



# MAINSHEET

## Newsletter of the Phoenix Yacht Club

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Lotte A'Hern
- Laura Kent

### New Skippers

Following completion of their skipper appraisals the Sailing Committee would like to congratulate the following members on being accepted as PYC Inshore Skippers:

- Jeremy McLaughlin
- Paul Carlin
- Ed Nicholls
- Brad Eaton.

### Membership Renewals

Thanks to everyone who has been so quick to pay their membership renewal fees this year. Renewals are well ahead of this time last year. If you haven't yet paid, please hurry!

New members are welcome and to join please email Hazel Wilcox at [membership@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk)



New club skipper Ed Nicholls loses his hat!

### *In This Issue:*

**AGM Report** - Hon. Sec. Robert Harland, gives a personal account of this year's AGM,

**Fundraising For Spellbinder's Replacement** - Treasurer, Debbie Roberts, updates us on SDS debentures received and pledged following our recent appeal to members.

**Sailing Committee** - Rear Commodore (Sailing), Trevor Nicholls, introduces our sailing committee for 2017/18.

**First Aid Shore Based Course** - Seven PYC members refresh their first aid skills in Emsworth

### *Club sailing opportunities in the near future (Skipper):*

- ❖ Trial Sail: 25 & 26 March - 2 spaces (Steve Greenham)
- ❖ Trial Sail: 27 & 28 March - 1-4 spaces (Tom Lynch)  
*Please invite your friends to come out for an introductory day sail*
- ❖ Spinnaker Handling: 22/23 April - 1 space (Tony Riley)
- ❖ RORC De Guingand Bowl offshore race: 13/14 May - up to 4 spaces, an ideal mile builder! - (Tony Riley)



## PYC Annual General Meeting

Datchet Water Sailing Club has many advantages. It is easy to get to being convenient for the M4, M3 and M25. It has good facilities and easy parking.

One of the pleasures of this AGM is the first floor Club Room which overlooks Queen Mary Reservoir to the west. The sun setting over the water with Windsor Castle silhouetted on the horizon makes one happy to be in England.

It was a perfect venue for 50 Members and friends who gathered for this year's AGM. The main point of discussion was to brief the membership on Spellbinder Replacement. Before that **Debbie Roberts the Treasurer** gave the financial report which had been pre-circulated.

Debbie said that the surplus after depreciation last year was £15,250 which is not enough to sustain the Club and replace the boats. Sailing fee income was 12% below last year, cancellations cost us over £6,000 and there had been

some unexpected maintenance expenditure during the past year, which is why the surplus is below expectations. Looking forward Haslar Marina has changed ownership and, whilst we have benefitted from very low mooring rates for the last 4 years, the new owners are bringing the fees up to more typical market rates which will lead to a rise of £3,000 - £4,000 next year putting more pressure on the accounts.

Membership fees for 2017/18 are Individual £100; Family £180; and Youth (under 25) £50 each year. These fees qualify for an SDS discount of £50.

### **Robert Homan, as retiring Rear Commodore Sailing,**

reported a successful 2016. The summer cruise was well supported and made a good contribution to Club funds and was enjoyed by everyone. Both boats are now working well. There had been a problem with the prop shafts in Quartette that has now been repaired and the heater from Quartette has been moved to Spellbinder and a new heater fitted to Quartette. Spellbinder has been revarnished internally and now looks good and well presented for sale. Spellbinder is now being actively marketed. Robert thanked all members of the Sailing Committee especially the Bosuns Andy

Bowerman (Spellbinder) and Richard Ash (Quartette) for their work during the year to keep the boats sailing.

### **Spellbinder Replacement**

Dave Brookes, Trevor Nicholls, Debbie Roberts gave a comprehensive presentation. Dave Brookes went over why it is necessary to replace Spellbinder. He said he appreciated that many members had a fondness for Spellbinder but she is now 26 years old, maintenance and the likelihood of failure is an increasing risk, she is becoming less competitive in races, and prospective members want a more modern boat. Trevor Nicholls discussed alternative boats. This result followed a members survey and taking Spellbinder as the benchmark a spreadsheet model has been prepared against which any suggested boat can be measured. At present the two boats that come out best against these criteria are the X-40 and the Dehler 39 SQ. Debbie went over the financial situation and the reasons why to replace Spellbinder we need to raise additional funds through the SDS scheme. Fuller details of these presentations are being circulated separately.

*The Spellbinder boat replacement group will be writing to you with more detail and you are encouraged to subscribe to the new boat.*

## Constitutional Review

The Resolutions that were circulated before the meeting with the agenda to tidy up the Articles of association and Club Rules were all passed unanimously.

