

Broad Reach

The Old Shirburnian Sailing Society Newsletter



Issue No. 29
May 2003

AGM Antics

Whenever a substantial number of OSSS members are gathered, an entertaining evening is guaranteed. This year, thanks to the new Commodore, the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge played host to the Society's 2003 Annual General Meeting, and members were not to be disappointed.



From new to past President and back again—the game of 'Pass the President's Prize' continued late into the night

The meeting was nothing short of historic - with the election of a new President, Commodore and Vice-Commodore. Richard Anderton stepped down from his 5 year tenure as President, being more than ably replaced by the outgoing Commodore Bob Macdonald. Nick Ware in turn took on the mantle of Commodore, as the Society welcomed Peter Innes-Ker to the role of Vice Commodore.

Together, Richard, Bob and Nick have served the Society in their previous roles for an impressive number of years, and have been to a large extent responsible for the success and continuing good health of the Society. Far from relinquishing their commitments, however, they are set to continue serving the OSSS in their characteristically generous manner. Re-election of the remainder of the committee concluded the evening's business, and the assembled members retired to equally important matters in the Royal Thames' bar and restaurant.

The highlight of the dinner saw past president Bobbie Reynolds accept the President's Prize from outgoing Commodore Bob Macdonald, only to catch Bob unawares by returning the trophy to him in a warm gesture of thanks for his past and (it is hoped!) future service to the Society. Generous donations from members enabled the Society to present Bob with a 3.3 hp Mariner outboard engine for the tender to his new vessel, Riobamba V, and a framed picture of the former Riobamba. Nick Ware, the incoming Commodore, made an excellent speech thanking Bob for his untiring support for the OSSS, remarking that Bob could use the outboard as yet another back up for his new (motor!) boat. Those assembled then retired to the bar to see the evening to its fitting conclusion.

Commendable Commodore—Bob Macdonald

Bob Macdonald stood down as our Commodore at the AGM in March after holding that office for some twenty years. Bob was not one of the founding members of the Old Shirburnian Sailing Society - indeed he had rather lost contact with the school since leaving and joining the Royal Navy. Then one day on the River Hamble he saw a small 27 ft yacht approaching, laden with teenage boys. Bob started talking to the skipper of the vessel who explained that every year old boys from his old school took out current pupils who had an interest in sailing. When Bob asked "which school?", the skipper, Gervase Lang said "Sherborne" and, on finding that Bob was an Old Shirburnian, immediately signed Bob up as a member. Bob became instantly and actively involved, and it was not long before he was elected to serve on the Committee. During Bob's term as Commodore he has tirelessly devoted his time to the Society - organising events including the Boys Weekend,



Riobamba V—because one engine just isn't enough...

Committee

President: Bob Macdonald
Commodore: Nick Ware
Vice Comm.: Peter Innes-Ker
Rear Comm.: Andrew Yorke
Hon. Treasurer: Andrew Thomson
Sailing Secretary: Tak Kaneko
Committee members:
Richard Anderton
John Archer
Tom Beard
Marcus Chavasse
James Chilton
Neil Duncan
Chris Sowerbutts
Will Thomas-Ferrand
Ed Whipp

Forthcoming Events

(see flyers for more details)

May

23rd—26th - St. Vaast
Cross Channel Rally

June

Tues 3rd - London Evening
Sailing and BBQ at the Ariel
Sailing Club, Teddington.

Sat 14th - Western Trophy
at Ringwood

21st/22nd -Mid-Summer
Cruise from the Solent.

September

Fri 26th—Evening Cruise
on River Thames aboard
Paddle Steamer Waverly

For more photos, up-to-date
info, and past issues of Broad
Reach, don't forget to visit:

www.oss.org.uk

Society Three-way Triumph

The second leg of the Stanger-Leathes series saw a three-way match between the School, Sutton Bingham SC and the OSSS on Saturday 22nd of March. A top OSSS team -Tak Kaneko, Will Thomas-Ferrand, Ed Whipp, Graham Ker and Rich Lowndes—gathered at Sutton Bingham to sail the reservoir's own team in the morning. Last year the OSSS won convincingly, but comments from SBSC about months of training suggested that it might not be so easy this time.

