

ALEXANDRA

Yacht Club Founded 1873 - NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2004

Commodores Day

This years Commodores Day took on the theme of Pirates and what an event it was. The AYC has never seen such a lot of blooming seafaring crew, who certainly caught the eye of a lot of passer bys.

Gary wishes to express a huge thank you to those who came along on Sunday 15 August, the support you showed was overwhelming, it was certainly a wonderful sight to see the sea cadets joining in with the more senior members of the club, we have not seen as many boats sailing in a long time. Mark Emmerson Commodore of Leigh Sailing Club and Stuart Strauss Past Commodore of the AYC sailed down from Leigh to support Gary. The costumes were excellent, the day was wonderful (thank you Greg for organising the cadets).

The event started on the jetty with sailing activities on the water, followed by the sail pass, then the Commodore was made to walk the plank. John Foster made a cannon, stocks, greasy pole and questions where asked on the most famous pirates known. Thank you John and Carol, you were brilliant.

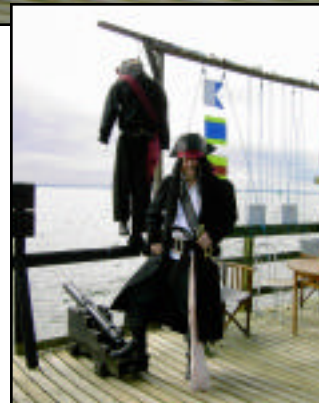
After sailing everyone went to the club house for buffet and further fun events (thank you Jen & Jon for doing the buffet). Pam and Barry entertained the cadets and the younger members of the club with a Piñata. Treasure chest was won by Doreen & Dave, who won a surprise DVD player, amongst lots of golden goodies (thank you Pam & Barry).

Huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the day a fun and memorable day. Words almost fail how we felt that day, we felt extremely proud and honoured.

I can only show a taster of some of the photos taken, more photos of the day are posted in the clubhouse including a wonderful collection presented to the club by Chris Taylor.

I hope you will enjoy this small collection of photos taken on the day. The newsletter features more about the members of the club and what is happening in their life's in and around the AYC, which I hope you will also enjoy.

We have got organised a lot more events, see back page for date and information. Also Lesley is making request for us to sell draw tickets, please see page 7 for more details.



"I would just like to offer my congratulations to the people who arranged Commodore's Day. It was the best and most successful Commodore's Day that I have attended in my 11 years as a member. Well done to everyone.
Vic Hall - Hon. Secretary"



Hon Treasurer Lesley Hall and Hon Secretary Vic Hall's daughter Karin Hall married Martyn Brinton.

Karin and Martyn members of the AYC, were married on Saturday 17 July. Karin is the daughter of AYC Hon Treasurer Lesley and Hon Secretary Vic Hall. The wedding and reception was held at The Bull Hotel, Long Melford, Suffolk. I am sure you all will wish Karin and Martyn... a long and happy marriage. Below are some photos of the day which we hope the newsletter readers will enjoy.



From left to right: Vic, Lesley, Karin, Martyn, Martyn parents.



Karin and Martyn enjoying the moment of cutting the cake.



Congratulations - Karin & Martyn

The AYC hosts a very international party..

William Fairbanks Eve of Wedding Party at the AYC on 2 July,

Last summer Leonor, (my wife), Bob Sealey and myself met and discussed the possibility of holding an Eve of Wedding Party for my son William at the club. Bob was very enthusiastic about this suggestion and went on to tell us about the plans the club had for restoring the premises including a new kitchen.

About fifty guests were invited to William's party. All his mates came, a number of our friends and some relatives from Latin America. We had a family from Mexico and other relations from Bolivia, Peru and Colombia, there were also friends from Spain. It was truly an international evening and was reflected in the choice of music which played a good number of South American and Spanish records.

The buffet was quite outstanding arranged by outside caterers. It was a very enjoyable experience and will long be remembered by William and Natasha in years to come.

Afterwards Leonor's brother from Mexico had this to say about the evening "The Olarte family from Mexico for the first time came to Westcliff-on-Sea to attend the wedding of Natasha and William. Our first night surprise was the wonderful Eve of Wedding Party with William's friends and some of his relatives. The atmosphere in the special place was very impressive everyone was friendly and the club officials made us very welcome. The music for the disco catered for all age groups and the food provided was excellent. What a great evening to start the Wedding off the next day !"