## The Management Committee is now :

**Commodore:** Lenie Stephens-Voorhorst

**Vice Commodore:** David Brookes

**Treasurer:** Debbie Roberts

**RC - Sailing:** Trevor Nicholls

**RC - Administration:** Robert Lewcock

**Member:** Tinu Cornish

**Member:** Richard Ash

## General Discussion

After the main part of the meeting there was a general discussion. Steve Greenham is taking over from Andy Connors as **Marketing and Communications Officer**. He has produced a tri-fold A4 leaflet which members are encouraged to distribute to friends and colleagues and put on work place noticeboards. A supply are also kept on each boat to give to interested bystanders in marinas.

Tony Riley, **Training and Skipper Officer**, said that the Club have 58 skippers including Bristol Sailing Association: 23 Inshore, 14 coastal and 21 Offshore. Sadly there are 11 skippers who do not have a current First Aid Certificate and are not

able to take boats out. He encouraged them to get their certificates updated which involves a one day course at a cost of about £50 - £80. Judith Hankey is taking over as Skipper/Training Officer for 2017/18.

We are entering all the RORC races this year as it is a Fastnet year. Members are encouraged to any race and should contact Chris Maughan, **Racing Officer**, if interested.

Judith Hankey has organized an exciting summer cruise of the coast of Holland. Members are encouraged to sign up now for the summer cruise. 3 weeks are completely full and vacant spaces are filling fast.

## Prize Giving:

Congratulations to the Prize winners:

**Aiden Canon for Racing** Trevor Nicholls

**Fastest Passage** Allan Wright.

**Jubilee Plate** Trevor Nicholls  
*most days on Board (44 days)*

**Laing Award for Seamanship** Robert Lewcock  
*for skills demonstrated during his Offshore Yachtmaster Exam when he sailed backwards onto a buoy when the prop shaft failed.*

**Contribution to the Club** Andy Connor  
*for producing Mainsheet over the last five years.*

The meeting closed at 20.00 with a fork supper, fellowship over a drink. A very good meeting enjoyed by all. - Robert Harland

## *Total Loss: Dramatic First-hand Accounts of Yacht Losses at Sea - Paul Gelder*

During the lively AGM discussion, Ron Clark gave a short and informative discussion on Adlard Coles book about yacht losses at sea. Many boats of robust construction are lost at sea in often relatively light winds. The angle of vanishing stability is important and in the 1979 Fastnet only one of 59 Group 5 boats finished and that was a Contessa 32. The weak points are windows, hatch, washboards lost, cockpit drainage, locker fixings (wave over the stern). Fixings on the boat – well fitting lockers, gas bottle, fridge, tool boxes etc. A frightened man and bucket are better than an electric bailer. Rigging – galvanized better than stainless steel. A high cabin roof is vulnerable. The superstructure is weaker than the hull. He said that the general conclusion was that the length of the boat – 35 – 40 ft and 10 – 15 tons minimum as anything lighter may not be stable in bad weather. - [Available from Amazon](#)

- Pledged
- Received



## Spellbinder Replacement Funding

PYC have built an exciting forward plan which will allow us to replace each boat every 10 years, starting this year with the replacement of our long-serving Spellbinder. At this point we don't yet have sufficient funds to buy a suitable boat and are requesting the support of our members to raise a further £50,000 (maximum) via the Subscription Discount Scheme (SDS) – this will enable us to replace Spellbinder and give us the foundations for our 10 year plan.

**We've had a great start and already have over £30,000 of new SDSs taken or pledged!**

Thanks so much to those involved, and to those who already subscribe to the SDS.

Once we sell Spellbinder and are ready to buy a new boat, we may still need a further £20,000, and so we would urge you to consider whether you would be able to support via SDS investment.

The SDS is not just for skippers – it is available to all members and is both a great way to support your club and an investment offering exceptional returns:

- Investment units of £1,000 are repayable in full after 10 years
- A member may hold up to 5 SDSs
- £50/year discount on membership fees with your first SDS (equivalent to 5% tax-free return)
- 10% discount on your sailing fees for each SDS held (e.g. 20% discount with 2 SDSs)

If you are able to pledge your support, wish to join the SDS, or have any questions, please contact our Treasurer Debbie Roberts in the first instance (email [treasurer@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk), phone 07449 902574), or alternatively speak to Trevor Nicholls or Dave Brookes.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Debbie Roberts, Dave Brookes and Trevor Nicholls

# Seven do First Aid in Emsworth

*John Halliday reports*



Ron Clark practices supporting John Halliday's drinking arm...

Seven club members made a block booking (with substantial discount) on a First-Aid course at Emsworth School of Navigation – Barry & Rita Barnes, Krys & Ruth Holubecki, Hazel Wilcox, John Halliday and one non-PYC lady. The First-Aid course comes around every three years for practising skippers, and it's tempting to treat it as a bit of a formality until you realise how much you forget, and also the fact that best practice evolves over time.

