

December 2005

Issue 2

# AYC



*Alexandra Yacht Club Newsletter*

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## **UPDATE ON THE LAND SURRENDER AND WORKS ON THE CLUB'S GROUNDS**

**Dear Members**

Firstly I would like to offer a warm welcome to all the new members who have join us since the last newsletter and for the benefit for the new members and those who may not be aware, the club has surrendered some of the grounds back to our landlords (Southend Borough Council) and developing the remainder.

Our club solicitor Peter Scott has successfully negotiated the completion of the land surrender with the council, and within days the council's team cleared and levelled the ground in preparation for landscaping, plus we expect our new entrance and fencing to be scheduled for completed by the council before the end of this year.

John Foster our project manager and his merry band of helpers have transformed the remaining grounds, clearing the over grown areas and building new seating and barbeque areas, laying new grass turf, replanting of trees and shrubs.

The icing on the cake is the conversion the old run down changing rooms in to a decking area with views of the sea front second to none a tremendous transformation in such a short space of time.

Financially we have succeeded in raising over six thousand pounds in six months consisting of generous donations from certain members, members committing to lifetime membership, raffles and fund raising events, which is a superb effort by all those involved and may I congratulate all of you.

However more funds are still needed for us to complete our plans, a donation as little as £5.00 per month from each member over 10 months will mean the steps to the original entrance can be repaired, further planting of hedging and trees can be carried out and the extension and refurbishment of the club house balcony can be achieved.

Should you wish to make a donation please contact the club treasurer Lesley Hall or myself by phone, post or e-mail or better still pop in to the club where we or bar staff will be very please to accept any donation you wish to make.

Lastly I would like to offer my thanks to Peter Scott, John Foster, and **everyone** who has put so much effort in to the club, be it grounds, club house, jetty, bar, kitchen and committee, without your commitment the club would not be the success that we have seen this year.

Well done to everyone, so many of you have help the club this year, lets continue the good work and see that Alexandra Yacht Club have a wonderful 2006.

**GARY MCKAY - Commodore**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FROM ALL THE MANAGEMENT  
TEAM AND COMMODORE OF THE AYC**

## CLUB NEWS in Brief

Our Hon Treasurer Lesley and Hon Secretary Vic Hall have given notice that they intend to step down as Treasurer and Hon Secretary at the next **AGM 29 JAN 2006**, due to other commitments and ill health. They intend to remain in their current positions until Jan 2006. I am sure you all agree that Lesley and Vic have done a wonderful job over the many years for which we thank them for all the years' service they have given to the club, without them the club would not be what it is today.

Lesley and Vic wish it to be known that they still intend to support the club and help where they can but we do need to appoint new treasurer and secretary, the current committee is already stretched so we are asking members to step forward and help us.

We need people to come forward to take up these positions; if you are interested or can help we will be interested to hear from you. Full background on the positions, training is needed so that the hand over in 2006 is made much easier for the management team.

Please contact Lesley or Vic Hall or Gary McKay (

**AYC GETS NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR**, after 5 years of compiling the club's newsletter, Linda McKay is stepping down as editor of the AYC newsletter. BARRY HARVEY will be taking over, vote of thanks to Barry. If you have any articles that you would like to appear in the newsletter please contact Barry or email to: [harvey-family@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:harvey-family@tiscali.co.uk)

Linda will remain on the AYC management team but focus on other areas such as the club's PR and ways to raise more funds for the club.

If you would like to make a donation to the club to help with the grounds fund or help in any fund raising events, ideas please contact Linda on 01702 335806 or email [linda.mckay@dtint.co.uk](mailto:linda.mckay@dtint.co.uk).

**ALEXANDRA YACHT CLUB** appeared in **ESSEX LIFE**. Copy of August edition will be left in clubhouse for those members who are interested. Thank you to Kim Kimber for writing the article.

**SPONSOR A PLANK PLAQUE**, thank you to all those members who took part in this fund raising scheme. The plaque is now on display in the clubhouse and we have room for more dedications.

Don't forget we still need to raise funds for the jetty to ensure ongoing maintenance continues and this is where the members can help. For each donation you can make a dedication of your choice and this will be displayed on our special plaque.

