

TRIBUTES TO SUE LAST AND JEAN ROBINSON by Tom Sargeant



Photo: Graham Chasney

At the Fitting Out Supper I had the great satisfaction of expressing the Club's huge appreciation for all the hard work and achievements of my predecessor Sue Last, and presenting her with a token of that appreciation in the form of an engraved rose bowl. It will stand repeating that the Colne Yacht Club owes a great debt to Sue.

Sue came into office ahead of schedule with her typical sense of duty and service when there was little likelihood of glory to help the Club through a difficult period in its history. She proceeded to effectively work full time for the Club, at some cost to herself both physically and financially. She resisted the temptation to change for the sake of change and worked hard to assess what was or was not hopelessly broken, to salvage what could be saved and to lead us forward where change was inevitable.

She also instigated a major Clubhouse development programme and strived to encourage the membership to make the best use of what we already had. These ideas took time to develop momentum and I believe at some point Sue thought all her efforts had been in vain. I can tell you this was not the case! All Sue's ideas and ambitions are now falling into place and I am determined that in the future a fair share of the credit will go to where it belongs; to Sue!

A week later I had the privilege of presenting Honorary Life Membership of the Colne Yacht Club to our long-standing Secretary, Jean Robinson, on the occasion of her retirement. This is a well-deserved honour as for some 35 years she served a host of Commodores stretching right back to my father, "Old" Tom Sargeant. Jean was the "Rock" around which the whole life of the Colne Yacht Club revolved.



Photo: Graham Chasney

Accompanied by her husband Derek, at her presentation Jean read out her "Ditty for a Committee". For those who were unable to attend (and by popular demand), you can find a transcript over on page 3.

Since being elected Commodore in March I have had the privilege of performing several duties representing the membership of the Colne Yacht Club which have also given me a great deal of personal pleasure and satisfaction.

Viewing the the post of Commodore of the CYC as an honour and pleasure, at the AGM I outlined my hopes for the future: to have the Club's management strategy set and put into execution by the will of the whole General Committee, the Club yachting programme to continue to prosper and the general Clubhouse and social activities to be improved. The feedback I have received encourages me to believe that the membership agrees with these aims!

At the end of the month I represented the CYC at the Maldon Little Ships Club Flag Officer's reception. Arriving by fast rib (courtesy of Nick and Richard Readings) this made quite an impression and in the course of the event I was flattered on your behalf by the favourable comments received about our Club!

On 17 May the Club held its annual New Members' Reception. After a short address from myself about the Club's history and aims, the members of various committees and some other prominent members proceeded to make our attending new members very welcome.

Before closing I must also pay tribute to the support I have had during my first "Hundred" days as Commodore from my fellow Flag Officers, General Committee, Sub Committees, staff and the membership in general. The committees and staff have all worked very hard, I have been able to confidently delegate tasks to those clearly best able to deal with them and the membership has responding positively to our initiatives. My feeling is that the Club is now making significant progress along the lines I proposed at the AGM. Long may it remain so!

The Summer Ball

WHAT A BLAST!



The scene is set for the 2009 CYC Summer Ball.

Report and photos by Graham Chasney



For keeping her eye firmly on the Ball, organiser Karen Green is thanked with a bouquet by Tom Sargeant and Kate Holland.

With 77 guests, and the generosity of those who donated prizes, the Summer Ball raffle raised more than £700 for Brightlingsea First Responders. In every respect the evening was a resounding success, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Commodore Tom Sargeant and Acting Rear Commodore Kate Holland thanked Karen Green with a bouquet for all her hard work organising the Ball, and Marilyn Hempstead and Janice Spikesley also received flowers for their supporting roles. Stella Pullum spent weeks twisting arms for raffle prize donations and very ably called the raffle and acted as auctioneer with the help of husband Gerald.



A room with a view. Overlooking the Hard, the Clubhouse is the perfect setting for a summer ball.

The drapes which totally transformed the hall were thanks to the nimble fingers of Janice Spikesley. The table flowers and pedestals were arranged by Frances Chasney and Sheila Greaves. Roy Beckwith did a sterling job helping behind the bar for the whole evening.

Richard Firman of the Sudbury-based Bentleys Restaurant and his staff served an excellent three-course dinner. The music was provided by 'Beats Working', who had the dance floor jumping from 10.00pm until midnight. Wonderful things these hip and knee replacements!



Is there a nurse in the House? The music of Beats Working got everyone up dancing.



Stella and Gerald Pullum auctioning a framed photograph donated by Graham Adams.

Membership of the CYC Centurions is just £25.

You can win cash prizes of £100, £50 and £25...

...could I take this opportunity to thank all those who have taken out membership of the Centurions. It does help the Club enormously. It means we can purchase items to improve the comfort and surroundings for the members.

