

## New Commodore for 2004

**A new years greetings to all our members from the Commodore, Flag Officers and Management team for 2004.** Firstly may I thank the previous Commodore and his Committee for all their hard work in 2003, especially for their work on refurbishing the Commodore's bar and kitchen, as your new Commodore may I introduce the Committee for 2004.

Vice Commodore Bob Sealey many of you will know Bob as our Commodore for the past two years. Hon Secretary Vic Hall continues his role from last year, Hon Treasurer Lesley Hall, Lesley also continues in her role as custodian of the club's finances.

Rear Commodore Sailing Maurice Jardine, Maurice is a keen and dedicated sailor with many years sailing experience plus has been our sailing secretary for many years making him the perfect choice.

Rear Commodore House Dean Allen, Dean like Maurice is new to this position but has been an active club member for many years and brings much needed building maintenance experience to this position.

President Betty Roberts, Betty also is continuing as President for 2004 and Committee Members, Dave Allan-Smith, Linda McKay, and Jan Hawkins. This year we have an Entertainments Committee, Barry & Pam Harvey, Beverley & Ian Wildish, Helen and Shaun McCann who will be responsible for organising a lot of the club's entertainments.

### Emphasis for 2004

The emphasis for 2004 is to continue improving club and jetty facilities for the benefit of all. So please become involved and help us realise the clubs true potential, along with making the club entertaining for members.

On Feb 1st the above team invited all members to attend an Open Meeting. Object of the meeting was to meet the new management team and discuss some of the difficulties and issues which the AYC faces, listen to your views, ideas and suggestions. The meeting was well attended and positive.

We are no different from many other clubs in the country, in that most clubs have difficulties but the AYC is a "Old Historic" building, one of the few old Yacht Clubs remaining in the country and within your local community.

This presents its own difficulties, the upkeep of the building, maintenance, improvements, not to mention the increasing costs of the day-to-day running of the club, the list goes on... this all needs funds and support to keep the club going.



Gary McKay with Bob Sealey

The AYC is a non-profit club, in that any profit that may be made goes back into the club for the benefit of the members. The club is totally run by "volunteers", with the above management team who are elected each year to manage the club on behalf of the members. This team is made up of "members" whom like yourself joined the club to enjoy the club facilities and have fun.

This team with the assistance of a few other volunteer members, give up their own time, at their own expense so that the other "non volunteering members" can enjoy their time at the club.

Apart from the duties within the position they hold, they also do a number of other supporting tasks which sometimes goes unseen - all to ensure that the club stays open for other members.

By the above team with the few volunteers undertaking the duties, the club does **NOT** employ paid staff. This helps keep the out goings down and the membership fees to a minimum but even with their efforts this at times only just manages to keep the club's head above water.

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The next year is going to be a difficult year we have lots of work that needs undertaking in and around the club however the management team are committed to the club but we need the members support.

My message as your new Commodore is that I would like all members to support the club more, offer your assistance no matter how little, we are open to suggestions, ideas..

I am now going to hand you over to the Flag Officers, who will explain what difficulties they have to address on your behalf, the future plans and where you can offer your support.

**Working together with us, will make a difference..... Gary McKay**

**Open Meeting Minutes from meeting held on Sunday 1st Feb are available in the club house.**

**Thank you to Jackie Diggins for taking the mins at the above meeting.**

**NEXT OPEN MEETING: SUNDAY 16 MAY**

**AT 12.30 PM, BAR OPEN FROM 12.00 PM**

**Please come and join us....**

## **DEAN ALLEN - REAR COMMODORE HOUSE**

This year we have a lot of work to be done on the clubhouse and grounds. Martine (a new member) has volunteered to be Rear Commodore Gardening (gratuitous title), so she will be looking for some green fingered helpers or people willing to learn gardening (Martine's profession is a gardener).

The steps are going to be recast and the handrail made user friendly. There is also an old overgrown path that runs along the top fence line and then down to the front doors. We are hoping to reopen this in time for the start of the summer.

The galley (kitchen) is almost complete. We have bought the units and we are waiting delivery of the work surfaces. Our target date is for the 7th March, ready for Mothers day weekend on 20th & 21st March. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those people who have helped on improving the galley over the past year.

Our biggest job this year is to paint the exterior wood white. This hasn't been done for a while and is looking a bit weathered.

I have a list of things to be done around the clubhouse and grounds so if you would like to do something to help please leave me a note with your contact information behind the bar.

All is left to ask is that when a work party comes up, please come along and help as they say, "Many hands make light work".

## **VIC HALL - HON SECRETARY**

One of my 'jobs' is to oversee all the aspects of keeping the bar running, including keeping the bar stocked, watching the prices maintain our profit margin and coercing volunteers to do bar duties.

The main area I need help is the bar duties. If you can offer your services even for one bar duty every 1/2/3 months please contact me or leave a message for me to contact you. Training will be given!

Unfortunately, please be warned there is an imminent rise in the bar prices due to a nationwide increase in prices passed on to us by the wholesalers.

