

Broad Reach

THE OLD SHIRBURNIAN SAILING SOCIETY NEWS LETTER



Beaulieu river, and in doing so passed the former Riobamba II on her moorings and looking in excellent condition in spite of her 29 years !

Chindit's crew enjoyed a fresh sailing breeze force 4 to 5 on the way back while Riobamba, with all crew on the fly bridge had a bumpy ride, but with an excellent view back to Pompey.

the Solent for five races with hopes high. The first start saw both the OSSS teams attempting to win the committee boat end of the line, resulting in a small luffing match between the two teams, who said this was a team sport! The 'A' team tacked off to the favoured right hand side of the course and on returning to the middle of the course found themselves leading the first race. This lead did not last too long as a slow hoist and set cost the team vital boat lengths. As the race ran on, after a slight issue with a large container ship, the OSSS boat slipped further down the fleet as they struggled to make the boat go through the water as quickly as the rest of the fleet. This became the pattern for many of the other races, as good starts and tactical awareness put

The Andrew Yorke Boys' Weekend 2007

The annual Andrew Yorke cruising weekend, in contrast to last year's appalling weather, started off with light airs on the Saturday which was disappointing for the Chindit crew. The conditions did favour those aboard Riobamba who were all able to practise their skills at handling a heavy motor cruiser in the calm of Portsmouth harbour before setting course for Gins Farm.

Due to the tides it was imperative to cross the Beaulieu bar by about 1615: this was achieved without incident and gave time for a dawdle up the river, to secure alongside a somewhat crowded RSYC pontoon . Dinner was served at 1945 by which time John Mitchell with one rugby player and Mrs Wicks with two rugby players had joined the party. It was most kind of John and Mrs Wicks not only to transport the three rugby players but also to face the task of driving back after dinner.

Sunday morning dawned windy and damp but the vessels set off around 1100 to explore the



Arrow Trophy 2007

The weekend of the 6th/7th October saw two OSSS teams head to Cowes for the annual Arrow Trophy, racing in identical Sunsail 37s. The boats were picked up on the Friday afternoon for some training out in the Eastern Solent, although this was cut short as the team managed to break the jib tack for the second time in three years! The OSSS 'A' team, helmed by Tom Beard, was keen to better their 5th position of last year with some good results and qualify for the match racing.

The Saturday morning dawned, and after a hearty breakfast, the teams headed out into

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Commodore:
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Peter Innes-Ker
Rear Commodore (Yacht Racing):
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Dinghy Sailing Secretary:
Rob Gosling
Broad Reach Editor:
Chris Hamon
Committee members:
Richard Anderton
Tom Beard
Marcus Chavasse
Stephen Foot
Michael French
Tak Kaneko

Winter 2007

the boat in good positions but the speed was lacking when compared to other boats, costing the team valuable positions in the top quarter of the fleet.

The 'B' team, held by Stephen Foot, managed some excellent sailing and grew in confidence throughout the day, especially in races 3 and 5 when they managed to beat the 'A' team. The third race was especially good, as they held onto third for much of the race only to lose out on the last mark round to slip to fifth, the best result of either boat over the weekend.

The evening brought the traditional prize-giving dinner in the Royal Corinthian where the Sherborne team from 2006 collected the Charterhouse Bowl. After a delicious meal and a few jars the teams and supporters headed back to Chindit for a nightcap before turning in for the night. The thick heads woke to more sunshine but unfortunately the lack of wind meant that the racing was abandoned for the Sunday. The 'A' team finished in the top half of the fleet but with a definite feeling that they had been let down by the slowest boat in the fleet, and with fingers crossed for a faster boat next year. The 'B' team were happy with their performance finishing two places behind the 'A' boat.

It was good to have the event oversubscribed enabling many more Old Shirburnian sailors to get involved with sailing; as well some new faces to the Arrow teams for 2007. It is always worth a visit to come and watch the event as the evenings are always hosted wonderfully by the Royal Corinthian, as well as by Nick Ware onboard Chindit. A big thank you, as always, to Peter Innes-Ker for his organisation of the boats as well as for all the work he does on the Arrow Trophy committee.

