



JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Truly One to Remember

Phew, that's over then! And a great St Mawes Sailing Club Christmas it was, too. December turned out to be a very busy social month that this year included the customary and most enjoyable visit from 12 intrepid members of the Fowey Gallants Sailing Club as well as the annual run ashore by the coxswain and crew of the Falmouth Lifeboat. Also there were two well attended and very interesting Thursday evening talks; one by **Jonathan Griffin** the recently retired Director of the Maritime Museum, and the other by **Luke Powell**, the builder of so many wonderful pilot cutters. And for 52 members the year finished with a very jolly, noisy Christmas Dinner in the St Mawes Hotel.



John and Anna busy at the bar!

Mathewson's Moustache Madness

The RNLI run ashore on 20 December provided the perfect opportunity for a Club member to see money he had raised end up in the right hands. Rob Mathewson tells the story:

"Having been aboard a vessel which got into difficulties in heavy weather a few years ago, I became very aware of what a fantastic asset we have in the RNLI. That experience made me realise that I had basically taken their presence in the background for granted. Yes, I bunged a bit of change in a collecting pot occasionally, but I realised that I could and should do a bit better. And so last New Year, when reasonably well oiled, I challenged my brother to a moustache race. He lost comprehensively pretty early on but I decided to continue and see if I could use it to raise a bit of cash for the RNLI.

I have to say that wearing a handlebar 'tache does get a chap noticed. Typically, people either cross the road to avoid you, or they're utterly impressed and keen to find out more about it and its guardian. I can't say that it was exactly a part of me but I came to view it more as one would a pet dog. It had 'off days', when it basically just ignored what I tried to do with it and went its own way. Strange!



Rob's wonder 'tache atop the Town Regatta Trophy

Eight months got the hirsute growth on my upper lip to a full-on nine and a half inches of prime handlebar banger, when waxed out straight. Women were turning their children away as I approached and I developed a worrying habit of wearing a striped blazer and a boater

day-to-day. I even began to crave a monocle. It had to end.

During Falmouth Week, Lindsey Thomas, the moustache and I went amongst the St Mawes party goers, inviting them to dig their cash out to sponsor the appendage's removal. Mark Humphrey of Freshwater Boatyard employed his quite extraordinary carpentry skills to remove the growth, in St Mawes Sailing Club bar. He did it without injury, for which I'm truly grateful!

Basically, putting up with a few months of ridicule and having my wife reluctant to let me too near her family has been a very small price to pay, on my part, when compared with the risks faced and potential cost to the lifeboatmen and their families in doing their part to keep people afloat safe.

The monster moustache was a bit of fun for me, I'm just very very grateful to everyone who dug deep to contribute and, of course to the RNLI for the service that they provide. I very much hope that the amount raised will help Falmouth Station's crew in some useful way."



Falmouth lifeboat coxswain Mark Pollard accepts Rob's massive £500 cheque from Nigel Sharp and Lindsey Thomas

Thursday Talks in January

The New Year now sees a post-Christmas change of pace, but the Thursday evening talks start on January 8 when **John Andrew** will be telling us about the tragic wrecking of the pleasure boat *Darlin* off Dodman Point with the loss of 31 lives in 1966. This will be followed on Thursday 22 Jan with a talk by Club member and local apiarist **Michael Somers**. Michael will be talking to us about his bees, beekeeping and the wonderful honey he produces here in the village.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 8 Jan: The Wreck of the Darlin

In his inimitable style a talk by John Andrew.

Thursday 22 Jan: Bees and Beekeeping

Sweet talk from Club member Michael Somers.

Thursday 5 Feb: The Club's Junior Sailors

The JST Team have a record of successes to relate.

Saturday 5 Feb: Tiptop Burger Night

Your chance to dine on classy, juicy things at the Club.

Thursday 19 Feb: The Tall Ships' Race

A stirring yarn from Commodore Nigel Sharp.

Thursday 5 Mar: Harbour Master's Update

News from the waterfront courtesy of Gary Cairns.

Saturday 14 Mar: Club Race Officer Course

Get involved. Help run Club racing. (See December News)

Saturday 2 May: Fitting Out Party

Meet new members at the party that kicks off the season.

Sat 25/Sun 26 Jul: St Mawes Boatshow

The first true rival for the London and Southampton shows!

Fri 7/Sun 16 Aug: Falmouth Week

Again the Carrick Roads host the best regatta in the West!