One of my other jobs is Membership Secretary and if you haven't paid your 2004 subscription you will be receiving a final invoice from me within the next couple of weeks. This will contain an additional charge of £10 for late payment. However if we receive your payment before I send these out, I will let you off the £10. Just don't tell my wife!! (She's the treasurer!)

## **LESLEY HALL - HON TREASURER**

Do you want the good news, or the bad news? Well, the good news is that we received in £2970 in 2004 subscriptions up to the end of January, as opposed to £750 this time last year. The bad news is we could do with a regular income like that each month, in addition to our bar takings! Our bar takings are usually low in January, after the Christmas big spend, but we still have our ongoing bills to pay.

For instance, do you know that our insurance premium is over £9,000.00 for 2003-2004? That's nearly £175 every week, plus utility bills of approx £100 per week, plus rent and rates of nearly £200 per week, plus pest control, cleaning expenses, alarm costs, accountants fees, licence fees etc etc.....That's without even thinking of paying out for repairs or any improvements!!!

So you can see why I am often asking you for money. As Gary and Vic say we need volunteers, but we also need your money! So why not come down and drop in at the Alexandra, come and have a drink at the bar. The prices are probably cheaper than other places you might call in for a drink and approx half of your bar bill will go straight back into YOUR Club, not lining someone else's pocket!

And if you feel you could make a regular donation, with a chance of winning some back, why not join the 200 Club? You make out a standing order to the Alexandra Yacht Club for as little as £1 each month, and COULD win back £35 or more, while the Club retains some profit.

Contact me for further details – I'm the smiling face in the Club when you want to pay out some money!!

**List of work needed to be undertaken will be posted on the club's notice board, if you can assist leave message with contact number behind the bar.**

**Club work parties will also be posted on the notice board - please offer your help, the work parties can be great fun so come along and join in**

**Thank you.....**

# The Jetty - Rear Commodore Sailing

## Maurice Jardine

As a recently elected acting rear commodore sailing, I thought I'd like to say how I see sailing develop within the AYC.

This can only be possible if a number of issues are progressed to promote sailing, but I think the main one we need to concentrate at present is to have a safe and secure jetty from which members can launch their or a club boat from.

This recently came to a head when the local council advised the AYC management Committee that the fencing and the jetty was in need of considerable repair and that the AYC had to make this good in a very short time.

The committee reacted in an appropriate manner, by agreeing that a work party be instigated and that funding and volunteer skills be utilised to this purpose.

As you will have seen this has already taken effect with the new fencing producing a very pleasant perimeter fence and with some of the planks on the jetty being replaced or made good.

Special thanks must go to those who helped and for the special support given to me in enabling this project to proceed as well as it has.

There is still a lot of work required as the work we have done so far, is only a small part of the work needed!.

At the recent open meeting I mentioned that to repair the jetty (an urgent but temporary measure) to make it safe would require something like 100 planks, but to redeck the jetty (a longer term requirement) would require at least 600 planks.

I will leave the mathematics to you but a plank will cost many pounds each so we are easily talking many thousands of pounds even if we rely on voluntary (member) labour!

Can you help us make the vision of a safe and secure jetty possible?

### 'Sponsor A Plank Appeal'

To enable the club to raise the funds for this project we have launched a 'sponsor a plank appeal' so for a suggested minimum donation of say £20.00 or £50.00 for a business you could commemorate your sponsorship of a plank on a commemorative plaque with up to 35 characters (please note spaces count as characters). The words would be of your choice and would be clearly seen by anyone in the 'Club as they looked out at the jetty.

This strikes me as a super way to help make the jetty safe and secure and to share some special words at the same time. I hope you can help?

Sponsorship forms and more details are enclosed with the newsletter, but if you want more details please let me or any of the committee members know. More forms are available in the club.

Similarly if there are any other ways you can help the club progress sailing issues or help with making the jetty good I would be pleased to hear from you.



# WANTED



## Unwanted Gifts

### Items in Good Condition

**For the Club to Sell at a Boot Fair  
to help raise funds for the AYC Jetty fund.**

**Please contact Jan Hawkins**

**or Dean Allen for more details**

**or leave details a clubhouse for Jan or Dean.**



## INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER OF THE AYC NEW YEARS DAY PAPER BOAT RACE FOR 2004 - ROMA SPENCER GREENWAY

The AYC newsletter editor managed to catch up with Roma Spencer Greenway, the winner of the AYC paper boat race for 2004, for an exclusive interview especially for the AYC newsletter readers.

Q: Roma, you have a very unusual name, have I spelt your name correctly ?

**Roma: Yes.**

Q: Could I ask how old you are ?

**Roma: 8 years, 6 months.**

Q: Is it true that you were the only young girl who entered this year's race ?

**Roma: Yes, I was the only girl there.**

Q: Could you tell me how you made your boat ?

**Roma: I made it out of paper and sellotape.**

Q: How long did it take you to make your boat ?

**Roma: 20 minutes.**

Q: Did you make the boat yourself ?

**Roma: Hmm, no, yes, Daddy did help cut the sellotape.**

Q: Could you tell me what was the best bit about the race for you ?

