

SLIPPER SAILINGS Autumn 2011

I will start this issue of Slipper Sailings by recording the sad passing this summer of two stalwart members of our club. One, John Mant, our Commodore's father, a lifelong member and past Commodore who had passed through the ranks, leaving his stamp on today's club in many ways. The other, my son Alastair, Cruiser Secretary, was sadly killed on his bicycle. A member for a mere quarter of a century, he was also dedicated to sailing and to the Slipper and without doubt would in his turn have willingly risen through the ranks. He too has left a legacy for us in his own special way, in his attention to safety and to meticulous detail. My wife Fiona and I, Al's partner Gilly and his sister Katherine were all deeply touched by the unique way in which Slipper members rallied round to support us in our time of need, and I know that James and his family were supported in the same way. And of course that support continues. This club isn't just a club, it is a close extended family. We received messages, letters, cards and visits (and lots of cakes!) from Slipper members all over the world, literally. We tried to thank you all, but some will have been missed. Please accept our thanks now. To a few of you, in my grief I got a bit shirty when Alastair's name was miss-spelt. Forgive me. The importance to us of your sympathy was undiluted (and forever remembered) despite this.

Roger Pratt, Editor

JOHN MANT 1932 - 2011



John Mant, who died in August, was a member of Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club for the whole of his life, a Flag Officer in the 1960's and Commodore from 1969 to 1972. He learnt to sail on the millpond and as a young man he sailed a National 12 and then built and raced a Merlin Rocket. He also raced with Dick Jacobs in an Enterprise, a very popular class at ESSC in the early 60s. In the 70's and 80's he ran his own boatyard business at Bosham before retiring to Emsworth in the 1990s. With family and friends he and Audrey enjoyed many years cruising from Holland to the Scillies and Brittany in various yachts, one of which he built himself. Helped by Dick Jacobs, he also restored the 16ft sailing Dinghy "Eva" which was built for his Grandfather (a founder club member) in 1896.

In all his voluntary work he had a knack for matching the right people to the right jobs. For example, he originally asked Mike Hackman to join the Slipper Committee and look where

that led! He also asked Andrew Turner if he would Chair the General Committee when he was only 25, which he then did for the next 30 years!

John and Audrey presented the Commodore's Clanger trophy which was supposed to be a bell, but is actually a silver rose bowl. It is still awarded for the best performing dinghy sailor throughout the season.

As well as his roles at ESSC, John was a committee member of the Bosham Association and when he moved back to Emsworth, he joined the Residents' Association and then became Treasurer. He managed all the adverts in the EMS magazine until only a few months ago and for many years has been a great supporter of fundraising for the Emsworth Branch of the RNLI. Audrey continues to be the branch Treasurer.

James Mant

ALASTAIR PRATT 1970 – 2011



Gilly at Al's 40th, with Fiona's painting of him:
"Amaryllis on the Baltic"

Lift-Out Guru!

Alastair had sailed all his life, at first in a carrycot on our cruiser at just a few months old, but he soon became a proper crew member on our other cruising boats, then as a crew in a Mirror dinghy, after which he was big enough to crew me in various National 12s and Merlin Rockets. He has owned *Baggy Trousers*, a unique and ground breaking National 12, for many years, as well as his beloved yacht *Amaryllis*, which he sailed single handed to the Baltic and back in 2000. The Twelve will probably go to the National Twelve Class Association, but Gilly will take on the mantle of making *Amaryllis* a continuing challenge to all the "faster" boats. A brilliant marine scientist with the Environment Agency, the fact that the Solent is now cleaner than ever before is largely to Alastair's credit. In his quiet way he was dedicated to the Slipper, and we are sure that his role as Cruiser Secretary (which rumour has it is soon to be Gilly's role) was just an early step on the way to greater responsibilities within the club. The world and the Slipper are poorer places without him.

