

INTRODUCTION

THE ROYAL GOUROCK YACHT CLUB YEARBOOK 2011

Welcome to your Yearbook for 2011

When I decided to take on the role as Hon Sailing Secretary, my goal was to, compliment the fantastic shore based facilities we now have, by increasing the demand for Yacht Racing on the Ashton Shores. The Commodore Suite and the Upper Deck Room along with the support from the Bar and Catering has encouraged more people back to race at the club.

One significant change will be the resurrection of the Etchells Class. It has been many years since there were sufficient numbers at the club to warrant a class start and I am delighted to welcome more of these fantastic Yachts once again to Royal Gourock Yacht Club. With a confirmed 7 Yachts due to arrive in the spring we have set a strict class rules whereby all Yachts must be antifouled and sit on the mooring for the season. There will be limitations on age and we shall have results for the Classic Etchells and the Modern Etchells from the shore there will be little difference.

In another new venture for this season we shall see the Topper Dinghy making an introduction to the shores off Ashton. The Topper is the RYA recognized pathway dinghy for 9 -15 year olds, with 5 at the club we hope to encourage our Cadets to have a go. These are superb dinghys designed for the beginner who with the correct support can achieve at National and International level. It is hoped that we shall see the Scottish Topper Traveler Circuit to once again visit our shores.

This year we will have a slight change to the traditional Ladies Race which will now be opened up to your crew. With this amendment we would hope to encourage more boats to the start line and give the Crew the chance to show the skipper what he should be doing. I would actively encourage the regular skippers to take to the foredeck for this race.

When I was younger racing off the Club, the Platform was a no go area, all these guys in their blazers looking down on us from on high. Never did I imagine myself being one of these guys and never will I. The Platform is OPEN, of course it is busy on race nights and the challenges of setting a course are limited by time, however, I would actively encourage All members, to take an interest in this aspect of the management of our races, we are always seeking support on the Platform and there is no better training than standing watching first hand.

In advance I would like to thank those who have supported this in the past and would encourage others to take part. There are many administrative duties involved in running a race and this year I invite our social members to take part in another social side of the club.

From 9th -12th July 2011 we shall once again welcome the Tall Ships Race to Inverclyde. There will be many new faces round that weekend and I would encourage members to visit the event and take time to come along to the club.

Cruising Musters - There are the usual Cruising Musters planned for this year, with so many picture squeaky locations nearby, I do hope these will be supported.

Corporate Regattas – This will be our 11th year running the Laing O'Rourke Corporate Sailing Regatta. It has been a great success and we have even generated new members from this. Why has this been running for 11 years, well because we are good at it! The combination of our race management skills, hospitality and catering skills rolled out in one day at this unique location speaks for itself. Again I would encourage members to come down to the Club on Wednesday 8th June 2011.

Finally – Saturday 11 June 2011, a blast! The Soap Box Derby on the high seas – RGYC Raft Race, into its 3rd year and growing, it has even been brought forward in the calendar due to popularity.

Always remember " A bad day on the water is better than a good day in the office".

Cameron Still

Honorary Sailing Secretary