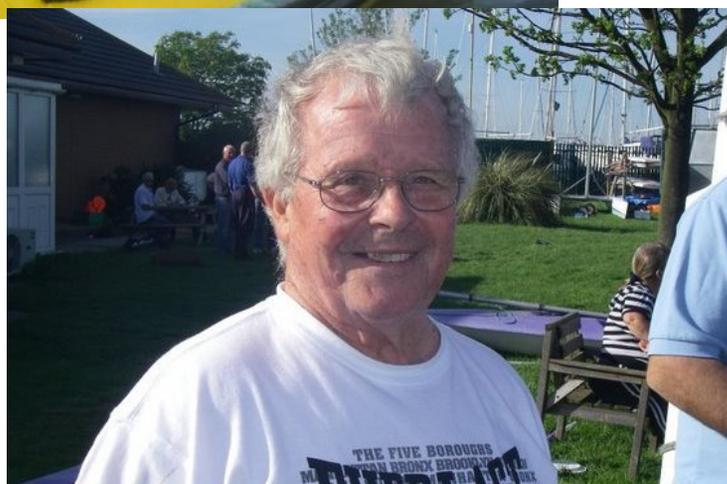


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March

2009



IYC Newsletter

Brian Turner 1933-2009
Twice Commodore IYC



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Commodores Quarter Deck

It was with great sadness we heard about Brian Turner dying peacefully in his sleep on Saturday evening, 17th January 2009. Brian was a great servant to our club at all times and was twice Commodore as proof of that.

Brian's devotion to his club and the local world of sailing was immeasurable and he will be sorely missed by many and not just those in our club but the clubs along the foreshore which make up part of our sailing lives.

I am sure that although Brian is no longer with us in person he will always be with us in spirit and example and will never be far from our thoughts.

We are well into the winter lay up but the weather has been far from kind for any real progress to be made in getting our boats ready for the coming season. We have had a small problem with the water supply in the compound but that is now fixed.

Could I remind all those who have boats in the compound to ensure you take all your rubbish away with you after working on your boat? It is unbelievable the amount of debris and waste that is found around some of the stored boats and this is not acceptable. So please be more considerate.

Once our boats are back in the water there are many cruises planned for the summer so why not think about being part of one or two. It is good fun cruising in company and even better for the less experienced because you will always be with some one looking out for you and therefore helping your confidence grow.

The new shower block is progressing very well. The main structure is complete and the fitting out of the internal area has begun. Again, I would like to thank all those club members who have given there time to work on this project meaning our labour costs are at a minimum so that we can provide the very best facility within our budget.

Once again our Cadets have done our club proud. In February, they were awarded the Castle Point Sports Council Team Award for 2008 and I believe it is the first time it has been awarded to a yacht or sailing club.

They are all a credit to our club and thanks should go to Martin Dobbs our Rear Commodore Motor and Cadet Captain and his team for the hard work they do in running our Cadet Section. Our cadets are our future so let us show them our support, our interest and lets all be as good an example to them as they are to us.

Many of you will have seen the Members Bar has been redecorated. This was done by some of our members and the only cost to the club was the materials. All those who helped have been thanked personally but I will take this opportunity to thank them all again.

This is what this club is about. Taking a pride in what we have and putting something back into the club for all it provides to us. There are many simple things that you, the members, can do to help the club and I would like to see more of you coming forward to offer your help. This not only saves the club money but builds a feeling of partnership between us all.

So, bearing that in mind our next little project will be to redecorate the Main Lobby and the hallway to the toilets and would like to see some new faces coming forward to help as well as the regular volunteers. Please keep an eye on our web site and the notice boards for dates.

I am now Bar Chairman as well and there are several things that you should all be aware of. Your Bar Committee is again looking at the pricing of what we sell over the Bar but first the bad news. There have been some hefty price increases from the beginning of February and on average they have been between 4.5p and 6p per pint of beer and bottled alcoholic products but even worse, there are a few products have increased by 10p to 11p and we have no choice but pass this on in our prices

However, we are reviewing our buying in costs and are going back out to various brewers and suppliers trying to get the keenest deal possible

for the supply of our stock. I hope to have all this completed and if need be a new supplier in place by 1st April.

