



*The Royal Thames Yacht Club
Winter Newsletter 2015*





Welcome to the 2015 Winter Newsletter

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Vice Commodore's Foreword

Bernard Kinchin



2015 has been a wonderful sailing season with weekly newsletters keeping us abreast of the activities of Club members. Racing results have been impressive but racing is not everything. Members around the world have enjoyed their yachts and experienced the pure contrast between a thrashing storm and the peace and calm of a beautiful and protected anchorage.

Those of you who have read the Annual Report know that the Club is in good financial health and that we have a firm base upon which to proceed. The Club is also in good heart and the atmosphere at the recent Laying Up and prizewinners' Dinners was upbeat. Professor Michael Clarke, at the time the Director General of the Royal United Services Institute, was our honoured guest at the Laying Up Dinner and members gave him a standing ovation. As always at the prize giving it was heartening that so many of our members won the silver and a pleasure to host our visitors who won RTYC trophies on the East Coast, the Solent and elsewhere.

We have put considerable effort into improving Club communications. The task is not yet finished and many of you will still be receiving requests to provide information. Our plan is to be able to provide you with the focused information that you want and to make booking events easy and certain. The gratitude of the secretariat to those members who respond promptly to their enquiries knows no bounds!

Our food and wine offerings are not just about quality. We have enjoyed Chocolate Week and Partridge Week and the Young Members held a scotch egg tasting, all demonstrating the versatility of chef, his staff and our sommelier. Sunday breakfasts have evolved from lunch to brunch and lunch and offer a lovely opportunity to enjoy the Coffee Room in a casual atmosphere with all the family. Wine tastings go from strength to strength and a sneak preview of next year's plan indicates truly exceptional experiences.

When I wrote a year ago we were in the process of formulating a new Club strategy and following up with a series of action plans to deliver it. I am pleased to say that this happened very quickly and committees and working groups throughout the Club have already been delivering. We are just beginning the process of preparing budgets for the next financial year and that process will allow us to focus further on the strategy and prioritise the many opportunities available.

In response to the strategy intention to maintain our international relationships I spent much of September in the US. In Newport I supported our team in the NYYC Invitational and in San Francisco umpired for the Cornerstone Cup.

There was plenty of time to meet Commodores from many clubs around the world and have a valuable exchange of views. Winning the Invitational did our reputation no harm at all.



The Vice Commodore captures sunset over the Golden Gate Bridge

This is the time of year that members who were elected at the AGM join the General Committee and the membership of all Club committees is refreshed. Thanks to all of you who have served for the last year and welcome to all of you who will contribute ideas and energy to running the Club for the next year. In particular I thank Chris Griffiths and Tony Hanna who have retired as Rear Commodores Sailing and House and Finance respectively. They have each done a sterling job and leave their domains in an excellent state. As incoming Rear Commodores we welcome Richard Hill and Owain Franks.

The winter programme has already begun with a really insightful talk on Time given by David Rooney, who is the Curator of Time, Navigation and Transport at the Science Museum. Team and match racing over the winter will focus on the J/80s that are on Queen Mary Reservoir. Plans are being made for all of next year's sailing events and we can, in particular, look forward to the cruise that will be in Croatia in September.

In the meantime Club life goes on. I hope to meet many members as we enjoy each other's company in the run up to Christmas. As always the free Christmas lunch will be a sell out and no doubt the afternoon will become the warm exchange of opinion and humour that we so much enjoy. I look forward to it.

Best wishes to you all for a peaceful and joyous Christmas and good winds in the New Year.

Bernard Kinchin
Vice Commodore



Forthcoming Events

London Launch of the St Kilda Challenge RTYC Clubhouse 7pm -8.30pm Monday 11th January



Members are invited to the London Launch of the inaugural St Kilda Challenge being staged over the weekend 9th – 11th June 2016. Being organised by Comann Na Mara – ‘The Society of the Sea’ –in Uist, the evening will feature a short presentations by the national collaborating partners, the London Gaelic Choir, a Harris Tweed fashion show of local jewellery, a tasting of local seafood and the new Isle of Harris gin. It promises to be a fun ‘Hebridean’ event.

Booking through Lucia is required to assist with catering. membersadmin@royalthames.com or tel: 020 7201 6261.

Boat Show Cocktail Party – Tuesday 12th January



Join us at our ever popular Royal Thames Yacht Club annual Boat Show Cocktail Party on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 6.30pm. This is a combined event with the Royal London Yacht Club. Tickets for this Champagne Reception with canapés are £25, so book early!

- Date: Tuesday 12th January 2016
- Time: 6.30pm - 8pm
- Tickets: £25
- Dress: Reefer Jacket/Lounge Suit
- Location: Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7LF

For more information or to book please contact Lucia in the Secretariat at membersadmin@royalthames.com or on 020 7201 6267.

Sailing Forum – Tuesday 19th January



We welcome all members to the annual Sailing Forum, this is an opportunity to learn all about the RTYC 2016 Sailing Programme, from Academicians to Grand Masters, from team racing J/80s on Queen Mary Reservoir, to cruising the coastline of Croatia and everything in-between, there are events and regattas for all who would like to join in.

Arm yourself with a glass of wine and begin filling in your diary. Your Club and its event managers have been working hard to bring you another exciting season: come and hear all about it.

Sign up with Becci in the Sailing Office: sailingadmin@royalthames.com. Admission is free of charge and guests are welcome. You are also welcome to stay for supper at a special price of £18.00 per head excluding wine providing you pre-book.

Forthcoming Events



Talk at 60 Knightsbridge – Tuesday 23rd February 2016

'Changing risks offshore presented by reliance on new technology and electronic positioning' by Captain Roger Barker FNI



Roger's talk will cover some of the issues presented to the general safety of navigation together with Aid to Navigation requirements presented by the often misplaced reliance on electronic chart systems and data together with a similar reliance on the electronic positioning techniques.

Roger Barker joined the Merchant Navy at 16 as a Deck Cadet with P&O General Cargo Division. After gaining his 2nd Mates certificate and two tours as Third Mate with P&O he transferred to the United Baltic Corporation, part of the Andrew Weir Group, sailing mostly on the short sea Baltic service but closely involved with new building programmes.

- Date: Tuesday 23rd February 2016
- Time: 6.45pm

For more information or to book contact Lucia in the Secretariat register via website, on 020 7201 6267 or at membersadmin@royalthames.com. The Coffee Room will be open for dinner afterwards, to book your table please call Reservations on 020 7235 2121.

Fitting Out Dinner – 16th March 2016



What better way to celebrate the start of the summer sailing season than with our annual Fitting Out Dinner? Always a great opportunity to catch up after the winter and make exciting new plans for the upcoming sailing season.

Our Guest Speaker will be the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Jonathan Woodcock, OBE.

- Date: Wednesday 16th March 2016
- Time: 7.30pm for 8pm
- Dress: Mess Kit/Black Tie
- Tickets: £65 (including a glass of Champagne on arrival)

For more information or to book please contact Lucia at membersadmin@royalthames.com or on 020 7201 6267.



Forthcoming Events

Burns Night at The In & Out – Thursday 21st January

Celebrate the life and works of Scotland's best loved bard, Rabbin Burns. A traditional four course dinner including wine and haggis helped along by a dram or two and accompanied by the pipes.



- Time: 7pm for 7.30pm
- Price: £80 per person
- Dress: Mess Kit/Black Tie or Highland Dress
- Location: The Naval & Military Club No. 4 St James's Square, SW1Y 4JU

For more information or to book please contact Lucia in the Secretariat at membersadmin@royalthames.com or on 020 7201 6267.



RTYC Ski Week St Anton - 7th to 14th February

After the resounding success of the inaugural Royal Thames Yacht Club ski trip last year, we are returning to the Hotel Montjola in St Anton for a week's skiing commencing on the 7th Feb 2016.

If you are interested in booking, please contact Ray Charmak, raycharmak@me.com. Bookings can also be made direct with VIP SKI using ref Royal Thames Yacht Club. Call 020 8875 1957.