If you are interested in sponsoring a plank the forms are in the club house or contact Linda McKay for all the details: 01702 335806 or [linda.mckay@dtint.co.uk](mailto:linda.mckay@dtint.co.uk)

### MEMBERS CORNER

To members who attended the Start of Season Sailing Supper

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who appreciated my efforts at the Sailing Supper and left drinks for me behind the bar. My wife, Pamela knows I rarely drink while working and held them all for me until the end of the evening. It was a wonderful surprise to find the much-needed refreshment waiting but, as I do not know who bought them for me, I cannot thank anybody personally. Once again, my sincere thanks and it is good to know I did my job properly!

**Barry Harvey**

Place ad in this newsletter for suggested donation of £10.00 per ad, please contact Linda McKay if you want to place ad, Linda will put together ad and submit on your behalf to newsletter editor and produce poster for club notice board.

## DO YOU NEED A PLUMBER

WHY NOT CALL **STEVE** ON:

**07932 806832**

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JENNY 07843 677635

## ALL AT SEA Edition 2, by Angela Barry

The grand old man heaved his corpulent body forward and pressed down heavily on the arms of his huge leather armchair to haul himself ponderously to his feet. He stomped across the room to the sideboard and poured himself his fifth large brandy. He stared balefully at the telephone, also on the sideboard. It was not, he told himself, that he was anxious but it was irritating that someone of his importance should be kept waiting by the present Commodore.

George had got back into this car and started the engine before he remembered that he had not telephoned the Grand Old Man. In reaching for the mobile in his bag his fingers encountered the spiky shape of the little silver trophy and he withdrew his hand quickly as if he had been bitten.

How could he explain to the G.O.M the enormity of his failure ? How would the club react when the news got out ? They had all respected the GOM almost to the point of worship. His fall from grace might destroy the morale of the members for years to come. Unless, of course, he kept silent and took the rap entirely on his own. But this would make him a pariah; liable to expulsion.

For a moment he felt a warm glow contemplating, such heroism then reality returned. Since he joined seven years before all his spare time and social interaction had been channelled through the Yacht Club. Expulsion would leave him friendless and without purpose. It if came out he could have to make a full disclosure. Tom hated being race officer; standing outside in the cold while everyone else gathered round the bar in warm, comfortable conversation. Not that their conversation was of huge interest to him. He had joined the club only because his wife, Susan's, obsession with dinghy sailing; a dedication she shared with her father and brothers. He much preferred tennis or badminton – as well as other, less acceptable indoor activities – to battling wind and tide. Susan had 'volunteered' him as race officer in an attempt to draw him into the inner circle but the more often he was called upon to fulfil his duties he less inclined he was to bond with "the hearties" as he dabbled his fellow members. Reluctantly he pulled away from the skylight through which he had been viewing the clubroom and took the four paces which returned him to his station, picking up the binocular on the way.

When he managed to focus the binoculars he could not understand what he saw. When he had last looked thirteen little boats had been scudding nicely along the same course around the buoys. Eleven were still doing so but one had capsized, lying on its side with mast and sails bobbing about on the surface of the water and another was steering an erratic inexperienced line, colliding with the remaining racers. He looked for the safety boat. There it was on the far side of the eleven apparently unaware of the imminent danger. He reached for the klaxon horn to sound the alarm. As he did so another odd thing caught his eye; a sort of smudge on the water inshore from the race. The binoculars were even more difficult to adjust with trembling hands and it was some time before he brought the smudge into focus and spotted Justin and Peter in the water. He lost his nerve completely and ran to the skylight wrenching it open. "Get the coastguard," he screamed, "For gods sake contact the coastguard".

Jill had remained silent during most of the conversation at the bar concentrating on devising scenarios in which she could make her confession to Martin without destroying their relationship. When Tom's head appeared in the skylight she was struck with sudden panic. The man was obviously in a state. Suppose in his ravings he were to reveal something which forced her hand. It was too soon. She wasn't prepared. In a calm voice, which astonished even her, she said, "calm down, Tom, you'd think it was a matter of life and death". She stepped out under the skylight and looked steadily up at him. "Why do we need the coastguard"?

