

LR Scow News

Newsletter of the Lymington River Scow Class Association

Late summer 2016



Eric Williams in IDA
Winner of the Single
Hander Class. Photo by
Nick Boxall

Dear Member

I hope you have been enjoying some great sailing in your scow this summer when the weather has permitted. A number of events have been either postponed or cancelled due to strong winds or little or no wind. The weather seems to be following a predictable pattern of the last few years. Despite this a number of events have still taken place as you will see later in the Newsletter.

Please do let me have your stories for the Trail Sail and Tell Tale Trophies as mentioned on page 8.

This is the last Newsletter that I shall put together. I hope you have found them interesting and informative. I should like to thank all who have contributed articles and news. I have certainly enjoyed wielding my red pencil!

David Howden. Editor. August 2016
davidhowden@talktalk.net

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Association matters

We welcome the following new members to the Association:

Roger Young	Mudhopper	405
Christine Young	Sea Mouse	378
Lizzie Anders	Pegu	550
Wendy Aiken	Catmint	395
Graham Dickinson	Fleckerl	552
Roger Mavity	Claridges	474
JAC Mavity	Grey Matter	506
Ian Curtis	Bauble	375
Ken Garrod	Footloose	411
Caroline Goddard	Corky 2	471

Ollie Tait changed to Full member from Associate (Whimsy 460)

Transfer of Ownership:

Mary Montague-Scott	Rainbow renamed Moti	363
Philip Hutchinson	Skylark	425
Charlie Bubear	Buster	252
Harry Hutchinson	Humbug	465
Sue Taylor	Kitty	280
Tim Harford	Scowndrel	334

Associate:

Claire Sowry
Sarah Richards
Andrew Richards
Jonny Tait

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP PROCEDURE

Dan McCarthy, Class Measurer, asks members who are selling their scows privately to return the Owners Certificate together with the new owner's particulars to the Class Measurer for details to be noted and a new certificate issued.

Dates for you diary

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Friday, 23rd September, 2016 at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club at 6.30 pm. followed by the **ANNUAL DINNER**.

THE NATIONALS will be held on the 16th and 17th September 2017 and will be hosted by Lymington Town Sailing Club.

2016 Your Committee & other posts:

Hon. President: Gordon Stredwick **Chairman:** John Evans

Vice Chairman: Jon Harvey **Hon. Secretary:** Dorinda Nellis,

Hon. Treasurer: David Weller **Association Class Measurer:** Dan McCarthy with Meriel McCarthy **Other members:** Jane Cook, David Howden (Editor of the Newsletter) Brendan Nellis – Web Master.

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Fleet Notes

I would very much like to hear from Scow Captains/Club Secretaries about their LR Scow Class events. Editor.

THE 19th NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Challenging conditions for the Nationals.

Brisk winds gusting to 28 knots greeted the Lymington River Scows as they returned to Keyhaven for the 2016 National Championships on 9th and 10th July. Most of the fleet elected to reef before heading out of Keyhaven River for the West Solent, and of those that didn't most had reefed before the start of the first race.



In the single handed fleet Eric Williams, winner in 2015, picked up where he had left off and led race one from start to finish, Cy Grisley and Jon Harvey traded places with the former taking second by a boat length, with Chris Sanders coming home fourth. Races two and three followed the same pattern, the exception being Chris Sanders who took third from Jon Harvey in race three.

In the double handed fleet race one saw Sarah and George Richards set the pace pursued by 2015 winners Rory and Alex Paton, with Catherine Maguire and Agnes Putt in third place. Race two followed much the same pattern with 2015 Juniors winners Jonny Tait and Max Pumphrey moving into third pushing Maguire and Putt down to fourth. Maguire and Putt came back to win race three followed by the Patons and then Sarah and George Richards. At the end of the first day two points separated the first three double handed boats.

Sunday dawned with marginally lighter conditions than Saturday, and again no one in the single handed fleet was able to get close to Eric Williams who took first place in races four and five. Chris Sanders took second in race four followed by Jon Harvey and Cy Grisley. Race 5 followed form with Eric Williams coming home in front of Cy Grisley and Jon Harvey, James Young finishing fourth followed by Chris Sanders.

