

IYC Newsletter

True Blue Delivery Crew



Page 2 – 6	<i>Commodores Quarter Deck</i>
Page 7	New Membership Fee's/ Galley
Page 8	Social Events/ Insurance Notice/ Cadets
Page 9	Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship
Page 10	Dinghy Section/ Motor Boats
Page 11	Sailing: Racing/ Cruising
Page 12-13	Boating Events 2010
Page 13	True Blue Crosses The Pond
Page 14	Mooring Committee
Page 15-16	Down On the Waterfront
Page 16	IYC Boats for Sale

This version of the IYC Newsletter is edited for general circulation and is suitable for the public.

Please refer Non-Members to our web site

www.islandyachtclub.co.uk

To view the Newsletter and other articles.

Never forward the members versions of the IYC Newsletter that are circulated by email or post as they are not edited for public circulation

Commodores Quarter Deck

Winter is well on its way and by now many of our boats are in the compound for winter lay up. The weather for the sailing season this year has again been frustrating by either blowing a hooly or there being not the sniff of a breeze but I think it has been marginally better than 2008. What ever happened to the perfect steady Force 4 from the right direction? Once again I had a holiday on the boat up the East Coast and of course it was a Force 2 to 3 from the North East going and a Force 6 / 7 from the South West coming back.

We will be having the normally coldest cruise of the year to the Medway in February, so watch the Notice Board for details. It will probably be to Thunderbolt Pier again but we may go to the Medway Yacht Club if they allow us to lie on their hammer head. The advantage with Thunderbolt is that there is electric there and so you can have your fan heaters on full blast. You have to be a little mad to cruise in what can be the coldest month of the year but you have to be a little mad to be a sailor anyway. I have not missed one and have always had a good time. Watch the notice board in the New Year and if your boat is still in the water in February why not join us?

Once again the AGM took place on a day which was cold, wet and windy, in fact similar to last year, very bleak in deed. However, despite the weather there was a very good turn out and I would like to thank all those who made the effort to attend and participate in this important occasion in the club calendar. As usual there was lively debate on some issues but the meeting was always well mannered and good hearted as it should be. The general increases for joining, membership and moorings and storage went through along plus a rule change which means cadets under the age of 16 years cannot sign in guests to the club. There were also some minor wording changes to our rules which were passed.

At this time I would like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of all the membership your Management Committee and their various sub committees for all the tremendous work they have done over the past year in running this club for you. Only those of you who have served on

Committee before will know how much time and effort goes into running this club.

There was 1 general committee member who stood down, Jim Parker and I would like to thank him for his efforts while serving on General Committee.

There were 4 people proposed for General Committee which were unopposed and therefore your new Committee for 2009 / 2010 is as follows.

Commodore -	Bill French
Vice Commodore -	Valerie Deane
Rear Commodore Sail -	Kevin Turner
Rear Commodore Motor -	Martin Dobbs
Honorable Secretary -	Tracey Ann Southeron
Treasurer -	Ken Bills
Sailing Secretary -	Mike Edwards
Social Secretary -	Elaine Chuter
Assistant Secretary -	Roy Overland
Assistant Treasurer -	Malcolm Hockett
Assistant sailing Secretary -	John Metson
Assistant Social Secretary	Roy Thompson
House Officer -	Chris Ervin
Moorings & Compound Officer -	Alex Ardley
General Committee -	Corinda Helpes-Furse
General Committee -	Sue Lucas
General Committee -	Dave Ayres
General Committee -	Colin Ebdon
General Committee -	Peter Kimber
General Committee -	TBE

As you see there is still one position to be filled for a General Committee position and that will be done at the next Committee meeting by the Committee seconding some one to fill that position.

We are keeping the bar prices as low as possible following a review with suppliers through April / May to negotiate best possible prices and still expect a good profit. I check the invoices each month and where there are increases we have to pass these on but for those of you who use the bar you will see the prices have been very stable since May.

However, VAT returns back to 17.5% in January and this will mean an average of 5p on a pint and some of all the other drinks will increase by 5p depending where the increase falls in the 5p boundary we apply to any increase but don't let this put you off every where else will have the same problem.

