



DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

It's just over a month since the end of the 2008 sailing season. How time has flown this year! Remember our 85th Championships, Classic Keelboat Week, Cowes Week and all the other sailing events we enjoyed? Enjoyed is probably not the right word as my strongest memories has been the heavy winds, broken masts, torn sails and generally very testing racing conditions. Let's hope next year the weather is a little kinder to us.

It's now time to turn our minds to winter maintenance, new sails etc. I can tell you, the topsides of three boats Melody, Why and Emily will be splined and Harmony and Jabberwocky are planning a few improvements.

David Miller tells me he is having a lot of work carried out on Why this year which will improve her stiffness and performance and he is looking for a partner, working or equity, to help him in the future.

After stripping off the old antifouling from Fay's port and starboard garboards, the first plank above the keel, it has been decided to replace the starboard garboard. It was interesting to find a section of the seam between

the garboard and next plank had been splined at some stage in the past. I wonder how many other boats have had similar unknown repairs. Making good the garboards will thankfully complete a four year overhaul of Fay and stop major leaks.

If any one else is planning to carry out significant work to their boat this winter, has found any interesting anomalies or would like to recommend any solutions please let me know so I can include them in my next newsletter

Following our last AGM, I am pleased to tell you that Anthony Robinson has been co-opted on to the ISC General Committee. Anthony is not a Class representative but I know he is sympathetic of the concerns of Sunbeam Members.

Talking of ISC, the proposal to charge Club Members for the use of the Club pontoon has been withdraw.

I am pleased to report that Ray Stedman, a past Solent Division member, has been elected the new Falmouth Class Captain. We have already been in touch and amongst other things discussed were Falmouth's plans for their 85th celebrations. It is proposed to have a Silver Sunbeam Race Dinner on 2nd May, the 85th anniversary of the first ever race at Falmouth and invite as many past and present Falmouth Sunbeam members as possible. Special racing to include Solent Sunbeams is provisionally planned from the evening of Friday 12th June to Tuesday 16th June. There will be no racing on the Monday but it is hoped Solent Division visitors will

have the opportunity to sail on the Working Boats. Ray hopes to be able to confirm their plans at our Cocktail Party on 10th January.

If you are planning to come to the Winter Cocktail party and haven't yet let Anne Colbourne know she would be grateful for your confirmation, e-mail anne.colbourne@btinternet.com or telephone 01243513963. Anne has asked me also to remind you there are a number of social events at ISC over the Christmas period and early next year. All the details can be found on the Club website www.itchenorsc.co.uk

Included with this newsletter is a revised and I hope, final version of our racing schedule for next year. A couple of things to note:

- Unfortunately the Fleet will be at Cowes for the CYC & DQSC regattas.
- There is no spare for the Youth or Under 30 Races as these races are planned at a special Club Youth Weekend
- Falmouth racing is not included as arrangements have not been finalised
- The Westmacott and Victory Class 75th Anniversary Regatta off Portsmouth harbour on 6th & 7th June has not been included

Why not make a note of the special sailing and social event dates on a Solent Sunbeam calendar. There are a few copies left and Peter would be pleased to hear from you, peter@peternicholson.com or phone 01243572115. Why not give a Sunbeam calendar to a friend to help promote the Class.

As most of you know by now a number of important changes in sailing rules, dispute resolution and sailing instruction will come into force when we start sailing again. So everyone has an opportunity to understand these changes, the Club has arranged a comprehensive training programme which is to be published on the Club and Class websites next week. So we can all enjoy our sailing I strongly encourage every one to take advantage of this training.

Finally Sarah and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoy your skiing, Caribbean sailing holiday and life in general over the next few months and come back fully invigorated and fresh for sailing in the spring.

Richard