

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Another lunar eclipse passes unobserved behind the clouds, it's dark at 17.00 hours and as another frostbite series fails to materialise we are reminded that the season is probably over for this year; so put the boat away and dolefully reflect on what might have been. But all is not lost – in my case far more races have been won in the garage than on the water so dream on! The 2003 may not have been a 'vintage' season sailing – wise but there has been much to celebrate: As previously reported the balcony project was a huge success and for the first time in living memory the front of the building is not undergoing continual decay and erosion, we have lots more space and the addition of some new lighting has really brightened up the interior. The Enterprise Nationals produced a superb team effort and massive support from the membership, resulting in a very successful event with many positive comments from the competitors, their friends and families. The healthy profit, well in excess of £6000 gives us a good base from which to build although our treasurer will no doubt emphasise the need for prudence as the overheads are continually increasing. The 'new' safety boat has proved to be popular and drives extremely well – so I am told! Understandably there was some reluctance to part with the larger rib in a 'part - ex ' deal but overall it was probably the best compromise available. We have also welcomed several new members this year and it has been great to see them on the water and getting fully involved in the social side of the Club. A special word of encouragement for those who perhaps have been a little more tentative – 'Don't be afraid to ask for help' – club members will only be too pleased to provide the support needed to break through that confidence barrier. Remember we have all been there! Congratulations to those who have 'flown the PSC flag' at World Championships, Nationals, Open Meetings and Regattas showing that we can compete with the best.

As the 'Close-season' approaches Colin Wainwright will soon be producing the definitive list of jobs to be done. The Sunday morning work parties were well attended last year – perhaps the coffee was better or the conversation more lively and/or erudite –so it would be tremendous to see a similar response this time. An immediate priority will be to renovate the 'end shed' to provide much needed extra storage.

Looking further ahead we have been approached by the National Fireball Association with a view to hosting their Championships in 2004. This request was discussed by the Committee on Monday 10th November and there was widespread support for the proposal, as a result we offered them a venue for the last week in August (21st – 27th) to avoid Fowey Week !! and the Tasar Nationals (3rd – 8th August). We would anticipate an entry of 65-70 boats and this hopefully should produce another substantial profit. The Steering Committee is due to meet with Association towards the end of the month to finalise the arrangements so we should be able to report back to the membership at the AGM.

Discussion at the AGM looks towards the future development of the Club so I have included a few 'points to ponder' – the list is not exclusive so please feel free to add your own!

- * A training programme for beginners and the more experienced sailors, with consideration given to resource implications.
- More frequent and extensive use of the Clubhouse: e.g. Training, rental, links with other local organisations, courses and seminars.
- Associate membership as a practical way of maintaining links with the Club and making the most of the facilities.
- * Galley rota – how could this be implemented to best effect and with the least amount of effort.
- Improvement in the changing facilities.
- Social programme: How can we make the Social Sub-Committee's job easier?

My personal thanks to the Committee: Meetings have been well attended And the discussion always positive and constructive. Problem areas have been identified and promptly sorted out with a good mix of enthusiasm and experience. The Sub-Committees have worked hard – often against quite trying circumstances – and have made a tremendous contribution during the year.

Finally an enormous thank you to the many members who gave their time and expertise throughout the year; at times the response has been overwhelming and certainly the critical factor in moving the Club forward.

With best wishes

Peter Pope

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