

December 09

The year draws to a close and Christmas is nearly upon us. Despite our lack of club house, we have had some very successful social events including the senior prize-giving which was held at the Crouch YC. There's a list of prize winners at the end of the



newsletter. It was an excellent night and the speaker, our MP John Whittingdale gave an excellent and entertaining speech. John Mellard was crowned as our new President.

The junior regatta and prize giving was a well attended day with plenty of entries for the sailing and lots of people enjoying the social side. As is traditional, a treasure hunt organised by Abi Davies and led by Pirate Robin Mapes was organised for the young volunteer group whilst the other juniors took part in the races put on by John Hardy. The food and land based events organised by Karen Sadler and her hard working team. This year the treasure hunt included various games and quests plus a dig for treasure on the beech off the Roach - and it was some time before the treasure was located! Abi

Davies was the power house behind this ably assisted by several others.

The St Matthew Cup was run by the Royal Burnham Yacht Club and was a slight change on the format of the last two years. We still raced in Hunter 707s – and thanks to all those who lent their boats – but the races were run in flights with on water judges and proved to be very exciting for both spectators and competitors alike. The Burnham Sailing Club team put up a good show and, despite some excellent sailing were just beaten in the final, coming second to the Royal Corinthian YC. Many thanks to all those who took part.

The EGM on 14<sup>th</sup> September was packed with interested and lively members. The drawings that Tracy Saunders displayed and the plans which Karen Sadler had drawn up clearly showed the vision of the club and the possibilities. These fired everyone's imagination and the purchase of land and vote to adopt the proposed extension to the clubhouse was carried unanimously. Many fund raising events were suggested and these are currently being investigated by a committee under the chairmanship of Rosemary Prior.

On the subject of the rebuild, we now have 3 quotes in and hope to place a contract for the rebuild before Christmas: we are still hopeful that we will be operational for the new season. Land: the purchase of the land is almost there and should be completed in the next few weeks. We have been in discussion with the prospective buyers of the rest of the site and have agreed to a small land swap that suits both parties.

**D**inghy park: If you haven't already done so please take your dinghies home for the winter: they should be removed by 31st October each year. The lock to the gate was broken last week but we are not sure if anything has been taken.

**P**ledge forms: We are extremely pleased with the response so far but if we are to go ahead with the extension we will need a lot more support: If you haven't completed your form yet please can we encourage you to do so.

**T**he first of the fund raising events was an impromptu and extremely enjoyable 'Chilli night' as an early start to the Carnival. Yvonne Turbin cooked and donated a vegetarian chilli, The Limes farmshop donated the jacket potatoes, Karen Sadler was on the bbq and Robert Blunden cooked the rest of the chilli. It was all brought together in a flash by Jenni Blunden and everyone who went has suggested that it become a regular feature. £300 was raised for the fund.

**F**und raising events have been boosted by our junior section with 9 intrepid walkers donning Halloween costume catching the train to Althorne and completing the seawall walk back to Burnham on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. They had taken along a few parents and despite the rain enjoyed themselves immensely and it was all inspired by Phillippa Blunden. The walkers were treated to a reviving tea or coffee at the RNLI station and then had lunch at the White Harte where they also received a box of chocolates! The youngest walker was Oliver Nicholls who is one of the Volunteer gang – first year on the river - and he managed to raise £55 on his own. The total raised by this event was £320 which is quite incredible.

**C**alling all potential snowmen. You are required for Santa's float on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December when the Round Table have agreed to give the Sailing Club a generous percentage of the takings on the night. You will tour Burnham with the float. Contact Jenni

Blunden on 786728 to offer your services – no experience required, full training will be given.

**L**adies - keep your diaries free on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb when Jenni and Mel are organizing a ladies pamper evening at Sue Hardy's house in time for Valentine's day. Ring Jenni on 786728 for further details, although we will email you closer to the night.

**A** note from Rosemary Prior – Chair of the Fund raising committee: A big thank you to all those members who have returned their Pledge Form. We have at the moment a total of £35000 in pledges of which £16000 is in the form of donations – and thanks to those who have already sent their donations.