Below are some pictures taken of the evening along with some of the names and parts of the world that the guests came from to join in on this wonderful evening.

Article written by David Fairbanks

On behalf of the AYC we would like to say thank you to Leonor & David for choosing to hold William's party at the AYC. Thank you to Gariel Olarte for his kind words.

To Natasha & William we wish you on behalf of all the AYC members a long and happy marriage.



Leonor & David Fairbanks - Members of the AYC



L-R Jose Gabriel Olarte, Miguel Olarte, Angie Olarte from Mexico, Maria Esther Olarte and Natalie Fairbanks.



L-R Leonora Olarte, Gabriel Olarte, Reynaldo Olarte, Melba Pyne - From Colombia but live in Mexico.



L-R William Fairbanks (the groom to be) and friends Erol Hassan, Basil Ghannam.

Fingers crossed for a Paralympic Sailor

By Tony Harrison

A few local sailing enthusiasts may remember my eldest son Colin. He introduced dinghy sailing to the Harrison family after an outward bound adventure holiday in North Wales when he was about 16 years old. After a few trips out with him as a 'heavy weather' crew in his Fireball then Merlin Rocket, I was also bitten by the sailing bug and bought a 14-foot Skipper Sabre then a 12 ft Otter. Unlike me, Colin was a keen competitor and took up class racing in Fireballs and "505's" (photo 1). Several years later, after University, then marriage (in Perth, Scotland) Colin emigrated to Perth (Western Australia) and settled down to raise a family.



'505' National Championships, N.Wales 1986

After the birth of his second daughter, Colin was diagnosed as having a very rare and aggressive type of cancer, and underwent a radical but life-saving operation to remove his right arm, shoulder and lung. As a keen sportsman and musician this was a shattering event but after a few years rehabilitation, he was given the 'all clear' and resumed his sailing. Dinghies were now, of course, not an option so he took up crewing on keel-boats and cruisers. This led him into competitive sailing within the disabled group and subsequent sponsorship by the Royal Perth YC.

Races are sailed in the USA-designed Sonar class, a 23-foot day sailer keel-boat with a crew of 3 or 4 according to their disabilities (photo 2). After success at local, state then national level, Colin and his crew were selected to represent Australia at the 2001/2 (Holland) and 2002/3 (Greece) world championships where they were placed 7th and 13th in a fleet of 30 competitors.

Earlier this year they were placed 7th and 4th equal at the pre-Olympic regattas in the USA and their selection as the Australian representatives for the 2004 Paralympics in Athens next September, is now official.

The family had hoped to spend 10/14 days in Greece, but the security restrictions are so severe (zero access to the Olympic Village or sailing area) that this is now not really practical. In fact, at the time of writing the USA team has not yet confirmed its attendance due to reservations about security arrangements.

On recent form, the national teams from the UK, Germany, Canada and Israel are likely to be at the front of the fleet, but we will be keeping our fingers crossed for a good result.

Good Luck Colin..



Sonar Class Pre-Olympic Regatta USA, 2004

Winners of the Lovejoy Cup - Nore Race

Account of the day by Chris Brooks.

Chris Brook and John Graves braved the 18 mile hike, we all know as the Nore Race, representing the AYC. Skipper - despite having a reputation as being teetotal I had noticed my lively crew to be, sneak a small half the night before, but JR Graves came out from the distance of the coastline, with a bouncy spring in his stride. He wasn't even late.

We set out to sea in Commodore Gary's Enterprise "Taipan". I could tell John (JR Graves) had not done much small boat racing recently. It could have been the packed lunch or that frustration look upon his face when attempt after attempt to roll a fag was doused by buckets full of water. After a quick reformation with the boat we were ready to compete.

We made our way to the start line, Southend Pier, where most of the boats were starting to gather. We waited and waited but heard no sounds.

We realised all the other boats had started and after a short pause and a prompt from JR Graves I decided it was time we started.

We sat completely still for our run down to West Shoebury bouy, the wind had dropped but our patience had paid off and we had gained many places.

As we turned the mark the wind picked up and we started our long beat back across and up the river. It seemed to take hours and hours and it was very hard work.

Our reward was when we rounded North Swash onto a planing reach. This was amazing, the fastest I had ever sailed a small conventional dinghy. Like a Skiff, it tip topped across the top of the surf. We were travelling so fast, over my shoulder I could see a Merlin Rocket.

We chased him close on his tail all the way past the pier and at that moment we both signed with relief, we were finished and all left to do was pick up our prize.