Racers' Dinner – Tuesday 16th February

Have you raced with or on behalf of the RTYC in 2015? Are you an active Race Official, Mark Layer or Umpire? Are you looking to become more involved with the RTYC racing scene? Come along to our annual Racers' Dinner, this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the past sailing season and get your crew together in order to look forward to the next.

Members and guests are welcome sign up for this fun evening.

To register your interest, contact Becci in the Sailing Office: sailingadmin@royalthames.com

Tickets are £36.00 per person, this will include a three course dinner with a drink on arrival.



Fitting Out Dinner - Wednesday 16th March

- Date: Wednesday 16th March 2016
- Time: 7.30pm for 8pm
- Dress: Mess Kit/Black Tie
- Tickets: £65 (including a glass of Champagne on arrival)

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

*Available on weekdays in the Coffee Room
on the Table d'hôte menu*

Wednesday 2nd – 23rd December



MENU

*Roast Norfolk turkey with
traditional accompaniments*

DESSERT

*Christmas pudding
with brandy sauce*



*Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF
Tel: 020 7235 2121*



Rear Commodore Membership

Simon Lavers



Winter has arrived and we have safely laid up our boats. That is with the exception of those that are sailing to, or fitting out in the West Indies and whose lives are an endless Summer.

This is an opportunity to update you on recent initiatives and future events and I'm happy to report that the membership is very healthy and we continue to receive nominations of clubbable, interesting candidates.

The membership committee has approved a new reciprocal club, the Real Club Nautico de Barcelona. We plan to race there and I am also optimistic that it will make a welcome and congenial mooring for our Mediterranean cruising yachts as they make their way East and West.

Following my last newsletter encouraging recruitment of lady members I have been asked by a number of people how long it is since we have been a gentlemen only club. Research by the Secretary reveals that the first evidence exists in the minutes of a special meeting of the General Committee in May 1874 when Baroness Meyer de Rothschild asked permission to become a candidate for admission to the Club. On a vote she was elected by 15 votes to 3. She was the owner of the schooner CZARINA, 210 tons. By 1900 five more ladies had been elected to membership of the Club and although the passage to proper equality has not always been smooth, I am confident that conditions are now benign. Members will be pleased to note that as of this November the membership committee has the same number of lady and gentlemen members. I look forward to the day when we have our first lady RCs and VC.

The Autumn has been kind to those that attend Club events with two excellent talks including a private preview of the Bonhams Maritime Art sale followed by dinner at 60K. Nick Bonham gave an excellent talk about the state of the World Marine Art market with senior Bonhams directors as RTYC guests. In the coming 18 months there are plans to increase the number of talks and social events and I hope that you will enjoy and support them. The more members that attend these events the better the speakers we attract and the more enjoyable they become. We have recently instituted a policy of an extended Club table on talk evenings at which guests are welcome to have dinner with members at the members reduced price.



Members enjoying the Annual Laying Up Dinner

Rear Commodore Membership

Simon Lavers

The Laying Up dinner was a sell out success with an epic adventure tale from the Guest of Honour Professor Michael Clarke, Director General of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies. His speech about Operation Pedestal and its relief of Malta was not only a fascinating study but also a reminder about bravery in conflict and the consequences of operational constraints.

Iain Macdonald-Smith, the Rio Olympic Benefit Chairman and his team delivered a fabulous evening of Samba raising significant sums for the Rio Olympic Team who we are very keen to continue to support in their bid for medal success in Brazil.

Aside from the core organised events there are an increasing number of other activities in the club that bring members together including Barbara Ehlers' bridge evenings and Andrew Collins' splendid reunion of of the Canal du Midi cruise.

In short the Club arranges many and various activities for the benefit of us, the members and there are many more planned. I welcome feedback and suggestions as to how we can raise the bar further.

December will bring a lively series of Clubhouse events and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas spent dreaming of great passages and summer cruises, racing victories, silverware and satisfaction.



*Simon Lavers
Rear Commodore Membership*



Members enjoying the Annual Laying Up Dinner



Rear Commodore House & Finance

Owain Franks

I feel privileged to have been elected as Rear Commodore, House & Finance. I am looking forward to working with the Vice Commodore, fellow Rear Commodores and the Club's staff to play my part in maintaining our ethos of unobtrusive excellence.

In that endeavour, I have been greatly assisted by inheriting the benefit of the tireless work of my predecessor Tony Hanna - we all owe him a significant debt of gratitude. As I am discovering, there is a long shopping list of responsibilities involved in making the services rendered to members appear effortless and well oiled and a great deal to learn!

Slightly more than half way through our financial year, our financial position overall is satisfactory. We continue to manage costs carefully and to improve the use of the Clubhouse. Coffee Room usage has held up, if not slightly increased. We have introduced a number of specific "themed" weeks. I have good memories of chocolate week! Keep an eye out for them on the website and on the weekly emails and try them out. I believe that the food has maintained a high standard. If you don't agree or want to see items on the menu which you think members generally might like, let us know. The email address to use is tf@royalthames.com

I am going to put in a word for our wine list at this point. Writing as someone who is known to like his food and wine, I have to say the wine list is both excellent and extremely good value. Many of our fine wines would grace many a Michelin starred establishment's list but I am prepared to bet that all of them would be materially more expensive, probably by a multiple of the price! Look at the price of the Chablis Grand Cru on our list (it's of the order of one third or less of the prices I mention now) - a quick review of the wine lists of three 2 Michelin starred restaurants in London suggest that comparable bottles are between £160 - £280. What more need I say? Take advantage of the expertise of our Sommelier, Mariyana, and enjoy some fine wines over the festive break almost silly prices.

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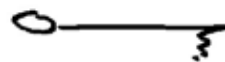
Alex Irwin Sportography

In the same vein we continue to offer Sunday brunch. This is open to all members and their families (of any age). The menu is a work in progress and I encourage you all to give it a try and give us feedback. If there are items you think would be good on the menu, let us know. As long as they are feasible and affordable then we will be happy to give them a try. It's a good time to come into town, do a little shopping, have a leisurely brunch and maybe, weather permitting, a stroll in the Park. What better to do on a Sunday when the variously named storms rolling across the UK make winter sailing more of a survival event than fun!

Over the August period we were very busy with refurbishing two cabins and the Ladies' Cloakroom. We have a rolling programme of works year by year and the improvements this year have been very well received. Cabin usage is up this year and is making a good contribution to the health of the Club's finances.

Tony Hanna has previously commented that the number of functions and events at the Club had reduced. That trend has continued. We are looking closely at what needs to be done to get numbers up again. In the current economic climate I fear this will be hard work. The Clubhouse is a wonderful place to hold an important family event and our Events Co-ordinator is delighted to work with members to ensure that the event meets their needs. I do wonder if members shy away from using the Clubhouse out of a belief that it might be unaffordable or too formal. It's not unaffordable, nor stuffy. The dress code for events is fairly relaxed and in consequence you will see some eclectic wear in the Clubhouse at times! We will be publishing some sample costs on the website early next year to address the cost issue.

Club and Clubhouse exist to provide amongst other things, excellent service to members. There is always room and opportunity to do better, to innovate and to consolidate the things we do well. We need feedback and suggestions from members and I would conclude my first Newsletter report by asking you all to do just that.



