



Bath Sailing Club

Newsletter



The Newsletter

This is an occasional update for members where you will find a review of the past year's programme, a summary of what's to come, some reflections on the 2019 Rally in Plymouth, information about the 2020 Annual Dinner and upcoming RYA courses and a brief overview of events over the next few months. 2019 also saw the sad loss of three club members; we are including members' appreciations and reflections on their lives.

Club Programme and Talks 2019

2019 has seen a varied and fun range of events and guest speakers.

The year started with a talk by club member **Malcolm Shirley** who took us through his experiences on the **Cape Horn leg of the First Round-the-World Yacht Race in 1973-4**. I'm very sad to say that Malcolm passed away during the year; you will find a short obituary later in the newsletter.

After our **Annual Dinner** in February, we were entertained in March by **Paul and Vicky Lees**. Paul founded **Crusader Sails** in Poole and fascinated the audience with the technicalities of sail design and manufacture.

April saw a very sociable group of members head downstairs in The Village Club for a game of **skittles**, another event that was so successful that we have planned another in 2020.

After the May Rally, members re-convened in September for the AGM and to hear tales from

the **Caribbean crew** of members who chartered out there earlier in the year. We also visited the **Southampton Boat Show**.

In October, we were fortunate to catch **Will Hodshon** who only weeks before had smashed the Round Britain record for a non-stop journey in an open, 16-foot Wayfarer Dinghy – 15 days!! Club members and guests were generous in their sup-

port for the charities supported by the **Nipegegi Round Britain** expedition.

By way of contrast, in November, **Peter Reason**, local writer and retired Bath Uni-

versity academic spoke eloquently about his **ecological pilgrimages** in his Rustler 31 to the South West coast of Ireland and West coast of Scotland.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the December meeting and to hearing from **Andrew Blayney** about the work of **Underfall Yard** in Bristol, and its part in the development and history of Bristol Docks.

Here's hoping we can keep up the standards for 2020!

Happy Christmas

to all members.

Wishing you fair winds in 2020, wherever they take you!

Rally 2019

Friday 24 May saw two members boats – ‘Mother of Ten’ and ‘Passim’ – converge on Cawsands Bay outside Plymouth. We were to have been four boats but mechanical problems and ill-health saw



us a slightly smaller fleet than anticipated. Passim by this time had enjoyed a splendid afternoon sail out to the Eddystone Lighthouse.

A fine meal, a gentle night at anchor and Saturday dawned clear and fair with moderate winds and a similar sea state. Mother of Ten slipped away swiftly followed closely by Passim and both head-



ed west towards Fowey. Passim stood further out from shore than Mother of Ten, and although she had to put in a significant tack to the south, still somehow made it into Fowey ahead of her rival (not that there was the slightest hint of competition you understand). After a thoroughly enjoyable 5-hour sail, we moored against the floating pontoon just down from the ferry.

Bimini up and apéros followed by a river taxi trip found both crews ashore at a local restaurant for a highly convivial evening.

Sunday dawned with slightly greyer skies. MoT's skipper had his crew well-schooled and they were away bright and early. Passim followed after a respectable period and both boats made it back to Plymouth in good time on a beam/broad reach (as I remember!).



The crews dispersed on the Sunday afternoon after much thanks and praise for the organisers and skippers and with a vow that we should do it again next year. That's the plan...!

Morley



RYA Courses

As you know, we have been keen to re-introduce occasional courses for club members. Those who attended the AGM indicated real interest in First Aid, the perennial essential, and in a VHF/SRC radio course and we have provisionally fixed dates for these next February and March. We say provisionally as it depends on getting sufficient numbers on each. We hope to run them at the Village Hall, Bathford; the dates are as follows:

Sunday 23rd February 2020. RYA First Aid Course.

One day course covering First Aid specific to water users. Areas include drowning, cold water shock, dehydration, hypothermia, helicopter rescue systems and medical assistance calls. For more details follow link to <https://bristolmaritime.co.uk/courses/firstaid/>

Probable subsidised cost to members: £40

Sunday 29th March 2020. RYA VHF/SRC Course.