Also we are looking in great detail at our pricing and the net profit on beers, spirits, soft drinks and wines. Over a period of time the profit percentage in each category has grown to differ greatly per individual item and therefore we are looking to rationalise the percentage profit to one figure for each category. This will mean that some drinks will increase in cost, some will stay the same and some will decrease in cost but the Bar Committee feel this is the right thing to do and is fair on the members what ever they drink.

From Wednesday, 1st April the galley will be opening each Wednesday for lunches. This will be for a trial period of 6 to 8 weeks and if it is successful will continue as long as it is supported. So why not bring friends or family down to your club and enjoy a mid week break by having lunch in wonderful surroundings and stunning views. Please look at the web site and notice boards for further details.

Finally, on the bar and club it self please treat it with respect in the same way you would your own home. Please do not come into the club to stay with dirty clothes or filthy shoes and use everything in the club as if it belongs to because as a member it does.

Our Social Secretary Elaine Chuter and her team work very hard organizing and setting up our social events throughout the year and so please make sure you support this important side of club life. Also we have a regular quiz night every month on Saturday and this is becoming more and more popular. It is very relaxed, not too competitive and remember, it is the taking part not necessarily the winning and in my case this has proven to be the fact.

Once again please look at our web site or the notice boards for the dates of the events

By the time you read this news letter I hope that the weather station on the mast erected at the eastern end of the compound will be up and running. This equipment will be linked to our web site and the flat screen TV in our members bar to display all the 24 hour weather information gathered. Also, 2 real time web cams will be mounted on the mast, one with a view over the bay east of the club and one giving a

view towards Southend. The pictures from the web cams will also be displayed on our web site and on the flat screen TV in the members bar.

As a matter of safety you need to know that installed a tubular pyramid structure has been installed for the Thames Gateway Port project out on the mud flats east of our club but west of our yellow cardinal buoy. There have been a few problems with the marking of this equipment and the fact that it is submerged at high water. I have spoken to GEMS about this and they will now mark the equipment with a buoy to the west and a buoy to the east indicating a hazard between them. They will also provide us with the g.p.s. position of the equipment and a chartlet showing its position which will appear on our web site as soon as we receive the information.

Finally, lets all hope that the hot summer the weathermen are predicting actually does happen. Oh what a change it would be to have a hot sun and a nice breeze on our faces with the foul weather gear permanently stowed away below.

Another season of force 7's and 8's, driving rain and green water over the boat will drive me to despair along with many others. So lets all keep our fingers and anything else you wish to, crossed.

Here's to a really good sailing and boating season for 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

IYC Social Events

**March 7th we have back by popular demand:
Ian Gallagher (Rat Pack Frank Sinatra) +meal
Cost £12.50 members £15.00 guest.
Book early, Great Evening**

March 14th Family Disco good evening for everyone.

**March 21st Fashion Show.
(Basket meals available from Galley)**

**March 28th Test your knowledge in our Quiz Evening (Quiz
master Roy Thompson) fun for all.**

**April 9th Fitting out supper
(Thursday watch notice board for time &cost)**

April 11th Easter Disco.

April 12th Easter Egg hunt for the kids of all ages.

April 25th Paul Metson Memorial BBQ & Disco.

May 2nd Quiz Night come and test your brains !!

May 23rd Bank Holiday Commodores Cruise

**Please enter your name on the list in the club house if you
would like tickets for the 7th March,
Please watch notice board for the time of the events and for
any other social activity that may come up.**

**These Events are for you All
as members of Island Yacht Club.
Please come along as a lot of work goes into arranging
these events,
show your appreciation by supporting them.
Look forward to seeing you all.**

**Elaine Chuter
Social Secretary**

IYC Mooring Committee

Fellow Members,

As the days get longer it's finally time to start looking forward to the sailing season, but firstly to launching the boats following the winter. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind those members of the Spring Launch dates:

Date	High Water	Height
25 th April	12:34	5.8m
26 th April	13:14	5.9m
9 th May	12:36	5.6m
10 th May	13:10	5.6m
23 rd May	11:23	5.6m
24 th May	12:07	5.7m

With these lifts taking place the Mooring Committee would like to remind Club members to try and prevent children treating the compound like a playground, it would really be appreciated in the interest of safety, if parents also on lift days could keep their children away from the compound and slip way.

Plant operators have enough to concentrate on without the additional worry of looking out for children. Last year we had to tell numerous children not to play on the dunnage piles or ride their bikes in front of the plant, only to see them ignore our request's and do it again.