Your Fund Raising Committee is working hard at raising funds, some in the form of grants from local organisations and more national organisations and fund raising functions of our own. The Sponsored walk has already been held and raised in the region of £320 . Another walk has been requested! More people on this one please.

On Friday (4th Dec.) the Club was presented with £1000.00 from the Carnival Committee, a wonderful donation from one local organisation to another. The Carnival Committee could do with more support in the running of the Carnival. If you feel you could add your support either through the year or on the day - lots of people are needed then please get in touch with John Randal.

Look out for other functions organised by the Fund Raising Committee and come along and support us, these will be advertised on the Web and on email so do not just look and think oh! another communication from the BSC and delete it - **read it**. We need to know we are doing a good job or not - we need your support!

“PROMISES AUCTION”

Do you have a skill that people would pay for? i.e. Writing a will, Driving Lesson, Golf Lesson..... If so find out what it is about by contacting Margie Tucker on 01621 782130 or better still email Margie on [physmarg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:physmarg@tiscali.co.uk)

**L**ook out for the date of a big music night in the Spring. We hope to have lots of local bands and will be ensuring a night of great

entertainment, so dust off your dancing shoes ready!

**A**nyone with fund raising ideas and aspirations should contact Rosemary Prior who is chairing the fundraising committee.

**A** big welcome to all our new members. Those who have joined since the last newsletter are: Jane and Madeline Owen, Mr TA Sadler, Mr and Mrs Head and their sons Nathaniel and Matthew, Noel Barrett and Bruce Mayley and Mr S Bullen-Bell

**T**he year has been a sad one for the club as several members have passed away. In the later part of the year we have lost John Benson and Harry Croker – both long time members who have given great support to the club in many ways.

Thanks to Margaret Mellard and Josie Benson for this potted history of John Benson's time at the club: John joined BSC in 1940 and was an enthusiastic member in all ways - working parties, social events etc. and although called to do National Service from 1948 to 1951 was allowed home to race on Wednesday evenings. He and Alan Duce built the BSC 14 footer "Dolphin" during John's demob leave in the winter of 1951 and raced her very successfully for 5-6 seasons with Alan and then John Oyler as crew. John bought and raced an Enterprise in 1961-2 and then bought and raced the Dragon "Spray for several seasons. He bought the Coronation Day Boat, also called "Dolphin" in 1966 and had a cabin fitted by Kings Boatyard and finished the inside himself. John raced Oliver Lee's first Hunter 19 successfully during Burnham Week in the late 60's, sold "Dolphin" and finished off a Hunter 701 and for the next 30 years John owned various cruising boats keeping them on the River Orwell.

Unfortunately health problems stopped the cruising in the 90's. John and Josie moved back to Burnham and both helped in the Race Box on a Wednesday evening between 1992 and 1998 in which time John also did a stint on the Committee. In 2002 John was forced to sell his last boat which was very upsetting for him. John and Jose became Life Members in the 60's and

John maintained his interest in the Club's activities until his death in July of this year.

Jo Barker writes of Harry Croker: Harry first came to Burnham around 50 years ago. I took him sailing in a Stella and that was the start of his long association with Burnham. He began, as have quite a number of well known yachtsmen with a Stella (Flamingo) then went to a Stella Butt (Ajay). He then had probably his most successful boat the Twister (Cheetah) with which he won the EAORA Championship and almost every trophy for his class in other races such as Burnham Week and the CYC races. He also had a Hustler 25.5 (Klipspringer) for a while another Stella Butt (Ragamuffin) a Shamrock (Golden Silence) and Lynx with which he went to Sweden for the 1/2 Ton Cup. There was another Klipspringer but I can't remember what type of boat. Of course we all know Cheetah of Burnham his last boat which has been a much loved sight on the Crouch for many years.

