

January 2010  
Issue 196

# The Island



The Island Sailing Club Reading

<http://www.islandsailingclub.co.uk>



'Sailing for all'

## Issue 196 – January 2010

Editor Bill Taylor

President	Eddie Insam
Commodore	Tim Lockyer
V. Commodore	Bill Taylor
Rear Commodore	Tom Lori
Memb. Sec.	Mike Jeffries
Race Officer	Mike Jeffries
Social Sec.	Maggie Page
Treasure	Steve & Teresa Savin
Safety Officer	Eddie Insam
Hon Sec.	Eddie Insam
Bosun	Tom Lori

Committee members' contact details are available on the club website under [members' area](#)/[club officers contact details](#)

**Remember the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
7.30 pm at the clubhouse.**

**Please try to attend and so have a say in your club**

...but before that, there will be a Skittles Evening on Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> so please pencil it into your diary. It will be at the The Dog and Partridge in Riseley at 7 for 7.30pm. A buffet supper will be provided and the cost, £9.00 per head. Members are welcome to bring family AND friends.

## Editor's thoughts...

This is the second winter in a row that we've had a decent amount of snow and a frozen lake. There have been, and there will be more, arguments in the media over whether this proves or disproves that the climate is changing. It seems to me to be part of the normal year to year variations that occur. Who knows if next winter will be better or worse?

A lot has been happening in the club behind the scenes over the last year. As Tim mentions below a lot of tidying up has been done and the club looks a lot better for it. The committee is drawing up plans for 2010 and subsequent years which will hopefully lead to improvements in the club and an increase in membership. The committee exists to manage the club for the benefit of the members and we look to members for support. That means helping at work parties, attending open days and helping to recruit new members, joining in the social activities, standing for election to the committee itself for a year and giving us ideas on what you want but most of all, in sailing.

There is a separate article below on coming committee vacancies which have to be filled if the club is to prosper. Please read it.

Nothing gives us more satisfaction than to see a lot of boats on the lake and members having a good time. Hope to see you on the water soon.

## Commodore's Message

Hello again.

What a few months it has been! Too much wind, too many gusts, not enough wind and ice. In between there have been some good races despite the weather. One of which was The Brass Monkey sailed as usual despite the ice and lack of wind with the leadership ever changing not only on each lap but, almost, each leg of the race. At the presentation afterwards (without a Trophy as the Vice Commodore had decided to slip in an extra holiday and forgot to leave the 'Brass Monkeys') it came to pass that John Beech, having got the winning 'bug' at the Annual Dinner, now wanted even more trophies and took the 2010 Brass Monkey race by storm beating a very experienced field. Maggie Page came in as the first lady in the race.

Apart from the sailing side it has also been a busy time at the club with members have been hard at work. If you haven't been at the club for a while, you will notice a few changes.



The first is that all the rubbish has

been tidied up in the Compound. The old, unclaimed trailers have been sold or cut up and disposed of. The old boats have, likewise, been sold or disposed of. There are two remaining to be dealt with. One will be cut up and the remains distributed amongst members refuse bins and the other will become another Flower Boat and will help to further disguise the cess pit. There will be a call for peat and flowers a little later in the year.

I'm sure some of you will have noticed the path which has appeared on the Island recently. This is part of the Island shrub containment scheme which will allow us to see No. 6 mark and reduce the wind shadow caused by them. A thank you is owed by all of us to John Beech and the team for their hard work.



After six years as "temporary" Treasurer along with one or more

other jobs and deteriorating health I have decided to retire from this function. Steve and Teresa Savin have volunteered to take on this task and have been elected by the Committee in accordance with rule 8 (c) of the ISCR Constitution.

The Club House has recently been fitted with new windows and front doors. The reason for this improvement is that, for some time the Committee have been very worried by the amount of rot in the wooden windows which, although bad enough in itself, caused concerns that it would spread to the framework of the building and incur further cost, inconvenience and a major rebuild. To this end I

managed to negotiate a deal whereby we got the doors included in the original quote of a year ago. We hope everyone will enjoy the new warmth this should provide!

On February 6th we will be running a Fun skills course, sponsored by the RYA and free of charge to members. Apart from normal skill improvement the course will also show us how to sail backwards and sail without a rudder (that could cut down the drag). Please book early as spaces may be limited.

I would also like to mention the many unsung heroes who work behind the scenes and whose work goes unnoticed until something doesn't happen. I refer to those who stock up the Galley, repair the boats, fill the petrol cans and gaz cylinders, reading the meters, organising the septic tank emptying and so on ..... A big THANK YOU to you all.

I'm sorry I haven't been pulling my weight with the workload and sailing this year, but I am improving and hope to be back on the water again, treatment willing. I shall look forward to that.

In the meantime I wish you all the best of sailing and an enjoyable 2010 season

Lastly, here is a caption competition.