Roger Pratt

HOUSE MATTERS



I would like to introduce and welcome our new Stewardess – Maria Greenshield and her partner Keith Freeman. Maria brings with her many year's experience in the catering and customer service business as well as managing the Royal Naval and Royal Albert Yacht Club in Southsea. Unfortunately Mike Balster has had to hand over the reins a little earlier than planned due to ill health, but he hopes to be fit and well soon and enjoying your company on the other side of the bar once more! You are all invited to contribute to Mike's leaving present which Maria is looking after. Mike has been a great asset to our club, improving the bars turn over and general friendly ambience in the bar – he will be a hard act to follow! We shall present him with his leaving present at our Prize Giving in November. My thanks go to Maria for taking up the post sooner than anticipated, even forfeiting her holiday to help us out – I believe she finished work at 5pm on the Friday and was behind the bar learning the ropes at 10.00 am the next day before opening for the lunchtime session!

Other news from 'inside'

Our 90th year has been busy and productive. The DVD of the history of ESSC I advertised in the last newsletter is now on sale behind the bar for a bargain £2.50, don't miss out, get your copy next time you're in the bar if you haven't already. The DVD shows Mike Hackman in conversation with Nick Pomfret, recalling the trials and tribulations of some of the most treasured years in our club's history. Mike pays tribute to the outstanding voluntary contributions of so many members, without whom the Slipper Club would not be what it is today. The DVD also shows many still photographs of the club during its restoration. The Anniversary Ball was attended by over 150 people, all the hard work was made worthwhile to see the efforts members had gone to; we had a stunning array of 'flappers', Gangsters, World War 1 veterans, and Country Squires. Thank you everyone, we may put the basics in place but it's your enthusiasm and fun that makes it such a good event – I can't wait to see how you are going to interpret 'Going for gold' the theme for next year's Ball in honour of the 2012 Olympic celebrations!



And finally

'It is a little known fact that the Pirates of the Caribbean visited Emsworth in 1921, leaving behind copious amounts of buried treasure for you to find, but beware, they will be fiercely protecting it!'

All Youths and Juniors are invited to launch between 9.30 – 10.00 on Sunday 25th September to hunt for treasure around the harbour. You are welcome to bring any adult with you as long as you have room on your boat or kayak. When all Treasure has been found, a Birthday Tea will be available for all entrants with a party bag for the Children. A bad weather alternative has been arranged.

At the end of the year, there will be a photographic display to highlight 'The Slipper' celebrating 90 years at its best!

Sarah Thorsby, Rear Commodore House

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, or The Secret Life of ESSC Committees

After 5 years of editing the newsletter and having found another willing victim to take over the reins, last autumn I decided to see if I could help the club in a new capacity. So, I put myself forward at the AGM and, with help from you the members, I was elected as a brand new General Committee member.

But, as I approached my first General Committee meeting, it struck me that I had no idea what to expect! I realised that there are probably many members in a similar position so I decided to try and convey, via this short article, what goes on. In this way, I hope to educate and, perhaps, persuade a few more people to get involved. So, with apologies to all of you who DO know what ESSC committees are all about, here goes:

There are 4 main sub-committees which meet once a month, on average. In strictly alphabetical order they are:

Finance: The club has a healthy balance sheet but this has only come about through careful management and prudent financial planning. That happens here. All expenditure has to be approved and any up-and-coming issues (from all parts of the club) are flagged here to ensure that there are as few financial surprises as possible.

Premises: Apart from the sailing and the club's members, it is my opinion that our clubhouse and associated property are the jewel in the crown. But this jewel does not look after its self and the dedicated members of the Premises Committee do the lion's share of the work, aided by many other members who do the jobs and wield the paint brushes, serving the club fantastically. All jobs are meticulously tracked from their inception through to completion via a very comprehensive spreadsheet – It is a joy to see the process in action!

Sailing: The reason the club exists! But, once again, every event of all types (dinghy, cruiser, youth, junior, WOW and radio controlled) has to be planned and coordinated via another bunch of dedicated volunteers. This committee also deals with other items such as ensuring the right level of safety boat cover is available for all the planned dinghy events, while the Bosun's team is forever busy ensuring that all the club's sailing and boating kit is available and working.