It was good fun to do the course together, and surprisingly engaging - most of us agreed that it was the most comprehensive and relevant one we'd done, thanks to our excellent instructor Malcolm Fieldhouse with the able assistance of his wife who've sailed together for over 30 years.

As an RYA Yachtmaster Instructor, Practical and Shore-based, Malcolm used to run his own "Sailing Days" Sea School – so highly recommended.



... while Hazel Wilcox is definitely not "walking wounded".

## *Is your first aid certificate due this year?*

PYC enjoys beneficial training rates with Emsworth School of Navigation ([www.emsnav.com](http://www.emsnav.com)) and City Sailing, who are based in Greenwich ([www.citysailing.com](http://www.citysailing.com)). Both schools offer a full range of RYA shore-based courses. Several members are planning to renew their first aid with City Sailing on 10th June, 2017. For more details please contact [training@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk](mailto:training@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk)

## Quartette - Updated Storm Jib Arrangements

During the recent RYA Annual Inspection a problem was identified with our storm jib on Quartette. It could only be attached to the forestay by the luff groove, which meant that in storm conditions it could possibly blow out. All storm jibs attached like this should have a secondary attachment device, so we have had Sanders Sails add some webbing straps. When it is attached by the luff-groove, then these can also be tied on to provide a secondary attachment.

Full instructions of how to fit this storm jib are on Quartette, in the back of the Boat Manual, and a laminated copy is in the thin checklists file. We would encourage all skippers to read these. - Richard Ash & Trevor Nicholls



## A message from our Commodore

Dear PYC Members,

I'd like to say a big thank you to all of you who attended the last AGM. It is important for any Club to have a good connection with the Membership and the AGM is for PYC one of these rare opportunities where fellow members and committee members meet. For those who were not able to attend, please see the Minutes of the AGM.

The detailed presentation at the AGM explained that the cheapest way for the Club of raising extra funds is to utilise the boats as much as we can. So get sailing!!! And you can all help funding the boat replacement by taking out further SDSs.

The development of an Operating Model will hopefully help us realise replacing one of our boats every 5 years.

I am looking forward to working with the new, reduced Management Committee and the Sailing Committee, and I want to extend a very big thank you to Stuart Wilkinson, Robert Homan, Diana la Rue, John Halliday, Dave Appleton, Terry Kellett, Steve Perks, Steve Greenham and Judith Hankey who have contributed on the Management Committee over the past year(s) and now retired from committee work. Your contributions have been very much valued and appreciated and I hope that we can at times call upon your time, experience and expertise when needed.

As a Club, we heavily depend on our volunteers and I can't praise enough the time and dedication of all who help towards the running of our Club.

Other tasks this year:

- Now elections have become an integral part of the AGM, we need to have a review/update of our Election Procedure.
- We will also continue the review of our club rules to ensure that they are fit for purpose and protect the welfare of the club and it's members.

Best wishes to you all and Keep Sailing!

Lenie Stephens-Voorhorst, PYC Commodore

### *Polite Reminder to All Skippers*

In the recent storms, we nearly lost Spellbinder from her mooring, thankfully the vigilant staff at Dean and Reddyhoff Marina re-secured her.

Could I remind all skippers that it is their responsibility to check that our boats are fully secured by mooring lines before leaving, don't just leave it to your crew. At this time of year it may be quite a few days before the boat is out again and it is the season when strong storms can fill in quickly.

Thank you,

Trevor Nicholls, Rear Commodore - Sailing

## Quartette - Update on Prop Coupling

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Over the last couple of years we have had a reoccurring problem with the prop shaft coupling on Quartette. She has now had a brand new prop shaft and a brand new coupling fitted, so that both mating parts are in a new condition.

We have been looking at the set-up of Quartette's prop shaft arrangement, trying to understand why she has been prone to this failure and we believe that one of the causes may be down to the Brunton's folding prop we have. Whilst it is a very effective propeller, due to its shape it has quite a high moment of inertia, i.e. it is like a big flywheel. Which means that when you change direction from forward to astern, or vice versa, it can put a very high load on the coupling.

So can we please remind skippers when changing gear to pause, when going through from forward-to-neutral-to-astern. Additionally, in view of the recurrent problem we have had it would help even further if tick-over drive was engaged, to reverse the spin direction of the prop, before applying any power, so the rule would become:

Forward / neutral / tick-over-astern / then full astern and vice versa.

Anyone who wants to see a bit more about this propeller should look at:

<https://www.bruntons-propellers.com/downloads/pdfs/AutopropBrochure.pdf>

Richard Ash & Trevor Nicholls

## Introducing our new Sailing Committee

### *Trevor Nicholls, Rear Commodore - Sailing*

It is a great pleasure to be able to take on the role of Rear Commodore - Sailing and I thank you for your support and for trusting me with this responsibility. To give you some idea of my sailing profile: I have been a member of Phoenix for over 15 years, I am an Offshore Skipper and Yachtmaster Instructor (helping run the club's RYA and YM courses), I have been active in club cruising, training and racing – where I have completed over 30 RORC Offshore races including 3 Fastnet Races.