Tim



## Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinner was a great success and a good time was had by all. Trophies were presented by Tim. Thanks are due to the Social events team, Maggie, Joan and Joy, for their efforts and to Dennis for the slide show.



Tim presents Rob Howell-Jones with the “most improved “ trophy

### The Christmas Carol evening

We had an enjoyable carol concert at the clubhouse after sailing on December 13<sup>th</sup>. There were about 30 in all including 3 musicians, Danny on flute, Eddie on guitar and Rob on violin, accompanied by a small, but effective ladies percussion section. The nibbles, mince pies and mulled wine went down a treat and between nibbles we sung some carols. With the low lights, candles and Christmas decorations it turned out to be quite atmospheric.

### New members

The club would like to welcome the Horne family, Peter and Kezia, Katie and Lottie.



At the Carol service, topping up with mulled wine before the singing.

### The Brass Monkey race...

The first race of the year in the Brass Monkey race (named for obvious reasons) on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike Jeffries was there...

*“On 1st January, 6 hardy sailors competed for the Brass Monkey Trophy. The wind was a fluky north westerly, occasionally getting up to force 1 as a maximum and leaving a large proportion of the lake with an unruffled appearance. After breaking the ice around the jetty area by launching the safety boat the race started with Geoff Planner (laser) taking an early lead followed by Mike Page (laser), Maggie Page (Graduate), John Beech (Graduate) and finally Mike & son, Chris Jeffries (Enterprise). After almost an hour of racing when fingers and thumbs were totally numb, 5 laps completed and with the Enterprise threatening to pass the lasers, the finishing order was:*

- |                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1st. Mike Page                  | (Laser)      |
| 2nd. Geoff Planner              | (Laser)      |
| 3rd. Mike Jeffries & son, Chris | (Enterprise) |
| 4th. John Beech                 | (Graduate)   |
| 5th. Maggie Page                | (Graduate)   |

*Only 4 minutes separated the first and last boat and after applying the Portsmouth Yardstick handicap correction the positions were finalised as:*

- 1st. John Beech,
- 2nd. Mike & Chris Jeffries,
- 3rd. Mike Page,
- 4th. Geoff Planner,
- 5th. Maggie Page

*After mulled wine, Christmas cake and other goodies there followed the announcement of the results, after which the crowd of 10 spectators chatted in the warmth of the clubhouse while the 6 intrepid sailors put the boats away and got cold again!"*

## ...and the Winter Series

The Winter Series Results.

In order to have a more meaningful result, the only race from the Winter Morning Series was included in the Winter Series to give 3 races in total.

- 1st. Mike Jeffries,
- 2nd. Rob Howell-Jones,
- 3rd. Mike Page.

## Aims of the Club, plans and Training

Over the last few months the committee has been thinking about the future of the club and has been developing plans. The club is affiliated to the RYA and is supported by it. RYA licensed instructors run our training courses, sometimes with no cost to members and there may be RYA funds available to the club to help in its development. The RYA's aim is that people should enjoy water sports and have fun but also to be safe. John Williams of the RYA is our link and is involved with the committee developing plans and will then assist in putting them into effect.

The courses that the club offers are usually the Dinghy levels 1 and 2, and this year there will also be a "Fun skills course" on February 6th, mentioned by the Commodore above, and an Advanced Development Skills Course on April 10th/11th. Members are encouraged to put their names forward for these training courses, there's nothing better than knowing how to do things properly rather than learning by trial and error (mostly error) which can take a long time and can be unsafe.

In addition the club would like to develop some members as assistant instructors (AIs) (we already have a few but need more). These AIs assist RYA instructors on training courses, especially useful on a large course where there are a ½ dozen or more students to watch over and assist. There is scope for Assistant Instructors to go all the way and become qualified RYA dinghy instructors which would give the club a high degree of flexibility in its training programme.

Members interested either in becoming an AI or a dinghy instructor, please talk to Tim or Eddie or any other committee member.

### The new calendar (2010-2011)

Please keep an eye on the club's website under "about the club/calendar" for the new version of the calendar and note the dates of club events.

### The Club's Heron

Another boat has become available for members to use. The late Stuart Daniels was working on a Heron, an all-wood boat, when he died and his widow, Jane, has donated the boat to the club. John Beech has taken over the upkeep of this boat and will be happy to explain it to a member if they want to try it out.

### And speaking of Herons.....

Dick Sawdon Smith has written this piece on how the ice and snow can make life difficult for herons as well as us...