With the weather hopefully improving the Mooring Committee has planned to build two new jetties in the Lagoon to cater for our increasing membership with boats and undertake repairs to the Fisherman's Creek jetty. The assistance of members who are berthed on Fisherman's would be welcomed and much appreciated, dates and times to be confirmed, but will be after the launches.

In the meantime, please don't forget to book your spring launches and to those who'll be wanting a quick lift out, scrub and re-launch please let us know as soon as possible.

IYC Mooring Committee

Cadet section

The cadets finished 2008 with some of our cadets being very successful at the annual club prize giving and then a trip to Basildon bowling which was a nice end to a very hard but dare I say successful year.

The cadets have started the year in January with the normal busy programme and an increased number of cadets. (On average +/- 30 cadets) We introduced the cadets to our Police Marine unit. Who came to the club and did a talk about the marine section of the Police along with a quiz and lots of their equipment that they allowed the cadets to try out

Then we ran a basic seamanship course over a six week period which was so popular. That apart from our cadets we also had some more mature cadets ? All of those that took part in this course commented on how much they had learned during the six weeks.

I would therefore like to thank our club members Ted Hale (who ran the course) Mike Edwards, Len Dow, Alex Ardley and Ian Cuthbertson who assisted and David Walker for being the examiner.

Also we have now started our RIB training and we have quite a large interest, again this season with +/- 18 cadets taking part and this could not happen with out the dedication given by club members Peter Powell, Paul Soderberg, Jeff Beverley.

So as you can see the cadets have started this season with a lot of enthusiasm.

regards

Martin, Karen, Alex and Mark

P.S. I have forgot to mention the Castle point sports council award. This was awarded to Island yacht club cadet cadets for their all round achievements during 2008.

RYA RIB Challenge 2009

A meeting was held at Ipswich re this years RYA RIB Challenge. Everything from ground tackle to BBQ's was discussed but the important bits for everyone I will explain.

Local Heats will be held at:

The **IYC on Tuesday 26th May (briefing 11.30hrs),**

Paxton Lakes Sat 30th May (briefing 0845hrs) &

Alton Waters Sat 27th June (briefing 11.00hrs).

Regional Final Alton Waters 4th July. (details tba)

Contestants must arrive in time for briefing to compete.

Cadets may only attend one Local Heat, but that may be at any one of the three. So if you can't make the IYC date you can go to one of the others. Also if anything prevents you from having your go, like we run out of water because there are too many entrants, then you can go to one of the other events.

We have been asked to supply our RIB for each event as have Paxton Lakes, so that we have two identical boats at each heat. This means transport in the vehicle towing our RIB to these other heats will probably be available.

Best three in each age group of each heat go through to Regional Final.

Volunteers:

To run this event at the IYC we need assistance with a variety of tasks on Tuesday 26th May.

We need a timing official,

Two competent adults to act as judges in the boats, they will have to know the waters in the bay in case the competitors start straying towards any obstructions, be competent in a RIB so they can judge faults, penalties and be able to de-brief the kids after the event to help them understand how they can improve.

One safety boat driver to man the marshalling RIB to keep away unwanted boats and anything else to keep things running smooth like replacing buoys.

Marshalls to collect entry forms etc and organise the competitors ashore so we don't get delays waiting for them when they change over on the pontoon.

Someone good with the computer/printer to print off certificates,

And hopefully someone to run a BBQ to keep everyone fed.

If you can help on the day please contact anyone involved with the Cadets.

