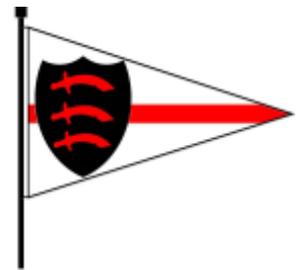


NFYC Members Survey Actions Update



April 2017

Introduction

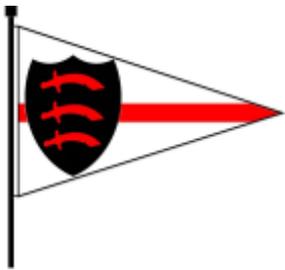
The Commodore and club committee are keen that the membership is kept up-to-date with the decisions and progress made on the various topics covered in the recent Membership Survey, hence this update.

Things are moving quickly in a number of areas so please consider this a snapshot of where we've got to as at the end of March, rather than a definitive and detailed progress report. I've tried to provide the essential detail while still keeping it fairly brief. If there's anything you feel you'd like more details about please don't hesitate to contact Nick, the Commodore.

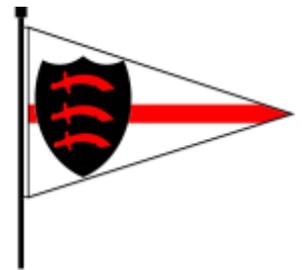
Summary

Real progress has been made in a number of areas. How we conduct Rallies is getting a makeover. We are going to open a Rowing section and have already got a new gig, which is due to arrive before the end of May – Yacht Havens are giving us quite a bit of support with this NFYC initiative. We have taken up the offer of a sailing dinghy (a "Graduate") and are actively working out how it is to be managed. A monthly "Club Night" is being introduced and the logistics around providing food and drink at such events are being investigated. The Clubhouse has already been improved in several ways (some of which, such as the new kitchen, was work already scheduled) and some old facilities are being restored. The storage facility has also had a few features added.

Clearly, we've been really rather busy on behalf of current and future members over the last few months. There is much left to do and there are other things we are yet to consider but, all in all, we are pleased to report that real progress is being made.



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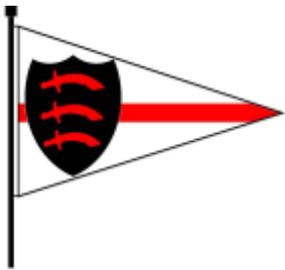
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A. On-water Activities

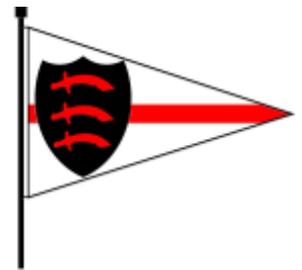
A1. Cruising / Rallies

The survey showed there was a lot of enthusiasm for rallies / cruising-in-company but that improvements could be made to their organisation and operation. Accordingly, the Rear-Commodore, Brian Dalby, has taken on the task of improving the rallying / cruising experience for all that wish to join in. Key points in a mooted development plan are:

- A pre-event briefing for those intending to take part, covering passage-planning (tides, timings etc.) for both the outward and return journeys
- Grouping of boats by average cruising speed
- Rally specific radio communication protocol
- "Leader" boat/crew tasked with arriving at destination ahead of other boats to facilitate/assist other arrivals
- "Sweeper" boat so that a straggler isn't left on their own.
- A degree of "in-port" organisation so that arrangements for entertainment / activities are clear.
- New destinations. This year's destinations are already in the club calendar but there's room for some variation and fresh destinations could be added next year.
- Invitation to skippers thinking about joining in, to sail on a rally as a guest on someone else's boat – to see what happens and how one prepares.



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This year's calendar already includes some rally dates. The first one is over the Mayday bank holiday weekend (29th April to 1st May) when we are all invited to the Royal Harwich Yacht Club on the River Orwell. While it probably won't be possible to implement all of the ideas in this first rally of 2017 there will be a skipper's briefing / planning session in the clubhouse on April 28th (the first of our new "Club Nights" - see below). In fact, even if you don't plan to participate in this rally but will, or might, participate in others later in the year please consider coming to the club on the 28th April to find out more (and to have your say) about rallying with NFYC.

A2. Racing

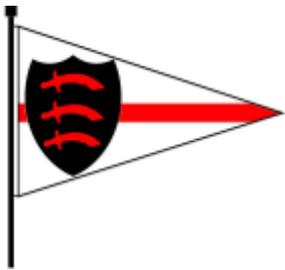
The feedback was that we've got the racing more or less right so there won't be too much change here. However, look out for a few small but significant modifications coming up in our club programme – these aiming to make specific events simpler and more attractive to beginners and small crews.