The Commodore pulled up outside the flat of the GOM and rang the entry phone. The GOM was not pleased by his visit. "You were supposed to phone," he said accusingly.

"This news is not suitable for the telephone," replied the Commodore, unhappily. "You'd better come up", was the abrupt reply, going up the lift the commodore was almost in tears. The GOM was a man of enormous reputation; Round the World Yachtsman, Winner of the Fastnet, partitapator in the American Cup and beloved of the RYA he had been such an asset to their small, otherwise undistinguished Yacht Club. The prospect of his disgrace was appalling he had been so proud when the old men had taken him into his confidence and asked for this help. And now his clumsiness would ruin them both. Inside the flat the GOM filled his glass once again with a generous portion of Hennessy, XO and slid the bottle inside the sideboard. He took out a bottle of Martel and placed it open and ready for his visitor no point in wasting good spirit on a man of poor taste. He placed his own glass next to his big leather armchair and waited. The doorbell rang.

If you would like to write the next episode please email to BARRY HARVEY [harvey-family@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:harvey-family@tiscali.co.uk)

**Disclaimer:** None of the characters or any of the actions in this episode are based on present or past members of the AYC. Characters and actions are totally fictitious.

## Alex Member's Southend Shocker movie wins in Regional Film Competition!

Alex member Chris Taylor who is also a member of Westcliff film and Video Club, went to Harrow to compete in the final round of a North Thames Regional film competition – the 'Triangle' and the Club came away with top honours. The competition works on the basis of threes, where groups of three film-making clubs from around the region each enter three films on three subjects in each round. The winner of the round moves on to compete in another trio of clubs until, in the final round, one club is the outright winner. In all preceding rounds Westcliff Film and Video Club have come through with top honours.

In the set theme section of the competition Chris Taylor with his colleague Ken Pratt contributed **Deadend-on-Sea The Last Resort** as Westcliff's entry for the set theme film 'The Last Resort'. The makers had burnt the midnight oil over in the few days prior to the competition to complete the production as a DVD. The idea for '**The Last Resort**' came from the thoughts of the kind of seaside resort you wouldn't want to be seen dead in, and local singing duo '**Pier Talk**' were asked to compose and perform a song specially to accompany the film. After all, we live in just the kind of place we wanted to depict in the film, and since the council had been about as co-operative as Bin Laden at the American Embassy over a couple of club projects recently it was, perhaps, payback time! After all, who would expect the council to demand a payment of £230 for an amateur group to film in Belfairs park. Southend did!

So it was a chilly New Year's day when the camera team went looking for all those tell-tale signs of **Deadend-on-Sea**. The collapsing cliffs and barricaded bandstand, the everlasting cost to P for parking, and the evidence elsewhere of peeing for free! The peeling paint and piles of black bags of rubbish everywhere, and the decaying Victoriana of the Palace Hotel and the pointing finger of Queen Victoria.

No resort is complete without that other 'p' – a pleasure pier in all its ruin, courtesy of the old corporation jetty, topped off with piles of blowing paper, poo and puke on the pavement!

And so with just 24 hours to spare the pictures and sound were finally edited to complete **Deadend-on-Sea -The Last Resort**. The judges all voted the film a winner in every round, despite its undoubted irreverence, and as a result Westcliff left the Triangle Competition round as overall winners. That's not to say that the Clubs other entries did not play an equal part in the success.

In the final, club member, Dave Windle's moving documentary about the French Town of **Oradour Sur Glane** represented the club in the documentary section, and gained joint first place and much praise for its sympathetic treatment of the story of the French village whose inhabitants were massacred by the Nazis in 1944 and in the open section, the group drama production '**Missing Alice**' again scored maximum marks.!

The Evening Echo took the Last Resort Story to heart as a message to Southend Council when it first broke and Chris and Ken appeared on the front page, followed by a full page article on page 5 plus the Editorial of the same issue. Then the following week, feature writer Tom King, took up the cause and this was followed by a snooty letter from Councillor Tony North in the letter pages. Any publicity, they say, is good publicity. We will see!