In the double handed fleet a gear failure in race 4 forced the retirement of Rory and Alex Paton, and effectively ruled them out of contention, while Catherine Maguire and Agnes Putt continued their form taking first place followed by the Richards. The decider, race five, was won by juniors Jonny Tait and Max Pumphrey, Sarah and George Richards finished second to secure the championship, followed by Maguire and Putt.

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In his winners speech Eric Williams thanked race officer Colin Dunford for the excellent courses and race management which allowed a full programme to be completed despite the challenging conditions which resulted in only 21 of the 37 entries completing the series.

Results:

Single Handed: 1st Eric Williams, 2nd Cy Grisley, 3rd Jon Harvey

Double Handed: 1st Sarah and George Richards, 2nd Catherine Maguire and Agnes Putt, 3rd Rory and Alex Paton

Juniors: 1st Jonny Tait and Max Pumphrey, 2nd Ollie Tait and Alice Wood

Masters Single Handed: Pel Bruce

Masters Double Handed: Chris and Jane Willard

Newcomer: Pel Bruce

Jon Harvey – Vice-Chairman and Captain of Scows Keyhaven YC

Our President's view of the Scow Nationals

One of the most challenging National Championships I can remember! With the wind gusting well above 20 knots, a poor forecast, and wind over tide conditions in the afternoon, the race officer, Colin Dunford, was very close to cancelling racing on Saturday, the first day, and no one would have blamed him. He decided to postpone for an hour, and surprisingly conditions and the forecast moderated slightly. He announced racing would go ahead with the least delay to the first start as possible, and the hardy rushed off to rig their boats, most of them reefing. Many decided the comfort of the clubhouse was preferable (your correspondent included!). In the event Colin managed to run the planned three races without too much trouble.

Sunday dawned little better, but by now the fleet had proved itself and both planned races were sailed.

My congratulations to the winners, indeed to all those who raced, who proved what a seaworthy boat we have and what competent sailors sail it. My thanks to Keyhaven Yacht Club for once again hosting our Nationals – Keyhaven is a great place to sail a Scow – to Jon Harvey who coordinated the Championship, and in particular to Colin Dunford and his team who, as I have said, managed to provide a full programme of races in the most challenging of conditions.

Gordon Stredwick – Honorary President

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Stop Press

The following is an extract from the "Yachts and Yachting", September Issue, a piece written by Sue Pelling Deputy Editor of the Y & Y. I understand from Gordon Stredwick that a larger piece by David Hensall will go into "All at Sea". *Editor.*

Lymington River Scow 25th

The 25-year-old modern Lymington River Scow celebrated its 20th national championship at Keyhaven YC this year with a bumper turnout of over 40 boats.

This incredibly simple, yet competitive 11ft race boat is one of the most popular all-round, family dinghies with over 300 built to date. To celebrate the success of the class in its 20th anniversary championship year, Gordon Stredwick – Honorary President of the Lymington River Scow Class Association, World Sailing International Judge and member of the RYA Racing Rules Committee – has produced The Lymington River Scow – A History.

In this delightful book, Stredwick maps the entire history of the class from conception to maturity and records the key milestones that have helped the class achieve success. Commenting on significance of the book in the 20th national championship year, Stredwick said: "The 25th anniversary and the 20th anniversary national championship, and indeed foundation of the Association, were happy coincidences, which rather confirmed the justification for the book."

For a copy of the book, go to lymingtonriverscow.org.



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Sale of Polo shirts at the Nationals raises £595.00

John Claridge donated a number of Polo shirts for sale at the Championships which were sold in aid of Oakhaven Hospice and raised £595.00.

A Challenge from your President !

Gordon Stredwick advises me that the photographs in his history of the class show over 50 boats (identifiable to him!), more than 25% of boats owned by Association Members (also many of those owned by clubs) – can you spot yours....?

Do email me at davidhowden@talktalk.net with your comments. Editor.

Sailing in Chichester Harbour July 2016

Our Chichester Correspondent Liz Sagues reports from Dell Quay on a July 25 Potter:

"We had a splendid Scow potter. Twenty boats in all, lots of them LR Scows but also Chichester Scows and a couple of others. Boats came from West Wittering, Bosham and Dell Quay SC. We met up near Itchenor and tied up to a big jetty off Bosham Hoe for a tea-time picnic (and to wait for an ambulance for one unfortunate sailor who had dislocated her knee) then went our separate ways home. Brisk wind and lots of wet sailors after wind against tide one way or the other, but we've resolved to do it again.

