



AGM, MONDAY 9th AUGUST 2010

COMMODORE'S REPORT

- 1 I would like to thank Bob as Vice commodore and all the Committee members and Conveners for their work since last year's AGM. I would also like to thank everyone else in the Club but not on the Committee who offered helpful advice and assistance.
- 2 We have established the Club's own web site which is really a must in this day and age and I hope it continues to develop and improve.
- 3 Although I unfortunately could not attend, the Open Day despite perhaps not being held on the ideal day due to circumstances outside our control did prove to be successful.
- 4 Again due to other commitments, I was not able to attend any of the Club/Training nights. However these have proved to be popular in attracting new blood and interest in the Club. Hopefully the good work put in by John Leiper and his helpers in training will continue to benefit the Club. This aspect is essential to the future of the Club and the use of the 3 new centreboards should allow those who have outgrown the topper fleet to continue their progression and take part in racing either in the centre boat fleet or the local fleet.
- 5 The member's Survey proved very useful to the Committee in assessing suggested areas for improvement. This allowed the Committee to formulate an Action plan most of which has been implemented.
- 6 I am very grateful to Ruth McAndrew for reviewing and reproducing the Club's Health and Safety documentation. Although Health & Safety can be seen as over bureaucratic and restrictive, it is never the less essential in this day and age. If something happens and this documentation is not in place then the Club would be in very serious trouble. Small details in the excellent documentation need to be completed and I would urge the new Committee to make this a priority. I would also urge that the Club appoint, whether from within the existing structure or as a new post a Safety Officer.

- 7 Unfortunately the audit of the Handicap System has not been fully completed as requested at last year's AGM and I apologise for this. Some work has been done but remains to be completed. I would hope the Handicap Committee will take this forward as a matter of urgency. Mentioning the Handicap Committee I was amazed to find that there are no available records of previous meetings. This must change and all minutes of future Handicap Committees be kept and published on the web site. One other matter which should be looked at is the rule about material changes to a boat or rig. First of all it should be clarified what the sanction is for breaching this rule – added time, disqualification from a race or whatever. There has been a lot of discussion about whether a boat has declared a new sail or rig and whether or not it has been declared or what, if anything, the Handicap Committee did or should do about it and a lack of record keeping does not help in this regard. I would suggest that the rule be amended to provide for a specific penalty whereby a tariff of time penalties be stated: so much for a new main, so much for a new jib, so much for a new mast etc. Then it will be clear to everyone what will happen.
- 8 Regarding Committees, I would ask that nominees ensure that they have the time to attend meetings and take part in the various work that requires to be done. I am blaming no one in this regard over the last year as it is not expected that every Committee member attend every meeting if their work or personal circumstances change after a meeting has been fixed. However I have heard of instances where a task has been asked of someone but there has been the stock excuse: I can't I am too busy. Everyone is busy and their time is precious but if you have been appointed to a Committee then you should be expected to do your utmost to serve the Club and events organised on behalf of the Club.
- 9 Moving on to the Regatta, thanks largely to the weather everything went smoothly with only two races requiring to be rerun which they were in the first week. The lack of centre boards was very disappointing but hopefully the new centreboard boats will mean this will change next year. Finally I would like to raise the matter of reduction in size of the sail area of local boats. In my opinion local boats are overpowered and, at times, on the verge of being out of control. Last year's AGM asked the Committee to look at this but nothing unfortunately was ever completed. I was amazed to have to cancel a race when the wind speed was only 16mph. This cannot be acceptable. The way local boats are set up now is hardly conducive to attracting young skippers. Sailing should be competitive yes but did previous generations not enjoy competitive racing with much smaller sails. As a purely non binding exercise it would be interesting to see how many present agree that sail size (not just mainsails) should be reduced. All those who think it should, please raise your hands.

10 Finally may I thank the Club for appointing me and I wish my successor and the Club all the best in the future.

Alasdair MacKenzie
9th August 2010