*Chris Taylor*  
Publicity Officer – Westcliff film and Video Club

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*Club*  
*Contact Info*

PHONE:  
**01702 340363**

E-MAIL THE CLUB:  
[alexyc\\_Southend@hotmail.com](mailto:alexyc_Southend@hotmail.com)

OUR WEB SITE ADDRESS  
**[www.alex yachtclub.co.uk](http://www.alex yachtclub.co.uk)**

## THE SAILING SEASON AT THE AYC

I thought it was about time to review sailing at the AYC. This got underway in April with the 'Windmill race' which was enjoyed by all entrants especially these who won a windmill!

There have also been various series races, 'Mirror and Topper' events which have shown gradual but progressive improvement in members sailing and race management skills. These have progressed much as seen in the last series race which went very well with all boats managing to complete the course, albeit some quicker, but this was mostly due to the various boats having different boat speeds. Without mentioning names as you will hear their names when we give out the trophies later on in the year, I can clearly see many sailing members have really developed their sailing skills in 2005.

The Nore race held in July proved a good testing ground with several broken tillers being recorded by boats sailed by AYC members the length of the race 16 miles plus is an endurance test! So it was good to see that everyone got home OK, greatly inspired to give the race another go next year.

We had some good results with club members Peter Scott and Gary McKay in 'Scott Free' an Enterprise boat with Chris Brooks in Richard Caruzzi's 'laser Wild Oats' doing very well and winning a magnificent trophy.

The number of boats overall keeps on rising and we now have a class of 'Mirror' dinghies and many new boats which should make for more good handicap and class racing; especially since Chris Brooks recently gave our sailors a presentation 'on how to use the racing rules to your advantage'.

We are all learning and every event should help us develop further, if you want to take part then please let me know or if you want to find out more we have a sailing meeting on the first Friday of every month at 20:00hrs.

Maurice Jardine – Rear Commodore Sailing

### **INTERCLUB PRIZE AYC WINNERS FOR 2006**

The Alexandra Yacht had an excellent year they have won the following interclub prizes. Dai Williams won the interclub cruiser; Dai sailed on behalf of the AYC. Peter Scott and John Graves won the interclub Estuary Race. Greg Solkhon won the under 18/cadet in the interclub Estuary race. Chris Brook came second in the interclub estuary race.

Don't forget sailing meetings are held on the first Friday in the month, meetings start at 20.00 hrs in the clubhouse. Everyone is welcome.

## **LONDON BOAT SHOW**

AT EXCEL IN LONDON'S DOCKLANDS  
**6<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2006**

Looking on the web site, tickets can be purchased in advance for £12.60 each (Children £6.30) or £14.00 (Children £7.00) on the door on the day.

## WHATS ON AT AYC .....

Apologies  
Both Sunday  
Lunch & Steak  
Night have  
been cancelled.

**Sunday Lunch with Jon & Jen**  
**Sunday 11 December**  
Two Course Lunch for £7.50 per person

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**STEAK NIGHT with Jon & Jen**  
**Friday 16 December**

Three Course Meal for £12.50  
Choice of starter, main and sweet.

Place your name on notice in club house if you wish to attend.

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**NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**  
**SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER**

**"Masquerade Mask Theme"**

**From 8.00 pm – until late**

Disco & Buffet, tickets £7.50 each

Under 18 free.

Tickets on sale behind bar.

**SUNDAY 1 JAN**

**PAPER BOAT RACE**

See club's notice board for details.

Don't forget or if you are new members...

**Every Monday Night is QUIZ NIGHT**

From 8.00 pm onwards

**XMAS OPEN HOURS**

**Saturday 24 - Christmas Eve - From 1.00 pm all day into the evening.**

**Christmas Eve is club raffle draw plus 3 months of 200 Club**

**Sunday 25 - Christmas Day - From 12.00 noon until 2.00 pm.**

**Monday 26 - Boxing Day - From 12.00 noon until no customers.**

**Tues 27 – Public Holiday - From 12.00 noon until no customers.**

**Sunday 2 Jan – New Years Day - From 1.00 pm until 7.00 pm**

If anyone is willing to help with bar duties over the Xmas & New Year holidays please contact Vic Hall or leave message at clubhouse. We need more bar volunteers please come forward and help your club.

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## AGM

**SUNDAY 29 JANUARY, 2006**

**11.00 AM in clubhouse (full voting members only)**