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Trailing Your Scow

Even if you've never trailed a boat before, trailing your scow is easy and straightforward. But there are a few things you can do to ensure it is a pleasant experience.

The Claridge trailer is very well designed and loading the boat onto it is easy. So, a few hints and tips and **DOs** and **DON'Ts** before you set off.

DO:

The **WEEK BEFORE** your trip:

- Check all the lights work. Spare bulbs are standard sizes and are cheap and readily available. A spare of each is not a bad idea.
- Inspect the straps/tie-down ropes. We all have plenty of old rope which will often be useable. Or straps can be bought cheaply on Lymington market.
- Check tyre pressures (including the spare).
- Grease the wheel bearings. If you don't have a grease gun, ask around. We're sure that there are a few in the fleet.
- Carry a spare wheel.
- Tie the lighting board on securely, including the ends.
- Tie the boat down securely. Especially the bow.
- Put padding/bits of carpet under the tie-downs.
- For the first ½ mile, keep the windows open and the radio off so that you can hear any strange noises.
- Stop after a couple of miles and check straps etc. Things can and do work loose!
- If you stop for any reason, do a quick check of the boat and trailer.

DON'T:

- Tie the boat down too hard. You'll break it! Hard enough to hold it firmly against the trailer – no more.
- Use lifejackets as padding. They are designed to keep you afloat, not for the abrasion and pressure of being padding.
- Go too fast. The trailing speed limit is 50 mph on single carriageway roads (unless signs show otherwise) and 60 mph on dual carriageways and motorways.
- Use the 3rd lane of the motorway. It's illegal!

Rory Paton and Mike Urwin
April 2016

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The Trail Sail Trophy



John Turner presented the Association with this lovely trophy designed and made by Jane Pitt-Pitts to be awarded for "The most notable Trail-Sail". You will need to write a short piece about your adventures which could also be entered for the Tell Tale Trophy.

Your Committee are very much looking forward to awarding the Trophy this year so do send in your stories of your Trail Sails far and wide. Please send your entries to:
davidhowden@talktalk.net.

The Tell Tale Trophy



The photograph shows the **Tell Tale Trophy**.

The Trophy was donated by Mervyn Cook, to be awarded to a member of the LRSCA, judged by the Committee, to have produced the best piece of creative writing/artwork during the preceding year.

I look forward to receiving your anecdotes, photographs or pictures about your Scow activities for entry in 2016. Come on, getting writing, painting or taking pictures and send them to me at:
davidhowden@talktalk.net.

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News from The Scow Division of Royal Lymington Yacht Club

Scows enjoy a busy month

1. "Threading the Needles"



Meticulously planned by Graham Neal and David Weller and then efficiently led by Graham, 16 scows with 28 members on board departed around 10.00 on 14th July to gather at the mouth of the Lymington River and form up into "pods" of 4 or 5, each pod led by a support RIB. At 10.35 we got under way and sailed in a gentle NW breeze down to Hurst and on to the Needles. The last of the ebb added to our speed and little over an hour

later the leading pod reached our target. The sun shone and a Hurricane flew overhead, the unmistakable sound of its Merlin engine alerting us to its presence.

By now the breeze had dropped significantly but there was just enough to waft us through the gap, rocks to each side showing white foam in the moderate swell that was running. And then around the lighthouse and back to Hurst, slow going at first but soon speeded by the first of the new flood.

Most Scows opted to break the journey home with a picnic on Hurst spit. While there the sea breeze arrived, a brisk 15-18 knot South Westerly which made the picnic anchorage a little uncomfortable but ensured a fast sail back to Lymington. Perfect conditions, a lovely day, one to remember.