OSSS 'A' Team – Tom Beard, John Archer, Ed Whipp, Robert Gosling, Alec Russell, Freddie Saunders, Mike Pope, Tom Excel

OSSS 'B' Team – Stephen Foot, Peter Innes-Ker, Marcus Chavasse, John James, Ed House, Tom Badham-Thornhill, Rupert Bonham Smith, David Drew

Alex Russell



To Smith Island With Angus Cater

On September 9th, Old Shirburnian Angus Cater set sail from the River Hamble to sail his 45 ft yacht Harrac to Smith Island in the South Shetlands to climb Mount Foster. Smith Island (Coordinates: 63°00'S 62°30'W) is 29 km long and 8 km wide, lying 72 km west of Deception Island in the South Shetland Islands - about 500 miles south of the Falkland Islands.

Angus was inspired to lead this expedition in memory of Bill Tilman and Simon Richardson's previous and fated attempt in 1977. Simon, a

good friend of Angus, had met and got involved with the legendary sailor and explorer, Bill Tilman. Building his own boat (a converted Dutch barge 'En Avant'), Simon decided to go to Smith Island, in the South Shetlands (the North West corner of Antarctica), and climb its mountain, Mount Foster (2105m). Tilman, who went with him, had attempted this in the Sixties, but had failed due to a dreadful crew and poor weather. Tragically they disappeared somewhere between Rio and the Falklands and no trace of 'En Avant' or any of the crew was ever found.

On this 2007 expedition, Angus has a crew totalling 27 taking part in different legs - including Old Shirburnian Charles Street on the first leg.



The outward legs are from the Hamble to Las Palmas, then across the Atlantic to Granada, through the Panama Canal to Lima, down the west coasts of South America to Ushuaia, and then across to Smith Island. They return to the Hamble via the Falkland Islands, Piriapolis (Montevideo), Recife and the Azores.

All the crew took part in the preparations and training, and those involved in the actual ascent of Mount Foster spent a training weekend in Chamonix climbing and brushing up on mountaineering on the Mont Blanc Glacier. The crew will be joined on this leg by Nick Harding as lead climber, a former Royal Marine who has twice climbed Mount Everest.

As a Society, we wish Angus and all his crew well for this tremendous expedition and look forward to their safe return at the beginning of May next year. To find out more about Angus's 2007 Smith Island Expedition (and you can track Harrac's progress via the links to Yacht Plot, as well as reading their latest news), log on to www.smithisland.co.uk.

Charles Trefusis





Mid-Summer Madness

The Mid-summer Madness is meant to be a Solent waters rally for everyone to enjoy some sailing in the fine weather of late June, a glass or two of Pimms on the Commodore's poop-deck, and a convivial meal with maybe just one nightcap to follow. Sometimes things don't work out precisely as planned...

For the 2007 Midsummer Madness we once again took the soft option of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, with its walk ashore berths and related comforts and conveniences. Tempted perhaps by the lure of a civilised outing, an excellent array of some thirty old and young OS pledged to come. The old (ish) were particularly well represented, Hugh & Sue Archer, Martin & Vivien Thomas, Robert & Bridget Innes-Ker made guest appearances, in addition to the usual gang of OSSS stalwarts. The young(ish) mainly came in two utterly different craft – John Archer had borrowed "White Knuckles", the racing Prima 38 yacht on which several OS have crewed, while Rupert Bonham-Smith had charmed two young ladies into crewing on his much-modified racing powerboat.

Berths were booked for the six vessel fleet, a restaurant large enough to cater for the mob was reserved, tide-tables were consulted – all was ready! Then the Commodore reported back that, while en route from Portsmouth to St Vaast in France, he had stopped off in the chosen restaurant, which was not up to scratch. Panic!! At short notice an alternative was found and thirty places reserved, no mean feat in Yarmouth in the high season. All was go again.