Owain Franks
Rear Commodore House and Finance

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Brunch menu available in the Coffee Room from 11.00-14.30



The All English Breakfast

<i>Choice of egg - poached, fried or boiled</i>	<i>£1.20</i>
<i>Grilled bacon</i>	<i>£1.05</i>
<i>Cumberland sausage</i>	<i>£1.05</i>
<i>Grilled tomatoes</i>	<i>£0.90</i>
<i>Grilled black pudding</i>	<i>£1.05</i>
<i>Mushroom</i>	<i>£1.05</i>
<i>Baked beans</i>	<i>£0.80</i>

The Traditional Fish Breakfast

Kedgerie £9.75

Poached eggs on a toasted English muffin

Florentine - Spinach & hollandaise sauce £6.75

Benedict - Ham & hollandaise sauce £7.50

Royale - Smoked salmon & hollandaise sauce £8.75

Omelette £7.00

with a choice of up to 3 fillings

*Tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, potatoes,
spinach, mixed peppers, mixed herbs, cheese, ham*

A more solid meal

The Royal Thames Burger £9.50

or Vegetarian option £8.75

The True Lunchtime fare £13.50

Roast beef with all the vegetables

Crepes for the sweet £5.50

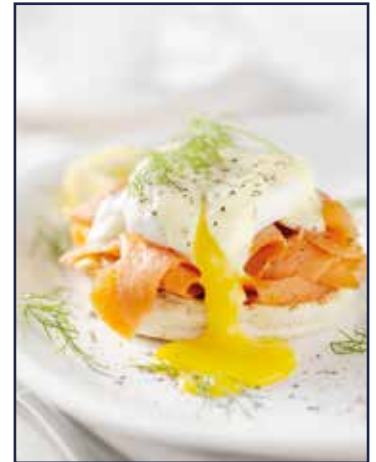
Strawberry jam, lemon & sugar

Banana and chocolate sauce

Coffee & Teas £3.10

Latte, Cappuccino, Espresso, Macchiato, Mocha

Tea, choose from Twinning's range





Rear Commodore Sailing

Richard Hill



Firstly, on your behalf, I would like to thank Chris Griffiths for his two very successful years as Rear Commodore Sailing. I have worked with Chris for over six years and am pleased to be taking over the strong legacy of sailing initiatives he has instigated over that time. These comprise a diverse sailing programme providing many opportunities for our members to sail with and against each other. I inherit a small armada of Club boats and a busier than ever Sailing Office dedicated to supporting our members. I am honoured to be asked to be your Rear Commodore Sailing and am acutely aware of the demands placed on that post by our unique heritage. I am sure that with the help of the many committed and enthusiastic members who support the sailing activities of the Club, together with our hard working Sailing Office, the next two years will be plain sailing.

My thanks also go to those committee members who stand down this November and the new ones who have agreed to join the various sailing committees. Special thanks also must go to Jenny Woods who has stepped down after three years as chairwoman of the Race Officials committee. Jenny has handed over the reins to Linda Pennington who took over officially at the end of October. Happily Jenny remains a much valued member of the Race Officer pool as well as continuing to represent the Club on the Cowes Week Sailing Committee.

The summer saw some notable achievements on the water from Club members, and at the recent Prizewinners' Dinner I had the pleasure of awarding the RTYC Sailor of the Year - The Neil Junior Challenge Cup to Ben Field, and RTYC Yacht of The Year award to Adam Gosling. I was also pleased to present a new trophy, awarded to members of a Royal Thames team who have achieved outstanding success overseas, to our victorious New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup team led by William Edwards. It was also fantastic to see Stuart Quarrie receive a standing ovation when he was awarded the Docker Cup for outstanding services to sailing.

This summer the Royal Thames, alongside the Royal London YC, was responsible for the first four days of racing during Cowes Week. Jenny Woods, supported by Malcolm McKeag, and reporting to Peter Taylor of RLYC, ably led a team of over 30 Race Officials on the RYS platform, as well as co-ordinating the various committee vessels and other support vessels spread out across the Solent. Cowes Week is a monumental operation involving huge amounts of planning, organisation and co-ordination from a vast number of staff and volunteers. I would like to thank all of those involved with Cowes Week 2015 for their hard work. Also my congratulations go to the many members who did so well in their various classes in Cowes Week. It is a sign of the great strength of the Club that so many of our members excelled in this classic event.

Our Race Officials also ran the Gertrude Cup (International Etchells Invitational Regatta) in August and a number of our members entered. Congratulations to our youth team who came 11th overall and first Youth Team.



Race start on the First Day of the Gertrude Cup. Credit ELWJ Photography



The victorious RTYC Team at the 2015 New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup. Rule Britannia!. Credit Rolex/Daniel Forster



Ben Field collects the Neil Junior Challenge Cup for Sailor of the Year

Although the RYS Bicentenary Regatta seems a long time ago it was a very well run event and my congratulations go to our young Academy team who came second in the very competitive Team Racing competition. This was only eclipsed by the Royal Thames team who secured a hard won victory for the first time at the New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup in September. 17 teams from all over the world competed in this biennial event which is regarded as the peak of one design fleet racing. It is entirely Corinthian and only bona fide members of the yacht club they represent may sail in it.

Much of the Club's own autumn calendar has unfortunately been either cancelled or postponed due to the lack of water in Queen Mary Reservoir, which has made it impossible to launch our J/80s, the Club's RIBS or the Committee Boat. As a result members were unable to participate in Bart's Bash and various other projected Club weekends had to be cancelled. However, we did manage to run the trial event for the UK National Sailing League, run in conjunction with the RYA, later on by craning in the boats.

On the Solent the Sailing Office ran the Autumn Excuse that was as well attended as ever, with fair winds and generally good weather for all the activities followed by a very enjoyable dinner at the Royal Solent YC.

Plans for the future include obtaining a better understanding of what sailing activities our members want to do and what they might want to do with the Club. Our database of members' sailing interests is inadequate and is currently being updated. However, there is still much work to do and we do need you all to engage, albeit briefly, to enable us to update our record of your interests.

Armed with this information we can build on the Club's many sailing opportunities that are the envy of many other clubs. We will continue to grow the Royal Thames' influence on the international sailing scene and together with the various sailing committees instigate new initiatives that will continue to make the Royal Thames the vibrant yacht club it is today.

We now look forward to next year's sailing programme with the Carmela Cup in January and the Cumberland Cup in early May. Later in the year is our Croatia cruise which is already looking very well supported by members, and in October we will be sending a team to the final match of the fifth series of the British American Cup in Oyster Bay.

*Richard Hill
Rear Commodore Sailing*





Captain of Racing

Angus Prentice



The last several months have certainly seen a lot of racing activity involving Royal Thames members both as part of RTYC teams or competing individually. Additionally, our fleets of J/70s at Cowes and J/80s at Queen Mary Reservoir have been in steady use throughout most of the summer and autumn months.

Let me kick-off this short update by pointing to arguably our finest team success of 2015. I am, of course, referring to our winning of the New York YC Invitational Cup. This was a fantastic win and more details of this incredible feat are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. Let me simply take this opportunity to congratulate the whole team, which was ably led by William Edwards and John Greenland. Magnificent!

In July, the Royal Yacht Squadron celebrated its bicentenary. As befits this venerable institution, the event featured some top quality racing. We entered teams in two events in the RYS Bicentenary International Regatta, one in the Beneteau F40 fleet racing and an RTYC Academy team in the J/70 team racing event aimed at younger sailors. We finished seventh out of ten clubs competing in the F40s. In the team racing, our Academicians were narrowly beaten into second place overall behind St Francis YC after a weeklong series involving three round robins, a semi final and a final that started with strong wind conditions and finished in light, fluky winds. This was very fine performance involving a talented group of our younger racers led by Academy captain, Honor Fell.

The following month, we sent a team to Newport, RI to compete for the Morgan Cup, widely regarded as the premier keelboat team-racing event in the USA. The Royal Thames was the only overseas yacht club invited to compete alongside nine teams from all corners of the States. The event saw near perfect conditions with all three days sailed in temperatures averaging 28°C and 8-15 knots of wind. The event consisted of a double round robin over two days followed by a knockout on the final day. Under the captaincy of Andy Cornah, the three-boat RTYC team helmed by Andy, Jon Pinner and Sam Littlejohn progressed smoothly through to the knockout stages before losing 2-3 to the Newport Harbour YC team from California in a semi-final. The Thames team then went into a third place play-off with Seawanhaka Corinthian YC. After some truly epic and incredibly close team racing, RTYC emerged with a 3-2 victory to take third place overall behind New York YC 1 and Newport Harbour YC. A very satisfactory performance, which bodes well for next year's BA Cup.

