

LRSCA

Chairman's Report Oct 2026

We look back on a year of steady Scowing, across our three fleets; actively racing and pottering, with the usual interruptions from the weather.

On the racing front, turnouts at Lymington for Monday evenings were slightly disappointing, not having recovered to pre-Covid levels. Entries for the 3 Tuesday Trophy events were also low; racing from committee boat starts with 3 short races for the various cups is a great format. Also weak was the entry for the Figure 8 race despite it being a Travellers Trophy event - it was however quite windy. Come on Racers , get out there.

It was good to see Scows represented in the Lymington Junior Regatta, one sailed valiantly in the Silver fleet, completing every race in windy and light conditions; achieving some excellent racing experience for the 3 crew. The Scows came into their own for the popular Mariners Fleet, 6 Scows sailed 3 up and they coped with all conditions and with fun and good experience including a "first" - sailing to Yarmouth beach for a picnic. All sailed successfully back with no tows needed.

Lymington will also be holding a Scow event with Saturday racing monthly throughout the winter – called the River Cup. It will be Stadium racing in front of the Clubhouse using Club Scows. Helms need to be RLym members.

Beaulieu are enjoying good levels of entry, as a percentage of fleet size. Is it because they usually race fortnightly on the spring tides, making the occasion one not to miss? At their Regatta at the end of August, strong wind led to cancellation of Feva and Laser/ILCA fleets, but the tough old Scows raced on with it's ability to reef !

Beaulieu also potter when at Needs Ore, but use a WhatsApp group to gather a fleet when conditions look good, not so easy at Lymington where safety cover is needed.

Pottering at Lymington seems strong and well organised, threading the Needles this year at the 2nd attempt, but the weather won recently when an invasion of Newtown was planned and the fleet had to remain ashore on North Island.

A Beaulieu sailor also achieved a great result, Cleo Johnson, (young teenager daughter of our committee member Red) sailed around the Isle of Wight solo in her Scow, camping for the night at Bembridge, raising money for the RSPB.

Keyhaven report healthy Scow fleet racing with 8-12 turning out, and pottering regularly oversubscribed.

The class continues to grow, with 3 new boats commissioned this year and secondhand values recovering from a low, in a year which has been very slow for the whole boating industry.

Our finances remain strong, under the watchful eye of Roger, who also helps with the Website amongst his busy schedule of race management here and around the globe!

Which brings me to a complex matter:

Many people have complained that our website is hard to find. It is if you search under "Lymington River Scow", this is because we are still battling to recover our title from the original

web designer, (who we engaged to start our website using the RYA template, which we subsequently abandoned as too unwieldy) .

HOW TO FIND THE WEBSITE.....'www.lymingtonriverscow.org' will access the site, then please bookmark it. We appreciate that this is not ideal for non members searching for the site, but we hope to resolve this soon, one route is that we have purchased "LRSCA.org.uk" and it is set up to send all hits to the above correct site.

Having successfully entered the site, I think that you will agree that it is well designed and carries some good information, not least the list of boats/owners where I would urge you to check your entry and report any errors to our Treasurer. The site also holds our technical details and annual measurement info, although under restricted access.

What the site really needs is regular updating with diary, news items, fleet reports, adverts, boats for sale etc.

It is ideal for keeping in touch with members further afield, Chichester Harbour and even East Anglia !

For this task **we need a WEBMASTER**. Uploading is not difficult. Ideally the Webmaster would also be a committee member, although this is not essential. **Please apply !**

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS ...

We also need a transfusion of younger blood into our committee, please contact us for the lowdown. We have convivial meetings no more than 6 times a year

That's enough from me for now. It remains for me to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and advice, especially our Secretary and Treasurer, and all those who help this class to flourish in the divisions.

We are grateful to David Linsell who has administered the embryo website over the past year and will hand over to a more widely tasked Webmaster.

Jay Devonshire

14 September 2026