2. Figure of Eight Race

The annual "Figure of Eight" race around both Oxey and Pylewell Islands is a firm favourite in the Scow racing calendar. It does require a high tide at about 1500 and this year that meant Saturday 23rd July. Conditions were lively, 15-18 knots from the SW and the tide beginning to ebb which would soon kick up a nasty short sea for the two legs in the Solent. 22 boats came to the line, set just to the south of the entrance to Oxey Lake. This meant a short reach before turning upwind between the mud banks. Barry Dunning in Firecracker lead the fleet away from the gun with Chris Cecil-Wright in Smartie, Ollie Tait and Zak Milner in Whimsey, Gordon Stredwick in Marian and Dick Moore in Piccinin close behind. At the top of Oxey Lake Smartie had dropped right back and Scorchin (John Evans) was with the leaders.

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The run down the outside of Oxe involved a number of gybes, all negotiated safely in the choppy conditions and then came the narrow channel inside Pylewell Island. The skipper of Whimsey cut the mud too fine and was seen jumping out to push his boat clear. Clarissa's boom (Dubbie Robinson) got entangled in Dick Moore's lifejacket and nearly pulled him into the water! It was close quarters racing.

For the last leg the choice was to tack well out into the Solent to gain full advantage from the tide or work along the shore in smoother conditions. Firecracker and Scorchin went that way while Whimsey, Marian and Tourbillon (Philip Shute) went out to sea. At the finish Whimsey crossed first, Firecracker was second and Marian third.

As is usual, the fleet then enjoyed a splendid afternoon tea, provided by Gillie Pearson and a team of volunteers and with most of the cakes and other delights baked by Members.

3. Hinxman Trophy

This had been cancelled back in May and followed just 3 days after the Figure of Eight but once again 22 boats entered and set out for the start, near the river entrance. Conditions were testing, the wind again from the South West and averaging 18 knots with gusts to 23. There was a strong ebb tide and a really bad sea. Sunshine would have helped but the sky was grey under lowering clouds. A few competitors decided to reef (it had not been as windy back at the Club), a few more turned for home.

The first race was abandoned owing to a mix-up over the flags. Race Officer Vince Sutherland soon got the fleet away, a short quadrilateral course of two laps. The gybes were tricky and a few boats went in. Jay Devonshire was first to finish in True Blue with the Urwins in Nutshell second and Catherine Maguire with Toby Etheridge third in Daffy Duck, proof that weight is not needed in a blow if your technique is good enough!

Conditions were if anything worse than before and so the third race was cancelled and the fleet started race 4, a short beat and then back home to finish on the Club line. Chris Sanders sailing Anna was the winner. Despite being hopelessly over-canvassed on the beat, his full main and light weight enabled him to overtake boat after boat on the reach back up the river. The Urwins recorded another second and Catherine Maguire another third. Overall the winners were Mike and Ros Urwin with Chris Sanders second and Catherine Maguire third.

Of the 22 entrants only 12 finished, something of a record.

4. Scow Division Friendly Race vs Beaulieu River SC on 17th June

14 of our Scows raced against 7 visitors last Friday evening. The weather, which had dropped curtains of rain on the river for most of the afternoon, brightened up about 1630 just as we were launching and, even better, a light breeze sprang up in time for the start from the Club line at 1700.



John Evans in 'Scorchin' led the fleet away down river towards Mark "Y", then upwind and into the new flood tide towards a black dumpy laid for the

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occasion. Most of the fleet followed him inshore towards Oxy but the wind shifted and the middle of the fleet boats suddenly realised they could lay the mark by tacking into the current. John spotted the danger and just held his lead around the windward mark with Dick Moore in Piccinin a length behind. Mike and Ros Urwin in Nutshell were third.

The run ended at "Y" and the fleet then turned back up river to the Club finish. Just about the rockeries the inevitable inbound ferry came along, troubling everyone but mostly the Urwins. Evans led past the wave barrier but chose to tack inshore among the moorings while Piccinin tacked out into the river, followed by the David and Kate Carslaw in Zephyrus, David Weller and Katie Ould in Chuckle and Simon van Hagen in Sea Talk. It was tense racing in the shifty breeze. At the finish Piccinin was just ahead of Scorchin with Zephyrus third. BRSC Commodore Mary Montagu Scott was first home of the visitors, finishing in 6th place.

Over 40 of us gathered in the Bar to swap stories and then enjoyed an excellent Dinner. The visitors have invited us back to Needs Ore on the 2nd September for a return match.

Dick Moore, Captain of Scows, Royal Lymington Yacht Club.