A3. Other Competitions

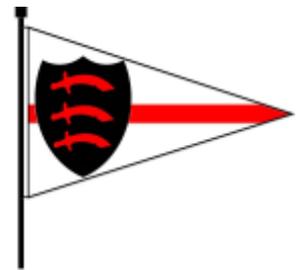
We've decided these aren't a priority at the moment. This doesn't mean that we'll never have a treasure hunt (the club has run these in the past and very successfully) or whatever, just that with all the other things going on we won't be doing one just yet.

A4. Rowing

We decided that we had to progress a rowing facility as the timing is right, the opportunity is now and if we don't take it we could well be left behind. Accordingly, Nick began looking at options (boats, storage, funding, safety management etc.) and has made terrific progress – so much so everything is happening a bit faster than expected! Nick has already found a sponsor for



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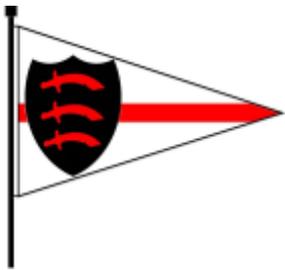
our first gig! He is Roy Hart, a long-time member of NFYC and well known on the Crouch. The boat has been ordered and could be with us by the end of May! It is a "Spirit" class boat, built in Colchester and already used by a number of clubs on the river. Unsurprisingly, much of the detail is yet to be sorted out but storage has already been arranged (at the Yacht Station) and other local clubs are happy to help us with the various procedures, safety controls etc. that will need to be put in place. Sport England have been contacted with a view to receiving a government grant targeted at improving sporting participation amongst the Over-55s – that'll be most of us then! Excellent progress.

A5. Boat Show

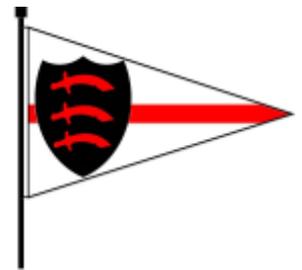
There was quite a bit of interest in this idea so we have decided that it is worth pursuing further, although at a lower priority than some of the other initiatives. Watch this space.

A6. Sailing Dinghy (was F.)

Again there was sufficient interest in trying the operation of a sailing dinghy to make the idea worth progressing. Courtesy of a member of the club, Bruce Peckett, NFYC has a sailing dinghy, a "Super Graduate 12", available for members' use as a club facility. We are currently looking at the insurance, storage and safety requirements as well as how it can be operated/managed. Hopefully these things can be sorted fairly quickly such that the dinghy becomes available for use by members sometime this season.



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B. Social Events

There was quite a bit of interest in some form of regular club social event and it is also something the Committee felt was important. We have decided that, based upon the survey results, a NFYC "Club Nights" will be held monthly, usually on Friday nights in season (April-October) and usually on Saturday nights out-of-season (November to March). Two of the committee members have been tasked with seeing how best these events could be arranged and how food and drink might be provided. The first "club night" will be on April 28th (the week after the annual and informal "Fitting Out" supper – a buffet style event).

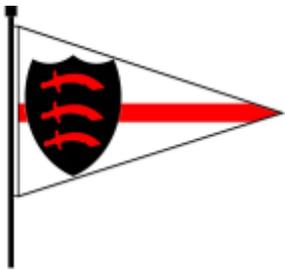
That evening is the one just before the start of first of this year's cruising events, a rally to the Royal Harwich Yacht Club on the Orwell (see above) so will, amongst other things, feature a briefing / planning session for those intending to take part.

C. Training

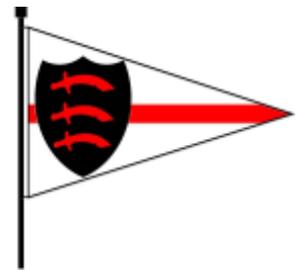
There was significant enthusiasm for some form of training activity at the club. Little progress has been made with this one as yet – a big hurdle is an RYA rule that says RYA training can only be conducted "at a recognised RYA Training Centre"

D. Clubhouse

There was a mixed response in the survey to changes to the clubhouse but this is another of those items where, after discussion, the committee has decided that a level of improvement / change would be worthwhile -as long as any modifications maintain the building's relatively simple and homely "feel". There is now, therefore, a nascent improvement programme that will be slowly and steadily worked through during the coming months. With assistance from those members giving their time to help at the recent annual