One day course required by law to operate VHF and DSC equipment. Topics include basics of radio operation, channels and frequencies including Search and Rescue (SART) and Emergency Position Radio Beacons (EPIRB). For more details follow the link to <https://bristolmaritime.co.uk/courses/vhf-src-radio/>. Probable subsidised cost to members: £50. If any members wish to take the RYA Exam at end of course, this will cost an additional £60.

Please note that these courses will run at a discounted group rate and there is a further member's subsidy of £10 per person per course included in the fees noted above.

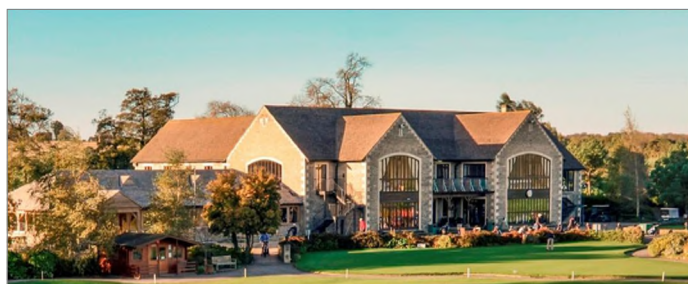
Upcoming club meetings

We have a number of events and guest speakers coming up over the coming months.

January sees **Adrian Tuddenham** of the **Somerset Coal Canal Society** talking about the industrial archaeology and the engineering aspects of a now historical local industry,

After our **Annual Dinner** in February, our speaker in March will be committee member **Martin Hobday**. He will be talking about **Noteworthy Sailing Craft**. In April we plan to be back to the **skittles** alley by which time we should have more information and planning to share about the **2020 Rally**. More anon on that one!

Annual Dinner 2020



Following our highly successful 2019 Annual Dinner at Cumberwell Park Golf Course, we are planning to return for 2020! Here is a date for your diaries:

The Bath Sailing Club Annual Dinner will be held on Monday 10 February 2020 at the Cumberwell Park Golf Course.

The dinner is fantastic value. As last year, we have opted for a Two-course Dinner – Main + Dessert (+Coffee/Tea) – at the price of £20 per head.

We will need to let the Golf Club know our menu choices ahead of the Dinner, so [please look through the menu you'll find on the last page.](#)

On arrival there will be a welcome drink for Members and guests 'on the Club', the pay bar will be open throughout and a wine list is available.

Here are some admin details:

- [Hugh Baker](#) will be in charge of arrangements;

please let him know you will be coming, at the latest **by Monday 13 January** (the day of the January Club meeting in Bathford).

- Please make payment at this time (the Club needs to pay a deposit to Cumberwell Park at this point) and let Hugh know your menu choices.

- Address and contact details for the Golf Club:

Cumberwell Park Golf Club

Cumberwell Park

Bradford-on-Avon

Wiltshire, BA15 2PQ

Tel: 01225 863322

- Arrival: The evening starts 7.00 – 7.30 pm.

Don't hesitate to contact Hugh or Morley if there is anything that needs clarification.

Do come. If it is anything like last year, it is going to be an excellent, fun & convivial evening!

In Memoriam

We are very sad to recall how the club lost three longstanding members during the year. Each in their own way was an intrinsic part of the fabric of the club. What follows is an obituary and appreciation of their lives; they have crossed the bar but their memories live on for many ...

HELEN THOMAS

26/6/1036...23/7/1019.

An appreciation of Helen's life and some memories by Jeff Watkins.

Helen was a woman of full of energy, curiosity and some opinions. Born into a doctor's family in Fairford, Oxfordshire she had a wonderful upbringing complete with her own pony. Joining the WRNS she was based in the Naval Met Office. She felt this did not stretch her enough so started a secretary's post with the BBC in London. This was much more to her liking and during that time met Mike. They married and as an active RN family they travelled quite a bit.