There has been the normal routine maintenance cost in running the bar but we have had to buy a new bottle cooler and are in the process of replacing the racking in the cellar as the current racking has become unsafe and irreparable.

Now on a brighter note. We are very proud of all our cadets for all their efforts and achievements. They are a fine testimony to themselves and to our club and long may it continue and fittingly, once again, our cadets have won the Castlepoint Sports Council Team Award 2009 and our congratulations go to all of them. The great thing about our cadets is to see the accomplishment of each one. From Aaron Lowther winning the RYA Rib Challenge for the second year running which was fantastic to the youngest cadet learning and having the confidence to tack a small dinghy for the first time which is also fantastic.

This year the Gentlemen's Cruise again took place in November but only 3 boats made the trip. They were my boat MAX with me, Garry Terry and Bob Hough and Russel Blitz on board, Barry Bonner's LOOSE CONNECTION with him, Dave Warmer , Kevin Rumens & Chris Coombes and Pete Kimber's boat Sheikharra with him and Steve Smitten joined us on Saturday. The cruise was a simple affair leaving mid day on Friday this year to Thunderbolt Pier by Chatham Historical Dockyard. The whole weekend was quieter than usual. We managed a sail in light winds across to the Medway but as usual the wind came straight on the nose and so on went the engine and the heating and the crew disappeared down into the warmth below. Friday evening was spent in the King George V pub where we all had a very good meal with some very good real ale. This was followed by a night cap on MAX before every one went to their bunks around 2 in the morning. With 8 on board MAX and thirsts still not quenched we eventually ran out of Ovaltine and drinking chocolate.

Saturday dawned sunny and clear and after a hearty breakfast just before lunch time we went for a walk around the historic dockyard.

Eventually our thirst got the better of us and we set a course for the Ship and Trade pub at Chatham Marina. After we had refuelled at the Ship and Trade we eased back to the boats for a well earned rest. On Saturday evening we ate in the restaurant up stairs at the Ship and Trade. This use to be an a la carte restaurant serving small fancy portions at big fancy prices but they have changed the format and now they just serve the general pub menu there.

This proved to be a very good evening. The atmosphere in the restaurant was brilliant as were the staff. The choice on the menu was excellent as was the food and the prices were very reasonable indeed. Afterwards we made our weary way back to Barry Bonner's LOOSE CONNECTION for our last night cap of the weekend. Having run out of Ovaltine and drinking chocolate the night before we had no choice but to go through the pain and suffering of drinking some very good red wine. With ten people on board LOOSE CONNECTION it was cosy to say the least and there was a distinct settling towards the bow. At around 1.45 am I decided that the lure of my warm rear cabin on MAX was too great and left the party with much cultural discussion continuing and with the sleep of the innocent I heard absolutely nothing until the next morning.

Sunday morning was cold and grey and we decided to set off early, 9.00 am and pick up a buoy in the Ray and wait for the tide to get in as early as possible. Lo and behold the wind had backed to North East so yet again it was motor and heating on and a chug all the way to Sheerness. Once at Sheerness the wind picked up and we had a good sail across on Genoa alone but it did get a bit sloppy out there. We had 2 Pallet (multi hull) sailors with us and they were not enamoured with the motion of the Wobblies (mono hulls) lurching from side to side and up and down does not come naturally to them.

On creeping our way up the Ray we picked up a buoy just outside the creek entrance and it is always frustrating to be so near your mooring but so far away because there is no water in the creek. However, at around 12.30 pm we sat down to another late breakfast waiting for the tide to make and by 2.30 pm we were back safely in our moorings. It was a very good weekend with great company and it was just good to get away on the boat with the onset of winter. Even with some younger crew members the average age for that weekend was 60 years so no one is too old.

In past newsletters I have informed you all that the PLA have wanted to charge the club River License Fees for the navigation buoys in the creek entrance. I am glad to say that after writing several letters they have now agreed that although the buoys will remain recorded as licensed there will never be a charge made against them.