Falmouth Week 2015

After much valuable feedback from and discussion with the six local clubs POFSA has decided to run Falmouth Week with a similar format as last year. The concept of a 'host club' will remain unchanged, and racing will run from Sunday to Saturday. The Carrick Fleet format and race organisation will be similar to that of 2014 and the Bay Fleet will race on all days with one windward-leeward race and one regatta race each day. Champagne Day will remain unchanged but the courses will be shorter. The successful Falmouth Dinghy Week will remain as a separate event, run by Restronguet SC and StMSC. One important change is that the Race Office will be based at Falmouth Watersports Centre and this year the final prize giving will be hosted by Flushing SC. The POFSA Committee has said it hopes that these minor changes will very much add to the overall enjoyment of Falmouth Week.

New Handicapping System

Following an open meeting for A Class sailors at the Club on 27 November Rear Commodore (Sailing), **Mark Humphrey**, Sailing Secretary, **Delia Hazell**, Commodore **Nigel Sharp** and the Race Officers have reviewed the Club's Handicap System for the A Class. It is now expected that the Sailing Committee at its January meeting will decide that next year's racing will be run under the Falmouth Area Yardstick Handicap. This is an objective handicapping system in which a boat's raw yardstick number will be generated by a formula based on draft, beam, waterline length, total sail area and displacement. This system, already in use by Mylor SC, will be used for Falmouth Week and the Village Regattas. *"We very much hope this will encourage continuity when racing, and the transparency of the system should appeal to all,"* said **Delia Hazell**.

News from Stoneworks Quay

Quay Secretary **Katie Wood** wants to say a big thank-you to Club member **Ian Winzar** who kindly offered to carry out some work on one of the Club launching trolleys. It is now gleaming, having been fitted with new wheels and given a general 'spruce up' for the season ahead. *"While sailing may not be at the very forefront of your mind right now, please remember to check that any boats*



you have on the Quay are securely stored as the next couple of months are bound to bring fierce winds and wild waves." As ever, the winter storms throw much detritus onto the quay so please make a note in your diary to join the usual team of volunteers for the annual quay clean up on 4 April - Easter Saturday. This is a truly unmissable opportunity to spend the morning filling your lungs with good clean Spring air as we get the quay ready for the season ahead!

The Club Launch

Those 110 members who bought season tickets for the Club Launch last season will be delighted to know that the General Committee has agreed to renew the service for the upcoming season. The huge convenience of being able to get to your moored boat by taxi cannot be understated. Not only do you not have to drag a tender to and from the water, but you enjoy the huge advantage of being dropped off yards from the Club's front door after racing for swift access to the Clubhouse bar!

Boat Lists for the 2015 Yearbook

Those members for whom we hold an email address will soon be hearing from Club Administrator Graham Pinkney. Look out for Graham's email in January chasing you for an update to his records. We need to make sure that the 2015 Yearbook, which is due to be published in late March, is as accurate as possible with listings of Club members' boats. If you are not on his email list contact him direct.

Graham is on 01326 270686 or office@stmawessailing.co.uk

Adventure Training

Juniors and their parents will be interested to know that the 2015 programme for sailing adventures aboard the training ship *Hardiesse* has now been published. There's a 7-day trip to Brittany from 1 to 8 August, and an RYA Start Yachting Certificate Course from 28 to 30 August to chose from. Juniors aged 12 to 16 are eligible to apply for places. Booking forms are available for download from the Club website. Contact...

Tim Lowe on 01326 279009 or t_j_lowe@yahoo.co.uk

New JST Booking System Update

We chased JST Coordinator **Mark Osborn** for news of the much anticipated new JST online booking set up. It seems progress is being made, though Mark did say *"We regret our new system is not quite ready to go live just yet. But it's not far off now and a separate Club email will be sent out shortly to announce when it is live. We do apologise for the delay, but it is important that we get it right. Please bear with us."*

Clubhouse Refurb is Ongoing Project

Rear Commodore (House) **Rob Bowden** tells us that the loft is now tidied and properly insulated. Stage two for that job is to set it up as a store so that stored stuff can actually be found! The decoration of the outside of the Clubhouse is well in hand and scheduled to start in the Spring. That's dreckly then!

ON THE MENU THIS MONTH

There's a couple of Sailors' Suppers in Jan. As they precede the very popular Winter Talks which begin at 2000, not only is it important to book early to avoid disappointment, it is vital not to arrive late for your meal and clash with the start of the talk. Do please collect your grub before 1900.

8 January: Sailors' Supper

Chicken and Leek Pie with fresh seasonal vegetables.

22 January: Sailors' Supper

Beef Stew with fresh seasonal vegetables and new potatoes.

Call or text 07536 012935

[email stm-sc-bar@live.co.uk](mailto:emailstm-sc-bar@live.co.uk)

Clubhouse Byelaws

Members will be aware that smoking is illegal inside the Clubhouse. The General Committee has now amended the Clubhouse Byelaw Number 11 to read *'... no smoking is permitted anywhere inside the premises. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes.'*