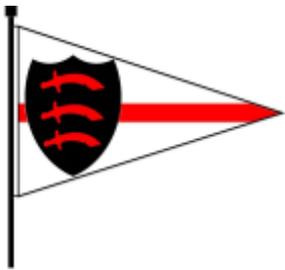
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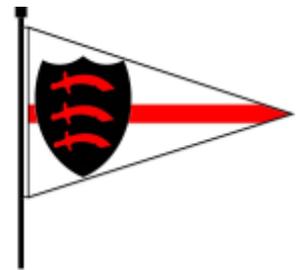
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“Maintenance Day”, progress has already been made:

- The new kitchen facility is now complete (sterling work by Brian Dalby, and a host of other volunteers over the last two months). This makes the kitchen a far more effective space, improves the facilities available to club members and also facilitates food preparation for larger events. The work has not just been cosmetic – for example, much work has been done on the electrics and plumbing to make them safer and easier to use.
- The lobby space has been reconfigured in an attempt to make it more welcoming and useful.
- Some soft seating will soon be introduced in the main room. Initially this will be a “trial”, using donated furniture. If people like the idea and it is properly used, then we’ll consider the acquisition of new furnishing (the specification of which will have to include the ability to be stacked / stored easily so that space can be made on the occasions when the club room has to be configured for one of our dining events).
- The flagstaff and flag are being refurbished. The idea is to re-instate the traditional flying of the club flag when the clubhouse is being used for an event of some sort. Well, when you’ve been around since 1898, continuance of a bit of tradition is perfectly justified!
- A new club noticeboard will soon be erected at the head of the jetty. The aim is to advertise that the club is properly active. Keep an eye on this for notices about upcoming events for club members and about things happening at the club.



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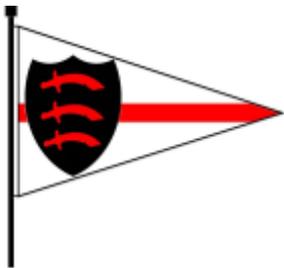
- The veranda is receiving some attention (some repairs are required anyway) and how to provide some form of windbreak is being considered.

No doubt more improvements (and maintenance needs – to be expected in a Victorian structure) will be identified as time goes on.

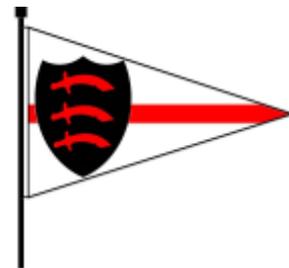
E. Store

The survey showed quite a few members make use of the “Outboard Store” and it was decided that some improvements would indeed be worthwhile. Progress so far is as follows:

- **Lighting:** Solar powered LED lights have been fitted at both ends of the facility (the container). They are each fitted with a PIR unit so there’s no need to switch them on or off. The light these units provide is “adequate” rather than bright – during the recent Maintenance Day, and with the door closed, the lighting proved sufficient for moving stuff around and storing it safely but probably insufficient for doing any detail work.
- **Clear-out:** There are quite a few items in the outboard store that have either been there an awfully long time or which shouldn’t be there at all. We are actively encouraging the owners of such items that shouldn’t be there to remove them. The items that seem to have been forgotten, particularly those where we can’t trace the owner, are scheduled for disposal. It is likely that if an item to be disposed of might be of value to someone, it will first be offered for sale to all club members, with any proceeds of the sale going to club funds - items of no value and those left unsold will be thrown away or destroyed. The committee is keen that the Outboard Store is used properly and responsibly and is considering some fresh guidelines for its use.



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- **Shelving:** The storage area at the eastern end (not the "Outboard Store") where club equipment etc. is stored has been fitted with new shelving and the contents "rationalised" (which means we threw away a lot of old stuff). The increased space means we might be able to increase the space available to members for storage of boat related items – this will be reviewed later in the season.
- **Security:** After some discussion we decided that the security arrangements for the Outboard Store should not be changed, so the present arrangement (a sturdy lock with the key kept inside the clubhouse) will continue. The installation of some form of combination lock would be difficult (power requirements). In addition it was felt that any overt addition to the security of the Store would draw attention to the value of the equipment stored within and therefore could indirectly encourage criminal mischief. Conclusion The findings of the survey have been acted on and improvements for club members are already being delivered. But it's not just the survey that is driving these changes. At a time when yachting and racing on the Crouch appears to be at risk of decline, and as our own membership is getting older (and older) some of the developments, such as the creation of a Rowing section, are about ensuring the club's future as a an active centre for boating on the Crouch. Consequently, it's good that significant strides have been made in those areas too. It won't always be possible to report so much progress in so short a time but we are hoping that improvements in the club's facilities and future become a continuous feature at NFYC.