Also in the New Year I and the creek committee will be meeting with the PLA to discuss 3 topics

1. Digging the creek deeper by moving spoil back on to the north side of the creek.
2. Creating a small experiment to see the effect of reclaiming a part of the salting using spoil from our creek.
3. The potential to re-establish North Creek moorings but 15 to 20 meters further south and have a piled floating pontoon west to east instead of finger moorings

Christmas is coming and our regalia would make an extremely good present for some one. It is a great opportunity to purchase club regalia direct from the club for that some one who you do not know what to buy. We are now keeping many items in stock from sizes small to extra large. If you require an item which is not in stock this can be got within days. Please see any available committee member who will be only too pleased to help you with your purchase.

Finally may I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year while looking forward to a much better sailing season in 2009

This is a great Club! The envy of most! Be part of it!

*Good luck, good sailing, good motoring and good fishing
and whatever you are doing on the water, be safe.*

Bill French - Commodore

MEMBERSHIP & MOORING FEES 20010/11		Fees
JOINING FEES:	CADET (11 – 17 years old inclusive)	£50.00
(one off payment for each application)	MIDSHIPMAN (18 – 20 years old inclusive)	£75.00
	ADULT (21 years and over)	£315.00
MEMBERSHIP FEES:	CADET (per person)	£14.00
(per annum)	MIDSHIPMAN (per person)	£48.00
	SINGLE	£80.50
	DOUBLE (member & partner)	£98.50
	SENIOR CITIZEN Single *	£17.00
	SENIOR CITIZEN Double *	£20.00
	Principal member must be over 65 and been a member for 10 years as at 31 March 2010	
MOORING FEES:	CENTRE CREEK #	£117.00
(per annum)	STERN ON	£236.00
	NORTH BANK #	£130.00
	FISHERMAN'S / OYSTER CREEKS #	£167.00
	LAGOON – STERN ON	£236.00
	WEST CREEK	£149.00
DINGHY FEES:	ADULT MONOHULL DINGHY	£56.00
(per annum) and	MULTIHULL DINGHY	£81.50
COMPOUND FEES	RIB or SPEEDBOAT under 20 feet	£99.50
	RIB or SPEEDBOAT over 20 feet	£258.50
	CADET DINGHY, KAYAK or CANOE	£8.00
	ADULT KAYAK or CANOE	£20.00
	STORAGE per week up to 2 years with mooring	£5.50
	STORAGE per week after 2 years and GUESTS	£23.00
	STORAGE per week without mooring	£8.50
	TRACTOR TOW	£20.50
	CRANE MAN LIFT	£13.00
	CRANE MAST LIFT	£13.00
	FRAME LIFT	£39.50
	WINTER LIFT and STORAGE Members	£134.50
	WINTER LIFT and STORAGE Non members	£296.00
TENDER FEES:	TENDERS (Under 10 feet) (Free to those with mooring marked # above)	£26.00

IYC Galley is now closed on Wednesday Afternoons

Opening times: Friday 6pm-9pm.

Saturday & Sunday 10am-5.00pm

Sunday Roast £7 per head (2 Meals available)

Please (Phone Sheila or Beryl to book in advance

Tel:01268 510360-07852402346-07791697319)

IYC Social Events

5th IYC Prize Giving & Buffet 8.00pm

19th Christmas Dance

13th Children's Christmas Party : 3pm for 4pm start

Please add your Name to Notice Board

31st New Years Eve Dance

Boat Insurance ..Supporting the IYC

I am pleased to advise that our Insurance Brokers and advisors Heath Lambert have arranged for the Club to receive 10% commission on all new Yacht and boat policies taken out as a result of referrals received by them from Members of the Island Yacht Club. This means that members can now take advantage of the very competitive rates available through Heath Lambert to save money and the Island Yacht Club will benefit too.

Please contact: Alison Melia at Heath Lambert on 0151 227 4321
email amelia@heathlambert.com

Cadets

My I wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year on behalf of the cadets. I feel that our cadets have had a very successful year, which would have been seen by those members that attended our club's annual prize giving.

With so much young talent with in the cadet section of our club and with the commitment of other members who give support to these cadets. We feel that there may be another exciting season ahead in 2010

Myself, Karen, Alex, Mark and Paul would like to say thank you to those cadets and members for the nice gesture given on to us on prize giving Evening

Last cadet night of 2009 will be 15th December 09 we will resume on Tuesday 12th January 2010

Once again may you all have a Very Merry Christmas

RIB Challenge 2009

Just in case anyone missed this, Aaron Lowther won the RIB challenge again this year and for his efforts has aquired another £14,000 RIB for the club..Incredible.