I have a few memories of Harry. I used to race his boats when he was away or playing golf or working. One breezy Saturday I was racing Cheetah of Burnham and the mast broke. I 'phoned Harry to break the news, his first reaction was to ask if anyone was hurt and he then said "I'm pleased it was you and not me" My response was "Thanks Harry"!!! I don't recall him ever shouting whilst racing - a rarity these days! Although he appeared to be quiet he always managed to get what he wanted and did not suffer fools gladly and woe betide anyone who could not make him a decent cup of tea. If you went down below on the boat a voice would call out "While you're there, put the kettle on" A lovely man who will be missed by all who sailed with him or against him.

#### **Dates for your Diary:**

AGM 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Ladies pamper evening February 5<sup>th</sup>  
Telephone Jenni Blunden for details

#### **Contact information:**

##### **President:**

##### **Vice President:**

John Mellard 01621 782600

**Commodore:** Mike Gibson 01621 784354

**Vice Commodore:** John Hardy 01621 784202

**Rear Commodore:** John Paul 01621 772454

**Hon Treas:** Rosemary Beeson 01621 782228  
**Hon Secretary:** Jenni Blunden: 01621 786728  
**Membership Sec.:** Karen Sadler 01621 784589  
**Minute Secretary:** David Pinkney 01245 461416  
**Race Officer:** Colin Blanks 01621 784648  
**General Committee:**  
 Andy Jones Alf Reynolds John Torrance  
 Richard Taylor Caroline Weetch Rosemary Prior  
 Geoff Bell Nick Hutton-Penman  
**Newsletter Editor** Mel Lewis 01621 783654

email: [melelewis@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:melelewis@tiscali.co.uk) - many thanks for all contributions this time round! All reports gratefully received!

Kindly printed courtesy of Mike Gibson

## **TROPHY WINNERS 2009 SEASON**

### Seasons Points

**Class 1** Norma Cup Cheetah of Burnham  
 Harry Croker  
**Class 3** Sabel Cup Tax Man Ray Symmonds  
 707's Billingham Trophy Blowfish Roger Martin  
**RS Elite** Full and Bye Cup Oink Squeal David Wood  
**Squib's** Joe Cole Cup Chequemate Ian Simons

### Runner Up

**Class 1** Covington Cup Eclipse Clive Cherry  
**Class 3** WW Hawkes Cup Stiletto Chris Petrie  
 707's Sonata Shield Baby Beluga John Lewis  
**RS Elite** Dyce Pettigrew Tankard Flo Angus Bates  
**Squib's** Joyce Hooper Bowl Lady Penelope  
 Malcolm Hutchings

### July Cup

**Class 1** Teazer Cup Cheetah of Burnham  
 Harry Croker  
**Class 3** Hood Cup Taxman Ray Symmonds  
 707's Mayflower Cup Blowfish Roger Martin  
**RS Elite** Laser Cup Oink Squeal David Wood  
**Squib's** Wilkinson Cup Chequemate Ian Simons

### Spring Series

**Class 1** Little Gem Trophy Cheetah of Burnham  
 Harry Croker  
**Class 3** Taylor Walker Cup Taxman Ray Symmonds  
 707's Bedford Cup Blowfish Roger Martin  
**RS Elite** Wilkinson Cup Oink Squeal David Wood  
**Squib's** Pitcher Cup Chequemate Ian Simons

### Pursuit Race

**Classes 1, 2 & 3** Kate Bennett Mem Trophy  
 Spangle David Hill  
**One Design** BSC Tankard

**Blowfish** Roger Martin

### Stuart Paul Memorial Trophy

**Blowfish** Roger Martin

### Summer Series

**Class 1** Round The Island Tankard Eclipse Clive  
 Cherry  
**Class 3** Summer Points Tankard Stiletto Chris Petrie  
 707's Summer Points Cup Blowfish Roger  
 Martin  
**RS Elite** Summer Points Cup Flo Angus Bates  
**Squib's** Summer Points Tankard Chequemate

