

SOCIAL CLUB

Since our last newsletter there have been a few important changes. After coming back to take over from Alison and keep us going for six months, the ever-faithful Denise handed over the keys to our new Bar Manager, Sue Lockyer. Sue is no newcomer to the Varne bar, having worked here back in the day (before my time) so she slipped into the role without a ripple, and is doing a fine job, especially in supporting the Events Team and promoting private functions, which add so much to Club funds.

We all are well aware of the essential contribution made by the Social Club to the over-all finances of the Varne Boat Club Ltd. Throughout last year, stock and running costs were rising and, now we are VATable, our profitability has been eroded even more. In the expectation of further duty increases in the March Budget, we have held off increasing our bar prices in order to avoid doing it more than once, but in a year when we have major spending plans (see Treasurer's Report) that can't continue. Rest assured though, increases will be kept to the minimum. You'll still get the best value-for-money on Romney Marsh. Our teams have been doing well on Monday and Tuesday nights:

Pool remains popular, our 'B' team having finished 4th in the league and reaching the finals of the knock-out competition. The 'A' team seem to have got tired

EVENTS

There already have been three events from our new organising group:

Christmas dinner was a great success. This was John Langton's baby and it certainly gave him and Mags plenty to do. First they went and got all the food and wine and then, with their helpers, prepared, cooked and served the whole thing. This, with an essentially domestic kitchen set-up and a very temperamental oven! The 34 assembled diners didn't seem to mind the delay – they just had another aperitif (or five). Anyway, everybody went home very happy (Some very very happy!)

A Saturday social evening for members in February went down well, with pool and killer-pool for everyone, and a quiz provided by Paul Cackett. Watch the notice board and website for more of these through the year.

The pie & mash night on 13th March again saw John and Mags slaving away in the kitchen, John having brought the Manzie's pies and liquor from London, but the mash, of course, being done the hard way. Sue was involved throughout – peeling spuds in the morning, working the bar all evening and, a little bird tells us, clearing up in the

of holding the rest of their division up, so started to forge ahead at the end of the season. It seems to me that they have less success but more fun. Keep up the good work boys!

Ladies Darts. We have two teams and, although we don't yet know their final results, one team seems set to be second in the league. Well done girls! They certainly seem to have enjoyed their matches, from what I have seen.

Quiz. We entered two teams in the league before the start of the season but, due to an apparent communication breakdown, one team withdrew. This didn't deter the rest of us though, and it looks like we're going to be 3rd in the division, with a decent chance in the end-of-season K.O.

Tuesday prospects. There is a petanque (French boules) league, which replaces the quiz league and runs from about April to September. Here we are, sitting in the middle of a large expanse of shingle, which is an ideal surface for this sport, and all that is needed is to mark off an area about 10m x 3m for a couple of hours once a week, and we're in business. It's a simple game that anyone can play (even me) and lots of fun; and it attracts spectators.

To get started, we need 4 players per team plus a few reserves, and ideally we want 2 teams. The farthest fixtures are in the Rye area, and team members normally take turns in doing the transport. Let me know asap if you're interested. I won't sign up until I'm sure we're viable.

Terry Carter, Social Club Treasurer
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kitchen on Sunday morning! All worth it though. A grand night, with about 70 people, a fun quiz (conducted by our resident comic, Paul, and won by the Ashford family and friends) and a good old Cockney sing-song to finish.

COMING UP

CAMRA beer & cider festival – Tenterden, 12th June, with transport.

Raft race and RNLI joint Emergency Services day – the biggest event in our calendar - 7th Aug.

TO BE ARRANGED subject to sufficient support:

Greyhound Racing Family Fun Day Day trip to France

Jazz on a Summer's Day Ideas and suggestions about any of the above will be welcomed.

The Events Team:

Paul Cackett John Langton Graham Smith
paulbc@btinternet.com j.g.j.smith@btinternet.com



SUMMERS COMING SUMMERS COMING

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

The
VARNE
Boat & Social Club

So, how long since you saw one of these? Those of us who contributed thought nobody read our little rag, but now people are asking what happened to their newsletter! Fact is, after Tony Hills stepped down as editor, the only fools who volunteered to take it on temporarily were Chris Matthews and me. Unfortunately, both of us have been too busy with our main Club duties to give the poor old newsletter much attention until now. Enough of the excuses. Let's get on....T.C.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I'd like to take this opportunity to advise members of the Club's financial position, and in particular the state of play regarding the upper floor balcony extension.

