



# Ilfracombe Yacht Club

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*Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association*

*A Member of The Bristol Channel Yachting Conference*

CASC REGISTERED & SPONSORED BY NORTH DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

### FROM THE COMMODORE

Now that we have got over that feeling of relief when the boat stops going down as the crane lowers it onto the surface of the harbour we can look forward to a long season of sailing with, I hope, fair winds and sunny days.

We are now up to full strength on the committee, Maureen Lowe has agreed to be Club Secretary and Stuart Arnold will be Minutes Secretary. My thanks to both of them for volunteering. There will be an open meeting held in the Club on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April; this meeting will be preceded by an Extraordinary General Meeting to ratify the two new appointments. We will also discuss proposed changes to memberships which will affect the Constitution. So please come along and have your say. We plan to start at 8pm.

GOOD NEWS. Recently the Club was visited by an inspector of environmental health and as a result we have been awarded five stars for hygiene and food safety. Heartiest congratulations to Maxine for maintaining extremely high standards. Unfortunately good news is often accompanied by bad. Following a poor hop harvest last year and further skulduggery on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer we have been left with no choice but to increase many of the bar prices. We will keep these increases as low as possible having regard to the current financial climate.

There has been plenty going on in the Club since the last Newsletter. Thanks to Rob McConnell for a comprehensive music quiz. Thanks also to Bob Thompson and Andy Maslen for a splendid Mothering Sunday lunch. A grand meal with some thoughtful touches. The Presentation evening was a resounding success judging by the remarks I heard on the following day. Tony & Mo Reeves and Ann Clemence are to be congratulated for providing a first class Buffet at relatively short notice, and also Bobby for holding it all together. We were pleased to welcome our guest the Hon John Rouse from Clovelly. John is well known to those members who sail to Clovelly and he has kindly donated the prize for the Clovelly Rum Race.

On the subject of sailing, if you plan to visit Lundy Island with your boat be sure to take your Club membership card, this will exempt you from paying harbour dues.

We have a varied programme of events planned for April, highlighted by a trip to Falmouth, and I hope you will be able to make it to some of them.

I wish you favourable winds and a following sea whether you are sailing or just enjoying the moment.

*Chris Marman*

## OUT-OF-DATE FLARES

The date stamped on the side of a flare is there for a very good reason. The manufacturers are unable to maintain a continued guarantee after this date that the device will perform to a strict specification laid down to meet SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) requirements (height, intensity, colour, burn time). Out-of-date flares should not be used and should be replaced straight away.

Do **not** throw any pyrotechnics overboard or throw them in bins. Often people are tempted to use up their out-of-date flares on Bonfire Night, but this causes real problems for the rescue services. It is **illegal** to fire a flare when not in a distress situation.

Now that everyone is back in the water, it's the time of year when safety equipment is being put back aboard in readiness for the coming season. If you find that your flare pack is now beyond its expiry date, you may wish to take advantage of the MCA's safe disposal service. At the moment this service is **free**, but we understand it won't be continuing beyond this year – so don't miss this final opportunity!



If you bring your out-of-date pyrotechnics to the Yacht Club terrace at **8pm** on **Wednesday 9th April**, a MCA representative will be on hand to collect them and take them away for safe disposal. Please don't bring them to the Yacht Club before that date since we don't have facilities to store them safely! If you know of any harbour users who aren't currently members of the Club but who might like to safely dispose of their old flares, then please let them know the time and date.

When those dangerous and possibly unstable flares are safely in the Coastguard's metal box, you'll be able to breathe a sigh of relief and relax with a drink at the bar!

## PRESENTATION NIGHT

The club have held a presentation night to be remembered this year. The celebrations took place within clubhouse itself. The clubhouse was specially decked out in sparkling star clothes just for the night to celebrate the occasion. The prize giving was attended by special guest the honourable John Rouse - owner of Clovelly.

The evening was a spectacular success. It was enjoyed by everyone and with a buffet not short of a gourmet's banquet expertly prepared by club members Tony and Mo Reeves, and with desserts that no one could resist by Ann Clemence.

Despite a year of abominable sailing weather, the races went ahead and the cups were awarded to the following winners:

- Round Lundy Trafalgar Race: Peter T – Bob Thompson
- Clovelly Rum Race: Haze – Mark Silvester & Tony Reeves
- Copperas Cup: Haze
- St Austell Cup: Zephyrus – Dave & Joy Welch
- RNLI: Elianne – John Clemence & Geoff Duffin
- Lunatics Trophy: Bert Gear

The *Commodores Cup* was justly awarded to Bobby Davis and her team of helpers for all the hard work and efforts that they have achieved this year as the social committee, putting on a full, varied and greatly enjoyed programme of social events that included something to suit everyone, whether they were sailors or land lovers.



## SOCIAL SIDE

The presentation night on March 8<sup>th</sup> proved a point that we can put on a “good do” at IYC. My thanks to all who made it possible: Tony & Mo Reeves for the excellent buffet – Ann Clemence for the delicious puds – Chris Horrell & the boys from S&H for transforming the club with their lightening – all who donated raffle prizes and everyone who generally helped out moving furniture etc. It was a great night!

Thanks also go to the members who organised other events last month: Rob McConnel for the music quiz, Cat Jones for the Devon Wildlife presentation, and Andy Maslen & Bob Thompson for the Mothers Day lunch.

We have a fairly full programme of events coming up this month, but if you feel that you can host an event, please don't be shy – step forward.

*Bobby*

### MARCH

**Wed 26<sup>th</sup>** Ladies night – 20:00.  
Beauty therapist Kerry Sturgess will be at the club to demonstrate some of her many therapies. This is for you ladies so please support.