Social: Definitely the fairest committee of them all! I really enjoy all the social events that I attend but nothing would happen without people deciding what to do and then getting on and actually doing it! It is incredible how many decisions need to be made during the organisation of just one event, all of which will, inevitably, lead to an action - Most of these are dealt with by the members of the committee... Got an idea for a new or different social event? Please let this committee know as they are very open to all suggestions.

There are 2 other committees that meet on a less regular basis: The Bar and the Training committees. The Training Committee meets regularly but only in the winter (when the shore-based training courses are run) while the Bar Committee would normally only get together to deal with out of the ordinary situations.

And last but by no means least, we have the General Committee. This is a gathering of all committee members and happens once a month (with a holiday in August). The chairmen and women of all the sub-committees provide reports, together with all the other flag officers, and any issues are discussed. All are allowed a voice and the range of subjects discussed, and views held, is very wide. People can become very passionate about a subject they have strong feelings for but our Chairman runs a tight ship, while allowing all to have their say. A fascinating insight into all aspects of ESSC. This meeting makes all the meetings I attend at work look a complete shambles!

So, there you have it. I hope that you feel inspired to get involved. If so, you can do this in three ways:

- (1) All committee meetings are open to anyone so come along and learn more about your club and how it works. All committee meetings are listed in the club programme.
- (2) All the committees are looking for volunteers to help with organisation and the resultant tasks. So, think about volunteering...
- (3) The AGM is approaching fast. Fancy becoming a committee member? Then put yourself forward. At the very least, please attend the AGM and vote!

I hope that this article will help to “open the door” on the ESSC committees. If it raises any questions, please do let me know and I will endeavour to answer them for you (with the help of other club members obviously!). I look forward to seeing you at a committee meeting soon!

Martin Perry

YOUTH SAILING

Slipper youth sailors have had a very active summer engaging in a whole range of activities on and off the water. Our usual Wednesday night slot has been pretty full with a combination of sailing on the harbour and on the pond. We managed to pick the lowest tide possible for our Kayak Down the Creeks evening; Sam Berry won the race across the mud to Fowley Island. Mud seemed to feature on another evening when someone (who might that be? Ed.) foolishly suggested we should explore the full length of Fisherman’s Walk on a falling tide. One of our most successful evenings was our Beach BBQ on Hayling Island where we learned all about Ben’s circus skills. It was here that we realised that a theme was emerging, involving the girls (Claire, Esme, Rachel, Katie, and Emily) who just cannot keep out of the water; they have been swimming on every single session, especially if it involves a capsized or 4! We had a great evening competing against Lewmar who brought along their 1m Radio Controlled Lasers. Whilst Lewmar won the team event, the individual title went to Michael Cooper.

But of course we have been sailing as well and organised a first ever youth short course series over three events. Jess Valentine won the Topper event and Esme and Michael Cooper the Feva class. Jess has had a remarkable first summer of competition, also winning her class in the ESC junior race week. Other sailors with fantastic results include our Youth Captain, Viki Payne who with her crew Stephanie Orton was second girl in the European 29er competition and 1st in the Nationals. Ruth and Tess Allan were 2nd girls team in the 29er Nationals. Georgie Mothersele sailing with her helm Jess Lavery had an awesome season representing GB at the ISAF world 420 championships and coming 10th, 2nd in the European junior championships and winning the Nationals. At a local level Brendon Woods won the Topper class at Fed week and Luke Austen was 2nd in the Laser Radial.

Perhaps my own favourite adventure was the Youth Cruise. In the first weekend of September the club’s cruising community kindly offered to take the youth sailors on a cruise to the Isle of Wight. So on Saturday morning 18 young sailors plus me embarked to join our allotted skippers on 8 boats with two in reserve. Each boat had a leisurely sail across to Cowes and the Folly in gloriously sunny conditions. We moored up alongside the pontoon and welcomed each new arrival as the partying started. Needless to say the girls went swimming again! Following a briefing onboard Fixation, we all travelled over to the Folly Inn for supper. Well what a night was had by all. The youth community didn’t believe us when we said there would be dancing on the tables, but by 10:00 they were all joining the Commodore. There is a rumour that our Vice President had such a good time that the premises committee is researching the cost of strengthening the tables in the Slipper bar! There were a few woolly heads on Sunday morning but tradition required that our race back started on time at 10:00. So following bacon butties we departed promptly. The race was very wet but not dispiriting and our intrepid sailors learned a good deal about navigation, tidal effects and instrument sailing. My skipper, Simon West, did not seem to think I was wet enough and so positioned me on the boom to ensure it stayed put in the following wind. Or so he told me. From my perspective it seemed as though all the rain hitting the sail ran down my neck! For the record the race was won by BOBO skippered by Julian Mandiwall and helmed by Jess, Lottie and Fi. Despite the weather we had an amazing time and our thanks go to all of our skippers who so kindly entered into the spirit of the event and enjoyed it all as