You would never believe it, how satisfying sitting in the middle of the Thames in squelchy sand could be, but we had earned it, our prize, all shiny, yes a cold can of Becks.

We worked very hard despite having a bad start and was honoured to be able to collect the Love Joy and The Enterprise Trophy.. Well done Chris and John.

10 Days to Deliver 33ft Royal Artillery Yacht.

By Chris Brooks.

John Graves, Chris Brook and Jock took 10 days out to deliver a 33ft Elan yacht for the Royal Artillery's Yacht Club. The delivery was from Holyhead, North Wales to Portsmouth.

Four sailors departed from the Holyhead docks, John, a young soldier, Jock and me. We sailed and sailed through wind and rain and through the night until the sun rose again.

We made our passage plan to Falmouth but we didn't get that far. The increasing wind was on our nose so we consulted the charts. We took the next left and carried on sailing and stumbled upon a place near Milford Haven.

Well us four boys, we found the town and a nice little pub where we sat sat down. We got to know the locals and had so much fun. God knows - those gale force winds had a 3 day run.

When it was time to leave, wind still in the South, we decided to refuel and give the engine some clout. We motor sailed for hours and days, but nothing we couldn't handle. The Irish Sea, Atlantic Swell and of course the English Channel.

It was now downhill and the sun did shine round Land's End and the wind was from behind Falmouth, Plymouth, the Isle of Wright and a place called Dartmouth a beautiful sight.

I meet so many people and had time to reflect. I even met a couple of film stars along the trip.

Flipper and his friends, then there was Jaws, amazing wildlife not far from the shore.

I recommend cruiser sailing its great so please come along learn all about it, for its never too late.

Race Officer's Ramblings..

"Do we need a rescue boat ?"

Sunday 18 July, race day, there was a westerly force 2-3 with light drizzle of rain and two Mirror dinghies were being rigged on the boat rack. Maurice Jardine, our Rear Commodore Sailing and his crew Martine Lewis were getting "Blue Rinse" set up. They were going to be challenged by our new Cadet Captain, Greg Solkhon with his younger brother, Scott as crew in their as yet unnamed craft.

Greg's dad Andy, had volunteered to take out the rescue boat if we were all prepared to lend a hand to launch it. "Do we need a rescue boat ?" inquired Maurice. We did of course, with cadets out on the water, but a few minutes later, just after the race flags had been raised it was "Blue Rinse" that needed to be rescued and towed back to shore when their mast came down.

As Greg had a slight problem with his rudder and not wishing to be unfair to Maurice, he also did not start so I abandoned and got ready for a fresh start.

Maurice found the problem was with the rigging and not with the mast itself so he and Martine quickly affected repairs so as to be ready for the restart.

A clean start second time around although Greg was slow away and being new to race sailing, found it quite difficult beating into both wind and tide down to the first mark. Maurice built up a large lead only to throw it all away on the run by completely missing the second mark and then having to turn and beat back towards it. By this time Greg had made it round the first mark and he quickly passed Maurice to take the lead, which he held on to going into the second round. Only minutes later and "Blue Rinse" was dismantled again, needing to be towed home for the second time, and leaving Greg to continue on to take the race and the Trophy.

So its "well done" to our Cadet Captain but, Maurice , I rather think you did need that rescue boat.

Dave Smith - AYC Race Officer

CABARET NIGHT AT THE AYC

Shaun McCann & LoneStar

SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

**Three Course Meal and Entertainment
with Two Acts - Tickets 20.00 each
Tickets on Sale now at Clubhouse**

Limited numbers

Alexandra Yacht Club SUNDAY LUNCH JON & JENNY

Present

**TWO COURSE MEAL
FOR £6.95**

**SUNDAY FROM 1.00 PM
NEXT SUNDAY DINNER
ON**

SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

**MENU AND BOOKING ON CLUB NOTICE
BOARD OR FOR MORE DETAILS CALL**

**Jon or Jenny on
07731 911277**

A sort of soap about life in yacht club, please remember all the characters and events are fictitious

"ALL AT SEA – SECOND EDITION - Part Two"

by Stephen Hall

Justin stared helplessly at the blood stained mirror as it flailed off course but this was not his immediate concern, Peter was bobbing lifelessly in the water, his head down in the water, his auburn hair soaked in sticky red blood. For a moment Justin froze, before he ended his chance of winning the race and turned his mirror back towards his friend. With grace and precision he pulled his dingy alongside Peter and grabbed him by the life jacket and tried desperately to haul him onto his boat. However Peter was soaked and heavy, despite several attempts he could not pull him onboard and was in danger of falling over board himself.