IYC BOATING ACTIVITIES

2009 Adjusted for BST

Date	HW	HT	CRUISER RACE	MOTOR & SAIL CRUISE	DINGHY &	CADET
MARCH						
Sat 7	08:49	4.7				RYA RIB Challenge training
Sun 15	15:12	5.6				Dinghy Race
Sun 29	15:10	5.8	BST			Dinghy Race
APRIL						
Thu 9			Fitting Out Supper	Fitting Out Supper		Fitting Out Supper
Fri 10	14:02	5.9	Bank Holiday	Easter Cruise		
Sat 11	14:36	5.8		Ramsgate or Chatham		Easter Series
Sun 12	15:07	5.7		depending on weather		Easter Series
Mon 13	15:37	5.6	Bank Holiday	Easter Cruise		Easter Series
Sat 25	13:31	5.8				Paul Metson Memorial Trophy
Sun 26	14:10	5.8	Sunnyside Cup			Sunnyside Cup
MAY						
Sat 2	19:11	4.9		Faversham Cruise		
Sun 3	08:03	5.1		"		
Mon 4	09:24	5.1	Bank Holiday	"		Dinghy Race
Sat 9	13:35	5.7	Queenborough Race (BYC)	Queenborough Cruise		
Sun 10	14:08	5.6				Dinghy Race
Sat 23	12:21	5.6		Commodores Cruise		
Sun 24	13:06	5.7		to Bradwell		Whitsun Series
Mon 25	13:51	5.7	Bank Holiday	Commodores Cruise		Whitsun Series
Tue 26						RYA RIB Challenge Local Heat at IYC
Sat 30	17:56	5.3	Interclub Cruiser Challenge & Team Race			RYA RIB Challenge Local Heat at Paxton
Sun 31	18:55	5.2	Ellen Rapkin Race			Dinghy Race
JUNE						
Sat 6	12:33	5.4	Boatac's Race (EYC)	Stangate Creek Cruise		
Sun 7	13:12	5.5		"		Dinghy Race
Sun 14	17:20	5				Dinghy Race
Sat 20	10:56	5.2	Harty Ferry Race	Harty Ferry Cruise		
Sun 21	11:54	5.4		"		Dinghy Race
Sat 27						RYA RIB Challenge Local Heat at Alton Water
Sun 28	17:38	5.8	Ladies Race			Dinghy Race
JULY						
Sat 4	11:21	5.1	Upnor Race (IYC)	Chatham Cruise		RYA RIB Challenge Regional Final Alton Water
Sun 5	12:12	5.2		"		Dinghy Race
Sun 12	16:20	5.3				Dinghy Race
Sat 18	09:12	4.9	Nore Race (BYC)			Nore Race (BYC)
Sun 19	10:26	5				Dinghy Race
Sat 25	15:46	6		Maidstone Weekend		
Sun 26	16:29	5.9	Koningstein Cup Pursuit Race	"		Koningstein Cup Pursuit Race

AUGUST						
Sun 2	10:54	4.9				Dinghy Race
Sat 8	14:52	5.6		East Coast Cruise		
Sun 9	15:22	5.6		- Blackwater -		Dinghy Race
Sat 15	07:19	4.8		- Stour & Orwell -		
Sun 16	08:38	4.8		- Deben - Crouch -		
Sat 22	14:42	6.1		Click for details of itinerary		Passage Race
Sun 23	15:22	6.1				Dinghy Race
Mon 31	10:23	4.6	Bank Holiday			Dinghy Race
SEPTEMBER						
Sat 5	13:53	5.6				Canvey Supply Race
Sun 6	14:22	5.7		Norton Novice Race		Forward hands
Sat 12	18:13	5.0		Blackwater Race (EYC)		
Sat 19	13:36	6.1				Open Meeting
Sun 20	14:16	6.1				Open Meeting
OCTOBER						
Sun 4	13:18	5.7		Greene King Race		Whitbread Race
Sun 18	13:12	6.0				Gin & Rum Race
Sat 24	17:04	5.2		Laying up Supper	Laying up Supper	Laying up Supper
NOVEMBER						
Fri 13	09:16	5.3				Gentlemans Cruise
Mon 16	11:49	5.8				Gentlemans Cruise

Cruiser Sailing Report 2008

Advance warning of a date for your diary

The 2009 Nore Race is on SATURDAY 18th July.

£12 entry all classes; racing pennant for all as usual.

Dinghy start 12:40, Cruiser start 12:50.

One course only, Pier > South Shoebury > Medway > Nore Swatch > West Shoe > Pier (16 miles).

Prizegiving Friday 24th July. All entrants, crew, family and friends welcome.

Band. Two bars. Quality BBQ food. Photos for sale.

This year we are making a real effort to publicise the event. Hope to see many IYC boats out there.

Mike

Mike Edwards

Sailing Secretary

DINGHY SECTION

Dear Dinghy Sailors

First and foremost, we start our new season on the 15 March. This year sees a continuing expansion in the Dinghy Section; we could see over 20 boats on the start line if all attend! Our start line is no longer wide enough to accommodate such numbers and as such the yellow marker buoy will be relocated.

Please note your allocated date for support boat duty; it is imperative that you attend and fulfil this duty. There were a number of occasions last year where members did not attend or arrange suitable cover, if we see a repeat of last year, we will be introducing a penalty system... watch this space. First up is Brian Keenlyside.

