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THE DARING ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

19 July 08

Dear Daring Sailors,

Please all note for your diaries, as was agreed at the last AGM.

The date of the next AGM (and dinner) is 8 December 08 in the RTYC.

Not as published in the latest members' handbook.

2008 SEASON SO FAR

I don't propose to say too much about the season so far because the results and commentaries have all been circulated thanks to Paul Miller's sterling work. They all available on the internet; at <http://cowes.result.vg/public/regattaindex> for the results and http://www.daring.org.uk/content/reports_jun_jul.htm for the race reports. But it does seem to me to have been a season of extreme weather - often with either too much wind for comfort or too little! Despite this turnouts have been reasonable and, as usual, competition has been fierce.

CORY CUP

The Cory Cup 08 results have, I am sorry to say been discarded and the event will be re-run on 27/28 September. The main reason for this was that the requirements for entry were not clearly spelt out, which resulted in two groups of competitors and the race committee all interpreting the requirements differently! Attached are some new very simple rules and entry system, which I have agreed with the RTYC and which aim to encourage maximum participation.

The Cory Cup is owned by the RTYC and at present is competed for by the Daring Class. Its origins go back at least to before WW2, when the West Solent Class raced for it. In the 1950/60s the Dragon Class was also involved. It is a competition between Yacht Club representatives (one boat per club - no team racing!) and is raced for, usually, over any normal Red Funnel or Solent Series weekend. The prize is a trophy but the icing on the cake is dinner for two at the RTYC prize giving in London. The event is therefore a "bolt-on" which adds a bit a fun to a routine racing weekend.

STUG PERRY TROPHY

I am delighted to say that this event went off smoothly under the control of the RCYC. Sunday looked dodgy to start with but the wind filled-in late morning, in time to complete the event. You can see the results and report on line.

INTERNATIONAL TEAM RACING EVENT

The ITRE is a wonderfully corinthian regatta with teams from Sweden, Gstaad, Monaco, Costa Smeralda, Gran Canaria, the RYS and the Darings. The event was started by Daring sailors but was run this year (10-13 July) by the RYS. It was very nice to see lots of Daring sailors involved as Umpires and at least two others sailing for the RYS!! Monaco won in a close final from the RYS and the results also show that the Daring team needs a bit more practice! However with team racing events coming up in Seawanhaka and Perth there will be plenty of opportunity for this. I would encourage anyone who has not already done so to have a go - watch out for more details from David Gower.

METRE REGATTA

I am delighted that at least 14 Darings are entered for the Metre Regatta, along no doubt with many other beautiful boats, including some 6, 8 and 12 metre boats. Concurrently there is a Classic meet, so it should be a spectacular Solent event.

EAST WIGHT

Do try to support these two weekends after Cowes Week; we are always made to feel very welcome by both the SVYC and the BSC. Remember to enter and to book an extra scrub with Lallows and remember the Ladies' Race on 24 August and the Crews' Passage Race back to Cowes on 25th.

SOCIAL

Thank you to all those who have supported Tricia Neri with the idea of patronising, after racing on Saturdays, the club running that weekend's racing. The idea has caught on in the Daring Class and the other keelboat classes, and an (un!)healthy cake competition seems to be developing between clubs! Please note that on 13/14 September 08 it is the CCYC regatta and it would be great if people could make the effort to patronise their clubhouse just once annually. It a bit of a hike, nearly to Lallows, but I would encourage all those racing on the Saturday to make the effort - think of it as crew fitness training! Tricia will put out the usual reminder.

The Spring Dinner was well attended and I would remind every body of our Cowes Week Reception on Tuesday 5 August for which you should have your invitations, the Summer party – BBQ this year - in the SVYC on 24 August for which the invitation is attached and the AGM/Dinner in the RTYC on 8 December. We will also run the usual very informal end of season lunch in the RYS Pavilion on 19 October. Please put these dates in your diaries.

DARING DEVELOPMENT (D2)

You should all have seen the Class Admiral's recent letter which had the effect of establishing a better project management structure and slowing down the D2 project. This should allow a better system of management and more time for consultation - and consensus. The letter also set out some useful basic principles, which I reproduce here;

The aim of the D2 project will be as follows: To develop a new deck design and construction method for Daring yachts so that it will be possible for old boats to be replaced with safer, more comfortable, cost effective hulls which retain the hull shape, weight, centre of gravity and sail plan of the existing fleet and, most importantly, similar performance.

The Controlling Board directed that the following principles be applied rigorously throughout the project:

- 1. That the weight, hull shape, sail plan and centre of gravity be identical to the original Daring design.*
- 2. That an independent and appropriately qualified expert be appointed to oversee all design and construction phases. In addition to approve and review all proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations for the Design & Construction of a Daring Class Yacht. His priority being to ensure that, although the new build will take account of modern techniques & materials, the design will remain a true Daring with an even performance against the existing fleet.*
- 3. That the cost of procurement of the new deck mould be absorbed by the class as a whole. That the cost of the procurement of the inner mould be absorbed by the project. That, after construction of the first 20 boats, all moulds (including the hull mould) be the property of the Class.*

All that I would add is that any changes to our Class Rules and Regulations will require to be endorsed by the class as a whole. In addition, having examined our rules and drawings quite carefully, it is very apparent to me that naturally, over the years, a number of gaps and inconsistencies have developed that we would have needed to address sooner or later as a matter of course. In the meantime an experienced independent designer is now involved with the project and is in what I would describe as

an "information gathering" phase. There is therefore not any great movement to report and I will leave it to David Gower to keep you up to date, through me and the Committee, whenever there is any further substantive progress. In the meantime I am confident that Association Members will keep the consultation process going with lots more forthright, constructive comment!

SECRETARIAL SUPPORT

It is with an enormous amount of gratitude that I must announce that Helen Lowe and Ally Acland have both stated that they wish to "retire" from providing clerical and other administrative support to the Class at the end of the year. As a team, for at least fourteen years, they have maintained the membership data base and produced the annual handbook. Helen also acts as a communications hub for the Class and has provided essential support to numerous Class Captains and Committee Members for a very long time. They will both be sorely missed but I am sure that we will not lose contact completely; they are part of the fabric of the class. Two questions immediately spring to mind for your Class Committee: how do we say goodbye? And how can we replace them? So far we have some ideas but no firm answers. So, if any member of the Class has any thoughts please pass them on to me or any other Class Committee member. All ideas will go into the melting pot and we will come up with some answers by the end of the season.

THE DARING CLASS WEBSITE

Could any one who has access to some high-quality action-packed photographs send them to via Paul Miller millerp@caribdata.co.uk for onward transmission to our webmaster.

Yours ever,

Carron Snagge