much as we did. I think and hope that it will become a permanent fixture on the club's calendar.

Dave Cooper – Youth Coordinator



At the Folly



Beach Party



Commodore Dancing (Dancing? Ed)



Jess Valentine





This year's Chichester Harbour Federation Week included the Artemis 20 disability sailing class for the first time. The event was won by Craig Rose and Pete McCoy, and afterwards, Pete spoke to Jo Austen about his involvement.

Despite many potential difficulties this year's Fed Week was a resounding success for Pete McCoy and Craig Rose. "I'd never done disability sailing, it was the first time I'd raced a keelboat and I hadn't met Craig before," said Pete. They had a good regatta, "Yeah...discarded a first," he laughs, but this Artemis Sailing event rewarded them both with far more than first place.

For the disabled participants, just being involved in Fed Week was hugely exciting. "It was the first time disabled people had ever sailed at Fed Week. They've normally sailed in smaller groups and they'd never seen such a large event with such a variety of boats...they thought it was amazing and it was pretty special to be part of it."

Pete was also quick to emphasise the benefits of the Artemis boats. "The brilliant thing is it's such a sleek design, it's based on an America's Cup boat. The trouble with other boats they've used is that they look like disabled boats, but if you saw an Artemis sailing, it doesn't look like a disabled boat at all. We were on the same start as the RS Elites and that was the whole idea, that we could fit in with everyone else."

The capability of the Artemis fleet and its crews was highlighted on the Thursday, which saw several gusts of well over 25 knots. "It got pretty scary...we were definitely hanging on a bit. We made the call to reef the sails before we went out...it was really quite borderline whether we went at all, but we really wanted to show Fed Week and everyone there that we could cope just as well as everyone else. That was important. There were dinghies capsized everywhere, but the only problem in our fleet was a forestay snapping, and that boat had to be towed in. Apart from that we had no problems, no one had to be rescued."

While the week was hugely beneficial for the disabled sailors, it was clear that Pete enjoyed it just as much: "The satisfaction from having done it was amazing. I really felt that I'd made a difference for Craig and I learnt a lot myself." By his own admission, he now has a completely different idea of both what it means to be, and how life is for, a disabled person. "Craig was brilliant, he amazed me, opened my eyes a bit...he's like any 21 year old and he just wants to get on with whatever he's doing."

For Pete, a regular, and highly successful, sailor, rower and windsurfer, it was clearly a humbling experience: "Craig hadn't sailed in an Artemis for over a year. Their events aren't a total rarity but they're not as regular as they could be. There's also the issue of funding; it's an expensive project to run. Fed Week was supported by RYA Sailability, but they often rely on finding outside sponsorship. There are only 13 Artemis boats in the world, and we had 5 of them at HISC for Fed Week, which was an accomplishment in itself."

The Even Keel Project, directed by Ant McMahon, are looking to develop their charity, and after their success at Fed Week, they come highly recommended; one disabled participant reportedly described the event as the best week of her life, while Pete and the other dinghy instructors who took part were also full of praise: "They can cope with so many different disabilities including blind people and people who have lost limbs...it's an amazing campaign."

To find out more visit www.theevenkeel.com and www.rya.org.uk/programmes/ryasailability



Pesky 300s

Those pesky RS300 sailors from Emsworth & Thorney showed good form at the Nationals down at Weymouth on 23rd of August. The event was held over 4 days at the same time as the RS200 and 600 nationals, which lead to some lively evenings with the 'oldies' trying to keep up with the 'younguns' and all getting sore heads.

