

MARCH 2005

Issue 1

# AYC

## Alexandra Yacht Club Newsletter Special Edition "The Land Surrender & Landscaping of the Grounds"



### Important Year for the AYC

Major developments are afloat for the AYC this year. We have put together a special newsletter to accompany the Commodore's attached letter to you all.

In February all members were invited to attend an open meeting to discuss the land surrender and landscaping of the remaining grounds and boundaries.

At this meeting it was stressed that the AYC have no option on this matter. Presented to the attending members was the situation, the background, the proposal, the phases of the project and what we intend to propose to raise the funds.

Social and Full members listened then it was put for voting how we were going to raise the funds for this important project.

For those members who were unable to attend the meeting this newsletter has been designed to explain the details of why this project is so important to the club and its members.

#### IMPORTANT – WHY !

The Alexandra Yacht Club has now reached a turning point in its history where no longer can the committee and members allow this once prestigious club to be the poor man of the foreshore.

This club is the father of sailing in Southend with its birth in 1873. It has represented sailing ever since - over 130 years, through two world wars, various conflicts and dramatic social change,

making this club an important part of Southend's heritage.

The AYC was one of the jewels in Southend's crown resting high above the foreshore and held in high respect with in the higher ranks of England's sailing community but sadly has fallen from grace over recent years.

Now its time for AYC's members and friends to rally round and with the help of Southend council restore the club's pride and fortune and make her once again the jewel of the foreshore.

With the recent redevelopment of pier hill, steps adjacent to club and proposed development of the cliffs the emphasis is now on the club and its grounds.

For AYC to survive and prosper we must address the condition of club and grounds, although many improvements have been made internally very little has been done outside over recent years and this situation is no longer acceptable to the club or it's landlords Southend Borough Council.

After the open meeting a meeting took place to discuss the land surrender and our proposed plans for the club. The council reported that they were pleased with the outcome of the meeting and relieved that we are pushing forward to get the works commenced.

Please read on about the proposal and the council position and what we the members of the club need to do.

## THE PROPOSAL

The proposals are to reinstate the club's original entrance sited on western boundary leading from the newly refurbished public steps to clubhouse. This area will also incorporate a large patio area in front of the clubhouse. The area north of the clubhouse and the planned patio area will be landscaped in a manner that complements the surroundings. This will eventually continue to the reduced area in front of the clubhouse.

The club's auxiliary building (currently men changing room) will be completely refurbished, it is planned to remove timber section of upper floor and convert in to viewing area accessed by steps from patio. The remaining rendered top section will become the new men's changing room with shower and toilet facilities in lower ground floor level connected by stairs, furthermore the area under viewing area will become a secure storage area.

Finally the metal fencing on north and eastern boundaries will be refurbished.

The success and future of the club depend on the success of this project. Once completed, membership and revenue will increase and AYC will prosper, meaning further restoration of the clubhouse can be completed ensuring this beautiful building for future sailing generations and her members.

The proposed redevelopment of the grounds listed in phases 1-3 is just the start of this voyage but with a hardy crew the AYC will overcome difficulties & hardships and return to her homeport as Southend's premier Yacht club for the benefit of all her members.

Full project plan and draft drawings of this proposal are available for viewing in the clubhouse.

### The Proposal and the Council Position with the Proposal

The above proposal was discussed with the council. The council are reviewing some elements of the proposal but in principal they agreed with the plans. They are looking into whether the southern shed is a listed building and they will seek guidance from the planning department regarding the demolition of the dilapidated changing hut along with any fencing requirement with the planning department. Once they have got final written agreement to the scheme and the necessary guidance, they will make the planning application to enable the scheme.

At the same meeting the council agreed to help the club in a number of areas.

The Council have agreed to help with the following.

- 1). Council will construct the new access path.
- 2). Council will arrange for the club's gates to be relocated to the new entrance.
- 3). The existing, dangerous steps though the area to be surrendered will be removed by the council
- 4). Council have offered the services Tim Pyner to work directly with John Foster to provide guidance and support in the landscaping (offer of 9 palm trees for starters).
- 5). The council will be responsible for the replacement and maintenance of the Northern & Eastern boundaries.
- 6). The 2000 rent review will be settled at a NIL increase as a gesture of good will.

The council have **stressed the club must plan to landscape the retained grounds** in keeping with the rest of the Cliffs with consideration for minimal maintenance effort and expense.

The project manager for this project is JOHN FOSTER, John will be the main person who will be responsible for overseeing all the works. John is providing his services to the club for **free** including all the labour that he provides – thank you John and his team. John will liaise with Gary on what he needs in materials, funds for the materials will be approved by the management team.

We need raise at least **£13,000 for phase 1 & 2 of this project**. Details of how we are trying to achieve this are on page 3 of this special newsletter.

**SATURDAY WORK PARTIES.** Every Saturday now until project has been completed, if you can help please contact Gary to get work party details, such as timings and what we need in the way of help.

**ITEMS STORED IN GENTS CHANGING ROOM** sometime ago we asked all members who were storing items in the gents changing room to **COLLECT THEM**. We need to clear this area immediately within the next week. So please collect your items. Any items not collected will be considered not wanted.

## HOW YOU THE MEMBERS HELP !

### RAISING THE FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT

We have commenced the works, members who have visited the club lately will see that some of the dangerous trees have been removed and others have been cleared this was done “free of charge” to the club by Luke Dollaghan and his friend Aaron Tullett. Thank you to Luke and Aaron who worked extremely hard.

John Foster and his team have commenced clearing of the ground. Even with the offer of labour free of charge will still need to raise at least £13,000 to complete the work.

