

Our Sailing Club for Life



RNSA NEWS

www.rnsa.org.uk

Summer 2014

Welcome from the new Chairman - Commodore Richard Farrington CBE RN



I have recently taken over from Captain Paul Methven as the chairman of RNSA. First and foremost, please join me in congratulating Paul on his recent promotion to Commodore and thanking him for his sterling work over the past four years in this role; I hope you get time to do some sailing in your new job, Paul! I joined RNSA in 1982, when there were over 70,000 men and women in the Naval Service and we were quite worried about the Russians. Today, we have just 30,000 personnel; we have some terrific equipment and the people are just as good as they ever were. We're frenetically busy... and still quite interested in Russia! My day job is with the Devonport Flotilla, where as a Pompey native I'm relishing the variety of submarines, amphibious ships, frigates and the Hydrographic Squadron, as well as enjoying the wonderful sailing grounds.

My last formal foray into RNSA business was as the Branch Captain in Portsmouth, so I'm well versed in the intricacies of Moorings, Associate membership, Wednesday evening racing and the mystical mathematics of the Big Buoys Challenge! I'm honoured to have been asked to act as your Chairman and I thought it might be useful to lay out my stall on the way forward for RNSA. I am committed to supporting our Commodore's vision of 'winning the argument that every person entering into the Royal Navy can competently handle a small craft under oars, power and sail'. As a recent Captain of the Maritime Warfare Centre, I know that we have the best technology in the world available to us - but so do our adversaries. The only way to win at sea is to be able to exploit that technology to the full by understanding and using our environment to our advantage. That's the real challenge being set here and I believe RNSA has a part to play.

I've been closely involved with our Vice Commodore's initiatives on recruiting and retention in the RNSA and I will be turning ideas into practice across the board as follows:

- By encouraging young sailors to get afloat and want to join RNSA because of what's on offer.
- By encouraging and facilitating Branches to run events that appeal to all sections of the RNSA community.
- By investing in appropriate communications to inform members and potential recruits of what we are doing.
- By encouraging volunteers to help out - whether it's taking sailors from HMS RALEIGH to sea or engaging a speaker to sing for his supper at a Branch evening.
- By encouraging our sailors to be as good as they can be on the water.
- By listening to the membership and taking the organisation forward.

We need to set out a strategy for the future. The pool we recruit from has shrunk, so we need to plan ahead to preserve the fantastic Sailing Association that we have today in a form that suits for the decades to come. I have drafted a paper called 'RNSA 2020' and I look forward to sharing its development with you in the months ahead.

In addition, here are some projects that I will be taking a close interest in:

- Concentrating on 'events, dear boy, events'. We are looking at taking on an Events Manager (probably part time at first) to deliver something for everybody - concentrating on quality, communications and understanding what members, present and future, want.
- Expanding the RNSA Operating Handbook to provide clear terms of reference for Flag Officers, the Secretariat and the Branches.
- Updating the membership on progress with the Seaway Study and the future of JSASTC.
- Ensuring that every member feels that they are getting their money's worth for their annual subscription.
- Introducing an appropriate level of governance into the moorings structure around the country.

Above all, I plan to get out on the water. Julie and I are blessed with children who love their sailing and a wonderful boat; so if you see us in 'Escapade' anywhere from Chichester to La Rochelle to Bantry Bay, please say 'Ahoy' and claim a beer!

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Cowes Week

02 August to 09 August 2014

Berths: available on Whitegates Pontoon - £23 per metre for eight days.

Ring the office (02392 521100) to book or email gensec@rnsa.org.uk by **18 July 2014**

**RNSA Party – Monday 04 Aug Venue: Sir Max Aitken Museum, High Street, Cowes, IoW.
Time: 1900 – 2030. Tickets on the door. Price £20 (food and drink)**

