



## **Commodores Signal**

Firstly may I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and of course at this time of year our thoughts are turned to boat maintenance and modifications, I know that a number of you are well down your list of things that must be done prior to the new season. I, however, have not yet done anything and I must turn my attention to Lily to get her in shape for the forthcoming early start to the season.

I am looking forward to this 60<sup>th</sup> year of the club, and hopefully those dry and warm summer days in which I can meet as many of you as possible. I have included the sailing and social programme in order that you can enter these important dates into your diaries.

### **February Social - 16th February 2008 7:00pm for 7:30pm**

This is always a good time to catch up with those people you haven't seen for a while and also an opportunity to discuss those minor tweaks and setups of boats ready for the new season. This year, as previous years, this event will be an informal. Mark Harvey is in the process of developing a comprehensive website for the club and he would like to obtain some old photographs of boats and club activities plus anecdotes and history which he can add to the website, so come prepared!

The February social will be held at The Lion, at Thurne. The landlord is providing a carvery and vegetarian options, so it will be great to see you all. **Booking forms enclosed.**

### **Margaret Dunn Trophy**

Those wishing to take part in the Margaret Dunn Trophy should bring their entries to the February Social for judging, so please don't forget.

### **Fitting Out Supper - 22nd March 2008 7:00pm for 7:30pm Sutton Staithe Hotel**

The Fitting out Supper coincides with the Easter Cruise so those members who have their boats in the water by then can arrive by boat. The booking forms and menu choices will be sent out with the February newsletter. We will be holding a raffle during the evening so any prizes would be very welcome.

### **60th Celebration Dinner 21st June 2008**

This 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club will be celebrated at The Lion at Thurne. Details will follow in further reports, but the landlord of The Lion will reserve all of the pub moorings on Thurne dyke for the Club to use, so we are hoping for a large turnout of dressed boats and I am looking forward to seeing a large number of members attending the celebrations.

### **Summer Party – 12th July 2008**

Ann and Tim Whelpton have kindly agreed to the club using their sail loft again for the annual summer party, and they will be joining us on the evening. The barbeque format from last year will be continued this year, final details will follow.

### **Hauling Out Supper – 18th October 2008**

Venue yet to be confirmed.

## **Annual General Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008 - The Lion PH Thurne.**

Final details and booking forms of all events will be sent out nearer the event.

Those of you who did not attend the AGM, may not be aware that Hugh Gerrard is no longer our Club Editor. I, on behalf of the Club would like to thank Hugh for the many years service as Editor, and wish David Ames good luck on taking up the position.

Our membership has grown over the last few years and we would like this to continue, so please endeavour to keep an eye out for new potential members, Membership forms are obtainable from Paul Savage, Secretary. Don't forget. As always, we continue to welcome guests at any of our events.

I hope your winter maintenance schedule is going to plan. I know I have a great deal of work to complete. Easter is looming fast, it is very early this year, but I'm sure that all of the work will be completed by then and I look forward to seeing you on our Easter cruise, where I certainly will be using the event as a shakedown cruise, to iron out any wrinkles.

So finally, best wishes from Sue and I for 2008. We look forward to seeing you all throughout the year, so good luck for the forthcoming season and good sailing.

Steve Birtles

## **Draft Social and Sailing Programme 2008**

### ***Social Events***

16 <sup>th</sup>	February	February Social
22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	Fitting Out Supper
21 <sup>st</sup>	June	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
12 <sup>th</sup>	July	Summer Party
18 <sup>th</sup>	October	Hauling Out Supper
8 <sup>th</sup>	November	Annual General Meeting

### ***Sailing Events and Rallies***

21 <sup>st</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	March	Easter Cruise
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	May	May Bank Holiday Rally
25 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>	May	1 <sup>st</sup> South Rivers Cruise
21 <sup>st</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>	June	1 <sup>st</sup> North Rivers Cruise
12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	July	Upton Rally and Clippesby Trophy
27 <sup>th</sup> July - 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Aug	2 <sup>nd</sup> South Rivers Cruise
16 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	August	2 <sup>nd</sup> North Rivers Cruise
13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>	September	Stokesby Rally
27 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup>	September	Womack Rally
18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	October	End of Season Rally

## **Membership Renewal**

There is no increase in membership subscriptions for 2008.

It would help save significant postal charges if members could indicate on the renewal form; other member(s) to whom they could hand deliver the Green Book and MEAG package.

**Please complete the enclosed Annual Membership Renewal form with covering cheque to the Hon Treasurer, Malcolm Valentine, by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. This enables the Editor to have the correct membership information in the MEAG.**

## Annual General Meeting 2007

Held on 17<sup>th</sup> November at The Lion Inn, Thurne, at which Steve Birtles took the Commodore's pennant for 2008.

**The Club Officers and Committee** members duly elected are as follows:-

Commodore .....Steve Birtles  
Vice Commodore .....Peter Paton  
Rear Commodore.....Rita Humphreys  
Hon Treasurer.....Malcolm Valentine  
Hon Secretary.....Paul Savage  
Social Secretary.....Linda Doughty  
Sailing Secretary.....Mark Harvey

### **Committee Members:**

Bob Fearn, Sharron Harvey, Mark Harvey, Linda Doughty and Gary Doughty

**Ex Officio Committee Member and Editor** ..... David Ames

## Sailing Reports from 2007

### **Second Southern Rivers Cruise 18th – 27th August 2007**

**Saturday** Night spent at Ted's mooring, there were 11 boats in total it was cloudy and very windy and occasionally raining. Due to the cold, it was impossible to socialise on the bank so most socialised on each other's boats. We went onto Wenonah where some interesting conversation was had about ornithological matters especially cormorants! Most departed early to bed as this was the warmest option, and we had an early start the next day.