The management team have been investigating the options but with all grants you need funds to match them or they come with high obligations. So the management team need to appeal to the members to help raise the necessary funds, once we have achieved this project we might be in a better position to apply for grants but as it stands today we the members need to raise these funds.

The Commodore’s letter mentions some of the methods, below are more details on how you can help.

#### **1). MAKE A DONATION**

You will see from the Commodore’s letter £50.00 per member would raise the necessary funds. If you can offer this to the club or more or even less. You can pay this in one lump sum or over a period of time, Standing order forms are enclosed.

#### **2). TAKE UP LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

We are offering members a life membership for £500.00 each. Please send letter with cheque direct to Lesley Hall, Hon Treasurer, Alexandra Yacht Club, Clifton Terrace, Southend-on-Sea.

#### **3). MAKE A DEBENTURE**

This a loan to the club, which you may be able to redeem at a later date, with interest (though there is no guarantee for that). More details will be available for this shortly, or please contact Lesley Hall.

#### **4). JOIN THE 200 CLUB**

You can pay a min of £1.00 per share. this had to be paid each month by standing order and each month a draw is held where **60%** of the total amount collected is paid out to the members of the 200 club, the remaining **40%** is put back into the club. The more members of this the more profit to the club, this will be placed into the ground fund. You need to complete the standing order stating the amount of £1.00 shares you wish to purchase each month.

Suggestions where you can help...

- 1). Organise a Bingo Night **or** Games Night.
- 2). Organise a Boot Sale on behalf of the AYC
- 3). Do you have any thing that we can sell on eBay

Perhaps you cannot offer the club a donation or loan but you might have something of reasonable value which you no longer want that we could put up for sale on eBay. Linda recently sold an old Nikon FM 35 mm Camera, we raised £90.00, after paying eBay fees, Paypal fees and postal costs.

If you have something that you might like to donate that we can sell please contact Linda McKay on 01702 335806 to discuss. Any item accepted and sold, we guarantee the **WHOLE** profit made will be put into the ground fund. Anyone donating a item will be given full details and proof of sold price and receipt from the club. Linda is happy to discuss and collect any items.

- 4). Can you organise a raffle at work or at the club. Commodore Easter Egg raffle is running now, perhaps you can organise the next raffle and donate the item for raffle, donate all profits to the ground fund.

PLEASE HELP WHERE YOU CAN NO MATTER HOW LITTLE, DIRECT DEBIT FORM FOR DONATIONS, LIFE MEMBERSHIP-AND 200 CLUB ARE ATTACHED.

PLEASE REMEMBER we have no choice on the matter we cannot fail. So please help your club, you will benefit the use of the grounds and ensure that our club remains on the foreshore for a long time to come.

## Contact Info

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### AYC TEAM FOR 2005

COMMODORE  
Gary McKay

VICE COMMODORE  
Bob Sealey

REAR COMMODORE  
SAILING  
Maurice Jardine

HON TREASURER  
Lesley Hall

HON SECRETARY  
Vic Hall

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Graves  
Linda McKay  
Dave Allen-Smith  
Andy Solkhon

HON SOLICITOR  
Peter Scott

ACCOUNTANT  
Steve Barker

PRESIDENT  
Betty Roberts

RACE OFFICER  
Dave Smith

CADET CAPTAIN  
Greg Solkhon

RESCUE OFFICER  
John Foster

## CLUB NEWS in Brief

### Sunday Lunches Every Sunday

We are pleased to announce that Sunday lunches are available EVERY Sunday. Price is £7.50 per person for 2 Course Meal. Food is **freshly** prepared, home cooked with seasonal vegetables. No better views overlooking the estuary whilst enjoying your lunch. Please see club's notice board for weekly menu and booking.

### Sailing

Full sailing programme now available in the clubhouse. MONTHLY SAILING MEETINGS have moved to the first Friday night in the month. Meetings commences at 8.00 pm. Next meeting FRIDAY 1 APRIL

**Brilliant Cadet & Club News - the Sea Cadets hope to be flying the RYA Training Establishment flag from your jetty/club house by the end of April.**

### SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES.

**CLUBHOUSE OPEN ALL OVER EASTER** – Easter Sunday you can see the Annual charitable ride from Ace Café, London to Southend Seafront. Enjoy the spectacle of several thousand motorbikes of every type imaginable on display.

#### Sunday 3 April – AYC AT HOME

From 12.30 onwards, meet the Commodores, Flag Officers and Members of other clubs at the AYC. Buffet Available.

#### Saturday 16 April – Start of Season Sailing Supper

Menu and details will be posted on clubhouse notice board.

#### Saturday 26 June – Open Day & Barbeque

Further details will be posted on clubhouse notice board.

#### Saturday 2 July – Mid Season Ball

Further details will be posted on clubhouse notice board.

#### Saturday 7 August – Commodores Day

This year's theme – "Trafalgar" to celebrate the anniversary of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar 200 years ago and this year's Sea Britain.

#### Saturday 20 August – Bangers & Mash Supper Night

Illuminated Carnival Procession with Seafront Illuminations Switch-on and Fireworks Spectacular from 7.00 pm onwards.

#### Saturday 22 October – End of Season Sailing Supper

Further details will be posted on clubhouse notice board.

#### Saturday 5 November – Prizegiving

Further details will be posted on clubhouse notice board.

*MORE EVENTS & LIVE MUSIC NIGHTS WILL BE ORGANISED*

*Check out club's notice board or just call the clubhouse for information & updates*

## WE'RE ON THE WEB

**Thanks to Karin & Martyn Brinton,**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE, IT WILL BE UPDATED WITH NEWS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ALONG WITH FORTHCOMING EVENTS, ENTS, SAILING PROGRAMME AND CLUB INFORMATION.**

[www.alex yachtclub.co.uk](http://www.alex yachtclub.co.uk)