Exhausted he dropped his friend back into the water and without really thinking jumped in alongside him, he hit the cold water and scrambled desperately to reach Peter, so that he could hold his head backwards out of the water. His limbs were numb from the cold water, as his finger made contact with Peters life jacket, all he could do now was wait

George stood staring at the door, Susan had just stormed out through. He slowly turned round put the small trophy into his bag and realised that the truth would have to come out now. Sadly he said "Perhaps it was for the best", but there was no one left to hear.

Jill and Martin, finally separated from their embrace, Martin had a big smile on his rosy face, but Jill still had a small tear in her eye, she quickly turned away before Martin could see. "I love you" said Martin, Jill didn't have time to answer, as George appeared on the steps in front of them carrying his bag. "Hello Commodore" said Martin, with a long face George looked at Martin. "Don't look so glum, it may never happen" added Martin.

"It already has" mumbled George as he continued along the stairs past them.

Martin stood staring at the back of the commodore. "I wonder what's wrong with him" said Martin as he turned back to Jill. Jill didn't reply, she was lost in her own thoughts, trying to work out what to do next. Now that she was going to marry Martin, she would have to tell him her big secret. Not only didn't she know how to tell him, she wasn't even sure there would be a wedding once he knew the truth.....

Who is willing to write the next edition...

UNWANTED ITEMS WANTED

Thank you to all who donated items todate.
Last weekend Lesley & Vic Hall raised £70.00 for the club funds.

We need more items so if you have any unwanted items that we can sell in a boot sale that you are happy to donate to the club please contact Lesley or Vic Hall as they intend to continue with this idea in order to help raise more much needed funds for your club - well done and thanks to Lesley & Vic.

EMAIL..

Do you have email and would you like to receive this newsletter to your email address along with all club updates.

If you would please send you email address to linda.mckay@dtint.co.uk

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter or write a feature for us... if so please email.

CLUB ANNUAL GRAND DRAW FOR 2004

For the last couple of years the club has held a grand draw to raise money for the club. This year the focus will be to fund work on the outside of the club house, which is currently looking a little neglected, especially compared with the smartened-up jetty.

We invite all members to help sell tickets on behalf of the club. Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find 4 books which contain only 20 tickets in all and ask for you to try to sell these to friends, family, work colleagues or yourself. Plenty more books are available and the prizes are not insignificant. A case with 6 bottles of wine will be given to the person who sells the most tickets as long as it is a minimum of 10 books. Don't forget, all the money raised is for YOUR CLUB.

Lesley Hall - Hon Treasurer

EVENTS AT THE AYC

CABARET NIGHT AT THE AYC - SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

Three Course Meal and Entertainment with Two Acts - Tickets 20.00 each, these are onsale at the club house.

MR & MRS COMPETITION - SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER

If you are interested in taking part please put your name down. Please come along and support this evening even if you are not taking part.

HALLOWEEN DISCO - SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER

SEE NOTICE BOARD FOR FULL DETAILS

END OF SEASON SAILING SUPPER - SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

All members welcome to attend the end of season sailing supper. Three course meal with coffee & mints. Full details will be posted on the club's notice board.

PHOENIX JAZZ BAND - FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Enjoy an evening with Alan Poulton and his jazz band "Phoenix" tickets are £5.00 each on sale at the clubhouse.

RECEEDERS CHRISTMAS GIG & AYC GRAND DRAW SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER

Back by popular demand, the wonderful R & B Band the Receeders playing live at the AYC. Tickets £5.00 each on sale at the club house.

Grand draw will be held prior to the Receeders starting.

CHRISTMAS EDITION OF WEAKEST WINK SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

Event is open to all members who dare brave the witty but charming Mrs. Morris. If you are interested in taking part please put your name down as soon as possible.

NEW YEARS EVE DISCO & PARTY NIGHT FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER

This year we are planning a wonderful New Years Eve Party at the AYC, all members are encouraged to come, friends and family are all welcome.

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FROM THE CLUBHOUSE.

NEW YEARS DAY - PAPER BOAT RACE SATURDAY 1 JANUARY 2005

How could we not hold this event. All members are invited to make up a paper boad, using only paper and sellotape. The boats will then race each other in the 3 Shells paddling pool, time of race will be posted on the club's notice board.