2017 will, I am sure, be both an exciting and challenging year with the drive to acquire a new boat and the associated need to grow both our membership and membership activity, to help increase our funds and take the club towards a sustainable future.

Consequently, the Sailing Committee will be working hard to ensure that we can provide you with a great sailing programme, great boats and a concerted effort to expand membership and membership activity.

One of my aims will be to keep you fully up to date with any sailing developments in the club and we will be working hard to keep you as well informed as we can through a variety of media.

I hope to see you all on the water at some time and look forward to taking sailing forward in Phoenix Yacht Club.

We are lucky to have such a dedicated team in our Sailing Committee and I thought it would be useful to introduce you to, or remind you of, them:

		
<p><b>Rear Commodore - Sailing Trevor Nicholls</b></p> <p>Chairman of the SC, equivalent to the club's Managing Director, responsible for achieving SC objectives and managing our sailing programme, our boats and sailing activities.</p>	<p><b>Rear Commodore - Admin Robert Lewcock</b></p> <p>Responsible to the Rear Commodore (Sailing) for the efficient administration of the Club's day-to-day operations.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer Debbie Roberts</b></p> <p>Sets the club's financial strategy. Manages accounts. Prepares the budget. Operates bank accounts. Monitors the club finances. Administers SDS Scheme.</p>
		
<p><b>SC Secretary John Liddy</b></p> <p>Administers Sailing Committee business, including arranging meetings, keeping records of SC meetings and decisions made by email between meetings.</p>	<p><b>Bookings Officer Tom Lynch</b></p> <p>Operates the booking system. Ensures that all members have a fair and equitable chance of securing bookings.</p>	<p><b>Membership Officer Hazel Wilcox</b></p> <p>Keeps register of all members &amp; their contact details, processes membership renewals. Acts as the point of contact for new members.</p>
		
<p><b>Bosun - Spellbinder Andy Bowerman</b></p> <p>Organises the keeping of Spellbinder and her equipment in a safe and seaworthy condition.</p>	<p><b>Bosun - Quartette Richard Ash</b></p> <p>Organises the keeping of Quartette and her equipment in a safe and seaworthy condition.</p>	<p><b>Training &amp; Skipper Officer Judith Hankey</b></p> <p>Implement Club Training policy, Manage the process for the appointment of new skippers and recommend to SC</p>
		
<p><b>Safety Officer Peter Findlay</b></p> <p>Ensures that boats adhere to stated safety requirements. Manages club's safety procedures.</p>	<p><b>Marketing &amp; Comms Officer Steve Greenham</b></p> <p>Manages communications channels. Develops new ways for the club to continue to attract new members &amp; retain its existing membership.</p>	<p><b>Racing Officer Chris Maughan</b></p> <p>Organises the club's participation in RORC and other races, including IRC ratings.</p>

## A Farewell from the Old Editor

I have much enjoyed sending out your Mainsheet for the past five years or so but, as I have mentioned before, I feel it is time to have a new blood on the helm and I congratulate Steve Greenham for putting his hand up to do the job. I have every faith that Steve's hands will hold this helm tightly, having experienced his ability to not let go a boat-hook when it was all that prevented Spellbinder from bouncing off a moored-up French lifeboat which was a shade too close to us in the entrance to Saint Valery-en-Caux, Normandy.

May I thank you all for your articles and photographs, comments and support, all of which help keep the Club thriving and members in touch with one another. May I also thank you for the "Charnock Trophy" which, in my absence, I was given at the AGM. I am very honoured by this gesture which, I am sure, was meant to go to

someone who can sail and moor up without depending on someone at the end of a boathook. So, good luck to Steve and the many journalists within the Club.

Andy Connor, Ex-Editor

## And a Hello from the New Editor

PYC Committees members have a habit of rotating through the same set of jobs, and there is a feeling of deja-vu in picking up the reins of Mainsheet - having last edited the PYC newsletter in 2009.

This time around I'm delighted to be taking on responsibility for Marketing as well as Communications so will be seeking to share information that is of interest to potential, current and former members across a range of media. But more of that in a later edition!

Steve Greenham, Editor



Tom Lynch, Bookings Officer - [bookings@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk](mailto:bookings@phoenixyachtclub.co.uk)

## Our boats are busy, but there are still plenty of berths available

Our yachts are booked for almost every weekend from April through to October this year, but there are still plenty of empty berths on them. To find out plans and book places please contact Tom Lynch.