**Sunday** We left Ted's mooring at 08:15 the weather was overcast but dry, passed through the yacht station and onto Breydon raised masts and had an excellent sail despite the heavens opening. We then sailed on towards our final destination of Langley dyke some stopped at Reedham village, others stopped at Reedham ferry for lunch the remainder of us carried onto Langley dyke where we had 14 boats in total. In the afternoon drinks were had on the bank beside Vagabond, and we made friends with a couple on a very large motor yacht, which Gary termed as a gin palace although the owners insisted they had no gin on board only fine wines! In the evening most BBQ'd and we sat on the bank and socialised till around 22:00.

**Monday** We awoke to rain the local weather forecast said rain and showers but ended up being showers followed by more showers. At 12:30 we left Langley dyke and caught the tide, had a very good sail with strong winds and lots of tacking. We stopped at Brundall for supplies, it was cold and still raining but being the height of summer we decided to have an ice cream. We then motored to the Ferry Inn at Surlingham, where 34 members had booked in for an evening meal. Fourteen boats filled the mooring, the meal was good with Wherryman's wangers, mash & onion gravy being the top choice, although the scampi and vegetarian options were also good value. Most left the pub to go back to their yachts just after 22.00 we left the pub at midnight and slept very soundly. You have to admire the conviction of the landlord for keeping this pub going as the river traffic on the Yare has been very low this season, and he has had to offer a cut down choice of menu. He also holds down a full time job as an electrician during the day.

**Tuesday** Lady Ruth left early and headed back to the chandlers at Brundall for some parts to repair his boat, which had a few problems the day before. Many of us stood on the stern of Marionette so Peter could carry out a repair to some holes in bow as he had hit the bank the previous day when a motor cruiser failed to give way whilst he was tacking. At 10:30 the sun momentarily shone on us, which caused a cheer to echo round the mooring. The weather though, remained overcast for the rest of the day. We then

sailed up as far as Bramerton where the wind dropped; we then motored to the mooring at Whitlingham passing under the Postwick Bridge on the way. After lunch Marionette, Wenonah and Vagabond went to Norwich for supplies. Vagabond and Wenonah then carried on past the end of navigation and through the City to New Mills. Gary fished from the bank and had some larger than expected catches! The sailing activity centre kindly advised us that we could use the showers between 17:00 and 18:00 and many took advantage of this. When all the boats arrived we totally filled the mooring, which if you have not been, is one of the largest bank moorings on the Yare. In the evening it was quite cool so we all dispersed around each other's boats and socialised.

**Wednesday** We awoke to very strong winds and rain so the Tom Mackley trophy sailing on the broad at Whitlingham had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of the younger members. Many other boats decided to have a motor up through Norwich. David, Kate, Sharron and I decided to take a walk around the broad and go to the Visitor Centre - the weather was bitter. However, the huge cheese scones and hot drink in the café soon cheered us up. We then went to have a look on board the wherry yacht Hathor which was interesting and very decorative inside. Just after lunch we set off for the mooring at Bramerton. When we arrived the weather was foul which meant battening down the hatches and surviving, although many found their way onto Mezereon in the late afternoon and survived rather well with quite a few drinks and a lot of merriment which was topped off by a rendition of the Dwile Flonkers song. In the evening we all dispersed around each other's boats again due to the weather, this was a bit of a shame as Bramerton is a great place for a really good bank event!

**Thursday** Many members sailed to Brundall, moored at the Church moorings then walked through the marsh boardwalk into the village, others went on to the final destination of Rockland broad. After our excursions we went onto Surlingham Broad and held the Tom Mackley trophy. This year it was based on a time trial around a set course using two topper dinghies. Two practice sessions were allowed and then each participant handed to the commodore their estimated time. All four, Lauren Humphries, Ben Hook, Ben and Tom Doughty, completed the course with good sailing skills. Ben Doughty was exceptional, getting his time right to the exact second! It was a great success and all participants and spectators enjoyed the event. We then went to Rockland broad some moored at the staithe and dined at the pub; others on the new dyke where many took advantage of the dry interlude and BBQ'd. Entertainment came from the Strumpshaw Country Music Festival and a heated debate ensued about the direction of Norwich. The lights from the music festival causing confusion, the Commodore was right all along of course!!!

**Friday** A nice dry morning and the temperature was warmer, we sailed down with the tide to Langley dyke with some even sailing to Reedham ferry for lunch, then back to Langley in the late afternoon where we had tea and cakes on the bank. Some fished and the younger members had a swim in the dyke. We met with Andy a teacher from Stratford on Avon who was having difficulty trying to rig his yacht, many members assisted him raising the mast giving advice, and that evening he gave a donation to the Club's funds, although many members commented that they would have preferred a donation of his fish and chip supper!

**Saturday** We awoke to sunshine hip hip hooray; we managed to break out the shorts at long last. Although some members had headed home, most sailed to Reedham ferry where we had an evening meal in the Ferry Inn.

**Sunday** All had a good days sailing and most of the northern rivers members headed back to their moorings.

Not the greatest week weather wise but we did have some thrilling sailing and all battled through as usual and looking back there were some very memorable moments!

Sailing reports supplied by Mark, Sharron Harvey, Bella.