With a light first day, favouring the feather weights, and then 2 days of full on breeze testing the legs and stamina of all 35 competitors, there was all to play for going into the last day. This started with no wind, then rain and thunder which cleared, followed by white horses as the sailors launched. A massive wind shift at the start resulted in a postponement, and then in no time the wind died to nothing again. Just as the race officer was about to send everyone in, a line of breeze appeared on the horizon, and champagne conditions ensued to allow the event to finish in fine style.

Final results for the locals were: Dave 'my legs hurt' Acres 3rd, 'nipper' Tom Kennedy 11th, Roy 'super fit' Sievers 14th (even after quite a few swims), Stuart 'I'm camping' Coles 15th and Matt 'I missed the first day and broke my boom' Sargeant an excellent 16th. So, does this perhaps mean the 300 handicap is right? Maybe those 'Peskeys' just know how to sail ???

Dave Acres

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## Crossing Biscay on Bluenote 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011

As I was hanging over the edge of the cockpit heaving, I wondered why we had been so keenly watching for a weather window for the infamous Biscay crossing. If this was a weather window – what's it like when it is bad?? Why weren't we sailing around southern Brittany for the summer like so many other Brits we have met...they even have their boats hauled out for the winter and return to the flower strewn islands each year. Sounds bliss.

It had been a beautiful sunny, gusty sail down the side of Quiberon and we were looking forward to a windy sailing day. But as we hit the Teignous passage, - a narrow rock strewn channel between Quiberon and Houat island – the seas started to kick up into nasty short waves and the blustery wind turned into more of a shriek as it whistled in the rigging, as we started battling our way to windward. Hence a few hours later I was hanging over the side of the boat, even after taking a stuger. Even Andrew went off his food for over 12 hours!!!! I suppose we must have lost our sea legs having been sheltering in Morbihan, on anchor and in various marinas waiting for the second gale in a week to pass.

But as ever, all things pass - we settled down and the wind eased a bit. We set up our watch system, Andrew retired to bed at 7 ready for the graveyard watch at midnight and I sheltered under the canopy, watching huge banks of blue, black clouds making their way slowly across the sky. In great patches over the sea, there was torrential rain and a sort of eerie orangy misty haze as it passed. I felt amazed that they all seemed to miss us.....except the last one before night fell (about 11 pm). Andrew admits to feeling very smug as he snuggled under the duvet listening to it pounding on the deck!!!!

How I was going to be able to go down INSIDE the boat at midnight and lie down????? I managed it, then back up again at 4am to stars and the moon glowing behind the clouds and a much calmer sea. Back to bed again at 8 am, finally slept and awoke to find Andrew in shorts and T shirt relaxing in the cockpit reading and the sun shining!!!! Ah yes, **that's** why we were doing it...I remember. Then to further remind me why we were doing it, we were visited by 2 or 3 groups of dolphins during the afternoon. It is a huge excitement to see these little splashes of unusual waves in the distance, and then realise that they are dolphins rushing towards us to play!!! Even after all these years, it still gives me so much joy to see them streaking around the boat and playing near the bow. You can see them looking at you when they whizz past and can hear their squeaks. I end up squeaking at them to encourage

them to stay!!!! Of course I have a million 'near' pictures of them - patches of ruffled water!!! I did actually manage to get a fin and a nose!!!!



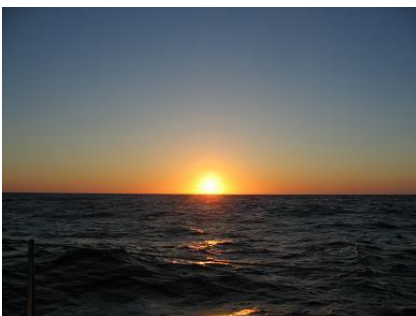
We ended the day with spaghetti bolognese which we should have had the night before, things were definitely looking up. I was glad we had come after all!!