Eastern region are breaking all the records in this event as Steven Curtis from Paxton lakes did the same in the younger age group. So both are the first to win the Championship twice, and in a row, and not only are we the first region to win both age groups, but we did this twice in a row!!!

And of course we must not forget those that got them there; All the adults that run and help the Cadet section and all those that have helped to organise this, and the Cadets who never gave up the chase to beat Aaron and kept him on his toe's. And especially Paul Soderberg and Jeff Beverly who gave up so much of their time, and heir boats over the last two years to make this happen. Well done Aaron and well done to everyone who helped.

Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship 2010

A meeting was held with The RYA Eastern Region, Paxton lakes, Alton waters, Fishers Green, and The IYC. To discuss the plan of action for this years Challenge. Aaron and Andrew are too old for the older group, but beware as Steven Curtis from Paxton lakes will be moving into this group to take on some older drivers. However his departure from the younger group leaves that wide open.

It has been confirmed that the IYC will run the Eastern region Final on Saturday 17th July 2010, with the tide in the afternoon this will be more of a spectator event for our club and Barbequed Bangers rather than Bacon sandwiches will most likely be the dish of the event. The club will need lots of volunteers to make this a great event and hopefully lots of prestige and lolly will come the cadets way.

This year the older cadets will be running a similar RIB as last year, but the younger Cadets will have a smaller wheel steared RIB to play with. So the training will be slightly different for them.

The Eastern Area is being split into two with 3 local elimination events in the North being managed by Paxton Lakes, and two in the South. Fishers Green Sailing Club will run an event to the South West and it is hoped one of our local clubs will hold an event in the South East, with the IYC running the Final. We have been asked to act as Hub club for the South.

One issue that was quite specific by the RYA was that if a club competes then that club can only attend one of the meetings. So if a cadet cannot make their clubs local event they are out, harsh but same rules are being applied for everyone.

So can any of the cadets match Aarons success ? with Aaron training them they should be in with a chance.

DINGHY SECTION

Dear all

This news letter firmly marks the end to a great 2009 sailing season in the Dinghy section. I must thank our race officers and support boat drivers for giving up their time and helping out and hope we have continued support in 2010.

This year we had 26 helms competing in the Dinghy Helm of the Year; it was extremely close all the way to the end but Mark Wood claimed the title on the last race...

Our fast catamaran open was a success and we will be holding this event again in 2010. We hope to double the entries, which will make this a monumental event... Thanks to the support boat drivers, race officer; in particular Ian Cuthbertson and his team. Our Galley also provided a superb service, so thanks to Sheila, Beryl and staff.

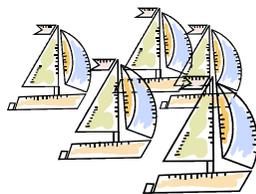
We have had continued success racing at other venues. Kevin Turner & Ian Cuthbertson came home with 1st place, Mark Wood & James Heys 3rd place, after competing in the Grafham Water (Fast Fleet) Cat Open! And Aaron won another rib... winning the Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship for a second time!! Well Done Aaron!

Lastly, now the season is over can you all please check your boats are strapped down, masts dropped and on your road trailer if you have one.

Here's to a great 2010 sailing season!

Happy Christmas & New Year from the Dinghy Section

Clinton Turner



Motor Boats



Another season over with some boats out of the water for winter and those more braver members who are going to stay in the water for hopefully for some winter cruising or fishing. Who knows there might even be a motor boat that wishes to have a go at the Blue nose trophy?

The motor boat committee will meet in the New Year where we will start planning for our 2010 season.

The 2009 season was not a bad season as there was some good cruise's. With good company and enjoyable time was had by all of those that took part. With a few new members taking part for the first time and I do not think any of them were disappointed.

I would like to thank those members on the motor boat committee for all there work that they put in this season and I hope there still be there next season.

The motor committee and myself would like to wish all our member a very merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year and safe cruising for 2010.

Martin.