A light breeze accompanied warm spring sunshine and smiling faces as the gun for the first race sounded. SBSC won the start securing a 1st position, giving the Society team a bit of a scare. However, the trusty OSSS team held a solid 2,3 position and with Graham Ker gaining 5th, they took the race. The second race saw some good prestart action by Ed Whipp and after a hectic first beat the OSSS attempted to use their 1st place to convert to a winning combination. This was achieved in style at the leeward mark to win the race, and therefore the match 2-0.

After lunch SBSC sailed against the School while the OSSS supped a beer and sunbathed in preparation for the afternoons racing. Feeling suitably restored, the team then took on the School in a breeze that had become very variable, gusting from F2 to 4. In the first race the Old Boys' relied on their weight advantage to help them claw their way back from a winning start by the School. By the windward mark, the OSSS were in the lead, and just managed to hold on to a 1, 3, 5 to win.

The second race was not as straight forward, with the school threatening to completely runaway with victory on the downwind legs. However, the leeward mark came to the OSSS rescue again providing the team with the opportunity to recover and claim the race.

With the OSSS not having dropped a race all day, it was then decided to quit the water and adjourn to The George to watch the Six Nations rugby, quickly followed by a meal at the Three Elms. Many thanks to the School for providing a fantastic welcome and some close racing.

Bob Macdonald would like to express his thanks for the kind gift of the an outboard motor and framed photograph of his former boat, Riobamba IV, so generously given to him by the members of the OSSS. Both will be put to good use on his new boat, which will be very much part of the OSSS fleet, despite it's reliance on diesel for propulsion!

Carribbean Cruisin'

After an afternoon's lively sail to the next island, you drop the hook in a sheltered palm fringed cove, swimming ashore for a celebratory rum on perfect white beach.... Sailing in the Carribbean is surely a dream world, but it's a dream that you could realise next February by joining a proposed OSSS cruise. See the included flyer for details...



Stanger Leathes: close quarters action at the windward mark

Commodore Bob (contd from page 1)

the St Vaast Rally and Arrow Trophy team, and has also regularly attended most yachting and social events, as well as periodically supporting dinghy matches. He has generously invited OSSS members on board the various Riobambas as crew and introduced over 100 Old Shirburnians to yacht sailing. Having served as Commodore for over 20 years and following the switch from sail to motor, Bob felt that it was time to step down but the Society is lucky that he accepted the invitation to remain actively involved as President. We wish him well in his new roles both as President and skipper of his new Grandbanks 36 - the 5th vessel to carry the Riobamba name.

Racing Noticeboard

Western Trophy (Sat 14 June 2003)

A full day of racing with our old rival teams from the West Country promises lots of quality racing and a fine barbecue. It will be hosted by Canford's Dr Wilkinson at the Spinnaker Club in Ringwood, followed by a day of sailing at Arne on the Sunday. If you're interested, please get in touch with Tak Kaneko (tk229@cam.ac.uk). If you have any contacts with people from other schools who might be able to raise a team, please let Tak know.

Round the cans in Sigma 33s

The Society's new Vice-Commodore, Peter Innes-Ker, is heavily involved with the competitive Sigma 33 circuit in the Solent. The class is always on the look out for crew (racing experience not necessarily required). If you are interested in getting involved in the Spring series please email Peter at: innesker@msn.com

Coaching the School Team

The OSSS is looking for members who might be interested in coaching dinghy racing for the School team. The staff and the team are keen to have some input from experienced sailors who might be able to hold special "clinic" sessions concentrating on tactics, boat speed, starts, tuning; whatever your forte may be! The current idea is to hold these sessions on a Saturday afternoon, perhaps once or twice a term during Michaelmas and Lent. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with Tak Kaneko (tk229@cam.ac.uk)