We also sent a team to compete in the biennial Cornerstone Cup, this year hosted by St Francis YC, with the racing taking place in San Francisco Harbour in front of the club and the Golden Gate Bridge. The Cornerstone Cup involves three-boat team racing in J/22s with each team required to have an average age of 40 years plus with at least one of each gender in each boat. Our three boats were helmed by Katie Greenland, Ed Males and Henry Arnold. After a slow start to the event, the RTYC team hit form and won all of its races on the final day. Sadly, this proved a little late. St Francis YC won the event for a second time, followed by New York YC, RTYC third and the Royal Yacht Squadron in fourth place.

A Royal Thames team visited Long Island, NY in October to compete for the Lee Trophy, another one of the most prestigious keelboat racing events in the USA, hosted by the Seawanhaka Corinthian YC. Three-boat team racing in Sonars, the RTYC boats were helmed by John Greenland, Katie Greenland and Andy Cornah. In truth, our racing did not go as planned with the Thames team finishing seventh out of eight, recording five wins and 12 losses. Not a good day at the office!

There have also been numerous impressive individual racing achievements in recent months by RTYC members – too many (I'm pleased!) to mention them all.



The RTYC team in action at the 2015 New York Invitational Cup, Credit: Daniel Forster

Captain of Racing

Angus Prentice

Cowes Week 2015 included many successes:

- Sir Malcolm Green's Swallow ARCHON gained two firsts throughout the week, placing him in first position for the Swallows.
- Current J/70 European Corinthian Champion, Charlie Esse, finished second in the J/70 mini series. On board was his father Anthony. They clocked up two wins. John Greenland alongside Katie Greenland, Annie Lush (fresh back from her VOR adventures) and Nick Hornby, racing as Rule 1 in an RTYC J/70, came third overall in the J/70 mini series.
- Jack Davies, in his J/70 JUGADOR finished second in the Under 25s Trophy and second in the overall J/70 full week event, as well as third in the Young Skipper's Trophy.
- Ali Hall came third in the J/80 fleet in his boat BOYSTEROUS, gaining firsts in Sunday and Friday's races.
- In the Etchells fleet, RTYC's J/70 bosun, Josh Downer, finished second overall, with a mixed set of results, including one first place and Nick Stagg came third.
- The notoriously competitive Quarter Ton fleet trophy was taken by Sam Laidlaw in AGUILA, who racked up three firsts during the week.
- Peter Bainbridge's Rustler 33 WHISPER finished second overall in Cruiser Division B, taking a bullet in Thursday's race.
- David Franks and his JPK1010 STRAIT DEALER, won IRC Class 4 and finished fourth in the Black Group overall, with three wins through the week.
- Peter Morton's JND 35 SALVO finished first overall in IRC Class 3, with four firsts and third overall in the Black Group.
- Adam Gosling's Corby 36 YES! won IRC Class 2 and finished first overall in the Black Group, with a very impressive array of results, coming first in every race of the week. On board were a number of RTYC members.
- Sir Keith Mills with son Alex came second overall in IRC class 0 on his Ker 40+ INVICTUS.

Winds of up to 12 knots offered ideal conditions for the exciting finals in the Nacra 17 European Championship in late September / early October. RTYC members Ben Saxton, world champion in this class in 2013, and his crew Nicola Groves, took the European gold in Barcelona after finishing fifth in the Medal Race.

Olympic silver medallists and RTYC members Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark claimed silver for Great Britain at the 470 World Championships in October, at Haifa, Israel.

At the J/70 UK National Championships, hosted this year by the Royal Southern YC, Russell Peters took third place overall while Charlie Esse was fourth. Ben Field crewed in the winning boat, BOATS.COM, and was part of the same crew that finished fourth in the J/70 World Championship held a month earlier in July at La Rochelle, France.

Finally, a mention for the Esses, racing BABY J, who finished a creditable fifth in the Corinthian event of the J/70 European Championships at Monaco in October, recording a first and a second across the six races.

As you can see, our racers have not been sitting around 'waiting for the wind', they've been out on the water, competing keenly and, I've no doubt, showing the true Corinthian spirit worthy of a yacht club that celebrated its own bicentenary 40 years ago!

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The crew of YES! collecting their Cowes Week Trophies. Credit: Rick Tomlinson

Angus Prentice
Captain of Racing



Captain of Cruising

Nick Atkinson



Cruising this year at the Thames has been particularly successful with members having enjoyed a diverse range of events from motoring down the Canal Du Midi and sailing around Turkey on the Gallipoli Rally. The one thing that always amazes me is how dedicated our members are at organising events and making them enjoyable to all that participate. Events are always challenging to organise as many variables form part of the event. There is the fact of weather, flights, and more importantly restaurants and vineyards to take in to account.

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View of the Canal du Midi, Credit: Andrew Collins

As we approach the Christmas season the focus of the Cruising Committee is on next year and beyond. The overall feeling is that we want to provide a quality cruising programme, which offers members diverse and interesting trips. We are keen to keep events in the diary for the forthcoming years that work well and this will be no different for 2016. The Spring Excuse will hopefully be on station in Portsmouth taking in the America's Cup feel of the BAR HQ and Ben Ainslie's new site, which would be very special. We hope to see some motor yachts attending this event as well. The current survey of members has highlighted a large contingent of members who enjoy motorboats with ownership based on the South Coast.

The partnership arrangement that the club has formed with Shepards in Cowes has meant that we now have a flexible base in Cowes. The location has excellent marina facilities and a great restaurant that allows us flexibility to have BBQs or more formal sit down meals. This has meant that the Cumberland Regatta next year will be a mixture of relaxed and formal events to give the event a slight refresh. We are hoping to attract a larger contingent of younger members and members based on the island. Overall this should make the event larger and bring together different sections of the Club who might just want to socialise or try their hand at some friendly racing.



RTYC Members at the Gallipoli Rally, Credit: Jonathan Beard

Captain of Cruising

Nick Atkinson

Following on from the Cumberland Regatta we will be embarking on a Cumberland Cruise which, if the weather allows, will take us to the Channel Islands. This is a flexible cruise and will be amended based on local forecasts leading up to the event. The demand for sailing out of the South Coast and using the boats we have in this area has grown so this event should satisfy demand. Many of you will remember the St Vaast days and this is being discussed at a committee level to see if this can be re-introduced back in to the event planner.

The major overseas event for next year will be our cruise in Croatia. The beautiful cruising grounds and stunning water should give the Thames a memorable one or two week cruise. We have teamed up with "Bareboat Sailing Holidays" who have pulled together a stunning package offering either a one or two week option. We have built the cruising to be hassle free so chartering could not be easier. The price includes flights, transfers and boat space. The flexibility around boat type, size and duration allows members to be flexible and hopefully caters to everyone's needs.

We should also have a good contingent of yacht owners who are making their way from the Eastern Mediterranean. More information will be available very soon but we do advise letting Becci know in the sailing office that you may be interested in joining this exciting event.

We hope the cruising section continues to please the members and that the events we are putting on delivers to the ethos of the Club. We will be planning another stand up at the Sailing Forum in January and encourage people to come along to hear about forthcoming events for the year.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas with your family and not too much time is spent in a cold boat yard. The weather is still mild as I write this article and hopefully you are still getting some use out of your yachts if based in the UK. Otherwise you might be sensible enough to have your yacht located in some warm climates around the world.

Best Wishes and Seasonal Greetings

Nick Atkinson
Captain of Cruising



Whisper at the Cumberland Regatta. Credit: Ruth Tracey



Race Management

Linda Pennington

It is with some trepidation that I step into Jenny Woods' shoes as Chair of the Race Officials Committee. With her impressive executive skills and talent for organisation, Jenny has ensured that RTYC continues to provide race management of the highest standard, so I have big shoes to fill! Happily she remains a valuable member of the Race Official pool and continues to represent RTYC on the Cowes Week Sailing Committee.