VICE COMMODORE

Hopefully you will all have received your Winter 2013 Journal and have found it interesting. Apologies for it being much later than intended but significant changes in the Office staff caused a few unplanned delays. The Communications Sub-Committee (with representatives from all RCs and main Branches) has been developing a universal RNSA information flyer, including getting comments and inputs from the RN Sailing Manager and PTIs (who now get an introduction, by the RNSM, to sailing and the RNSA in their training courses). The flyer has two-fold aims: firstly, to give information to serving personnel so they can see how they go about getting on the water and secondly, for those who want to take the sport further, how they might join the RNSA. If we can't get people on the water in the first place, then they certainly won't be joining the RNSA. It has an integral RNSA application and direct debit form which will hopefully encourage some people to sign up as soon as they are given the flyer rather than waiting for them to surf the website. I have also set out a RNSA Recruiting Strategy Phase 2 and hopefully all Branches are now getting closely engaged with their local Establishments and RNSCs. Like the aims of the flyer, the intent is to help get more people onto the water with the hope that they then wish to become RNSA members in due course. But this relies heavily on the Branches (both the committee members and other members) to help fulfil this. Finally, as always, I am very keen to get more feedback on everything we do in the RNSA, so please either visit the Forums or write to me via the General Secretary.



Captain Richard Spalding

Family Membership - Full members are reminded that they may, where apposite, elect to include their immediate family members in their membership. Eligibility for family membership applies to spouses / civil partners and offspring up to Eighteen years of age or up to Twenty Five years of age if in full time education. Thereafter, the rules for Full membership will apply.

CRUISING



The first half of the 2014 season has been particularly busy for the RNSA Cruising fraternity because of the Rally to Ouistreham in support of the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Normandy Landings (NL70), but more on that in a moment. In addition to NL70, each of the branches is running a programme of events designed to both test and inspire cruising members and to persuade others to participate. These events include winter walks, geo-caching, barbecues, meets afloat, mini-cruises, dinners, lunches and lectures, and they draw together RNSA members who may otherwise be invisible because they do not do Navy racing. Many, however, are consummate and highly competitive racers, both in

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offshore events and 'round the cans' for their various local branches, clubs and class associations, and a number were to be found in the serried ranks of the RTIR race last month.

Now on to NL70. Had all of those owners who expressed interest in the NL70 Rally last February actually participated we would have had over 70 yachts in the marina at Ouistreham, including some 20 boats from our sister organisation, the RNVR Yacht Club, and many of those were dual hatted. The attrition of defects among boats and crews meant that our final total was a most creditable 56 boats (of which 16 were flying the RNVR Yacht Club pennant in the superior position and a similar number were Services Offshore Regatta boats) carrying among them 230 members and their families. The weather was largely benign and most had very quiet channel crossings, unless they were passed close to by large merchant vessels whose bridge staff seemed oblivious to the wash that they caused! To spice things up a bit, Mother Nature conjured up a series of short sharp squalls as our participants converged on the channel into Ouistreham, and it was something of a spectator sport as yachts jockeyed for places in the lock! One of our larger yachts, WINDSONG, obviously thought that everything was progressing too easily and decided to turn around 180 degrees in the lock, presumably to demonstrate his skills in manoeuvring astern to leave the lock! Once berthed in the marina, with battle flags streaming in the fresh breeze, there was little doubt that the Royal Navy, RNSA and the RNVR Yacht Club were in town!



With a full programme of parties, receptions and a dinner, together with our own commemorative church service in the local church, St Samsons, and battlefield coach tours, everyone was kept fairly busy. This was just as well, because the tight and extensive security cordon thrown around the Heads of State present for the 6 June was so impenetrable that mere mortals could get nowhere near the commemorative events on nearby 'Sword' beach. Security notwithstanding, NL70 was a great success in gathering together representatives of a large proportion of the RNSA and RNVR communities, young and not so young, racers and cruisers, novices and those more experienced, and it was much enjoyed by all. This, of course, would not have been possible without the unstinting efforts of the lead planners from the East Coast Branch and we all owe them an enormous vote of thanks

Cdr Tim Clark RC(C)

DINGHIES



Holt Cup On a typically miserable winter Friday the teams assembled in Dartmouth ready for another Holt Cup. As the fog cleared on Saturday morning (and not just that hanging over the River Dart!) racing got underway. The Race Officer, Richard Tarr, succeeded in providing a fantastic, full day of racing, in testing conditions. Sunday morning provided some more breeze which was perfect to blow away the previous nights frivolities. The final provided an excellent battle between HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, lead by Keri Harris, and Plymouth with the Roach siblings, Darren and Natalie. After some tense jousting Plymouth eventually came out on top.