Ian Simons

### Long Distance

**Class 1** GH Rope Cup Cheetah of Burnham  
 Harry Croker  
**Class 3** Social Committee Cup Shallot Scott Kaczor  
 707's Warwick Smith Cup Feeling Touchy Eugene  
 Quinlan

**RS Elite** Long Distance Tankard Oink Squeal  
 David Wood

**Squib's** Challis Cup Trophoblast Chris Goodfellow

### RNLI Race

**Class 1** RNLI Shield Eclipse Clive Cherry  
**Class 3** RNLI Shield Adarin Michael Bradley  
 707's RNLI Shield Blowfish Roger  
 Martin  
**RS Elite** RNLI Salver Flo Angus Bates  
**Squib's** RNLI Shield Heavenly Tears Peter  
 Marchant

### Diana Race

**Class 1** Royal Wedding Trophy Eclipse Clive Cherry  
**Class 3** Barrett Cup Stiletto Chris Petrie  
 707's Fred Rhind Bowl Blowfish Roger  
 Martin  
**RS Elite** JCC Salver Flo Angus Bates  
**Squib's** Ron Clare Salver Lady  
**Penelope** Malcolm Hutchings

### Crews Race

**Class 1** B'sun Cup Quencher  
 Charlie Taylor  
**Class 3** Ida Worrall Cup Stiletto  
 Bob Francis  
 707's Couture Cup Feeling  
**Touchy** Howard Warrington  
**RS Elite** The Crews Cup Oink Squeal  
 Simon Wakefield

### Ladies Race

**707's** Esme Savage Challenge Cup Joe Blob Joyce  
 Taylor

The Clanger presented to Ray Symmonds by  
 John Paul (Ablly composed by Niki Paul)

*Since time began, through Romans, Danes  
 (or so our teachers told us),  
 Explorers sailed the seven seas,  
 From Cook to Chris. Columbus.*

*So many went to find new lands,  
 With such determination,  
 America, Australia,  
 A sense of trepidation,*

*Cold, disease, lack of food,  
 Didn't stop these tars,  
 No G.P.S. or gadgets,  
 Navigation by the stars.*

*So different are these modern days,  
 Of charts and maps and courses,*

With all mod-cons on board,  
We should be safe as houses.

Ready on the starting line,  
Horse Shoal, Redward, Fairway 9,  
Crew all briefed, will we be winners,  
Then in the Crouch for hearty dinners,

Congratulations all around?  
Oh no!...What's that?...  
We've run aground.

There seems to be a fearful list,  
And none of us are even....drunk!

It looks as though we're pretty stuck  
In Black Point's sticky gooey muck.  
A tow's the answer it would seem,  
So radio before **I scream!**

Robbers, Pirates, words of anger,  
This year, Taxman takes the Clanger!!



## Notice of AGM 2010

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the Burnham-on-Crouch Sailing Club will be held at 2.30pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in the Crouch Yacht Club, Coronation Road, Burnham-on-Crouch.

The meeting will receive the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009, elect Club Officers, Honorary auditor, debate changes to Membership Categories, and debate any items notified to the Honorary Secretary by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Such items must be proposed and seconded by Club members. Nominations for any of the Club Officers will similarly need to be proposed, seconded and received by the Honorary Secretary by the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

This year there are a number of Club Officer posts to be filled. We need to affirm John Mellard's appointment as President; appoint a vice-President, and to elect an Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and Minutes Secretary following the decisions of Rosemary Beeson, Jenni Blunden and David Pinkney to stand down. The latter two positions could be combined. Additionally, Commodore Mike Gibson comes to the end of his two-year tenure. As is customary, John Hardy and John Paul will move up the ladder, so we need a new Rear Commodore. Also, if anyone wishes to join the Committee as an Ordinary Member, we would be pleased to hear from you.  
Nominations, please!

All nominations etc should be sent c/o David Pinkney at 5 Blacklock, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford, CM2 6QL.

The Agenda for the AGM will be sent out at least a week before the meeting.

After the formal proceedings, there will be an informal forum followed by refreshments.

**David Pinkney  
Minutes Secretary  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009**