During the summer, the expertise of the Race Management team was concentrated on a number of events in the Solent. We ran three enjoyable weekend regattas in the annual Cowes Keelboat Series, and the team spirit demonstrated by the ROs in the race box and on the committee boat was further cemented by three very sociable Saturday evening dinners in local restaurants.

July and August saw a repeat of the success of the two major Etchells events which were a new addition to last year's sailing calendar. Constantly changing wind speed and direction during the Saida Cup provided two days of tricky but exciting sailing conditions, which were as testing for the Race Official as they were for the sailors. Three weeks later, 16 international teams from all corners of the globe competed for the Gertrude Cup in the Etchells Invitational Regatta. Strong gusty winds, combined with spring tides, presented some interesting challenges for the Race Management team and the committee boat and mark laying RIBs were kept fully occupied in constantly reconfiguring the course, to deliver four days of exciting, high quality racing, that was so closely contested that the event culminated in a three way tie for first place.

Once again, RTYC ROs had plenty of opportunity to develop their skills during Cowes Week, running the first four days of racing from the Platform of the Royal Yacht Squadron, and providing additional support with a team of drivers for Thames V over the entire week. Light airs meant that our course setters and ROs were kept on their toes to keep the programme of racing on schedule.

The Autumn programme of racing at Queen Mary Sailing Club has been sadly hampered by the lack of water in the reservoir which made it impossible to use the lifts to launch the J/80s, the committee boat or the Club's RIBs. Undeterred the Royal Thames set about business as usual and simply found a rather spectacular way to resolve the problem.

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The RTYC Committee Boat being craned into Queen Mary Reservoir due to low water levels in October

Race Management

Linda Pennington

Once the boats were finally in the water we were able to resume our sailing programme with the UK Sailing League trial event organised in conjunction with the RYA. The format of short fast fleet races over windward/leeward courses is proving popular on the European circuit and RTYC is looking to spearhead a similar UK Sailing League. Our autumn and winter schedule continued with the Belvidere Cup (match racing for independent schools alumni) and of course, the Carmela Cup and rounds 1 and 2 of the Mum's Bucket coming up in January and February.

We are looking forward to a busy calendar of racing in 2016 with plenty of major events to provide interesting and challenging opportunities for Race Management. The Cumberland Cup, which takes place early in May, continues to grow in scope and popularity and this year we hope to have 10 teams from around the world competing in the event. In addition to the Cowes Keelboat series, Cowes Week, and the Saida and Gertrude Cups in the summer, there are several new events in prospect. These include a projected three day regatta for the Solent based Fast 40 class and a revived 1851 Cup providing match racing in Swan 60s.

With so much going on, we are always looking to increase our pool of ROs and umpires. If you are interested, do get in touch via the Sailing Office and come and join us for a day on the water and see what we do. You don't need to have any experience and, if you want to be more involved, we aim to provide informal and formal training so that you can do as much or as little as you want. It's fun, busy and rewarding and will give you the opportunity to enjoy a ringside seat at some really exciting sailing.

Linda Pennington
Chair of Race Officials Committee



Monitoring the Pin End of the start line at the Gertrude Cup from Malcolm McKeag's CHINOOK. Credit, ELWJ Photography



From the Younger Members

Honor Fell

This is my first report as Younger Members' Chairman, and therefore my round up of activities over the last couple of months reflects the fantastic events and hard work of the outgoing Chairman Will Jackson and his committee of Hugh Selka, Jamie Foot, Matt Blachford, Emily Parker, Rhianna Kinchin and Matthew Brien. Thank you!

Cowes Week Drinks

The annual Cowes Week drinks party was a great success. Once again we were generously hosted by the 'Prospect' and there was a great turnout of YMs, some not-so-young members, crews and owners!

Big Boat Crew List

Charlie Lowe and Alex Mills will be working with the Sailing Office to refresh the Big Boat Crew List for the New Year. Through this initiative we have been able to offer YMs the opportunities to sail on boats they would otherwise not have access to, and to learn from experienced sailors and professional race crews. Boats range from 21' all the way up to 115' and are based both in the Solent and abroad. If you are interested in being considered for the opportunities please submit your sailing CV and covering letter to the Sailing Office.

Highland Fling

Lord Laidlaw has kindly extended an invitation to the Younger Members of the RTYC to join his professional race crew for a number of events in both the Caribbean and in Europe. This opportunity will be advertised to the YMs shortly and I anticipate that the available places will be hotly contested. Please contact me if you have any questions.

YM Sailing Days

Our most recent J/80 YM day on 28th November was well subscribed but unfortunately was cancelled due to the inclement winter weather. We have several J/80 days at QMSC and J/70 weekends in Cowes planned and hope the weather gods are kinder in 2016!

We are also looking forward to the President's Cup, the hotly contested Younger Members inter-club fleet racing event held at QMSC which will take place next year on 5th February.

Scotch Egg Tasting

One of our final events of the year was our annual tasting event. Over 100 YMs and guests enjoyed a competitive evening of Scotch Egg tasting, ably organised by Hugh Selka and Matt Blachford.



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Monthly Thursday night drinks at the Clubhouse in Knightsbridge continue in the New Year. I look forward to seeing many of the Younger Members over the coming months – either at the YM monthly drinks or out on the water.

Wishing you all the best for 2016!

*Honor Fell
Chairman, Younger Members
fell.honor@gmail.com*



What's on *THIS JANUARY*

Join us for *Curry Night* *Thursday 28th*

*The famous RTYC curry club is back!
Come and try some of our favourite
curries along with a selection of IPA*





Olympic Benefit Dinner

Iain Macdonald-Smith

This year's dinner was the last to be held before next August's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, with 135 guests gathered on Guy Fawkes Night at the club. Instead of fireworks, we had two lovely Brazilian dancers, dressed in Rio Carnival costumes, with their drummer in attendance. They did a dance in the Britannia Bar, and then did a conga (or was it a samba?) up the main staircase to the Coffee Room. The plan was that everyone would follow them, but jaws were dropping, the music and champagne were intoxicating, so the dancers waited on the Quarterdeck, still gyrating elegantly, while the guests made their way to their tables for dinner. Pip Menzel's exciting decor in the Coffee Room, continued the theme of feathers, echoing the dancers' costumes, in the colours of the Brazilian flag.

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The main invited guests for the evening were our Olympic sailors, six of them full members of the club. Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark have already been selected onto Team GB for Rio, in the Women's 470 event. Ben Saxton, Hannah Diamond and Lucy Macgregor are contesting selection for the Nacra 17 catamaran class (for mixed crews), with their crews Nicola Groves, John Gimson and Dave Evans. Kate Macgregor is campaigning in the 49er FX high performance dinghy, and is in the midst of a crew change, since Flora Stewart is injured. The sailors gave an excellent video presentation of their boats in action, and Hannah Diamond described a typical "week in the life" of an Olympic triallist. Besides a lot of gym work and days of travelling, about 50,000 miles this year and counting, there are many days of intensive training on the water, and crucial weeks of international competition.

Well, back to the main activity of the evening, following an excellent meal with some subtle Brazilian ingredients, with breaks for Raffle ticket selling and the famous "Heads and Tails" game. Nick Bonham conducted a lively Auction, with prizes ranging from a visit to the Rolls Royce factory at Goodwood, weekends at two of Peter de Savary's lovely country hotels, a painting of your yacht or seaside property by Martin Millard, and a specially designed Herb Garden, to be added to your home by RPG Gardening

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Taking all the various elements together, the Rio Dinner raised just over a cool £20,000 for our Olympic sailors, helped by very generous donations from about a dozen RTYC members, who were unable to attend the dinner. We will be posting regular bulletins during the next nine months, so everyone can follow the sailors' progress, on the road to Rio. Many thanks to all the members and their friends, who came to the dinner and helped to raise a significant sum towards their campaigns. We are all hoping for, and expecting, medals in 2016 at the Rio Games !