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup>** Quiz night – 20:00  
Once again Mike Old has come up with another of his clever quizzes.  
Always a good night. Usual rules. Cash prizes.

### APRIL

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup>** Casino night – 20:00  
An informal night when we can try out our casino games. This is just for fun.

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup>** Flares disposal – 20:00  
The MCA will be at the club to take away and safely dispose of any out-of-date flares you may have. This will be followed by a short safety presentation.

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup>** Challenge night – 20:00  
We are hoping to challenge North Devon and Watermouth Yacht Clubs to an inter club games night. Games will include skittles, darts, pool and beer draughts.  
Teams will be required for each game so please support and show what IYC can do!  
If you don't want to play your support as spectators is still needed.  
Supper will be available during the evening.

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup>** “Dino” night – 20:00  
Tony Reeves, a devoted Dean Martin fan, has suggested this evening. He will be cooking supper and singing along to “Dino”. What could be better! You know the words and you have to eat. A drink or two will definitely make for a fun evening.

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup>** Visit to Falmouth Maritime Museum  
A change of date from last month.  
This proposed trip to Falmouth will depend on numbers interested. A notice and booking form will be on the notice board. A £10 deposit is required.  
Last time we did this trip we had a great day out, visiting Falmouth Y.C. for lunch and various hoteliers / shopping etc. (and the museum!).  
A full day out and a change of scenery.  
Price will depend on numbers but £20 will probably cover the coach and museum.

# RYA TRAINING

## ***Sea Survival – Theory & Practical.***

April 5<sup>th</sup> start at the club at 09:30 for theory and then to Ilfracombe pool from 15:00 – 17:00 for the practical.  
Cost £70 - £80 depending on numbers.

It is possible to arrange for an RYA certified one day **Radar** course at the club, cost £80.  
Would anyone interested please let Jane Gear know so that she can book a date.

***Even if you have expressed an interest, all courses should be booked at the bar and paid for in full.  
Where there are limited numbers it will be first come first served.***

\*\*\* **Anyone who took the Navigation course and didn't get their Almanac,** \*\*\*  
\*\*\* **they are now behind the club bar for you to pick up** \*\*\*

**"No skipper should set sail without cling film and a disposable nappy"**

Have you ever wondered what would happen to you if you were out at sea and your engine broke down? After all, you can't just call the AA or RAC to come to your aid, can you? Or pull to the side and hitch hike home. And any available passing traffic to give you a friendly tow home could be very few and far between!

Here at Ilfracombe Yacht Club we have again come up with the answer in the form of training.

Not one, but two diesel engine courses have been held at the club by Leigh Hanks our very own Ilfracombe Lifeboat's second mechanic. Leigh, a qualified RYA instructor, trained the groups of both club members and non members. They ranged from complete beginners in mechanics, through both new and experienced yacht and boat owners, ex lifeboat crew, and even a former merchant navy marine engineer.



*Hands on demonstration*

The course demonstrated the detailed principles of the diesel engine and its fuel, air, cooling and electrical systems. This was with the visual aid of a computer and the hands on experience of a real engine with cut outs to access viewing. It covered such topics as every day maintenance, yearly servicing, winterisation, problem solving and quick fixes to get you home in the event of mechanical breakdown. The presentation kept the attention of everyone present right the way through to the end of the day.

The day started off well in the club house, and after lunch the groups changed their scenery by taking a stroll over to the lifeboat house. There comparison took place between the cut out engine examined in the morning session and the mighty twin engines on the offshore lifeboat.

The course, eased along in true club spirit with copious amounts of coffee, cookies, banter and jokes. It was aimed primarily at preventing the break down at sea, but also showed how, if in the unfortunate event that break down does occur, you can get yourself started and safely back home again.



*Computer presentation*

The RNLI tell us that one of the main reasons for lifeboat call out is to engine failures. So by completing this course we hope that it will prevent those who took part from becoming one of their future statistics.

Why do you need the cling film and nappies? Anyone who can't answer that question should definitely book up for the next course.

For all of you who regret missing this valuable and certified RYA course, and would like it repeated, then please let me know so that it can be arranged to be run again.

*Jane Gear*

## RED DIESEL

The RYA and BMF (British Marine Federation) can now confirm that the key features of the new scheme for charging duty on marine diesel to be introduced by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) with effect from **1 November 2008** will be:

- Private users can continue to use marked fuel (red diesel) providing they make a simple declaration to the supplier and pay the full duty rate for heavy oil;
- Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils (RDCOs) will be responsible for declaring the duty collected to HMRC; and,
- Fuel purchased for domestic use (i.e. *not for propulsion of the craft*) can continue to be purchased *at the rebated rate*.

HMRC have yet to issue a public statement but have released to the RYA its Impact Assessment.

Under the new scheme, HMRC envisage that boaters will “self declare” whether they are a commercial or recreational vessel and recreational vessels will pay the full duty rate. ***Fuel used for heating purposes on board will continue to be sold at the rebated rate of duty and the retailer will take the owner's word, again based on self declaration, on what proportion is for heating or lighting and what is for propulsion.***

The onus will be on the owner of the boat to self-declare whether they are a commercial or recreational vessel and pay the appropriate rate of duty at the pump.

## WEB SITE

The Club web site is up and running and regularly updated.

There is a page for members to sell boat related bits (called ‘QuayBay’) for a minimum 10% donation to club funds.

Why not give it a visit and see what else is there. <http://www.IlfracombeYC.org.uk>

## DIARY

MARCH	
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies night 20:00
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz night 20:00
APRIL	
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sea Survival Course 09:30
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Casino night 20:00
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Flares disposal 20:00
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	Challenge night 20:00
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	“Dino” night 20:00
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	St Austell Race 1 18:30
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	EGM & open meeting 20:00
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Falmouth Maritime Museum