Four children later and having been based in Plymouth, Dartmouth, Rosyth, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Portsmouth and Hong Kong they finally settled in Bath. Mike retired from the Navy and Helen took up a job at Bath Technical College in the 89s and 90s. This involved social education on the hot subjects of AIDS and HIV. The family took to sailing via a small dinghy and then 'Hesperus', a small yacht. They upgraded to 'Mythos' which was a Merlin 28. Exploration included The Solent, South Coast, Cross Channel and Brittany amongst other trips. It was whilst I was caravanning years ago with my young family near Dinan that I looked across the narrow waterway to see Mike and Helen beaming at me. Serendipity had brought us together. What an afternoon celebration with wine, orange juice and nibbles we had together. Mike and Helen wrote articles for the Club publication called 'Bath Tap'. All of which proved both interesting, informative, pragmatic and with a light and sometimes humorous touch. Our girl Helen took on the arduous task of becoming Secretary to the Bath Cruising Club, as it was originally named, in 2008. Incredibly proactive in her duties, she relentlessly searched out some great speakers for us. Her contacts were many, made at Boat shows, harbour walls, sailing events, boat yards, and from publications. In her 10 years on watch as the Hon Sec., she suffered many a chairman and committee member and we all loved her. She was understated, modest, organised, caring, effective and when necessary totally opinionated. This last attribute I mention in admiration! She had fortitude and inner strength, values which served her well in her illness which was both painful and acute. Never having self-pity at all. I remember visiting her just days before she died. We lamented and chuckled over the dreadful politicians of all parties. We shared sailing books together for years and I treasure those of hers in my possession. Telling her I was struggling with Tilman's collective works, she laughed and said 'don't worry I never finished the

book, please keep it.' Helen captained her beloved 'Hecate' a Yarmouth 23. She had taken to learning her sailing trade properly despite mainly being the cook and bosun when with Mike on Mythos. Hecate served her well, sharing the sailing with her granddaughter whenever possible from her home port at the Joint Services Marina in Gosport. She made great friendships via her Class Association and Gaffers meetings. I believe her last season in 2018 proved most enjoyable to her.

In other areas of her life, she had a lovely family and each year Helen decamped to her daughter's home in Italy. Helen studied for several degrees including at least one Masters. She learned Ancient Greek in the winter. Her walls were thick with books including her own theses. She had humour and curiosity throughout her life but missed Mike after he passed away. Helen died quietly at home in Bath with her family around her. A copy of Yachting Monthly was on her bedside table. She remained a remarkable woman to the end. I miss her company and her friendship as so many of us do.

May your last anchorage be together with Mike and well protected from prevailing travails. Rest well sweet lady for we miss you.

DUDLEY ROESSLER

16/4/1924...30/10/2019.

An appreciation of Dudley's life and some sailing memories by Jeff Watkins

Dudley was an active member of our club for over 30 years or more.

Destined to be at, near, or in the sea from an early age, he joined the Sea cadets in 1941. There he got a basic grounding in seamanship and group interaction on the briny. He began RN Commando training in 1942 in Scotland.

By June 6th 1944 he found himself in command of a secret type of landing craft at Juno Beach. Equipped with rockets on board he pressed his

attack fearlessly. Hit by a mine later, he survived. (if you go online typing in 'Dudley Roessler' you can read his own account).

65 years later the French decorated him with a Legion d'Honneur medal in recognition of his bravery and service. Later he joined the Royal Navy Scientific Service and was much involved in Radar design and modification. In 1957 he married his lovely fiancé Gillian and they complemented each other marvellously. Dud was serious, studied, with a blend of humour, Gillian was busy, articulate, cheerful and caring of their two children.

Dud was mad on Sharpies, a one design dinghy with a large sail. It was dropped for the Olympics and the Flying Dutchman took its place. He was successful on the racing scene and maintained a lifelong interest in the Langstone Club where there was a fleet. I understand he was Chairman of the Sharpie Club until his death. I remember going down to the south coast with him and Gillian in his Rover 3.5 to a ceremony where he presented his own Sharpie to the Club for the training and use of youngsters as he was not able to race it anymore.

Having taken retirement in 1984 he continued to pursue several interests including languages and spoke fluent German, maintaining some German friends. This despite his altercation with the despised Nazi regime in the wartime. He loved his sailing and I remember when he was nearly 80 years young he joined with John Howell and Bob Hutchins to sail Bob's Pageant 23 cross channel. Their combined ages meant there was more than an excess of maritime knowledge and tradition on board; they voyaged safely and in Bristol fashion.