Just a few polite reminders...

Please all check you have suitable insurance cover for the coming year, you must not enter a race unless you have full insurance cover.

Please all check your rigging, especially if your mast has been up all winter... shackles have a habit of working loose! Dart 15 & 18 sailors should replace all rigging after 3 seasons use.

After launching your boat please locate your trolley near the clubhouse away from the launching area.

If you have a road trailer, please park your boat on it after every race.

Finally, have fun on the water... with such high numbers and levels of experience there will be exciting racing for all taking part and spectating.

Happy Sailing
Clinton Turner
Dinghy Captain

Motor Boat Section

We had our first motor boat meeting of the year, which I must say was very well attended. By new and old members alike, I think all of those who were present agreed that holding our meetings on Sunday mornings at 10-30 hrs suited everyone much better than on Wednesday evenings. Everyone had some input into the meeting and it was agreed that at our next meeting which will be on Sunday 15th March at 10-30hrs.

We are planning to put together our cruising venue for the coming season. (All club members welcome) So please come along and if you have any ideas or suggestions, information please share it and have some input to what we do this season.

Information from our meetings will also be available on our club web site and on the notice board in the clubhouse.

Hopefully we will have a better 2009 season than 2008 and the weather will be much kinder to us all.

I would like to say thank you to those members who tried so hard last season to stage junior fishing comp. But each time the weather was unkind so hopefully they will have better success this season. And also to those members who have volunteered to be your motor boat committee for this season.

Regards Martin



Down on the waterfront...

The bricks arrived – yes! The shower block was once more on the move...some grumbles had been heard along the waterfront...in the main the argument was balanced – but hey - we're a mixed club and the showers will be of use to all.

On a sunny afternoon later that week, during a period of neaps with tides at each end of the day preventing any possibility of a pleasant sail, I'd bumped into a smiling (honest) committee member. We'd nattered about sailing, boats and other local trends when he'd proudly said, "It's been a great week – we've secured a grant to complete the shower block."

"Well done, that's just great," I'd said: I understood he'd been heavily involved.

Sometimes, it is easy to criticise our committee, but they do work hard for the club – so if you don't see them around, be sure they're probably working on less physical, less noticeable tasks, but none the less - essential.

Of course there has since been an announcement at the AGM and in the last 'mag' too. And building, for that matter, progressed over the festive season and throughout the winter period. It'll be, for our club, an asset, surely.

Compound has not appeared to be so full of boats...this winter. More of our own members seem to have stayed in the water...

During the lift out period, an owner said..."We're staying in this year"

"Oh yes..." was a reply.

"Yes, I'm hoping to get some use out of the thing..."

"Otherwise it might be sold for a caravan!" he'd quipped, though not with any amount of conviction.

The other had grimaced: "No boat..."

In his eyes you could see shear shock and his mind whirred in a silent scream of horror!

Lily...and a buoy: That busy lady, *Lily Rapkin*, has continued to make improvements around the creek. Sometime over Christmas a buoy was seen to be in a rather strange position though. I hear that 'Number Two' had tried to investigate it, when out sailing, but wasn't able to get a hold without troubling his painted topsides. It had fetched up close into the marshes and the next day it and was brought home by *BJ*. I'm told that upon investigation, by the buoy man, it was found that its tether to its weight had become detached. It seemed that Number One had been on the prowl in *Lily* and her paw marks were found...all around!

Out in the marshes...a flight of knot alighted: it is winter and they are visitors from afar. Many make the journey from Northern Canada even. Wanting to

roost awhile, the knot, squabbled and fought, chased and harried, and made restless other waders, including the larger oystercatchers poking about, for an ever diminishing area of space on the fringes of the marsh. The tide had reached that point when it had not completely inundated the saltings. Little islands and tufts broke the glassy surface of the placid water. The body though had that slow, rhythmic, motion from ship wash that always induced a swell around the point - it looked fantastic – mesmerising even. "They're waiting impatiently," the birds, that is, I'd whispered quietly, not wanting to disturb them, "for the ebb to begin and the water to recede from their feeding grounds." Then, as if by a silent signal, the roar of many hundreds of wing beats was heard. The knot had taken flight. They'd wheeled, dove and danced. Ballerina's of the sky, moving effortlessly to an unheard symphony. They were joined by other small waders, probably dunlin or plovers. It was majestic. That scene is just one, from the magical tableaux, that surrounds our club. Aren't we lucky.