The night was calm, in fact flat calm, so we motored through the night. And what a beautiful night, I stood in the cockpit, iPod on listening to Allegri's Misere , gazing into the silky blackness. A million stars covering the night and trails of phosphorescence lay in our wake. I was startled by an extraordinary flash that streaked through the water and disappeared. And then I witnessed one of the most amazing natural sights of my life. A luminous dolphin swam by the boat bathed in a silvery light. I could see the dolphin in detail just glowing below me....and then it was gone. I stood there speechless and very emotional .....wow.

For ordinary amusement during watches, Andrew had set up an 'I Spy' bingo chart. In fact what that really means is that when he saw special things he wrote them in the chart so that he could tick them off in retrospect!!!! These included, a three masted barque in full glorious sail, a black backed gull, fishing boat, a gannet. I added a few more, such as, a shooting star, another yacht, a luminous dolphin, a whale. In fact we saw everything except the whale. We also set the first line of limericks for the other one to finish. (We started this on our Atlantic crossing – but with other boats on VHF radio for their night watches)

*While crossing the Bay of Biscay ( I gave Andrew this first line!)*  
*She started to get very friskay*  
*Quickly took off her knickers*  
*Lay prone on the kicker*  
*Making gybing decidedly riskay!!!*

As ever, just when you begin to feel relaxed, things change!! Friday was spent with wall to wall blue sky and sun, many pods of dolphins and a special cappuccino coffee (which I only have when I know I can relax). The sunset was amazing.....but -



Andrew took the midnight watch. I certainly didn't sleep very well as the boat seemed to be rolling all over the place. I arrived on deck at 4 am to a pitch black night, howling wind, huge breaking waves rolling past, tankers, and fishing boats, the Spanish coastline very close and Andrew saying that we must make sure to stay dead down wind as there is a rocky bank we need to avoid and that Wendy (the hydrovane self steering) needed a helping hand when the

boat yawed across the waves. That combination of events mostly finished me off. It took me completely off guard and I was a gibbering wreck for a while. Andrew had said not to worry he wouldn't go off watch straight away. In fact it was like another acceleration zone, like when we set off, and the depth had come up from 3000 metres to 100 metres creating a very difficult sea. The wind was gusting to 32 knots and I was rather frightened.

But as ever, all things pass.....and within 2 hours it was flat calm and we motored into La Coruna and tied up to a solid pontoon. Later we walked into a Spanish piazza had a huge lunch, with huge beers and then had a huge afternoon sleep in the sun!!!

Guess wot?????

We are now waiting for yet another gale to pass before we can round Cape Finisterre!!!

I am dreaming of the Greek Islands now!!

**Vicky Gould**

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### News from Membership

This seems to be a good opportunity to bring you up to date on what is happening in Membership.

Thanks to the key features of our Club, such as our super Club house, our excellent sailing training, our dinghy and cruiser racing and social sailing programmes, our active social scene, plus the very friendly atmosphere among our members, Emsworth Slipper continues to be **the** Club to join.

Even though we were able to take on 50 new members this year, our waiting list continues to grow in length. Candidates applying today are thus quite willing to accept to wait 2 to 3 years to join us.

However your Committee continues to keep a very careful watch on our Membership numbers, and these remain at the levels we agreed some 3 – 4 years ago.

I am very fortunate to have a team of members who help me try to keep on top of membership things. Kevin Walling is running the waiting list system, and Penny Walling, with Kevin and Katie and George Cole help me with the work load on subscriptions. I am indebted to them for what they do. We are also very grateful to some 30 other Members who have assisted us over the past 2 years with delivery of subscription request letters within Emsworth, thus helping us to keep postage charges down.

If any of you with admin/financial/or computer skills who might be interested to join the membership team please let us know. One particular project we are working on is to develop our Excel database system into an Access system. So if you have skills in writing Access programmes and some time available, please contact us.

As we look on to the rest of this year, we need to keep our database up to date on Member details. If you have changed address, phone or E mail details, please let me know now, so we can correct them. Just E mail me on [membership@emsworthslippersc.org.uk](mailto:membership@emsworthslippersc.org.uk), or go to membership on our web site and enter the changes in details.

