and also served as an active committee member for some years before work commitments forced him to give up this activity.

As an active cruising member, Phil's name appears on most of the cruiser trophies and I remember well that at one laying up supper, he almost collected all the silver that was 'on offer'.

During the past 4 years, Phil and Maureen were living their dream, cruising through France, the Med. and on to Portugal in their boat "Mock Turtle", thus kindly giving other cruiser members the opportunity to win some trophies as well.

We will all miss Phil and our thoughts are with Maureen and their children and grandchildren.

Kees Spitters - Commodore

Dinghies

Another season is already upon us and for once the rescue boats and race programme were prepared ahead of schedule. All that was needed was a spell of good weather and it arrived just in time for the first event, a pursuit race around all the marks, the 8 starters (plus Chris and Wendy) finishing at the hard before dashing back to enjoy refreshments in the sun outside the clubhouse.

A number of new boats have joined the fleet, Andy H has been sailing a Solo throughout most of the winter and the Frosts have another very handsome Kestrel. Allan and Roger have each purchased modern (self-draining, I wonder why?) GPs. They are Irish built 'Duffins'. Built using a very attractive range of woods, these boats are considered to be the fastest wooden alternative to the popular FRP hulls made by Speed Sails. Several other GPs have also joined us, most notably Chris Parsons who, having renovated her, is showing promise in his handling of 'Fancy Pants'.

As usual we intend keeping the 'active' dinghies along the wall near the club. There will be plenty



George and Jilly make it look easy

of room but do keep clear of shored-up boats!

While at the Dinghy Show last month I purchased a new book on the rules of dinghy racing and whilst nothing much seems to have changed I noticed 2 examples of situations where port tack has 'right of way'. I will attempt to explain them because at least one of them is relevant in our locale.

The first is a risky manoeuvre, and not a secure starting strategy, but is given to illustrate Rule 16.1 "when a right of way boat changes course she shall give another boat room to keep clear."

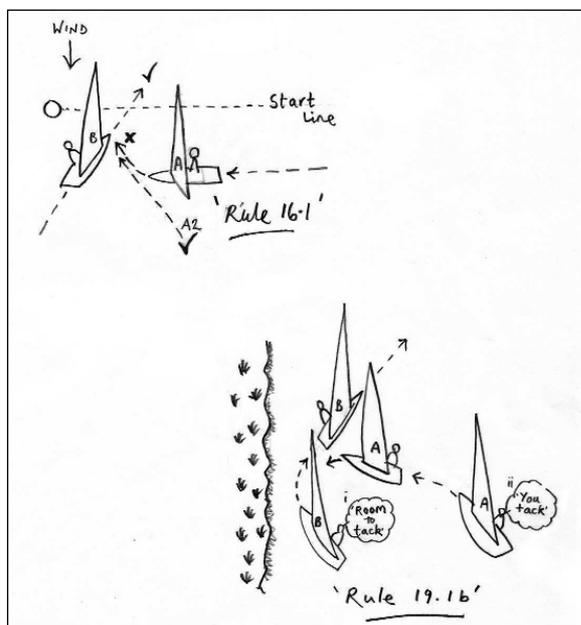
Imagine you are close hauled on port, making a perfect start at the end of the line and a starboard tack boat is reaching fast down the line looking for a gap and speed. At the start the starboard boat luffs sharply to close hauled yelling frantically at you. Because of the last moment course alteration port is unable to keep clear and is entitled to continue. If port takes avoiding action, as he must to prevent a collision, starboard should do the penalty turns.

The second example is more clear-cut and refers to a starboard tack boat running out of water (e.g. Along creek edges etc.). The inshore boat has another close outside it and hails "room to tack". The outside boat has two options: If it tacks the inshore boat must also tack immedi-



Spinnakers up, spinnakers down

ately (Rule 19.1a). He cannot change his mind and continue even if there is an advantageous wind shift. Alternatively, the outer boat can hail "You Tack" as he wishes to go closer inshore and perhaps avoid the tide. At this point the outer boat loses his right of way position and must keep clear of the other (now on port) by bearing away (Rule 19.1b). This, at least, seems a sensible rule and of practical use to us.



Good sailing!

George Rogers 869729.

***If the clouds look as if scratched by a hen,
be sure to furl your tops'ls then.*** – Old weather saying.

From the Editor

I suppose I should have learned the lesson 'never volunteer' when I joined the RAF on the 13th of November 1969. I volunteered the information that I had an O level in English and was given the job of handing out pens on the coach from Newark railway station to RAF Swinderby. So perhaps, when I recently asked if I could have my own 'Bar Stewards' column in the club newsletter I should have realised what might happen. "Yes", the committee said, "in fact you can have the whole newsletter to play with". Well that wasn't exactly what they said but I'm sure you get the picture. So after that preamble I hope you'll excuse me if my first editorial is about the clubhouse and activities therein.

You see, last November Caroline and I attended the laying up supper and were astonished to see so many new faces, faces that we had never seen at the club. And this set me thinking – why don't they come? In some cases, of course, it's for geographical reasons, many of our members living as far away as the midlands. For some it is 'politics' from the club's recent past and that is best left without comment but for others I am sure it is because they

don't realise what a great club ours is. I was reminded of this again just a couple of days ago when one of our foremost members, an ex-commodore no less, mentioned that he had overheard recently that we do food at the club. And this after we started doing hot meals at weekends 8 months ago! So, for those of you who haven't been for some time (where have you been?) and for those who have never been (why not?) let me tell you what you've been missing.