We have reached the final stage of the planning process and a structural engineer is currently drawing up a specification for the work which can then go out to tender.

The extension will benefit the Club, particularly over the summer period, and can go ahead provided that it is the view of the Directors that the Club's financial well being will not be jeopardised.

At present the Club has about £18,000 in the bank, and subscriptions and Social Club income

are holding up well. However, there is no doubt we will be unable to generate sufficient funds both to carry out this improvement and to provide for the inevitable contingencies that will arise in the course of the year. Therefore we will need to raise capital from other sources.

We could go to the bank, but currently, while banks are rebuilding their capital bases, commercial loans are difficult to get, especially for a small company, limited by guarantee, and having only a single asset (the clubhouse). There's also a natural reluctance to pay our hard-earned money to outside lenders. So the preferred option is first to approach our members.

In another club of which I once was a member, money for a new clubhouse was raised by a combination of the sale of interest-free bonds to members and some members paying their fees between 3 and 5 years in advance. I am floating these ideas, just to see what the reaction of members will be.

The extension will enhance the facilities for all of us, as well as attracting new members, so should be seen as an investment that can be expected to pay for itself, and ultimately to generate more income for on-going maintenance and improvement of our club.

Even I, as an impoverished pensioner, would be prepared to offer financial assistance to the Club, in the sure knowledge that my money would be safe and put to good use; but until we know what the costs will be, we cannot come around with our begging bowl.

Meanwhile, if anyone would like to help, or can think of better ways to raise the capital, I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Best wishes
Hugh Bagshaw hbagshaw@aol.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT

VAT. Increasing turnover (hooray) forced us to register for VAT (booo) in November. The effects of this mean that:

Sports membership and compound fees are exempt, but launch vehicle fees are not. It was decided to increase the L/V fee by the VAT payable (£10.50) Social Club membership is subject to VAT, but no increase was imposed, since the main source of Social Club income is over the bar. Review of bar prices was deferred until all cost price increases, including those expected in the 2010 Budget, are known. Pool table income is exempt.

AGM. The meeting was well attended and dealt with the agenda items promptly. The big difference this time was that a large number of amendments to the Articles of Association were proposed, occasioned by a new Companies Act together with a general tidying up of the Club's procedures. All the proposed changes had been circulated beforehand, and were adopted unanimously.

The most significant change was that the new Act provides for electronic communication between a Company and its Members to be the default position. The AGM therefore resolved that all members must: Either provide an email address to which all communications will be sent Or Write to me, requesting that communications be sent by mail.

This means that, if you do neither, you will not receive notifications of forthcoming events, newsletters, or any other material, other than that dealing with membership matters.

Election of the General Committee is another item needing special mention. There had been several resignations during the year, some of which were filled by secondment and some remaining vacant. Your Committee now consists of the following:

President, Webmaster, print production: Chris Matthews
Commodore: vacant
Vice Commodore: vacant
Rear Commodore: vacant
Hon. Treasurer, Launch Vehicles & Ramp Officer: Hugh Bagshaw
Hon. Sec., Social Club Treasurer, newsletter editor: Terry Carter
Membership Sec: Sandra McKay
Land-yacht Capt: Mark Serejko

Fishing Capt: Chris Cardwell (seconded since AGM)
Power Boat Capt: Mick Waldman
PWC Capt: Paul Black
Safety Officer: Simon Kilburn
Compound Mgr, Marshal: Steve Allen
Bo's'n, Marshal: Zal Paksy
Building Mgr: Eric Richardson
Others actively involved in the running of the Club are:
Bar Mgr: Sue Lockyer
Social Events Organisers: Paul Cackett (also Marshal), Graham Smith, John Langton.
The House & Social Sub-committee consists of the Hon. Treasurer, Social Club Treasurer, Bar Manager, Building Manager, and one of the Events team.