Dudley was a complete gentleman and extremely knowledgeable, setting our club many a Quiz which invoked learning and entertainment in coils.

On one of my weekend charters in the Solent he shipped aboard, albeit with a degree of dementia, as our 'Commander in Chief', certainly outranking the mere skipper. Having his cap blown overboard in the Beaulieu River he implied it was not of any

importance. However, all hands were called on deck and with a bit of careening and some nifty manoeuvring the matelots recovered the floating prize, much to Dudley's delight.

Years before, when I owned 'Victan', a Westerly Longbow, we had some impromptu racing in the Solent on our Rally weekend. At a critical point in the race he popped his head up from the navigatorium to enquire politely if I was over pressing the rather excessively heeled yacht. I explained that I would wait a time as we were pulling past others. At that very moment the boom swivel snapped with a massive bang and the main flapped uselessly. Not a word was said as I retired the boat red-faced.

Sail away Dud into the long sunset on a gentle ebb. We have fond Club memories of friendship and fun.

MALCOLM SHIRLEY CEng, FIMarEST, FRSA, FRCA (Hon)

Secretary, Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851.

As Secretary to the 1851 Royal Commission since 2002, Malcolm Shirley administered the educational trust set up after the Great Exhibition "to increase the means of industrial education and extend the influence of science and art upon productive Industry." A professional engineer, he joined the Royal Commission after a period as Director General of the Engineering Council, following a successful and varied career in the Royal Navy.

Joining the Royal Navy in 1963, after Dartmouth and engineering training, his early career was spent mostly at sea. During this time he also took part in the first Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race in the RN entry ADVENTURE and was also the Senior Engineer Officer of the Royal Yacht BRITANNIA. After staff training, his appointments afloat and ashore included 2 years in the British Embassy in Paris as the Assistant Naval Attaché

and later at NATO HQ in Belgium as a National Military Representative. He was promoted to Commodore in 1994. He then led a major study of naval manpower before taking command of HMS SULTAN, Europe's largest military school, training all the Navy's specialist marine, nuclear and air engineering personnel. He left the Navy in 1998 to join the Engineering Council.

In over three years at the Engineering Council, Malcolm steered it through a major review, refocussing its activity base, reducing costs, restructuring and reducing staff levels, arresting registration fee increases and generating headroom for new work. He brought together the many representative bodies of the profession and developed a major campaign to promote the profession and market registration and Institution membership. He then saw through the dismantling of the Council to create two new bodies, EC(UK) and the new Engineering & Technology Board, before leaving to take up his current appointment.

At the 1851 Royal Commission he maintained its high reputation by developing the core research fellowship programmes and raising the profile and outreach of the Commission's work. Having set up a web-based alumni association for previous award winners and established web-based award application processes, he worked to raise the profile of the Great Exhibition legacy estate in South Kensington. He also developed joint activities with other organisations as the Commission's income continued to grow.

Married, with three adult sons, Malcolm interests included house restoration, gardening, music and sailing. He was a member of the RNSA and the Royal Yacht Squadron, a freeman of the City of London and an Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Engineers.

Dan Conley

Annual Dinner 2020 — menu choices

Cumberwell Golf Club

Monday 10th February 2020

On Arrival

A drink 'on the Club'!

Main Course

Crispy Skin Sea Bass

with Pea Puree, Spring Onion Potato Cake and White Wine Sauce
Homemade

Chicken Kiev

with Gratin Potato and Tomato and Basil Sauce

Twice Cooked Belly of Pork

with Parsnip and Potato Puree, Caramelised Apples and a Creamy
Mustard Sauce

Pesto and Mozzarella Lasagne

with Mixed Leaves and Garlic Bread

Desserts

Baileys Cheesecake

with Vanilla Ice Cream

Apple Strudel

with Classic Vanilla Sauce

Classic Tarte au Citron

served with Raspberry Coulis

A selection of Teas and Coffee are included and are served with
Homemade Chocolates

£20 including a welcome drink (wine or fruit juice) on arrival