Iain Macdonald-Smith MBE
Chairman Rio Olympic Dinner Committee



RTYC Charitable Trust

Doug Harckham

Dear Members

As our Vice Commodore kindly noted during his recent Laying Up speech our charity has sponsored, through grants and bursaries, a total of 71 youngsters this year to take part in sea going adventures. These have ranged from activity weeks afloat with organisations such as UKSA, Trinity Sailing Trust and Compass Sailing Trust, through offshore passage making with Rona Sailing Trust and Ocean Youth Trust, to deep sea overseas trips with Jubilee Sailing Trust and the Sea Cadets. Feedback and reports from the youngsters indicate our beneficiaries are thrilled to be given this opportunity and very appreciative of the support from the Royal Thames Charitable Trust.

With ages between 12 and 22 beneficiaries this year have come from across Britain. Many through other charities such as Girvan Youth Trust, Sherbourn Learning Centre and Ahoy Centre, and others direct from local councils schools and families. All suffer from similar problems of a disadvantaged and displaced background through broken and poor families, lack of care and, in some cases serious mistreatment. Some see the only way out is to take to crime and the charity's we work with do their best to ensure they avoid this route whatever their circumstances. We feel our support goes some way in helping them to achieve this.

With record numbers of beneficiaries this year there were still many we were not in a position to support, and with no reason to assume it will be any less next year our thoughts are turning once again to fundraising, and what we might do to replenish our resources.

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2015 saw a number of highly successful social events that enabled us to provide the level of support we finally did and included the very popular evening reception aboard "TS TENACIOUS" in Docklands, followed by the equally impressive private dinner aboard "TS LORD NELSON" some weeks later also in Docklands. A bridge evening in Knightsbridge, a quiz night and some early J/70 weekends in Cowes further enhanced our funds but the biggest impact by far was the overwhelming support from members with their generous donations. This has given us the wherewithal and the confidence to plan for what we hope will be another record year. A special thank you to members from the Trustees.

Although we have no firm dates as yet discussions are underway on possible fundraising events for 2016 both at Knightsbridge and elsewhere including perhaps a horse racing evening and a slightly reformatted J/80 event at Queen Mary. It's hoped at least one or two could be included in our already packed 2016 programme.

The steady growth and progress of a charity that could originally only focus on supporting youngsters from south coast regions to one that now operates nationwide is due entirely to the generosity of our members, the support of our Club and the enthusiasm and hard work of my fellow trustees, especially recently retired Andrew Collins who's dedication and attention to detail has ensured we've kept a very high profile over recent years, and to George Ehlers and Mike Halstead. Their organisational and networking skills have produced some popular and rewarding social activities of late. I'd also like to thank our treasurer Rupert Salmon and our secretary Gwynne Lawrence and, last but not least, David Freeman for patiently sitting through our meetings often instilling a sense of reality when needed.

Doug Harckham
Chairman
Royal Thames Yacht Club Charitable Trust



Secretary's House Notes

Captain David Freeman LVO

Membership Cards

Due to recent events and the Club's location, reception staff have been instructed to be especially vigilant in controlling access to the Clubhouse to bona fide visitors and it will speed up security checks if Members carry their membership cards when visiting the Clubhouse. This will assist staff who may not recognise members, enable members of staff to check entitlement or attempts of fraudulent use of the Clubhouse, and to put food and beverage expenditure on members' accounts if these have been set up.

Clubhouse Refurbishment

Over the summer a number of significant works were completed. The Britannia Bar refurbishment is now complete with all the new furniture in place, cabins 9 and 10 were subject to re-design and completely upgraded. The new cabin layouts and soft furnishings have been well received and we plan to do more next summer. The other major works were undertaken in the kitchen, which has seen a new floor and two new regenerating ovens, and a partial makeover to the ladies cloakrooms was undertaken. We also framed and hung in the Paget Room the set of America's Cup photographs won by Kit Hobday at the 150th America's Cup regatta at Cowes in 2001 and subsequently presented to the Club. About time too, some might say!

Catering

The Club has appointed Thore Carlsen as Food & Beverage Manager and we thank Paul Redmond for holding the fort as our interim manager. We said goodbye a few weeks ago to Tiffany, one of the Coffee Room waitresses, who has returned to her native France. Alongside Tess we have Loretta, Martha and Megan and recently welcomed Zoe on a casual basis. We also welcome Kevin Reid as our new Sous Chef in the kitchen. The quality and value of both the food and wines in the Coffee Room continue to be commented on very favourably. If you haven't visited the Coffee Room lately do give it a try: with the members' discounts available it represents excellent value.

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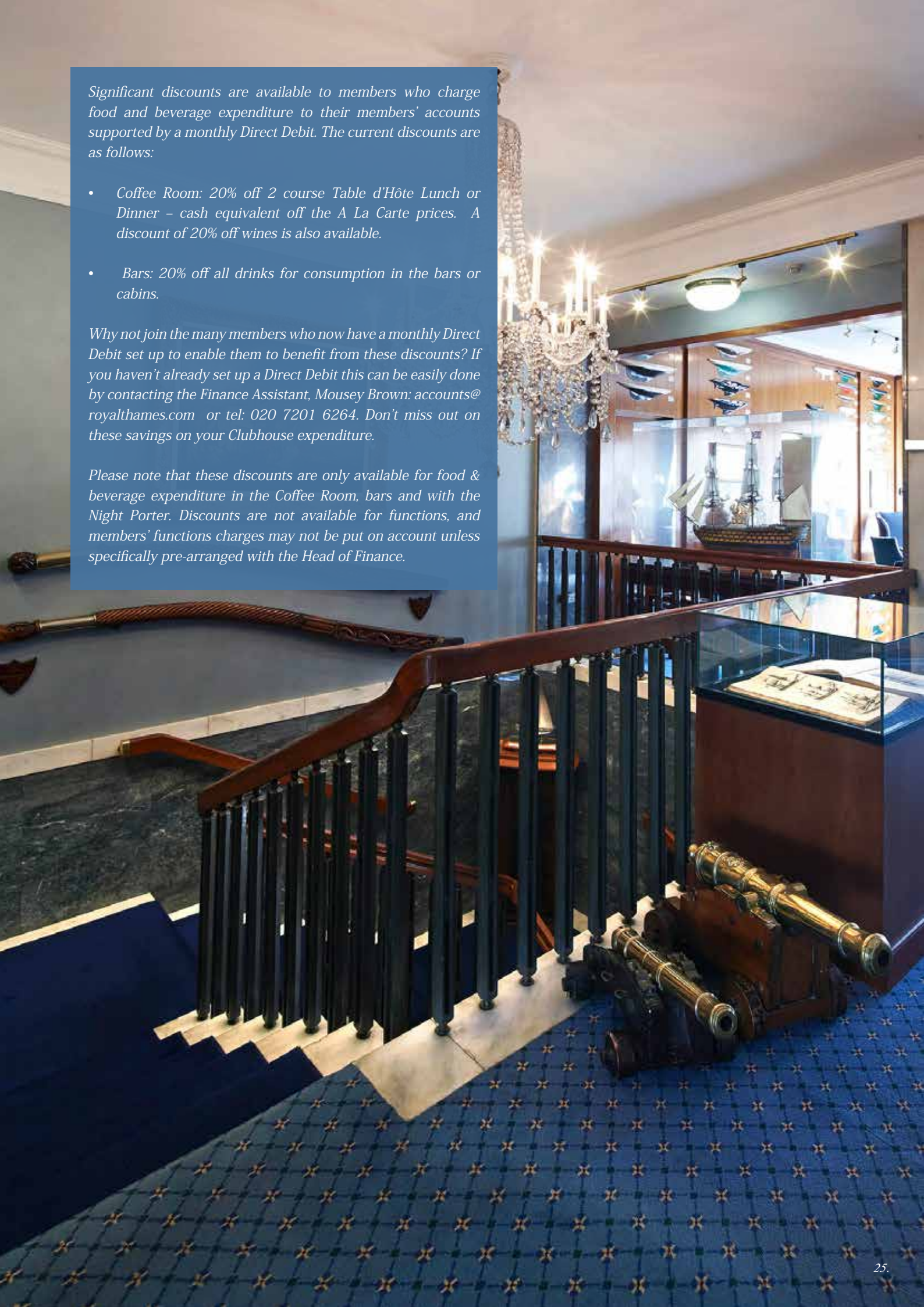
Thore Carlsen, Food and Beverage Manager

Significant discounts are available to members who charge food and beverage expenditure to their members' accounts supported by a monthly Direct Debit. The current discounts are as follows:

- *Coffee Room: 20% off 2 course Table d'Hôte Lunch or Dinner – cash equivalent off the A La Carte prices. A discount of 20% off wines is also available.*
- *Bars: 20% off all drinks for consumption in the bars or cabins.*

Why not join the many members who now have a monthly Direct Debit set up to enable them to benefit from these discounts? If you haven't already set up a Direct Debit this can be easily done by contacting the Finance Assistant, Mousey Brown: accounts@royalthames.com or tel: 020 7201 6264. Don't miss out on these savings on your Clubhouse expenditure.