Opening Times:

The clubhouse is now open from 2000hrs Wednesdays, 1900hrs Friday and Saturday and 1230hrs until I've had enough on Sunday. Hot meals are provided every Friday and Saturday (subject to club functions) and Caroline is establishing a well-deserved reputation throughout Tollesbury for the value and quality of her meals – particularly her meat pies! Occasionally an evening has evolved into a 'jam session' where several of our members have brought along their musical instruments and, via the Essex Folk Network, I have had a number of enquiries from musicians who wish to come to the club and play. Very soon I hope to be able to advertise regular Folk

Nights! As far as games are concerned, we have disposed of the American pool table, it was virtually unused and took up far too much space, and have replaced it with an antique Bar Billiards table.

The dartboard has been re-located so that it is instantly accessible and we even have use of a portable 9-pin skittle alley so look out for forthcoming skittle nights. For those of you more interested in the beverage side of the club, huge improvements have also been made. As well as the usual I.P.A., Guinness and Carlsberg we now have on draught Stella Artois and a quality draught cider. We have also refurbished the old beer pump on the bar and every week we have guest beers brought in from breweries all over the UK. For the younger set, and those who don't want alcohol, there is now a vastly improved range of soft drinks available as well as fresh coffee. So, there we have it. What possible reason could there be for staying away any longer? (A full list of coming events is published elsewhere in this newsletter, Ed.)

The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears or the sea. – Isak Dinesen.

OUR POSSESSIONS

Over the winter more than one of our members has had boats and marine equipment stolen from our car park and yard at the clubhouse. Whilst we are not in the grip of a crime wave the club committee takes this opportunity to remind all members to think a little more about security of boats and gear.

We are all aware of the expense of marine equipment and of the inconvenience when we suffer the loss of vital or expensive items.

Now we are at the start of the season, the club committee asks all members to take reasonable steps to reduce the opportunities for unauthorised removal of

boats and equipment from club premises. Where possible all boats, trailers and equipment should be secured and all items easily removed should be secured or removed by the owner.

STORAGE WANTED

And talking of possessions, Paul Portz is looking for winter storage for his punt and trailer, ideally under cover in a barn or suchlike. The trailer is 21 feet long (sorry, I don't do metres, Ed.) and the punt has a free-board of 12". If anyone can help please telephone Paul on 07710 312194.

Wallet Ball – 2005

Taking great care to exit the coach with some dignity, likewise crossing the road and the threshold of my own front door, I managed to reach the kitchen unaided there to brew a strong coffee. Collapsing into my favourite armchair with a satisfied sigh I realised I was a little 'cream crackered' after what had been a long but very enjoyable evening. Sipping the coffee I reflected on the pleasures such an evening had brought – convivial company, much laughter, even more vino, dancing, a cabaret and all those things that make the wallet ball such a unique event. I doubt that other sporting clubs have anything to match it – quite unique.

This happy band boarded the coach in the square and after a brief stop in D'Arcy to pick up Charles and Doris took a short cut to Peldon to collect yours truly. A cursory glance around the coach told me that we had picked up a goodly number from the T.C.C. but we were in a good mood and didn't mind. Everyone looked in good order, the

ladies looked gorgeous whilst the men just looked! On arrival, and after pre-dinner drinks were served, it was time for renewing old acquaintances before the call that dinner was served. Cometh the hour cometh the food! The hall was already alive with the sound of laughter (apologies Julia) as some very comely wenches served the food. And a magnificent repast it was too.

During the meal toasts were proposed all over the hall, there being no formal toasts or speeches at 'The Wallet', all very witty. One exception, our Commodore proposed a toast to those Bradwell people who were to try later to emulate the cabaret we put on a couple of years ago (some chance!).

The meal over, more empty wine bottles, everyone very jolly, bring on the cabaret! And to give them their credit they did very well. Very entertaining. I was sitting next to Peter at

*When I was a boy,
the dead sea was only sick.*

George Burns.

the finale and he jumped to his feet shouting 'Encore' and that and the applause shook the chandeliers so much the wicks fell out (I'm still using the eardrops). I can understand the reaction when ordinary people with hitherto unexpected talents give time and effort in putting a performance together and rehearsing and performing it. Very laudable and what makes 'The Wallet' so special.

The show over and on with the band who played just the right music for the occasion filling the floor with fast and furious dancers. The whole evening was very enjoyable and I can only urge those that have never been to the Wallet Ball to give it a try next year. It's a damn good evening.

And so to the liberty boat, the journey home and that dignified exit. See you there next year?

Graham Elcock.

COMING EVENT May the 14th

GOING, GOING?

On the above date we will be holding an auction at the clubhouse in aid of the Disabled Access Fund.

Please bring along your unwanted 'boating bits' whether it be boating memorabilia, surplus kit etc.

The auctioneer will be Mike Gager.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TO THE FUND AND ANY UNSOLD ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES BY THEIR OWNER AT THE END OF THE SALE

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2005

Saturday 2 July

Saturday 23 July

Saturday 3 September

Saturday 15 October

Saturday 12 November

Sunday 18 December

Gooseberry Pie and Family BBQ

Tollesbury Smack and Classics Race

Hog Roast

RNLI fundraising evening

Laying-up Supper, Officer's Club, Colchester

AGM

Winter talks are being organised,
look for details on posters and in newsletter

We hope to see you at some, if not all, of the above events!
For further details, phone Gill Willson on 01621 868245.

.....and finally

*If you like coffee with sand for dregs,
A decided hint of salt in your tea,
And a fishy taste in the very eggs –
By all means choose the sea.*

*From "A sea dirge"
by Lewis Carroll.*