Cruiser Sailing Report 2009

RACING

This year only 2 races, the Ellen Rapkin race and the Ladies race, were cancelled.

The Island Yacht Club Cruisers enjoyed increasingly successful results in the 6 CCS and Interclub races, where boats compete against other local yacht clubs.

Out of the 3 classes A, B, & Multihull, our boats between them won;

Eight 1st in class positions,

Three 2nd in class positions.

One 1st overall position,

Two 2nd overall positions,

Congratulations should go to John Clarke on Sapphire, for his first overall win in the Upnor Race beating all of the rest of the CCS fleet on corrected time.

The overall numbers taking part in cruiser racing this year has gone down slightly from last year to 15 boats. Maybe this was because there was no free buffet.

(SMILE)

Southend Council have expressed interested in resurrecting the Town Cup race as a lead up to their Festival of the Sea, culminating in the Southend Barge match.

They are currently in negotiations with Interclub to try and pull it together.

CRUISING

The cruises of 2009 were very successful. The Commodore's cruise to Ramsgate was very well attended, as was the Pirate cruise to Queenborough with 8 boats taking part. The Hawaiian Themed cruise to Chatham was a lovely weekend with 10 boats present, and the 2 week East Coast Cruise in August attracted 7 boats to venture to various stop offs in the Deben, Colne, Stour, Orwell and the Blackwater River. This is to name a few, and all of those who set sail had a wonderful time.

Cruising together is not only safe but also lots of fun, and there will be similar cruises organised for next year.

One new idea is a cruise and race to Ramsgate for the Whitsun Bank Holiday.

Everyone with a boat is invited to take part. There will be the usual prizes for the Race competitors, together with a special prize for the winner of a Predicted Log event for any motor or sail boat. which we hope will encourage more of you to attend. Whether you have a sail or motor boat – all are welcome!

Details of this event will be made available in the new year.

Should anyone have any suggestions for future cruises, please contact Mike Edwards (Sailing Secretary) or John Metson (Assistant Sailing Secretary)

Stop Press: They have made it...

Brian and Crew of True Blue have discovered the West Indies

IYC BOATING ACTIVITIES 2010						
Date	HW	HT	CRUISER RACE	MOTOR & SAIL CRUISE	DINGHY	START CADET
JANUARY						
Sun 3	14:18	6.1			Ice Breaker (Toppers)	12.30
FEBRUARY						
Fri 19	15:31	5.4	Benfleet YC At Home			
MARCH						
Sat 6	16:27	5.4	CCS Prizegiving Supper, IYC			
Sun 21	15:42	5.4			Work Party	10.00
Sun 28	12:06	5.7	BST		Spring Series	11.00
APRIL						
Thu 1	14:59	6.00	Fitting Out Supper	Fitting Out Supper	Fitting Out Supper	
Fri 2	15:41	5.9	Bank Holiday		Spring Series	14.30
Sun 4	16:55	5.3			Easter Series	16.00
Mon 5	17:33	5.0	Bank Holiday		Easter Series	16.45
Sun 11	11:50	5.2			Spring Series	11.00
Sun 18	15:48	5.6			Dinghy Race	14.45
Sun 25	10:45	5.4			Hot Gossip Trophy	10.00
MAY						
Sat 1	15:14	5.7				Paul Metson Race
Sun 2	15:52	5.5			Bank Holiday Series	15.00
Mon 3	16:29	5.3	Bank Holiday		Bank Holiday Series	15.45
Sun 16	14:55	5.7	Sunnyside Cup			
Sat 22	07:59	5.2	Upnor Race			
Sat 29	14:15	5.6	Ellen Rapkin Race to Ramsgate	Commodores Cruise		
Sun 30	14:54	5.6	Novice Race at Ramsgate	Ramsgate	Bank Holiday Series	14.00
Mon 31	15:32	5.5	Bank Holiday	Commodores Cruise	Bank Holiday Series	14.30
JUNE						
Sat 12	13:13	5.6	Queenborough Race & Buffet	Queenborough Cruise		
Sun 13	13:57	5.7	Greene King Race		Whitbread Race	TBA
Sun 20	07:38	5.3	Nore Race		Nore Race (BYC)	TBA
Sat 26	13:22	5.4	Boatacs Race	Stangate Cruise		
Sun 27	14:01	5.5			Halcon Trophy	13.00
JULY						
Sat 3	17:33	5.2			East Coast Piers Weekend	
Sun 4	18:14	5.1			LT Grafix Trophy	17.30
Sat 10	12:04	5.4				Fun Day
Sun 11	12:55	5.6	Ladies Race		Summer Series	12.00
Sat 17	17:34	5.7	Blackwater Race	Blackwater Cruise		RYA RIB
Sun 18	18:26	5.5			Summer Series	17.30
Sat 24	12:27	5.2	Interclub Cruiser Challenge	Maidstone		