### **PITY THE ICE-BOUND HERON**

*For those hearty winter sailors amongst us, the ice on the lake or at least its surrounds is little more than an annoyance. In fact of course the intrepid six who sailed this year's Brass Monkey race broke the surface ice around the jetty, to be able to sail out to the centre of the lake.*



*The icing-over of the lake surrounds is a much more serious matter for the Heron that frequents the inlet just above the club house. To realise the disruption it causes to the Heron, you have to understand how it catches its food. The Heron is above all a fisherman but unlike human fishermen it isn't a sport but its very existence. It stands in the water on the edge of lakes, rivers and ponds, remains very very still and then as the fish swim by, it lowers its head slowly, little by little, crouching over its target. The final strike is quick, catching the fist in its long beak, not spearing it but swallowing it whole.*

*On a calm day this is a relatively easy task but if the wind and rain stir up the surface it makes it more difficult. A Heron will allow for the refraction in the water by moving its head and neck from side to side for a little while. In years gone by, human fishermen used to think that the Heron's legs had some magic ingredient that attracted the fish and they were killed and their legs crushed to be used for bait. All to no avail, it is just the Heron's ability to stand motionless for long periods in shallow water that lulls the fish into false security.*

*When you consider that a Heron needs to eat about a fifth of its own weight each day, you get some idea of the disturbing results long periods of frozen lakes, or even just the surrounds, can have on its life. In really severe winters there can be a mortality rate of seventy per cent. So spare a thought for the Heron when lakes and ponds freeze over. For us it may be an inconvenience or in some*

*cases even an excuse for fun. For the Heron it can be a matter of life or death.*

**Dick Sawdon Smith**

## Committee Vacancies

The 2010 committee, which assumes its responsibilities at the AGM in March, is taking shape and looks like this so far;

President	Tim Lockyer
Commodore	Bill Taylor
V. Commodore	Tom Lori
Rear Commodore	
Memb. Sec.	
Race Officer	Mike Jeffries
Social Sec.	Maggie Page
Treasurer	Teresa Savin
Safety Officer	Eddie Insam
Hon Sec.	Eddie Insam
Bosun	Tom Lori

Note that there is a vacancy for Rear Commodore, another for Membership Secretary and that Tom and Eddie both have two roles. It would be fairer if they had one each.

**The Rear Commodore and Membership Secretary posts are particularly important and would present difficulties for the club if they were not filled.**

So, we're looking for volunteers please to help run the club.

Committee membership lasts for one year till the 2011 AGM. The work is a bit busy sometimes but isn't onerous if the committee is fully manned. If you think that you can help, please talk to one of the current committee members. Thanks

## Social activities this Summer

In addition to the racing programme the club runs social events in order to provide members with opportunities to meet other members and their families, chat and enjoy themselves away from boats. **(See the Skittles Evening ad above)**. In addition the "social team" provide refreshments and a bar-b-q at some of the club's sailing

functions, for example on Commodore's Day and Family Open Days. These events are intended to be enjoyed by members AND families so please come along and enjoy them.

Maggie Page is the Social Secretary with responsibility for instigating these events, setting dates, making bookings and then, along with other club members, running them on the day. Joy Jeffries is responsible for maintaining the Galley stock, Joan Beech for coffees and Welsh Cakes and many other members for supplying food items on specific days. Thanks to you all.

### Introduce a friend

The club relies on a steady stream of new members to replace those who leave for various reasons and the Open Days mentioned above is one mechanism of introducing new members. Another is for current members to introduce a friend, a work colleague or neighbour for example. If a member did bring a friend, he/she could take the friend for a sail in one of the club's larger (2-man) boats or if not feeling that confident, we could arrange for someone else to take them for a sail. Just let a committee member know on the day.

### Racing Results.

New members may not have seen the club's calendar, but the year is divided into several series of races. So, for example in Spring, all the races on Sundays, before lunch, count towards the Spring AM series. Then all the races after lunch count towards the PM series etc. Prizes are awarded to the winners of the various series.

There is a handicapping system so that someone in a slower Enterprise for example races on equal footing with someone in a faster Laser. The idea is that no matter what boat a member may feel most comfortable in, he or she is in with a chance, even though it may not be the fastest boat in the fleet.



Snow and ice and it's not even Christmas yet....



...and still snow and ice and it's barely new year!  
(taken Jan 11<sup>th</sup>)

## Duty List 7<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010

Date	Officer Of the Day	Race Officer	Assistant Race Officer	Galley
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	John Beech	Rob Howell-Jones	Bill Taylor	Joan Beech
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mike Jeffries	Christian Sturt	Andrew Morris	Joy Jeffries
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Peter Crawthraw	Dave Sowden	Stephan Rudman	Gwyneth Rudman
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Geoff Planner	Steve Dyer	Andy Clark	Kim Dyer
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Mike Page	Maggie Page	Seb Burge	Dennis Ollington
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Dick Sawdon Smith	Andrew Morris	Chris Hill	Denis Handslip
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Tim Lockyer	Tim Jones	Danny Walsh	Nicola Beeston
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Ted Wright	Eddie Insam	Simon Chattock	Rowan Chattock
4 <sup>th</sup> April	John Beech	Rob Howell-Jones	Bill Taylor	Joan Beech