In the last couple of years we have provided new seating in the outer bar, helped with the new flooring and provided the new heaters in the outer bar. At present we have three draws a year held at the Fitting Out Supper, The Regatta and the Christmas Lunch. At the recent New Members' Reception I managed to recruit four more members, so we have swelled the numbers to 48.

It would be really good to have some more of you on board; so to speak! Please think about it. Your club does need **YOU**. Information is in the bar or just contact the Club Administrator or myself.

Thank you.

Janice Spikesley

GOOD TO HEAR



Organiser of the East Coast Race, Richard Giles, says the CYC hospitality team deserve a medal for all their hard work to serve and feed 133 + OGA members over the weekend of 12-14 June. On duty were Roo, Emma, Ryan and Mikey

He said the OGA were impressed with the fast serving times and the care taken to phone him before the event to talk about the menu, costs, room layout and band position. The OGA office team have given Roo a thank-you mug.

Walton & Frinton Yacht Club recounted the same story to CYC members out on the pontoon. Twenty-four of their members dined in our Clubhouse and say the food was good and they were very well looked after.

New Members' Reception



Photo: Kate Holland

Reg Crawley (left) chats to Peter Beadles who has joined CYC with his wife Patricia.

Reg of course has been a member since 1979 and served as Commodore 1992 - 1993. As a Past President, he rejoined the General Committee this year. Present Commodore, Tom Sargeant, warmly welcomed all the new members to the Club at the Reception held on Sunday 17 May.

A Committee Ditty

Here's the ditty Jean entertained us with at her retirement presentation...

Oh give me your pity,
I'm on a committee,
Which means that
from morning to night,
We attend and amend
and contend and defend,
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur,
we defend and demur,
And reiterate all of our thoughts,
We revise the agenda
with frequent addenda,
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose,
we suppose and oppose,
And the points of procedure are fun,
But though various notions
are brought up as motions,
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve,
but we never dissolve,
Since it's out of the question for us,
What a shattering pity
to end our committee,
Where else could we make such a fuss?

Anon



Apparently, the spinnaker first appeared at that time prior to the "war-to-end-all-wars". The owners of the largest yachts such as the J-class **expected** to win.

They paid top dollar for the right man to run their yachts and such a man was the skipper of Herbert Maudsley's boats.

They launched a new boat called "Sphinx". In truth the boat didn't go too well, and he had an idea to put more sail up downwind. From what one gathers, it's not certain there were many rules about sail area at that time.

You had mast height controlled by trees and most restrictions were imposed by what was possible. Maudsley's skipper had their sail-maker run up a sail they could try from the top mast. They kept it secret until one of the big races that Maudsley had never won, and left the fleet "tied to a stake" or "did an horizon job on 'em!"; whichever of the modern parlance for "beat them out of sight" you prefer.

Maudsley's friends, because of the sail's gigantic size, used to call it "sphinxes acre" and so was born the most hated, misunderstood, treasured, discarded, loved and unloved sail of all time, the "spinnaker".

Downwind sailing would never be quite the same again!

A Spectacular Weekend



Photo: Graham Chasney

The OGA graced our shores once again this year with the East Coast Race, and they received a warm welcome in the Clubhouse where they socialised and held their prize-giving and dinner.

On a weekend that rolled together the East Coast Race, the CYC Open Weekend and the Brightlingsea Boat Show, the weather was magnificent and a crowded Clubhouse was buzzing with activity. A competitive, socially successful weekend was enjoyed by all.

As if she was posing for the camera, the delightful smack pictured above is "Mary", built in 1889 and owned by Pinky Ewes. The first three places in the Gaffers class were claimed by "Fanny of Cowes" (built in 1872), "Kestrel" (built in 1881) and "Primrose" (built in 1892).

In the Bermudan class, CYC member Barry Edwards skippering "Random" lifted the cup for 1st place with "Maid of Tessa" and "Quintet" following 2nd and 3rd.



Our Vice-Commodore, Glyn Cheeseman, was spotted on the Hard a couple of weekends ago introducing some new cadets to the sign language of sailing.

When asked about this particular gesture, he was unable to recall precisely what it meant, but thought he may have been demonstrating a method of estimating the height of tide when standing on the bed of the Creek.

Please email the Club to let us know what your take on it might be.

CYC at the Wivenhoe Regatta



Photo: Marilyn Hempstead

Mike Hempstead helming his BOD "Gelsma" in the Wivenhoe Regatta with Robin Green and Robin's son, Dan, crewing.



Cap'n Bob says you shouldn't panic if an electrical connection in your wooden-hull boat catches fire. All that will happen is that the automatic pump will stop working, causing the boat to fill with water which in turn will put out the fire and so... the pump will start working again thus emptying the boat! Job done, on with the race.