Inter-Services The Inter-Services Team Racing Championship got off to a slow start this year with only one race completed on day one. However, this was more than made up for on day two which saw a full day of racing with two round robins, semis and finals. Having given the top teams some good races the Navy B Team sadly couldn't qualify for the semis. The Navy A Team went into the semis unbeaten and continued this success through their semi final. They then faced the RAF A Team in the final that did not hinder the strong performance and the Navy A Team finished the day as champions. The winning team were Natalie Roach, Keri Harris, Hamish Walker, Fiona Cook, Ben Biglin and Olly Bennett.



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RNSC (Portsmouth) Thursday Team Racing With inimitable energy Lee Bichard has started a Thursday evening team racing series on Whale Island. After two weeks of competition, numbers are rising and racing is tight. At the moment the team from NCHQ are leading proceedings, however Sultan, Collingwood, PFCS and RNSC are close on their heels. Anyone wishing to get involved or enter a team is strongly encouraged to get in touch with Lee Bichard - mws-exc-oic-rnsc@fleetfost.mod.uk



Getting Involved For those involved with dinghy sailing in their area the committee are always keen for willing volunteers to act as area reps, or simply to get involved with promoting dinghy sailing. The SB20 is putting together a programme for the summer and individuals, whether experienced or just keen to further their racing experience, are welcome. For either of the above please contact Olly Bennett - bennetof@googlemail.com

OFFSHORE

Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta 2014 - RN Offshore Sailing Team - The RN Offshore Sailing



Team competed in the 2014 Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta in *The Blue Peter*, a 1930 built 65 ft classic racing yacht. During initial training; which included how to rig her and the positions for manoeuvres, the physicality became evident with three people needed to work the mainsheet! Two days were spent practicing courses and honing trimming skills. A conservative set of sails was chosen due to the weather forecast and CSA rating system. First was a single handed race which Matt, the skipper, supported by Adrian as Nav-Tac/Safety, won in the 45 ft and over class. The start on the second day was slightly late, but the boat went well on the 'Old Road' course, with a middle

of the fleet finish looking likely. Unfortunately the foresail blew out at the head and with no replacement the boat was slow upwind. The next race, a 'Butterfly' course, saw gusts up to 27 knots and a heavy swell. Confident, we got off to a good start, but the chop and strong breeze did not suit our comparatively light weight and large sail area, and bigger boats took the advantage. 'The Canon' race, a beam reach to beam reach, suited the gaff rigged boats. It was a great sleigh ride with the leeward rail in the water and a steady 10 knots plus achieved. The final race was a 'Windward' course in the heaviest winds we had experienced. It tested the boat as well as the strength of the team. Constant waves crashed over the deck, necessitating good main trimming to avoid broaching. While the team did not get the hoped for result, coming 5th in class, they enjoyed the experience, fostering team spirit and working together in demanding situations.

Jolly Jack Tar - *Jolly Jack Tar* was out of the water in Gosport during her winter maintenance period in preparation for the coming racing season. Work was undertaken by a dedicated team over two weekends and included general maintenance, deep cleaning, sanding, prepping and application of new anti-foul (huge thank you to all who helped). She was re-launched in March in time to compete in the Wednesday evening RNSA (P) Early Summer Series races and the Hamble Spring Series. Both events have seen the return of some old faces and also encouraged some new racers from HMS COLLINGWOOD and HMS SULTAN.



RN/RNSA Offshore Team on Facebook - The Offshore Calendar can now be accessed through our facebook site; Royal Navy Offshore Sailing. Keep up to date with what is planned as information is posted. The last big event was the Services Offshore Regatta (SOR) where the RN won overall. This year a Reserves Victoria 34 took part and a team from the Hydrographical office. The regatta included participation in the NL70 events at Ouireham. Contact the team at: rnso-offshore-team-manager@hotmail.co.uk

Let's make sure we maintain our winning streak! - PO Clare Hilditch

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WINDSURFING



The start of the Defi

The 2014 season is now well underway with a team away at the 2014 Defi Wind Endurance race at the time of writing. Rear Commodore (Windsurfing) Adrian Wallis, Dave Strudwick and Johnny Walker entered this prestigious European Windsurfing event. The racing takes place over a 40km inshore course, under the relentless Tramontana wind, with windspeeds averaging 25-35 Knots. When the wind blows, the race attracts 1000+ sailors from all over Europe. The forecast for this year's event is that the wind is going to be Nuclear++.