Sun 25	13.10	5.4		Maidstone	Summer Series	12.15	
Sat 31	16.27	5.6		Summer Cruise			Canvey Supply
AUGUST							
Sun 1	16.57	5.4		France	Alpha Marine Trophy	16.00	
Sat 7	10.38	5.0	Harty Ferry Race	Belgium			
Sun 8	11.43	5.3		Holland	Dinghy Race	11.00	
Sat 14	16.25	6.0		Summer Cruise			
Sun 15	17.08	5.8	Ray Day	Ray Day	Forward hands	16.00	Ray Day
Sun 22	12.09	5.2			Brinkman Trophy	11.15	
Sat 28	15.27	5.8		Chatham Cruise			
Sun 29	15.57	5.7		Historic Dockyard Trip	Bank Holiday Series	15.00	
Mon 30	16.26	5.5	Bank Holiday	Chatham Cruise	Bank Holiday Series	15.30	
SEPTEMBER							
Sun 5	10.13	4.9			Work Party	10.00	
Sat 11	15.16	6.2			Dinghy Open	TBA	
Sun 12	15.58	6.1			Dinghy Open	TBA	
Sun 26	14.58	5.8			Interclub Dinghy Team Race (IYC)	TBA	14.00
OCTOBER							
Sun 10	14.50	6.1	Koningstein Cup		Koningstein Cup	TBA	
Sun 24	13.57	5.8			Gin & Rum	13.00	

True Blue of Essex

Brian Keenleyside and his crew of IYC adventurers had a fairly uneventful delivery trip from Spain. They had hundreds of Dolphins escorting them out of the Mediterranean and stopped briefly at Gibraltar for fuel on their way out past the two pillars of Hercules. It then took another 5 days to make Grand Canary, and the most noticeable thing was an enormous swell that lifted them up and down like a fairground ride.

Brian was joined by his race crew in Grand Canary where after some preparation and extensive provisioning they headed off on the 2009 ARC rally for St Lucia, apparently getting a very good start on a very large and crowded start line. They have been keeping account of their progress and adventures on the rally web site and Mike Edwards has been downloading their position and their stories onto the IYC web site, well worth a read but far too much to fit in here. By the time you get this they will probably be there but if anybody wants to send them an email its trueblue@mailasail.com Should make a good read for the next Newsletter.

Mooring Committee

Fellow Members,

With late November upon us the weather turned to be very windy, making for interesting times lifting out the boats. Happily there were no problems with the lifts and the winter lift out period was completed on time. The dates for spring launches were in the paperwork for the winter lifts, so please bear these in mind for next year.

During the last couple of months the Fishermans Creek dinghy rack is currently being renovated to the extent of an almost complete rebuild. This rebuild will continue in the new year, followed by work to the Fishermans Creek moorings. I would also remind members to remove any dinghies/canoes on the rack that are not meant to be there i.e. if you're not moored on Fishermans Creek then you have no right to keep a tender/canoe on this rack.

The Compound gate despite numerous reminders is regrettably still being left open at night. Could I remind members that with the early winter evenings and the compound filled with boats, now is a time where we should be even more vigilant and considerate for other members property. If anyone notices the gate open between 1800 and 0800 please close it instead of giving opportunists an invite!

Whilst on the matter of Club security I would remind all boat owners to keep any valuables out of sight or take them home. With recent thefts from boats on the moorings and in the compound it is your insurance fee that will suffer for you not ensuring your vessel is secure and not an invitation for someone to steal from.