We are looking at updating methods for payment of subscriptions and other charges. This time last year we thought that cheques were on the way out, but it seems that this has turned around, and cheques are probably here to stay for a while yet. Meanwhile we are looking at other payment options, and some tests are being run with overseas members on credit transfers. These have helped us identify

problem areas, and so we are not yet ready to use credit transfers more widely for this year. The development of an Access based system may help us in this direction.

An area where we do need your help is over more prompt payment of subscriptions. Last year we had to chase payments from 70 members who had not paid on time. This resulted in a lot of unnecessary additional work for Membership and several of our Committee members. So if you don't pay on time this year, be warned that the Committee may ask you to pay an additional joining fee, thus the message is "please pay on time".

Mike Clarke and the Membership Team

And finally, I hope our readers will appreciate this one, especially you younger members, who must remember that we older members had a career before we retired.....:

**B&Q SENIOR GREETER**

Charlie, a new retiree-greeter at B&Q, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "older person-friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. "Charlie, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a great job, but the fact that you are late so often is quite bothersome." "Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it." "Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. Though your lateness is a little odd. I know you're retired from the Navy. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, "Good morning, Admiral, may I get your coffee, sir?"



.....my style exactly! Editor

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Stop Press: It appears as though many members are surreptitiously taking up cruising on land instead of water; ie, a growing number of us go motorhoming. Perhaps we can have our own (yes, I'm one of them, Ed) section and reports in this journal of our cruises. I'm not sure that this would be in accordance with the Slipper's formal constitution, but in any case, comments etc to me, the Editor.

Positively the last Commodores Corner (from James anyway)



Where did that come from?

As you will have seen from the opening articles, this summer the club lost 2 pivotal characters in very different circumstances, and our sadness is balanced by the support our families have received and the continuing vitality of club life evident in these pages.

It has been a windy old summer, if that is what it was, with the best weather in April and May. We had to cancel the Junior Regatta in July and recently it was a tough call by organisers Mark Riddington and Mike Lillywhite to hold the Dinghy Regatta in a gusty force 6, with those who ventured out enjoyed some exciting sailing. There was great support for this event including many Cruiser members and the Bosun's Team, all much appreciated. It was preceded by the Cruiser Regatta which provided some very close racing with CCRC thanks to Hugh Kennedy. At least the windsurfers, led by Mark Riddington, have benefitted from the strong winds.

A very well attended Oppie Camp was a great success in June and Dave Valentine is standing down as Oppie Camp SI after 4 years in the role. Thanks Dave for all you have done. We had good weather for Blind Week late in June with 6 Slipper yachts forming a fleet commanded by Julian Mandiwall with visits in the Solent, Poole Harbour and the Olympic venue in Portland Harbour. Thanks to the continued involvement of Mike Lillywhite, the millpond levels have generally been good for the Juniors on Fridays and Sundays. Dave Cooper has run an imaginative Youth programme as you will have seen from his article.

The Yoke was held Saturday 17th September in a blustery SW 6-7. There was an excellent turnout from both clubs with provisional results indicating that Slipper has retained the trophy by a narrow margin. It was great to see crewing places being offered to dinghy sailors. Also nearly 100 enjoyed the après race meal at Mercury Marina thanks to Julian and Judith Murch.

The Anniversary Ball, masterminded by Sarah Thorsby, was a grand affair with a 1920s theme and many making the effort to dress accordingly. The Social Committee is thriving under the leadership of Mark Taylor, with a successful "Tea by the Sea" fundraising event in May and the Regatta Supper / Last Night of the Proms in August – and there is more to come!

As Sarah has said, after doing a great job for 15 months running the bar, Mike Balster decided to stand down and we started looking for a new Steward. We were lucky to find Maria Greenshield who was prepared to take us on. She and her partner Keith have moved into the flat and seem to be enjoying their new surroundings.

We look forward to the Anniversary Treasure Hunt on the 25th September, and the Hare and Hounds series starting in October. I am looking forward to a bit of a breather as I bow out at the AGM after 3 years at the helm – but it has been great fun!

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