The postponed 2013 Inter-services Windsurfing Championships were held at Portland Harbour 10-11 Apr 14. Despite a promising Fleet and Venue, the lack of wind had the final say on events. The event was organised by the RNSA using the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy. With a turnout of over thirty sailors this had the potential for a great few days of racing at such a top venue. However, the wind barely rose above 8 kts, with just 10 knots being required to get the Formula boards and big sails up and planing, so the Championships were decided by a single non-planing out and back.

The 'Race':- the RAF team (being light-weights!) cleared up the team and individual event. The 2014 Interservices will be held on 11-12 Oct at Hayling Island.

Lt Simon Cave ran his excellent RYA Start Windsurfing Course this month by, once again, using the very sheltered facilities at the Thorney Island Water Sports Centre. Another course is being run in July. The course takes a student from the basics, through planing and well into Intermediate skills; see the RNSA website Windsurfing Events pages for more details. There are also taster sessions on Wednesday afternoon for those serving at HMS Sultan.

The UK Windsurfing Association organises events throughout the season at various locations around the UK. All UKWA events include master blaster off the beach racing for novices, so are suitable for all standards of windsurfers able to sail out and back. Serving members can claim back travel and get a portion of race fees refunded at the end of the year. Give it a go at an event near you! See the UKWA website for event details.

Finally, there are plenty of sociable windsurfers who regularly meet in our main areas to sail together, exchange tips and ideas and look out for each other on the water. If you are visiting an area, contact the area representative (details on the RNSA Website Windsurfing Committee page). They will be delighted to provide advice and guidance on places to sail, conditions and put you in touch with local sailors. Have a good season!

Cdr Tom Joyce

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AIR BRANCH



The future of the RNSA Air Branch as an entity is still in discussion. It cannot be split into Culdrose and Yeovilton or shut down at the moment, as the Air Branch yacht *Swordfish* has just been transferred to SULTAN. The Air Branch will retain the title, with SULTAN operating her, including funding of day to day costs. In the event of any significant expenditure requirement, recourse to the Air Branch fund might be required. At the end of the season, a decision will be made as to whether SULTAN can consider a business case to buy out the Air Branch holding (ie market value minus RNRMC stake). Experience suggests this is unlikely, so another option might be to allow SULTAN to keep her on more permanent loan, but be increasingly responsible for her full operating costs. In this case SULTAN would retain any profits, but the capital share on disposal would go to Air. If neither position can be reached, then *Swordfish* will have to be disposed of, RNRMC reimbursed and any balance divided between Yeovilton and Culdrose (albeit RNSA Portland and Culdrose/Falmouth).



So a complex picture - throughout which I am trying every and any avenue to keep *Swordfish* available primarily to service personnel. The current Air Branch fund's purpose is support of this yacht.

Cdr Ian Fitter

CLYDE BRANCH

Clyde Branch continues to move forward and apace with the arrival of Craig Beattie as the sailing centre manager and Martin Peacock as the assistant manager. There has already been a first aid course run and it is hoped to run more RYA courses in the future. We hope that this will bring a period of stability after the last year or so following the tragic loss of Jim Ellis. The branch is now making a bid for fresh air and the surface. *Scorcher V* bookings are going well but there is still some availability in early July, why not charter for a week and enjoy the best cruising ground in the world?



SCOTWEST is virtually booked up. Contact Martin at the centre DESNBCC-SC-Asst@mod.uk for current availability if you are interested in any of the legs from Ardfern and Kyle of Lochalsh.

