

CRUISER CAPTAIN'S LOG

Welcome to 'The Log' – newsletter for NQYC Cruiser owners and their crews. I hope to produce a version of 'The Log' every quarter. Please feel free to share with anyone you feel might be interested. I will try to keep it to one page of writing. Firstly and just to re-iterate, I have taken over (not press-ganged!) as cruiser captain from my big bruvver! Thank you Martin for all you have done over the past few years in post and thank you for volunteering to help out if I can't be In NQ - as sometimes the Journey from Poole can be a bit much for a weekend. Secondly, this year has seen some glorious sailing weather in Cardigan Bay and, overall we have been blessed when we sailed (the return from Aberdovey excepted). Sadly, we didn't make it to Cardigan or Fishguard but I guess we just have to accept that's the way the cookie crumbles (we made it up-river to Cardigan twice last year, so hey ho!).

Laying-UP/Prize-giving. It was a 'full house' at the Laying Up Supper in November. Those who missed it will be cursing themselves as Ali produced an excellent spread, while we awarded the sailing prizes...and drank wine! Results were as below.

NQYC Cruiser Results for 2017

Keelboat Regatta – 1st Drychin (Fulmar National Champion), 2nd Rodmar, 3rd Brainstorm
Spring Series Lynfield Cup - Brainstorm
Captain Ottway Jones Series – Activator
Eric Bemand – Brainstorm
Jamie Powell Cup (Tresaith) – Brainstorm
Wil Wal Waliog (Aberdovey) – Brainstorm
Cardigan Bay Regatta Overall – Rodmar
Bank Hol Series – Blue Sky
Parker Pot – Brainstorm
Last Race of Season (JR's Tankard) – Cara of Menai
First Race of Season (Austin's Tankard) – Brainstorm
Overall IRC Winner (Dolphin Trophy) – Brainstorm
Rabbits Paddle – Commodore and Co (Wot Not's broken mast)
Wild Rover Cup (Best Contribution of Club away from home) – Oli Thomas (Swedish Americas Cup Team)
Frank Willetts Trophy – Best Contribution to Club – Mike Masters

Sailing Format 2018.....It is early days but I have already an outline programme, which should be out by Christmas, so you can plan ahead. The cruiser racing is pretty much stagnant across the country (bar the Solent) with many clubs struggling to get numbers on the water, so we are no different. To help encourage those who sail less regularly or less consistently, we will introduce the RYAs National Handicap (NHC) system to our programme - as espoused by the RYA and mimicking the similar ECHO system in Ireland. In short, for each race everyone will be entered in the NHC result and the IRC results will be calculated for those with a valid IRC certificate. There will be prizes for both sets of results but because the IRC is the gold standard of time correction, the traditional trophies will be awarded to the IRC winner. All NQYC races will count toward an overall IRC and NHC fleet series results with trophies for both. My experience of NHC is that the correction factor doesn't really kick in until 4-5 races have been run but then you start to see big changes. It is thought that NHC levels the playing-field for short-handed crews or 'tired' boats with old sails, so that everyone can have a chance of winning; although it has also been said to reward mediocrity and stifle growth...the jury is out but I feel we should give it a try. It is hoped that we can work out the results quickly using the improved 'Hals' computing system, so that winners can be awarded with the initial prizes straight after sailing in the bar...thereby improving bar sales and profits; it is amazing what even 4 boats' crews all having two drinks will do to Ali's balance-sheet.

There will be passage races - weather and tide permitting - and also inshore Round-the-cans planned but it would be good get a bit of non-racing on the schedule too – I am in consultation with Aberaeron and other clubs in the area to formalise this. There is no keelboat regatta this year but Westerly Owners have agreed to allow us to continue to call it the regatta the Fulmar Nationals in 2019. Martin is writing a resume of the event this year for inclusion in the WOC magazine.

Discounted IRC in 2018 & 19 The RYA are planning a massive 50% IRC discount for those who have not had an IRC cert in the last 2 years, which is then carried over to the following year as a 25% discount for the whole club.....not to be sniffed at! Please contact either myself or Mark Willis. At present, it is planned to submit 3 times next year.....in March, May and July but remember, to get the discount, it must be done through the club. If you have new sails, please ensure they are measured by either the club or with a signed certificate from the sailmaker. Please get in touch.

Rules Update Over the Winter. After some Facebook 'banter' in the summer, we felt that, as a fleet, our knowledge of the rules was showing signs of malaise! So, if one is ill – what do you do?....See a doctor, of course! To that end, it was thought that a winter 'surgery' might send us on the road to recovery. In principle, Dr Pryce Jones, has agreed to run a 'rules clinic' in the dark month of Jan (Sat 13th Jan in NQYC). He will concentrate on the basics – starting, keeping clear/right of way and mark rounding. It will be open to both NQYC and AYC and we to hope arrange a simple winter-warmer meal/snack to help us through the evening. If you are interested, please get in touch with myself or speak to Ali at the bar.

We will try to publish these newsletters on the website and Facebook as well as emailing to everyone. If you hear that someone is missing out, please pass on their email to me. For now, that's it..... see you on Jan 13th. Have a fantastically festive Christmas and prosperous 2018.
STARBOARD!

Chris Seal – Cruiser Capt
(Contact details on email version)