The last work party of 2009 will be on the 5th December and the first work party of 2010 will be on the 9th January.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped with work parties throughout 2009 on behalf of the Mooring Committee. We hope that you will continue to assist the Club in the forthcoming year.

Seasons Greetings

IYC Mooring Committee

Down on the waterfront...

Round the mooring walkways, out at the dinghy racks, a group of people were busy rebuilding the platform. A post was being set in position.

A voice piped up, "Towards Leigh ... No ... towards Leigh ... Not Kent!"

"Where's Leigh," someone said.

"I'm here!"

Laughter rang around: Lee stood on the Kent side of the post...!

"Bloody Hell!" someone said, "Laurel and Hardy weren't a patch on you lot!"

I was on the same job, different weekend. And, after being chaffed for an unspecified absence the previous weekend ... settled to the varied tasks given. The group was much the same as before with a committee member whinnying about this and that ... he pointed out that, "for some, this was like teaching you how to suck eggs" - anyone ever done that? (One [me], had been on the original repairs some years earlier – sometime around 2000)

Amongst the group, was a taller member, a little older too, wiser – perhaps not (well who could tell) for he was doing all the work, swinging a block high above his head to hook it onto a strop. His reach – you see - it's phenomenal!

Watching is fun too –bird life is stupendous and the marshes are tinged with a fantastic autumnal colouring. Come and join us.

It was a gorgeous Saturday morning, a pleasant and stable breeze only helped to accentuate the feeling I had – "I should be out sailing" I murmured involuntarily.

As if to echo those thoughts, a chap beside me said, "Going sailing?"

We were walking towards the jobs we'd been given. I grinned, thinking how nice it would be ... but said, "No, the boat is out of the water."

"Oh ... right! Staying out then?"

"Not likely!" I said, with some feeling, looking at her: we were walking that way. She sat up on her chocks, out of her familiar environment. "...done the centre plate wire ... need a new propeller. And I've got the gudgeon pintles to do too. That's her," indicating the craft before us.

"Never seen yer boat out ..." my partner said, looking her over.

As I ran my hand lovingly along her curves, I said, "No, hopefully, she'll not be out until her next survey."

We continued on our way: the boss was loitering with an empty frame ... lift out had come round again.

It was a week or so later. The grin on my face as the boat once more kissed the salt, with a gentle sigh, as she slid gracefully away from the slings was as broad as could be. The gentle throb from beneath the cockpit sole, felt

good. Close by a voice from the deck of 'Lily' called out, "Going sailing?" But no, it was late on the tide and I contented myself with the short journey towards her mooring. I breathed deeply, thinking of a sail...

Later, meeting the other love of my life, after she'd returned from another fretful day at her place of work, she enquired whether 'her boat' was safely back in ... and sighing deeply too, added, "She alright?"

Women!

Is it me or is the membership getting older? Apart from one jovial youngster – of somewhere around middle age – few nearly grey heads are seen around the walkways, or on a boat, eagerly looking forward to getting away on the tide... The fifty to sixty's - my own generation - will all, too soon, join the club's 'oldies' and with an expected twenty or thirty years life ahead ... what ramification has this for the club?

Water Rat



IYC Boats for sale As Listed on the IYC Web site.

IROQUISE CAT	BARRON	?	P.O.A.
MOTOR CRUISER	HERBERT	23	P.O.A.
BROOM FLYBRIDGE CRUISER	GRP	35	£53,950
SEAGLASS	GRP	24	£8,500ono
QUEENSLANDER	ASP	33	£4,000
SNAPDRAGON 26	KUBUKI	26	£7,000
MOTOR BOAT/WOOD	LUCKY EDDY	28	OFFERS
TRAPPER 300	FLYING FOX	26	£8,500
SAILFISH	WHICH WAY NORTH	18	OFFERS
FAIREY FISHERMAN	JENNY F	26	£13,000
MACWESTER ROWAN	MOUNTAIN ASH	22	P.O.A
ARISTO CAT	WESTERN ENTERPRIZE	33	P.O.A
McGREGOR	EMILY	26	£10,500
SEA ROVER	INCH	28	£10,000
VIVACITY	GRP	20	OFFERS