Saturday dawned wild and woolly, out of the South West, bang on the nose of course. Bursts of rain rattled their way up the Solent. So it is with some pride in the ability of OS to overcome the elements that we can report that by mid-afternoon all six boats were tied up in Yarmouth, and all those under 35 were in the pub! In driving rain poop-decks were not recommended so the Pimms party moved inside. We can now report that the saloon of a Bavaria 49 will accommodate **28** OS, mostly wearing school colours or regalia, and the odd bottle or two of Pimms. The CE rating allows for a maximum of 12 persons only!!

Suitably refreshed, it was on to the replacement restaurant, a steak bar where you each cook your own steak on a hot rock plate. Absolutely superb meat and cracking good fun. It seems we got quite noisy....later, much later, on the way back to bed it seemed rude not to stop off at each yacht in turn, nightcaps in each of course. It was then that Dr Thomas was taught the modern meaning of dark and stormy....

Sunday dawned bright and breezy. Well at least the weather did. The OS fleet rose long after dawn, anything but b&b, so it was a blessing that the wind was still in the south west and made for a superb fast run

back to base.

Peter Innes-Ker

**Midsummer Madness 2008
will be 21/22 June.**

All OS with boats in the Solent area are welcome, as are any other OS who want to cadge a berth for the weekend. The more the madder!



**2008 Boat
Show Supper
January 12th at
Shampers**

**Contact Nick Ware for
Details**

Nick.ware@chindit.co.uk

Cross Channel Rally

This year's Cross-Channel Rally was scheduled to take place on the Whitsun Bank Holiday Weekend. The original destination was St Vaast but the harbour master could not guarantee the availability of berths due to a Royal Thames Yacht Club Rally. Accordingly we attempted to move the venue to Fecamp only to get thwarted by the Sussex Yacht Club's oversubscribed Royal Escape Race. However the Royal Thames had meanwhile flip-flopped with their dates freeing up pontoon space in St Vaast. So St Vaast was reinstated as the venue until the night of departure when, despite perfect weather conditions, the Met Office predicted winds perhaps increasing to gale force by Bank Holiday Monday. A majority decision by the skippers was to remain on the UK side of the channel and Robert Jenkins, steward at Gins Farm on the Beaulieu River, kindly agreed to host a rally dinner at 24 hours' notice on the Friday evening.

The following day, the fleet sailed in perfect conditions to Yarmouth. By Sunday morning,

the weather was looking more unsettled and the skippers unanimously decided to head for their home ports. This proved to be a wise decision as the Solent was hit by Force 8-9 winds from the NE on Sunday evening and several vessels in Yarmouth suffered considerable damage with standing waves entering the harbour.

The venue will be St Vaast in 2008 and we hope for better weather and a substantial OSSS fleet.

Nick Ware



Winter 2007

Dates for your Diary

January 12-13 2008

Carmela Cup

Royal Victoria Docks

Alec Russell

alecrussell@hotmail.co.uk

January 12 2008

Boat Show Supper

Shampers London W1

Nick Ware

Nick.ware@chindit.co.uk

March 7 2008

Young Members Drinks Party

London

alecrussell@hotmail.co.uk

March 15 2008

Stanger Leathes II

Sutton Bingham

Robert Gosling

Goose69_4pz@yahoo.co.uk

March 27 2008

AGM and Dinner

RTYC

Alec Russell

Russellaj@sherborne.org

May 1- 5 2008

Cross-Channel Rally Convening

in St. Vaast Friday 2nd May


Dinner Saturday 3rd May

June 21 2008

Stanger Leathes III

June 21-22 2008

Mid-Summer Madness



The President, Commodore and committee would like to wish all the members and their families a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. They look forward to welcoming you at the various sailing events in 2008

Please send articles for the next edition of Broad Reach to chamon@sherborne.org. Photographs are especially welcome!