Moorings - RNSA Clyde has maintained eight moorings in the vicinity of the Clyde Off-site Centre on the Gareloch for a number of years. This has included one retained specifically as a Visitors mooring. In the last two seasons, these moorings have not seen sufficient use to break even and accordingly, they have not been serviced for the 2014 season. Should any member require a permanent mooring on the Gareloch, they are advised to contact DRB Marine (01436 831231) who will offer a competitive rate for the season. DRB Marine will also provide free visitors' moorings for RNSA members for a single night's use. Members are encouraged to contact RNSA Clyde (Captain Chris Smith 07798 527701) during this season if they are likely to want a mooring in 2015. A decision on the long term position will be taken at the end of the 2014 season, subject to demand. The post of Moorings Secretary is currently gapped. If you wish to become involved in the Clyde Branch Committee, please make contact:- richard@conquerit.co.uk

Lt Cdr(CCF) Richard Caves RNR

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EAST COAST BRANCH

With this issue we can report that the Branch spread its wings and organised RNSA's Normandy 70 commemorations. Our Secretary, Gale Bryan and Chair/Branch Captain Terry Corner were actively involved in providing the opportunity for members across the country. NL70 was the biggest gathering of RNSA members, spanning the whole of the Associations membership categories. It was particularly good to see the racing fraternity and the cruisers coming together. Perhaps SOR 2017 will see the groups meet up again in a foreign port?

Despite the overseas focus, the Branch has continued to organise its regular range of local cruising. Only one event was delayed in order to allow time for people to return back to the UK. Forthcoming cruises are:-

- Orwell meet. 5/6 July MDL Marina Woolverstone where we host the RNVR YC
- BBQ 12 August at West Mersea
- Suffolk Rivers 23/26 August. Harwich, Woodbridge Tide Mill and Ramsholt
- Blackwater meet 27/28 September Bradwell hosted by RNVR YC
- Branch AGM. 25 October at WMYC

Visitors by sea or road from any Branch are always welcome.

The planners are beginning to think about 2015; Ideas for cruising venues are always welcome. Publication of the 2015 Almanac at the Southampton Boat Show will see planning step up a level.

Diary Date - 23rd April 2018 (Anniversary of the Zeebrugge Raid). Possibility of a Branch road trip.

Safety oddity. 25% more men than women participate in boating activities yet 94% drowned are male (4% female) and this can be reduced by wearing lifejackets.

Terry Corner



FALMOUTH CRUISING GROUP

The 2014 programme has kicked off with two good events so far. At the end of March we all met up at the Royal Cornwall Yacht club for a pre-season get together to discuss cruising plans. With some RCYC members we had nearly 40 people there. Some had already had a 'mothers day' lunch but the club provided a good supper too.

The first on water event took place this early May bank holiday weekend with a meet at a very busy Fowey. Eight boats in a mixed fleet made it to the Underhill pontoon and we had a great meal ashore at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club. The club has recently been completely refurbished and new caterers put on a great meal, for a good price in very nice surroundings. Definitely recommended if you are visiting Fowey.



The usual pre-dinner pontoon party in warm sunshine

For RNSA members visiting the West Country, the local RNSA moorings in the Helford and St Mawes have all been serviced with good clean chain bridles which await your visit. The concession at the facilities in the Truro River is running again this year – fly your RNSA burgee and the patrol officer will simply note your boat name and log you on our rolling concession ticket. £10 to RNSA HQ/night direct please, at your convenience.

Our next event is on 26th July for a Ruan River Run. Details in the Journal or on the website.

Ian Munday – Falmouth Cruising Group

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PLYMOUTH BRANCH

Welcome to the new Branch Chairman – **Commander Neil Moffat Royal Navy**



Neil joined Dartmouth in 1981 and went on to train as a Marine Engineer Submariner at Manadon, Greenwich and Sultan before serving on a variety of Trafalgar Class submarines. Sea jobs were interspersed with appointments at Dartmouth, Bath, Bristol and Devonport Naval Base and he is currently the Project Contract Manager for submarine refits. He started sailing dinghies as a child, before progressing into yachts, and is an Ocean Yachtmaster and Cruising Instructor. Sailing in the RN Offshore team, he has taken part in numerous Services Offshore Regattas and three Fastnet races. He keeps his yacht Kassiopeia at

Mayflower Marina and cruises locally with family, but will be participating in Single Handed, Offshore, Cruising and Social events locally.

Dinghies Unfortunately there was significant damage to many of the dinghies at the Camber, caused by the winter storms. However, we are glad to say that the Thursday evening Bosun Series is up and running with ten dinghies available and some still in repair. Training of additional safety boat drivers has benefited the organisation. The Plymouth team were victorious again in the Holt Cup which was held at Dartmouth.