The work around the moorings took a little rest during the, now long gone, festive season, but I'd heard a whisper, before the fresh year was but a few weeks old, 'The Moorings Man' was on the lookout for ready, willing and able volunteers: he's sure to want who ever he can get, able or the less able. Launching too, is hovering close to the horizon. The need for feverish activity on the underside of boats and around their decks awakes slumbering owners from winter hibernation - they will soon bring the compound alive - expectant for the fresh new season. What excitement. Make the most of it!

Some magazines of late have had a bash at the cost of sailing, dinghy sailing that is, specifically the Olympic classes. The question is has technology overridden the skill of sailing? Has it all become too expensive – too elitist? A good multi-hull class has been pushed out as well – in favour of what? And, at what expense will the new wiz bang wallop come? Sailing's for fun, isn't it? Perhaps the rush for technology will abate with the world's financial system in tatters...the Olympics, though, are on a different planet!

Yes, we were all pleased at our Olympic haul in sailing, but will it translate into fresh blood? Our membership has grown, but what's the demographic trend at our club? And, can it continue as it is?



Water Rat

A Festive Calm

We experienced over the Christmas and New Year holiday period one of the longest settled spells of weather experienced for many a year. It was cold, yes! We had gentle breezes, mainly from the northeast or northerly directions, yes! Ideal to be out in your boat, in protected waters, relishing in it. YES?

Well, NO actually! Our club this year has a myriad of craft left afloat, ready for immediate use, but apart from two or three, or there about, the rest never moved other than up and down with the regular coming and going of the tides.

I'm a sensitive soul, as is my mate, and we were greatly saddened by the sight of all those lonely craft devoid of the comforting weight of their human owners using them, enjoying them, loving them even: a boat has a soul and it is when sails are hauled aloft or the engine is set throbbing that a boat truly comes alive. The soul has to be nurtured: a boat needs to be used.

With Christobel, I had a gorgeous sail on the morning of Christmas Eve. We had to help out at a funeral breakfast at our church at 1045, so couldn't afford to dally too long, but the hour we got was wonderful, having slipped away from our berth just before nine we gently ghosted out of the creek. We were alone except for a motorboat.

On Christmas morning, with two friends from the other Island club near Benfleet Bridge, we went out for a festive sail. A decent northerly force three wafted across the creek allowing for a close reach out along the buoyed channel. The plot had been hatched many weeks previously and I held all concerned to their boasts of, "Yes, we'll come!" It was dependent, of course, upon the weather. The Gods as can be seen were kind. Our friends had



not been sailing since they had hauled out during early October... My old friend's grin got bigger and bigger until it consumed what could be seen clear of his heavily swaddled head.

Upon leaving the mooring Christobel had gone forward to sit on the coach roof to enjoy the spectacle of clouds of Knot wheeling and swirling around the point. Except for a rustle from a gentle slapping along the clinker planking it was quiet and then a huge swirl of Knot swooped down over the mast and around the stern. We all jumped! It was the loud swishing of a thousand wings that we'd all heard first and then the cloud was gone. Brent Geese were seen heading out across the water to the south and the marshes of North Kent to feed. Ah, what a grand sight.

Illustration 1: Festive sailors. Christobel is on the cabin top by the mast. The 'Benfleet Yacht Club' pair are aft and in control! Picture: S. Scurrey

Maintaining a close reach we worked eastwards towards Chalkwell, seeing a lonely dinghy sail over by the shore end of the pier, before turning and running westwards to Leigh. It was too early for there to be life aboard the 'Essex' or the 'Leigh' up in the old station. Off Victoria Wharf, it was noticed that a gentleman was engaged in a spot of scenic photography. My crew called out my email address and a picture duly arrived the next day - a kindly soul.



Illustration 2: A festive calm, *Whimbrel* sailing off Victoria Wharf, Leigh-on-Sea, on Christmas morning. Note: sprig of fir tree at mast head. Picture: D. Moore

Approaching the creek, having been fortified with pre-warmed homemade mince pies and coffee (laced with something nice!), the mainsail was dispensed with and the boat more or less worked herself into the creek, her crew in an exuberant mood. Of the mooring

Christobel ran the jib down and we glided into our berth in silence. Upon leaving the boat, covered and ready for another day, we adjourned to the clubhouse for a congratulatory pint – well the men did - our kindly mates having agreed to drive, before leaving for another at that other club, where the astonished assembly and the Commodore welcomed and congratulated us for getting out for a Christmas sail. Their hardy sailors were planning a Boxing Day dinghy race.