Please note that these discounts are only available for food & beverage expenditure in the Coffee Room, bars and with the Night Porter. Discounts are not available for functions, and members' functions charges may not be put on account unless specifically pre-arranged with the Head of Finance.





Secretary's House Notes

Captain David Freeman LVO

Restaurant Billing Procedures

In order to improve the efficiency of the billing process in the Coffee Room it would greatly assist the staff if members dining in groups but who wish to pay individually would advise the Duty Manager running the service at the beginning of the meal. This will enable the orders to be input separately and thus avoid delays at the time of settlement. It would also be helpful if members wishing to charge their meal(s) to their members accounts would confirm this on arrival and offer their membership card to open chits in the correct name to ensure the discounts are applied in advance of presenting your bill. Your assistance in this matter would be much appreciated as we strive to improve your experience in the Coffee Room.

Half Board Rates

The popular half board rate for residents offers discounted meals in the Coffee Room. Members taking overnight accommodation can enjoy a two-course Table d'Hôte lunch for just £15.50 or dinner for £18.50. Obtain your coupon from reception to receive this additional members' benefit.



Credit: Alex Irwin, photography

Sunday Brunch

Why not enjoy Sunday Brunch at the Club with the family? The Sunday Brunch menu is on the website and brunch operates from 11am – 2.30pm with the bar open from 11am – 4pm. Look out for special offers on drinks that will be advertised in the weekly e-newsletters

Bar Snacks

If you need a quick bite, a lighter meal or a more informal setting bar snacks are available in the Britannia Bar Mon – Fri 12pm – 2pm and Mon – Thu 6pm – 8pm. The bar snack menu was revamped in September and is reviewed on a regular basis. Afternoon tea is also available from 2pm – 6pm. Your Club is a great place to relax and meet friends. Alternative arrangements will be in place if the Britannia Bar is closed for a function.



Entry to the Clubhouse/Late Bar Charges

Unless you are resident in one of the bedrooms, the Clubhouse opening hours are 7am – 1am. Last entry for non-residents is at 12.30am. There have been incidents of members entering, or attempting to gain entry, outside these hours. The Clubhouse is staffed with one night porter and he has been instructed to strictly apply the opening hours as promulgated in the House Bye-Laws. The Night Porter keeps a small stock of drinks for the use of residents only.

The Cumberland and Britannia barmen work contracted hours. If members require the Cumberland Bar to remain open after the normal closing time of 11pm this may only be allowed if:

1. The duty barman agrees to extend his shift,
2. The member requesting the extension to the bar opening times accepts responsibility to cover the overtime and late night taxi charge at the rate of £50/hour or part thereof.
3. The bar closes no later than 1am, when all non-residents are required to vacate the premises.

Birthday Promotion

Many of you have taken advantage of the 'Birthday Promotion' offering a complimentary Table d'Hôte meal for you and a glass of champagne for you and your guests when lunching or dining in the Coffee Room. The terms of the offer have been updated to provide clarification that this offer is available for those taking a Table d'Hôte lunch or dinner in the Coffee Room Monday – Friday. It is not available on Sunday when taking Brunch which is already significantly discounted. The offer provides for one glass of champagne for each member of a birthday party. It does not mean that multiple birthday celebrants with mutual guests can have multiple glasses of free champagne. This is contrary to the spirit of the promotion.

Letters of Introduction

Members are reminded that a Letter of Introduction is usually required when you are planning to visit one of our reciprocal clubs. Please ask Lucia to arrange one for you, giving as much notice as possible. We continue to receive urgent requests from members who have turned up at reciprocal clubs without their membership cards and/or without having requested a Letter of Introduction. Members may not receive a timely reply to requests, particularly at weekends, so please - think ahead, ask for Letters of Introduction to cover all eventualities during your travels and carry your membership card at all times. Letters of Introduction will only be provided to members whose subscriptions and accounts are paid up to date.

Wine Society

The Club's 'Wine Society' offers a range of discounted Club wines, and special offers from time to time, to all members. Updated Order Forms are available to print off from the website and completed forms should be sent to the Finance Assistant, Mousey Brown or the Sommelière, Mariyana Radulova, for processing. Collection of your order from the Clubhouse is preferable as the cost of administration and delivery reduces the attractiveness of the offers. The Members' Offer from the last Wine & Cigar Committee was extremely popular and the Christmas Club Champagne offer is available until 22 December.





Secretary's House Notes

Captain David Freeman LVO

Merchandise

We have decided to reduce the price of all sailing clothing which is now offered at extremely competitive prices. Please review on the website the Club's current merchandise range and contact Lucia with your orders or for further information.



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Royal Thames Mess Kit

Royal Thames Mess Kit is the preferred dress at formal Clubhouse dinners. Details of tailors who have provided satisfactory made to measure Mess Kit to members, without any Club endorsement as to quality or finish, are provided on the website. Second hand items are occasionally made available and these are advertised on the website.

Dress Code

A smart casual dress code applies at all times in the Britannia Bar and on the deck. The minimum acceptable dress in the ground floor public rooms and on the Britannia Deck is polo shirt, chinos and sailing shoes or equivalent. This also applies in rooms being used for the breakfast service. No denim/jeans are permitted except after 1600 on Friday - 0700 on Monday when the weekend dress code is smart casual that may include denim (not frayed, holed or dirty). Full dress code details are available in the House Bye-Laws that are reproduced in your Members Handbook and on the website.

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Use of Public Rooms for Business

Members are reminded that the use of public rooms for business meetings is not permitted and contrary to the House Bye-Laws. It is evident that some members continue to use the public rooms, notably the Britannia Bar, for what are clearly business meetings. Members are reminded that business papers are not allowed in the public rooms and the Model Room is the only public room that may be used for small, informal meetings of up to three people. Members wishing to conduct business meetings in the Clubhouse are to book a private room for such purposes. Please contact the Events Co-ordinator on 020 7201 6283 or email: events@royalthames.com.

Use of RCC Library

Members are reminded of the terms under which RTYC members may access the RCC Library which is the lower of the two RCC rented rooms.

1. Access is permitted on days when the rooms are not required for an RCC function or event. We currently hold meetings and dinners each month from October through to May, usually but not exclusively on the first Thursday of each month, and there are other occasions when our members may be holding a private function, in which case we shall give your Secretary reasonable notice of such an event.
 2. The Library is available for access by your members as a "quiet room" in which they can relax and read the newspaper and suchlike. We ask that they are considerate to other users, and in particular refrain from using mobile telephones when other persons are in the Library, and that they do not hold any social gatherings or meetings without our prior consent.
 3. Full access to the Library will continue to be enjoyed by RCC members at all times.
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Website

The Club's website is linked to Jonas, the Club's Integrated Management System, and includes a number of features including improved access to members' information. Members are required to register for the website and then set up their own usernames and password. Separate instructions have been provided to help you do this and we hope you find the site easy to use but do ask if you need help. However, only 25% of the membership has registered to use the new website and, now that on-line booking for events has been implemented, please register to access the benefits that the functionality provides. Once logged in to the members' area, as well as being able to register for events on-line, you will have access to a range of facilities including the members list, your own personal information and access to your real-time Club statements. The Assistant Secretary: asec@royalthames.com or Lucia, the Membership Administrator: membersadmin@royalthames.com will be pleased to assist you.