Single handed (SH) Now under the management of our new SH Secretary Francis Douglas, a series of 6 races has been organised. It combines local passage races to Salcombe, St Mawes, Dartmouth and Fowey with a more challenging race to Roscoff. It remains very popular with entries exceeding twenty for the local races. Unfortunately bad weather resulted in a wise decision to cancel the first race.



Francis Douglas in Liberté of Solent

Offshore and Cruising The Offshore Secretary, Ray Crockett, has expended significant effort getting an offshore series up and running this year. He has gained the full support of the local clubs and sponsorship from Sanders sails. The first race to St Peter Port in May had many entries. Full details of the programme are on the website. It is intended to make these races even more attractive to RNSA members by providing subsidies to berthing fees. Unfortunately we are still lacking a Cruising Secretary, but the programme of events is continuing on a self-help basis, with individuals stepping forward to organise specific events and aspects of the overall management. We are still looking for someone to take up the role. The programme kicks off with a meet afloat at Jupiter Point (Photo from last year) and includes trips to the Yealm, Fowey and Dartmouth for the regatta.



Social The annual dinner was held at Yealm Yacht Club in March and we were privileged to have our Commodore, Admiral Lister, as guest of honour. It was a very well attended event that we all enjoyed, particularly Ray! We held a summer reception in June with the aim of getting as many members together as possible and meeting key players from the other local clubs and we have the annual prize-giving to look forward to in November. This year the branch will be taking over the organisation of the Devonport Challenge, which is a social and competitive event involving Naval Base and Babcock personnel. This will allow a larger number of entries from RNSA members, with the aim of getting more youngsters involved.



Admiral Lister at the Annual Dinner

Winter Lay-up Yet again the lay-up facility at Bull Point and the organising team served us well. A record number of yachts were gently squeezed in and relaunched without incident, albeit delayed by the weather. Iain Petty has taken over the lead role while Neil Pearson is working abroad.

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Establishment Yachts After replacement of the saildrive, Ocean Dragon was re-launched into a busy charter, training, and grass roots programme, under the management of Sgt. Jason Armitage. She is due to be coded to Cat 2 and there are still some weeks available for charter. After a long period of laying idle the J24 Red Alert has been sold and replaced with a more modern exciting J80 racing yacht, for use by RNSA members.

Key Personnel Captain Tom Guy has been appointed away from the area and he has handed over the Branch Captaincy to Captain Robert Bellfield. Cdr Neil Moffatt DESSMIS-SUSM-PCMRAMP@mod.uk took over as Branch Chairman in January.

Neil Moffatt

PORTLAND BRANCH

The new season is upon us and the long range forecast looks good. Not just for the Branch but the weather too.

Following the winter maintenance and inspection, John Hasker has confirmed that the moorings are safe and ready for occupancy. Brendan Moore was closely involved with the preparation for the Normandy Landings celebrations as well as our own cruising programme. This kicked off with a cruise to POOLE over the May Bank Holiday week-end. A full report was posted on the Web. The photograph shows a relaxed group at the PYC where a superb carvery was enjoyed by all.



Ian Bowker is, as ever, on top of the racing scene, and has posted the programme for the Friday Night series on the RNSA website. Jacquie has been doing a great job organising our social events and our Annual CTP last month.

Financially the picture is stable and Alan continues to employ his tight rope walking skills to balance the books, keep costs down and making sure we are in a position to cover the costs of replacing the moorings in the future. As I write, Wayne Elkin is "hors de combat" but we all hope to see him back on the pontoons soon.

A number of this year's events are in collaboration with the other Yacht Clubs of Weymouth and we are building on the good relationship we have with them, Dean and Reddyhoff, and the WPNSA (which is now under new management). Look out for the RNSA notice boards which are going up at the marina and the academy soon.

Peter Goss

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

Welcome to the new Branch Chairman - **Captain Chris Hodkinson MA Royal Navy**



Chris Hodkinson has spent a lifetime messing about in boats. As a boy, holidays were spent sailing in North Wales, the West Coast of Scotland, and the Mediterranean, in a variety of family yachts. During further education on the South Coast, and when he should have been studying, he sailed extensively; racing offshore and round the cans in the Solent. At the same time, an avid dinghy racer, he progressed into high performance fleets culminating in many happy seasons sailing an International Canoe at Hayling Island. Today he sails with his family in their 41 foot Hallberg Rassy ketch, based close to home in Chichester

Harbour; whilst also being bossed around on occasion as crew in a number of dinghies sailed by his teenage children. When the wind blows hard and the conditions are right, he is likely to be found windsurfing.