On Boxing Day I went alone...the mate was having a day off. Well chosen, for it was exciting: it was one of the period's odd days the N-NE3-4occ5 was more a mainly 5ish! My putting a reef into the mainsail before departure was prudent. The creek entrance had white water over the shallows, but the water beyond was no more than lumpy! Having set sail I sliced through the easterly rollers running over the Ray Sands with water sluicing down the side deck...had I done the right thing? I laughed and held my course.

Later, on a long reach into the Essex Yacht Club's waters the wind lessened quite considerably and when completely under the hills I'd wished for a little more sail. The relaxed period allowed me to get the kettle singing its song for a mug of cocoa, by which time I'd passed Bell Wharf and I peeled away for the point. Clear of the moorings, over the Leigh Sands, I'd doused the mainsail for a comfortable sail back under jib, repeating the arrival of the previous day. I raised a metaphorical glass to the little sails I saw up Benfleet Creek.

Approaching the New Year the weather continued to remain calm and settled. On two occasions I did feel a little guilty when passing Admiral William French in *Lily Rapkin* and we saluted one another – two contented souls. Take a break Bill – use that fine yacht of yours! It was a joy to see the cadets using the Royal Yachting Associations boats again, their sails made a splash of colour from out on the water. Well done to all. I took my pal out on New Years Eve and Christobel came on New Years Day. So it was out with the old and in with the new: the seasons are continuous.

It had been a grand time. A period to treasure for when time catches up, the aches and pains get too much and the anchor has to be slung permanently.

Nick Ardley (*Whimbrel*)

IYC Boats for sale

Listed on the IYC Web site where you can find more details.

BROOM FLYBRIDGE			
CRUISER 1982	GRP	35	£53,950
SEAGLASS	GRP	24	£8,500
QUEENSLANDER	ASP	33/11	£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		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

IYC COURSES AND TUITION AVAILABLE

OWN BOAT TUITION: SAIL OR POWER
DAYS DESIGNED FOR YOUR OWN NEEDS

ICC AND CEVNI: ASSESSMENTS CARRIED OUT ON YOU OWN BOAT

VHF AND DSC RADIO: 1 DAY COURSE TO OBTAIN THE OPERATORS
CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE REQUIRED TO USE A SHIPS VHF RADIO

DIESEL MAINTENANCE: 1 DAY COURSE DESIGNED TO ENABLE YOU TO
SERVICE AND MAINTAIN YOU INBOARD DIESEL ENGINE

THEORY COURSES: DAYSKIPPER AND YACHTMASTER,
EVENING CLASSES, 26 WEEKS THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PHONE 078903 89003

EMAIL islandyachtclubRYAcourses@msn.com

GALLEY Opening Times and Menu

Friday 13.00 - 21.00hrs. - Saturday 0900 - 15.00hrs - .Sunday 0900 - 16.00hrs

Sunday Roast £7 per head(2 Meals available)

Please phone Sheila or Beryl to book in *advance

01268 510360-07852402346)

STARTERS	JACKETS
Chicken & Bacon Salad	Chilli
Baked Camembert with Cranberry Sauce	Prawn
Soup and Crusty Roll	Tuna
Prawn Cocktail	Cheese & Beans
All £3.50	All £3.50
MAIN	OMELETTE
Ham Eggs & Chips	Cheese
Scampi & Chips	Brie
Sausage & Mash	Mushroom
Chilli Nachos	Onion
Ploughman's	Sausage
Mediterranean Veg Pasta	Beans
Chicken & Bacon Salad	Ham
Tuna & Prawn Salad	Prawn
Cheese Burger & Chips	Tomato
Chicken Burger & Chips	All made fresh to order
All £5.00	All £4.00
HOT BAGUETTE	PANINI & SALAD
Sausage & Onion	Cheese & Onion
B.L.T	Brie & Bacon
Brie & Bacon	Cheese & Tomato
BBQ Chicken & Bacon Melt	Cheese & Ham
£3.50	£3.30
CHILDREN	SIDES
All Dishes Available in Children's Portions	Chips, Onion Rings, Garlic Bread, Bread & Butter All £1.00