RACING RULES SESSION

There's a racing rules workshop being planned for the last weekend in July. Watch your email for details



Photo: Graham Chasney

Reg White's new GRP BOD was launched on the Hard at the end of May

Creekmouth Post is edited and prepared for press free of charge for CYC by Cooper Chasney Creative

Mutineers, Cadets, Helpers, Adult Sailing and Club Dinghies

by Glyn Cheeseman

It's one of the great things about CYC, the sheer diversity of craft, activities and yet it all works and there is also a healthy interchange and co-operation between them. We have yacht racing, cruisers, power, dinghies, BODS and gaffers, and an example of the co-operation is that we have had cadets crewing in yacht racing and on gaffers. I am sure that if anyone is desperate for crew the Mutineers and Cadets are available.

CYC Child and Youth protection policy

Yes, we do have one and we have an appointed officer, me Glyn Cheeseman. We abide by the RYA rules and advice and I am also kept up to date as a reserve RAF officer involved with the air training corps. If you need any information then please contact me and I will be happy to advise you on any concerns you may have or if you would like advice on any topic. Most is commonsense but there are always pitfalls to catch the uninformed.

What is a Mutineer?

Although not as conceived as such from the original CYC Mutineers, the term is now used to describe those who are over 18 and sail dinghies instead of yachts. This usually means ex-cadets or parents who sail as part of the cadet fleet as helpers and instructors. The current Mutineer Chief is Matt Crittenden who apart from being the son of an ex-CYC commodore is also the main RYA instructor for cadets and an ex-cadet commodore. Each year we see several ex-cadets come back to help with Activity Week and the Mutineers are an important part of the cadet section organisation.

HELP FOR Cadets Saturday Morning Sailing

This is well underway with the cadets spending more time on the water and afterwards socialising over lunch. We soon hope to have all the larger dinghies back in action ready for adult sailing and Activity Week. HELP! We have a small band of volunteers and helpers but we need more. Recently we had to leave a four-person dinghy out of action due to lack of helms and all we needed was a crew for a safety boat (no experience required and life jacket provided). If you can help in any capacity it would be great.

CADET ACTIVITY WEEK

This is coming up fast and we are very nearly full. We will need more helpers for that to work, and as they say one volunteer is worth ten press-ganged men/women. Any capacity, skill, morning evening day or week would be welcome. We can only run this with; enough cadets (no shortage), dinghies (getting there), helms (not enough) and shore helpers (not enough).

Anything you want to know more about anything then please ring me on 01206 251551 or go to www.colnecadets.org

Club Dinghies

The Club owns a wide range of dinghies which are not only used by cadets but they are also available for members to borrow. If you are already an experienced sailor and over 18 you can borrow a Club dinghy. There are Wayfarers, Topaz's, Topper, 470, Laser 2s, Sport 14. All it takes is a quick check through with me to make sure that you have a suitable helm and just a small, or if you like, a large donation to cadet funds. You can borrow them as often as you like as long as they are there for cadets and any problems are reported as soon as possible. They are insured for use by the Club so you don't even have to worry about that.

Adult Dinghy Sailing lessons.

Once again we are going to tempt the weather to turn foul by offering these on a Saturday afternoon for CYC members.

The lessons will be given by adult helpers from the cadet section and, although not leading to a RYA examination, we will cover the same topics. All it costs is a few beers for the instructors (after, not before or during). We will be using the slower, drier boats so a minimum of equipment is needed. Usually three sessions is enough to cover the basics of crewing and helming, depending on ability and experience.

We hope to get six sessions in before Activity Week and we will probably ask you if you can help us then too if you would like more experience.

CYC SAILING PROGRAMME

28 June BOD BSC 3 Start Time 14.15pm
5 July BOD BSC 4 Start Time 14.15pm
19 July BOD CYC 4 Start Time 14.30pm
26 July BOD BSC 5 Start Time 14.15pm

27 June Summer Series 3
Start Time 14.30pm
Cruiser Trophy Danny Smith
4 July Summer Series 4
Start Time 10.30am
Cruiser Trophy Bostock Cup
18 July Summer Series 5
Start Time 10.30am
Cruiser Trophy Thurnhill Cup
25 July Summer Series 6
Start Time 14.30pm
Cruiser Trophy Vithe Fidillis

Know about the water meter?



There's some mixed views about having a water meter. But the fact is that non CYC boats have been coming on to the hammerhead to take on water and the inevitable result is that we are paying

more for our water than we as a club are using. If that persists and as water costs mount, then ways of paying for the trespassers will have to be found. So it was decided it would be better to put in a meter.

£1 buys Club members 15 minutes of water flow. You will find the meter on the wall at the jetty end of the Clubhouse opposite the dinghies. The £1 slot is on the right-hand side of the meter.