BRANCH NEWS

After a seemingly endless winter we are now back on the water with a packed programme of events for 2014. Capt Chris Hodkinson has taken over as Branch Captain from Capt Phil Warwick, whose tenure was interrupted by an appointment to Bahrain. The season commenced with the inaugural pre-season buffet supper at Hornet

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SSC. A suitably large crowd of expectant yachties were in attendance & the evening was deemed a great success, judging by the author's hangover the following morning; he woke up on a strange boat!

Racing The Early Summer Series has reached its half way point and an average of eleven boats per race has offered opportunity to race a local yacht to about sixty crew members each evening. Not bad when compared with other popular sports. HMS COLLINGWOOD has been successful in encouraging trainees to venture out on their two yachts and some have clearly been enthused by the experience. Hornet Services Sailing Club continues to provide a useful venue for a post race debrief complete with welcome hot food. At the time of writing only one race has had to be cancelled, race six as winds gusting well over 30 knots together with big seas indicated it might be better to remain ashore.

Leading the IRC class at present is Kit Buck's (HMS SULTAN) Elan 333, Tinker T, with Stephen Parry's Kurketrekker 2nd and Heather Tarr sailing Happy Apple, third. In the dual scored NHC it is again Tinker T, from Kurketrekker with the Army's SUOTC Hunter 707 in third. It is difficult to see how this situation can remain with the handicaps for the two lead boats at 1.093 and 1.103 respectively. Time will tell! The Late Summer Series is a nine race series which commenced on 4 June 2014 and a few more boats have joined in. Cowes Week follows the Late Summer Series.

Entries are still open for the Offshore series.

Solent Cruising A packed cruising programme is once again being marshalled by Haydn Chappell, with rallies aplenty. The highlight of the cruising season so far was the cross-Channel rally to St Vaast & Ouistreham to commemorate D-Day 70 this month. Other events included the Yarmouth Rally and the Big Buoys Challenge in May. Contact Haydn via the RNSA (Portsmouth) pages of the website for more information.

Dinghies The dinghy sailors have a ten race series running throughout the season to 18th October. Team racing is happening every week until the end of May & then the Challenge Cup series' begins.

ILEX Trophy 2014 This year the REYC are organising the annual regatta for the impressive ILEX Trophy. This will be taking place Sunday 5 October. RNSA(P) will need to enter 3 yachts & 3 dinghies to compete. Last year's event was a dead heat which meant that RNSA (Portsmouth) retained the trophy having won it in 2012. Keep an eye on the website for more details (NOR etc) as they become available.

George Adams

NORTH WEST and Isle of Man BRANCH



Our aim is to give a focus and networking opportunity for members who live in our geographical area and encourage group activity on the water and socially, where-so-ever that may be able to happen.

As may be determined from the home ports and cruising areas of our sailing reps, our activity is considerably greater than just Liverpool Bay and the Irish Sea.

We hold an annual cocktail party and fitting out supper, or dinner. We aspire to hold musters afloat and will arrange some winter walks, if members desire.

Members are also cordially invited by the President of the HMS Eaglet Officers Association, known as the "Sea Urchins", to their lunches. Lunches are held in the wardroom at HMS Eaglet on Sefton Street approx. One mile south of the Liver buildings, at Royal Naval Headquarters North of England. Lunches are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1230 for 1300. Contact should be made in the first instance to the President, Tom Cunningham on 01606 883697 or the Honsec on 0151 334 8393. Members may find further details of both gentlemen in the RNVR Yacht Club's blue book and Tom's e mail address is also on the RNSA website. You may be assured of a most warm welcome.



