



# Ilfracombe Yacht Club

THE QUAY • ILFRACOMBE • DEVON • EX34 9EQ TEL: 01271 863969

*Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association*

*A Member of The Bristol Channel Yachting Conference*

CASC REGISTERED & SPONSORED BY NORTH DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

### FROM THE COMMODORE

*"The best yet"* is the comment I have heard the most regarding this years Lundy Race. I certainly agree with this sentiment, not solely because I managed to get round this year, the whole day had a good feel to it. This was due in some part to whichever deities control the firmament and kindly provided a near perfect Southerly wind for the duration of the event. However, the success of the race was the result of a lot of hard work over the past year by the Lundy Committee headed by Bob Thompson plus the tireless efforts of the Club staff and a number of members who toiled tirelessly on the day to provide sustenance and general support while we sailors were off enjoying ourselves. We must not forget the part played by the visiting boats who, with our own entries, contributed to the spectacular sight of more than fifty yachts setting off from Ilfracombe. Finally the sponsors who provide finance, goods and prizes which enable us to continue holding the event. A big thank you to all of you.

But we cannot sit back on our laurels just yet, the power boats will be with us on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July and, while they will be providing the spectacle, we will be their hosts and traditionally provide support around the harbour while the racing is on. If you can help on either of the race days for an hour or two please put your name on the list on the Club notice board, and come down and meet the teams on the Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Mike Elmer is our liaison with the organisers so please contact him or myself if you need to know more.

June has been a good month for the Club and long may it continue. There will be plenty going on throughout the summer and we can expect to see a lot more of the Gig Club following the Gig naming ceremony on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. I look forward to seeing you during the long sun soaked summer.

*Chris Marman*



## AROUND LUNDY RACE

Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of the Around Lundy Race this year. The day proved once again to be a great success thanks to the dedicated members who put such much thought, time, planning and hard work into producing such a spectacular and enjoyable event.

I would very much like to congratulate and to thank everyone involved in the organisation of this year's race, without whom it would not have been possible for such an exhilarating day to have taken place. So much thought, time, planning, hard work and effort goes into putting on a spectacular and enjoyable event of this magnitude. From the planning and projection committee (which has already started on next years race), through getting sponsors, checking the legal side, insurance and rules, involving official bodies, getting trophies, certificates, a marquee and all the food prepared, timing the entrants, working out tides and handicaps, taking the entries, updating the web site, liaising with authority, advertising, getting relevant permissions, decorating the harbour, etc the list could go on and on and all this before a boat has even left the harbour. Everyone involved deserves a big thank you for giving (not just us sailors), but also the town in general a spectacular day to remember!



The day proved once again to be a great success (despite the foreboding weather forecasts), attracting entries from 62 boats from all over the Bristol Channel. Sizes ranged from the impressive Challenge 72 right down to the more modest 20 footers.

The web site shows it all, the smoking starting cannon; the jostling to be the first to get away; the heavy gusting winds that bared weighted keels right up out of the water; big boats; little boats; grey skies; mist; blinding squalls; tidal races; a flotilla of intensely bright coloured spinnakers contrasting dramatically against the severity of the "dark side" of Lundy; elegant goose wings; the home run across open sea with Bull Point firmly fixed in the distance and seemingly never getting any nearer; boats of all shapes and sizes skidding on their sides through the finish gate; the empty harbour with all the boats away; and the triumphant return of the happy but tired crews; food; drink; relaxation and merriment after the long intense day; prizes; pride and relief; camaraderie; an immense feeling of being part of something special; something that you just have to do, that just has to be done, and once done, has to be done again.....and again.....and again. A fantastic day.



My only complaint?.....that I have to wait until 8th August 2009 before I can do it all again!

Thank you all

*Jane Gear*

The Around Lundy race was held on Saturday 21st. This race has become what must be the most challenging and fun race in the whole Bristol Channel.

It is designed for enjoyment and can be taken as seriously or light heartedly as any crew wishes to make it. Although as with any race the aim is to win, with 45 miles, two tidal races, multiple back eddies, the far side of Lundy half way and if you don't make it in time, and the wind drops, there is no way you are going to get back against the tide in a cut off time of 11 hours. The real challenge for any team is can they finish the course on time and can they keep far enough away from the rocks with the wind and tide against them without turning the engine on!



This was the fourth race and every race has thrown up something different each year, from total becalming, to tacking on the out or home straight, to torrential rain, blazing sun, and much else.

However despite the terrible weather forecast, with the whole country surrounded in red on the inshore map, and a Force 5 to 7, poor visibility and fog and rain all day predicted with rough seas apparently building, this year's race has to be way the best so far. Weather conditions could not have been bettered. The sight of boats battling their way up the West side of Lundy, all goose winging, or with colourful spinnakers or cruising chutes out was magic. A strong wind challenging every bit of strength you had not to broach, averaging force five to sixes with hardly anyone reefing, keels out of the water, seas no greater than moderate, and no rain till after the race, there was not one boat who did not have a fantastic days sailing. And wherever one was placed, even last, for a sail like that against boats coming from Cornwall, Wales, Bristol and all over the Bristol Channel it was so sad that no other boat from NDYC entered.

The work that goes into the organisation deserves supporting and for the fun and exhilaration it gives every boat and crew member, I would really urge more boats from the NDYC to go in for it. I have done every race to date and we have never had a bad one.

*Niki Tait* (North Devon Yacht Club)

## ILFRACOMBE PILOT GIG

The Gig Club has signed up its first members. As IYC members you are entitled to free membership of the Gig Club. If you are interested in flexing your muscles you can obtain a membership form from the Club House.



## SOCIAL SIDE

### JULY

**W/E 12-13<sup>th</sup>** Powerboat Weekend  
Evening Barbeque on Saturday followed by disco with “Night Owl” at 21:00

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup>** Quiz Night  
With Pete & Sandra Redmore posing the questions. Usual quiz rules.

We are proposing to take a coach trip to Falmouth on Sat Sept 13<sup>th</sup> for the start of the tall ships race. A notice will be on the board as soon as more details are available. If you are interested please put your name on the list with a contact number. If you would like to include a visit to the Maritime Museum, please add this.

This is our summer period & the social side “goes easy”. Please keep an eye on the notice board for any extra events.

*Bobby*

## POWER BOAT WEEKEND



The powerboats return to Ilfracombe on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> July. The event is Round 5 of the RYA National Championships for the OCR and ORDA. The boats will launch from the Harbour Slipway at 11:00-12:45 on Saturday and from 11:15-13:30 on Sunday.

The visit each year provides the club with much needed income. Help will be required from members to ensure this event goes smoothly. A notice is on the board for volunteers. Please help the club ensure that the boats return next year.

For more info, give Mike Elmer a ring on 07813118468

## DIARY

JULY	
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Copperas Race heat 6 18:00
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Race 19:00
Weekend 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Powerboat Weekend
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	Night Sail to Padstow 19:30