Members' Reports. The appeal of the website will also be enhanced by reports and news items sent in by event managers and by members who can help by keeping us informed of your successes and interesting activities. Over the summer I hope you will have read of the exploits of a number of members who have contributed stories and reports of their activities. If you are involved in anything that would be of interest to other members please forward reports and photographs to the Assistant Secretary for posting on the website.

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Secretary's House Notes

Captain David Freeman LVO

Car Parking At 60 Knightsbridge

This is an ongoing problem for members and we are doing our best to resolve the issues that persist. The terms of the leases and tenancy agreements with the Head Lessee and Sixty Knightsbridge Limited provide for the Club to have permanent use of four car parking spaces in the garage. After 6.30pm until 8.00am members may also avail themselves of spare spaces in the garage that are occupied during the day by vehicles belonging to the Embassy of the State of Kuwait. Between 8.00am and 6.30pm the forecourt and ramp spaces may only be used for a maximum of two hours by both RTYC members and the Embassy staff. Only members who are resident in the Clubhouse or present in the Clubhouse on business may leave vehicles unattended on the premises. Space on the forecourt is at a premium and parked vehicles can cause difficulties for delivery vehicles and taxis. Regrettably some members are still ignoring the rules by parking on the ramp and forecourt for longer than two hours, or parking their vehicles and leaving them unattended whilst away from the premises without informing reception. This causes the Club's staff significant difficulties, particularly when dealing with the Embassy staff that we also have to encourage to obey the provisions of the leases.

News from HMS Dragon

Our affiliated warship, the Type 45 destroyer HMS DRAGON, is currently docked down in Portsmouth undergoing a planned upgrade and maintenance. She has a skeleton crew during this refit period and expects to start manning up in the spring with a new Commanding Officer. The ship will then undertake a series of post-refit trials and training before re-joining the operational fleet mid-2016.

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AND FINALLY

As ever, we aim to provide social opportunities to suit all tastes and there is a lot to look forward to the Clubhouse in coming months. Lookout out for details of these upcoming events in our weekly e-newsletters and on the website:

2015 - December

17th Members' Christmas Drinks Party,
Happy Hour and a Half and free canapés!
pm 23rd Clubhouse closes for Christmas/New Year

2016 - January

4th Clubhouse re-opens
11th Comman na Mara Reception, incl. 'A Taste of Harris'
12th Boat Show Cocktail Party
13th Bridge
19th Sailing Forum
21st Burns Night Supper (at the 'In & Out')
26th Presentation - 'Plastic Oceans'

February

1st Tesseron Wine Tasting & Dinner sure to be a sell-out!
9th Bridge
16th Racers' Dinner
23rd Talk - Captain Roger Barker: THLS
24th Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party (by invitation)

March

8th Bridge
16th Fitting Out Dinner - Guest Speaker,
Vice Admiral Jonathan Woodcock,
O.B.E. Second Sea Lord & Chief of Naval Personnel
25th - 28th Clubhouse closed for Easter weekend

Looking Ahead

We are delighted that Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham, has very kindly agreed to support a Charity Lunch in aid of the Club's Charitable Trust on Tuesday 17th May. Save the Date now and look out for more details in the New Year.

Captain David Freeman LVO, Royal Navy
Secretary



Enhanced Champagne List

Club Champagne

Montaudon Brut NV - £31.35

Lanson Champagne

Black Label Brut, NV - £41.75

Laurent Perrier

Cuvée Rosé - £62.85

Ruinart

Blanc de Blancs - £65.90

Dom Perignon

2005 - £139.50



Club
Champagne



Lanson
Champagne



Laurent Perrier



Ruinart



Dom Perignon



From the Sommelier

Mariyana Radulova Club Sommelier



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The Christmas tree is up and sparkling, Chef Simon Morris and the kitchen brigade have starting roasting the festive fayre which is now available in the Coffee Room until 23rd December - so what about a cracking wine to help you enjoy your seasonal feast. Below our Club sommelier, Mariyana, suggests few bottles of fine wine from the Coffee Room wine list.

WHITE WINE SELECTION:

**2014 Pouilly-Fumé, Vincent Vatan,
Loire Valley, France £22.35**

The grapes for this wine come from clay siliceous soils with flint stones which impart the distinctive flintiness to this wine which it is famous for. With its brilliant yellow-gold colour and sharp, visceral nose, this wine is very characteristic of Pouilly-Fumé with a pronounced mineral profile that is very typical of the Loire Valley soils. Ideal with turkey, pork and pasta dishes.

**2013 Saint-Aubin, 1er Cru Les Pitangerets,
Domaine Paul Pillot, Burgundy, France £43.30**

Pitangerets benefits from the slightly warmer south-westerly aspect of the western slopes of the Montrachet. The Pitangerets vines are located in a narrow valley just outside Chassagne-Montrachet.

Pitangerets 1er Cru is a powerful Burgundian wine, a prime choice of wine to accompany turkey. Fresh but firm, it has a beautiful, complex bouquet that includes touches of vanilla and honey. With an excellent acidity, it is light, has elegant fruit character and a truly excellent finish.



**2009 Chardonnay, Hunting Hill, Kumeu River,
Auckland, New Zealand £39.60**

Michael Brajkovich, the first New Zealander to become a Master of Wine, vastly improved the quality of the fruit through improved drainage systems, the growing of grass between the vine rows and by the introduction of the Lyre trellis system. Its two Chardonnays, the Kumeu River Chardonnay and the Matés Vineyard Chardonnay, are arguably the best in New Zealand and have been consecutively named in the top one hundred wines of the world by the Wine Spectator.

2009 Hunting Hill is a medium- to full-bodied, creamy-textured offering from Hunting Hill. Think streusel-topped citrus, but dry, with a long, harmonious finish.

RED WINE SELECTION:

**2010 Connétable Talbot, St Julien,
Bordeaux, France £44.10**

Connétable is the second wine of 4eme Cru Classé Château Talbot, the property named after John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, and commander of the English forces holding Bordeaux in 1453. It is the largest of all Cru Classé estates today with 109 hectares of mainly Cabernet Sauvignon vines planted on gravel and sandy soil supplemented with Merlot. Connétable Talbot was one of the pioneering second wines, created in the 1960s, and has gained in stature with the increasingly stringent selection improvements in vinification. It retains all the typical character of Talbot with classic Médoc elegance and firm structure. The spicy bouquet of cedar, plum and cassis is typical of Saint Julien and leads to exotic spice and black fruits balanced by supple tannins on a lingering finish.

**2009 Pommard, Tavannes, Ternand & Laurent Pillot,
Burgundy, France £42.40**

Since the 19th Century generations of the Pillot family have cultivated the hills of Cote de Beaune. While father Fernand is approaching retirement, his son Laurent cultivates and harvests nearly 14.6 hectares of land spread over 22 different appellations of red & white wines. The father-and-son team focus tirelessly on maintaining quality with their practices: low yields, minimal use of fertilizer and strict hygiene. All of their wines are vinified and matured in a modern winery but Laurent pays special attention to maintain with traditional Burgundian practices.

The Pommard 'Tavannes' is a beautiful 0.8 hectare parcel. The soil is clay limestone, red in colour due to iron oxide. Pommard only produces red wines, therefore, Pinot Noir is The Queen in this village. Pommard 'Tavannes', offering substantial body and round on the palate mouthfeel, with cherry, blackberry and spice aromas. The body expresses fine, slightly dry tannins. Serving suggestions; Turkey, Lamb, strong soft cheeses.

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