On a personal note, those of you who were at the AGM heard me give notice that I would be resigning as Hon. Sec. this year, and that my preferred option would be to have a volunteer to understudy me for however long they felt necessary before taking over. This is my first opportunity to cast the net wider, and I am hopeful that somebody will come forward before I quit. The job will not be as onerous as I have made it for myself, because I am prepared to retain this editing post and to continue as Social Treasurer for a while longer. So the responsibilities will be to call meetings, take and circulate minutes, and perform an active role in the running of the Club through membership of the General Committee. Please form an orderly queue....

Terry Carter, Hon. Sec.
clubsec@varneboatclub.co.uk

FISHING SECTION

Once Chris Cardwell took on the job of Fishing Captain, he lost no time in calling a meeting to see what level of support he'd get. He was surprised when 19 anglers turned up, and a committee was formed there and then, to encourage more boat angling activity than has been seen in recent years. Zal Paksy put together a letter, which was posted or mailed to every section member in March, laying out the group's objectives. As we go to press, several outings have been fixed, and by the time you are reading this we will know whether all the hard work is bearing fruit. Let's hope so. Keep up to date by visiting the website www.varneboatclub.co.uk and/or logging on to the forum www.vbcforum.co.uk/forum Questions, comments please to **Chris Cardwell, Fishing Captain (07751 3336607, email ccard12580@aol.com) or Zal Paksy (07903 700623 email mail@kentaerialexpert.co.uk)**

PWC SECTION

Opening 2010 Report

The season has got off to a slow start this year "to cold and snowy" at present we have 39 members in our section this total is down on last years membership of 45. Several people are yet to renew membership and I will be taking an active role alongside the marshals again this year to check "V" Numbers and membership details, remember no "V" Number no ride ! please renew any memberships ASAP to avoid disappointment and a spoilt day.

We have several events planned for the 2010 season firstly "The Jetworks" of Whitstable have been invited back again to run a PWC demonstration day, dates will be in May / June time, I will put out posters and e mails as usual when we have confirmed the date, BBQ Bar, will be open anybody with ideas for the day please let me know. Come down and ride the new Seadoo RXT-XS and the awesome RXP-X !!



Jon and Tom off of the Varne in Sunnier times!

LAUNCH VEHICLES and RAMP

As I write this, all the launch vehicles are working and the ramp is clear of shingle. How long this will last I do not know! We spent a lot on launch vehicles last year, and they are now probably in better condition than they have ever been. I have also built up an extensive stock of spare parts, which will save money when things go wrong in the future. Chris Cardwell has kindly donated a large manual winch, which we are going to mount on one of the dumpers. It's just an experiment at this stage, but may help in the recovery of heavy boats, and will provide back-up when members' own winches either break or malfunction (It's happened to all of us). If the experiment proves successful we may modify the

Six safety lane buoys will soon be in place at the Varne with another four more on order, Please keep outside of the buoys and when using the Safety lane to access the sea and returning 8 Knots (6 MPH) is the max speed under club rules



Shakespeare Cliffs Dover

I will be printing off a leaflet soon to show local rules for Dymchurch, Hythe, Folkestone and Rye please pick one up and take notice of their rules. This is to save any problems during the summer with local authorities, the leaflet will also detail safe distances from lifeboats, powerboats, skiers etc.

If anyone has any ideas for events for the PWC Section please get in contact with me in the meantime lets be safe out there and have another great safe season.

Paul Black
PWC Section Captain
Tel 01797 367750 Mobile 07718 660718

other L/Vs. The Environment Agency has removed a large quantity of shingle from around the ramp and the water outfall. There are plans to construct a rock groyne on the Dymchurch side of the outfall, and this will protect our ramp from shingle in the future. This is very good news, as it means we will not have to construct a new ramp (for which we already have planning permission) but can simply repair the existing one, if and when necessary. Please continue to report faults on the dumpers, either directly to me or via the blackboard in the Clubhouse. If I don't know it's broke, I can't get it fixed. One last moan – we keep losing sets of keys. If you take them home by mistake, please return them next time you're in the vicinity. I hope you all have a good boating season and, most importantly, stay safe. Best wishes
Hugh Bagshaw hbagshaw@aol.com