

The R N V R Yacht Club

NEWS UPDATE

December 2011

By the Commodore

We have, for the most part, ended 2011 on a really high note, with four well-attended events in the form of the Autumn Meet, the Laying Up Party, the Annual Dinner and the Christmas Party.

The sailors who braved the inclement summer were rewarded with perfect weather for the Autumn Meet, when 49 of us sat down to dinner in the clubhouse of the Royal Lynton Yacht Club on the Saturday evening with our guest of honour being their Commodore, Rod Perry.

The Laying Up Party one month later saw a transformation in numbers attending compared with previously, with a change of venue to The Royal Naval Club and Royal Albert Yacht Club where we were served an attractive, moderately-priced meal. It was gratifying seeing numbers swell to a very commendable 52. We dined out Paul Bolas, who, as Club Secretary, was instrumental in securing for us Corporate Membership two years ago. Paul has just retired from his position and I hope that his and our paths will cross in the future. Such was the success of the event this year that the Committee has decided to keep this venue for the event in 2012. You can be sure of a very warm welcome there on any occasion, so do pay a visit.

This year our Annual Dinner took place in *The In and Out Club*, where we filled their Coffee Room with 107 members and guests. Vice Admiral Rory McLean, as our Guest of Honour, entertained us with a speech (or should I say, "performance") of a nature rare to

see from a Naval officer of his rank. He kept us guessing (and made me somewhat anxious) when, after thanking us for inviting him, he sat down as though that was all that we should expect. Of course, it was just a party piece, but I was mightily relieved when he stood up to resume, and he then kept us entertained with stirring tales of sea rescues in which he had been involved either directly or in directing the rescue – plus the odd joke or three!

Our last event of the year, just past at the time of writing, was the Christmas Party, a party with a difference this year as we combined it with the unveiling ceremony for the portrait of our Admiral, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the cost of which was fully funded by individual contributions from members, for whose generous support I would like to record my thanks. Painted by renowned portrait painter and war artist Arabella Dorman, the portrait now has prime position in the Reception area of the Naval Club; from his lofty position there His Royal Highness vets both arrivals and departures from the Naval Club and can also keep a close eye on the Receptionists!

We were privileged to have both TRH Prince Michael and Princess Michael of Kent as our official guests and, following the unveiling ceremony, they were able to mingle with over 75 members and other guests and to enjoy the special atmosphere of our Christmas Parties in the Naval Club.

So, a most enjoyable last quarter of the year, but it was overlaid with sadness by the tragic news of the untimely death of Past Commodore

Ian Dickinson, who was lost at sea off the coast of Guernsey when the aircraft he was piloting came into difficulties. Mercifully, Ann Marie escaped, relatively unscathed. Our thoughts are with her and her family at this very sad time. Ian was a staunch supporter of the Club, who had served us well both as Membership Secretary and then as our Commodore in 1988-9. He will be much missed. A celebration of Ian's life will take place at 12 noon on Thursday, 5th January 2012 at St. Mary's, Whitegate, Cheshire, at which members will be welcome.

(for the location of and direction to Whitegate Church, near Northwich, Cheshire contact Tom Cunningham (Tel 01606 883697)

The Flag Officers and Committee have been extremely busy this year on many fronts and I am most grateful to them all for their hard work in support of the Club. The topics we have discussed around the Committee table have been many and varied. A number of initiatives are still in the pipeline, but one issue which came up for discussion is how to describe "Smart Casual Rig", when that more relaxed standard of dress is permitted for gentlemen at a Club event. A short article describing this rig, together with that for the more usual Club Rig, has now been posted in the Members' Area of the Club's website and is reproduced in this Newsupdate.

May I conclude by wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2012, especially on the sailing front. I shall look forward to seeing you all this coming year at our many and varied Club events

Tim Ware Commodore

Rig for Club Events

As a Service yacht club we should ensure that we generally follow Naval standards of dress for Club events, with men dressed in a smart and reasonably “uniform” manner, enabling the ladies to dress in the confident knowledge of what to expect from their male companions. This is to ensure a feeling of integration and “Clubbiness” among members, enabling existing members to continue to enjoy the distinctiveness of the Club that attracted them to join in the first place and the Club to ensure that it remains attractive to new recruits from the Naval Service.

The rig for men for most events (other than the Annual Dinner and evening events at the Royal Yacht Squadron) is **Club Rig**.

Club Rig

Club Rig is:

- blazer and smart trousers, or a suit
- smart long-sleeved, collared and conventionally-buttoned shirt
- tie (Club tie if a member)
- smart shoes (including smart deck shoes for those arriving by boat).

Smart Casual Rig

On appropriate occasions, the Club event organiser may announce that Smart Casual Rig for an event will be acceptable, although members and guests may still continue to wear Club Rig for the event if they prefer.

Smart Casual Rig is:

- smart trousers or slacks (including chinos)

- smart long-sleeved or (in summer) short-sleeved, collared and conventionally-buttoned shirt
- smart shoes (including smart deck shoes).

Smart Casual Rig does not include any of the following: blazer, tie, jeans, zip-on trousers, shorts, polo shirts, T shirts, sandals or trainers.

*Tim Ware
Commodore*

Are your Sea Cocks safe?

Members will doubtless be aware from the ongoing correspondence in the yachting press this year (led principally by Yachting Monthly) that concern is being voiced as to the likelihood of seacocks failing suddenly and dramatically, principally due to de-zincification in sea water. It is stated that the CE mark for seacocks is based on a five year service life which is considered far too short.

The evidence suggests that it is difficult to be sure exactly what is the material of construction of the seacock merely from an external examination.

What therefore is the correct course of action for a prudent mariner? A thorough visual examination is a first step, albeit that may be difficult to achieve, in order to ascertain what, if any markings are displayed, followed by some judicious tapping with a small hammer. If the seacock sounds “flat” then further investigation, which might include removal, may be prudent. Some judicious “wagging” of the assembly may provide some surety- or a nasty surprise!

Needless to say these tests are best carried out when the boat is out of the water. A suitably sized softwood

tapered bung tied locally to each seacock is a good idea, plus a quantity of strong and very sticky tape, marine putty etc.

Members views on this issue are welcomed.

The Northern Dinner

After the disappointments of last year when the Dinner was cancelled following the cancellation of the Liverpool Boat Show, it is pleasing to announce that the

Northern Dinner will be held on

**FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2012
at
The Artists Club, Liverpool.**

(www.artists-club.co.uk)

This is a fine city centre dining club made available to us through the good offices of our member Michael Tomkinson of *Eos of Mersey* fame.

Further details will be promulgated widely in due course, including a list a City Centre hotels.

Please make a special note now of this date in your 2012 diary.

2012 Programme of Events

- *Northern Dinner* 23 March
- *Lecture at RTYC* 29 March
- *Fitting out Party* 15 April
- *Bank Holiday Meet* 5-7 May
- *Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations* 2-5 June
- *Summer Rally* 1-7 July
- *Osborne House* 21-22 July
- *Channel Dash* 25-27 August
- *Autumn Meet* 13-14 October
- *Annual Dinner* 9 November
- *Laying-Up Party* 18 November
- *Christmas Party* 10 December