**Roma: Winning it.**

Q: How did you feel when you won the race ?

**Roma: Very excited.**

Q: Do you have any advice for next years race ?

**Roma: No, I can not give my secrets, "I am coming in next years".**

**Roma: Thank you for your time and well done.**

## Would you like to receive news about the club via email.

We are trying to improve the communications and are looking for ways in which we can get more information to the members.

Posters are posted on the club notice boards, another suggestion which came from the Open Meeting was offering information via email.

If, you have an email address and would like to receive information, news about the club please forward your email address to linda.mckay@dtint.co.uk or lindamc@beeb.net

All email address submitted will be **NOT** be given out to other members. All receivers will not see the email addresses of the individual, only the group name.

## Gathering of Commodores



The AGM held on 14 December last year saw the gathering of Four Past Commodores, The President and Newly Elected Commodore of the Alexandra Yacht Club

From left to right

**Bob Sealey Commodore 2002-2003**

**Vic Hall Commodore 2001**

**Barbara Morris Commodore 1992-1994**

**John Graves Commodore 1999,**

**Betty Roberts President,**

**Gary McKay Commodore 2004.**

## NORE RACE FOR 2004

**SUNDAY 20 JUNE**

**Look out for information on the Sailing Notice Board.**

## Boathouse in Cornwall for Hire....

The boathouse stands on the bank of the Helford River. The house sleeps 4, (1 Twin, 1 Double bedded). There is a bath/shower/toilet and downstairs a further bathroom with shower/toilet off the twin room.

The boathouse is surrounded by windows affording views not only of the every changing river but the fish and bird life. There is room to park 2 cars and a riverside garden equipped with a small garden chalet with seats and BBQ.

The area is one of outstanding beauty. There is an Oyster Farm next door and automatic use of the Port Navas Yacht Club a few hundred yards away. You can sail from the side of the boat house but river is tidal. Close by much to sail or drive, including Helford Passage & Frenchman's Creek made famous by Daphne Dumaurier. The new Falmouths Maritime Museum is well worth a visit. There are many gardens close by within 10 mins drive. Falmouth is 6 miles and Truro 12 miles.

If, anyone is interested please call:

**Sally Edwards on: 01326 341108**

All the information along with some pictures can be found in the Club entrance halls notice board.

## Dates for your Diaries..... more events to come

Please check the clubs notice board for all the details, updates, other club activities & events.

### Saturday 20th March **MOTHER'S DAY DINNER & CABARET**

Three Course Dinner & Cabaret  
Tickets £15.00 per person

Please purchase tickets in advance, last day for purchase Sunday 14 March.

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### Saturday 27th March **COUNTRY & WESTERN NIGHT**

Cowboy clothes or come as you like.

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### Saturday 3rd April **COCKTAILS AT THE BLUE PARROT**

The club will be transformed into a 1930's style nightclub. Live Pianist & Cabaret. Waitress Drinks Service - Formal Dress  
Tickets £3.00 per person in advance or £4 per person on the day.

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### Saturday 24th April **START OF SEASON SAILING SUPPER**

For more details please see poster on club entertainment notice board.

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### Friday 30th April **JAZZ BAND "PHOENIX" AT THE AYC**

Tickets £4.00 per person  
Tickets can be purchased from behind the bar.

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### Saturday 15th May **MURDER NIGHT & THREE COURSE MEAL**

"What did the butler see"  
The Year 1912, the Scene an MP's house in a fashionable part of London. Join the engagement party for the MP's niece...

Tickets £13.00 per person  
Limited places so please ensure you purchase your tickets in advance - last day for tickets Sunday 6 May.

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### Sunday 16th May **ALL MEMBERS" OPEN MEETING"**

Meeting commences 12.30 pm  
Agenda will be posted on notice board.

### Saturday 22nd May **70's NIGHT**

Dress in appropriate clothes or come as you like and join in.

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### Sun 30th & Bank Holiday Mon 31st May **SOUTHEND AIRSHOW**

**EUROPES LARGEST FREE AIRSHOW**  
More details on Club Refreshments will be posted on ents notice board nearer to the date.

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### Saturday 19th June

### **RACE NIGHT** AT AYC

More details will be posted on ents notice board nearer to the date.

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### **THE RECEEDERS**

Rock, Rhythm & Blues Band are coming to play at the Alex  
**SATURDAY 26 JUNE - 8 PM**

Tickets £5.00 per person.  
Tickets are on sale now from behind the bar.

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### Saturday 10th July **MID SEASON SAILING SUPPER**

More details will be posted on ents notice board nearer to the date.

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### Saturday 21st August

Illuminated Carnival Procession/Seafront Illuminations Switch-on & Fireworks  
More details on Club Refreshments will be posted on ents notice board nearer to the date.

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### Firework Spectacular's Southend Seafront **Best View from the AYC**

Every Saturday night from  
**11th September to 6th November 2004.**  
September to October 8.00pm; October to November 7.00pm.

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**Saturday 13th November**  
**END OF SEASON SAILING SUPPER**  
More details will be posted on ents notice board nearer to the date.