Cedric Loughran RD MNM

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Our Sailing Club for Life

THAMES BRANCH

SALTERS RIVER BOAT CHARTER - SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2014 - The charter boat was OXFORD, one of Salters Steamers Ltd "classic" river boats (diesel powered!) similar to HAMPTON COURT which we chartered from Windsor to Cookham and back in the summer of 2010. This time the plan was to depart Salters depot at Folly Bridge in Oxford (built in 1827, at the site of a ford over which oxen could be driven across the Isis, the ancient name of the reach between the bridge and Iffley Lock) for a passage downstream to Culham (where there was a Royal Naval Air Station until the 1950s!) and back. Despite serious thunder storms the night before and the river rising by about a foot at one point, the weather on the day was very good allowing, with a finger buffet and drinks served whilst underway, a most enjoyable afternoon on the upper reaches of the Thames. The cruise itinerary went through Iffley and Sandford locks (described by Jerome K. Jerome in his book Three Men in a Boat as "a very good place to drown yourself"), past Radley College Boathouse and Nuneham House, through the Abingdon Lock and past the old town itself. This was once the County Town of Berkshire until Reading supplanted it in 1869 and one of several places that lays claim to be Britain's oldest continuously occupied town, with people having lived there for at least 6,000 years. Thence to Culham Lock where we went about and returned to Oxford. The whole passage, there and back, was about twenty-one miles. Opposite Radley College Boathouse, we saw Nuneham House, a Grade II listed Palladian villa built in 1756, with gardens by Capability Brown. We came next to Lock Wood which lies to the back of the old Royal Naval Air Station at Culham, HMS HORNBILL. This reach of the river was used as the recreational area for swimming and boating with RNSA dinghies and 27ft whalers. One of our guests, Mike Simpson who taught himself to sail here in a RNSA dinghy in the 1940s, long before the advent of "Health and Safety", has described a case involving an Engineer Officer on board HMS THESEUS. He having taken a year's sabbatical to sail single handed to New Zealand, was not allowed to take away a ship's dinghy until the Boats Officer was satisfied that he was word perfect in the ship's sailing drills! He refused to comply, instead preferring to leak the story Fleet-wide!

BOAT BIMBLE AND TREK TO THE "BOUNTY" PUBLIC HOUSE AT BOURNE END - SATURDAY

20 SEPTEMBER 2014 - Given the wind and rain that prevailed for the 2013 event at Medmenham Fields and noting that the capacious saloon and galley in NEELTJE will not be available as she is in European waters this year we thought it a seamanlike precaution to plan this year's Bimble/Trek to the "Bounty" at Bourne End where, if necessary, we can eat lunch inside in the warm and the dry! The Bounty is a walker's and boaters pub on the South side of the river which is only accessible by boat and on foot. As such it is very easy going and children, wet dogs and even muddy boots are welcome! It is also, we believe, the only pub on the Thames where you can actually take your dog out for lunch. However, the canine menu - beef burgers or sausages, or beef burgers and sausages mixed - is a little restricted! Human food is always freshly cooked, plain, simple and reasonably priced. We have arranged for mooring spaces to be reserved and the plan is for a "buy your own" lunch to be taken, hopefully, at the tables overlooking the river.

BRANCH AGM AND AUTUMN LUNCH AT THE FERRY PUB/RESTAURANT COOKHAM –

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2014 - The 2014 AGM and end-of-season lunch will take place at the Ferry pub/restaurant at Cookham where, as many members will be aware, we have been very well looked after in the past. The snug has been booked (with its log fire and private bar!) for a 12:00 start and a 13:00 lunch; menu details etc, will follow nearer the date but we aim to arrange the food at £20 per head, plus a cash bar.

Chris Thompson (with thanks to Rhodri Yorath Williams and Mike Simpson)

Your Personal Profile

As the 'Members Only' Section of the RNSA Website is an ever growing resource, as seen in the Website update in this newsletter, members are asked to ensure they can login. This also enables you to update your personal details if necessary and see what is available. Please contact the RNSA Office if you have lost your login details or never had them and we will then be able to issue you with your username and password and guidance on how to change your password.

RNSA Office Emails

The office were advised to change our emails from btconnect.com to org.uk earlier this year as we were suffering from spam issues. Members are advised that the transition was not as smooth as the office wished for. As a result a number of emails were lost. This was partially due to our old email addresses being in a contact list and auto generated when an email was sent. If you do not get a response or have not had a response please put gensec@msa.org.uk or/and depensec@msa.org.uk into the 'To' box manually and update your personal contact lists.

Our Cockpit is our Clubhouse