

INTRODUCTION BY IAN LOFFHAGEN

MOCRA's Commodore



Welcome to the 2006 MOCRA Yearbook. A great many people have put a lot of hard work into it so we hope that you enjoy it and find it useful and informative.

Last year we staged the AGM before the London Prizegiving Dinner in the hope of attracting a higher attendance. This year we decided to revert to the traditional timetable and it was held after racing on the penultimate Sunday of the Winter Series at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club. The primary advantage of staging the AGM in late November is that we can publish the list of elected officers and committee members in this yearbook.

One of the functions of the AGM is to elect the officers of the association. I would like to thank all of those who agreed to continue in post and especially our new Membership Secretary – Wendy Goodland and our new Secretary Diana Holder for agreeing to help in the running of the association. I must also take this opportunity to thank Graeme Ward, the outgoing Secretary and Mike Butterfield the outgoing Membership Secretary for all of their hard work on your behalf. Mike will of course remain our President - leading from the front as usual with Dazzle crossing the Atlantic as I write.

Running an association like MOCRA demands a lot of hard work from many individuals and one of my "manifesto pledges" on being elected Commodore was to enlist professional help in the running of MOCRA so that we might have a better association and reduce the workload on the volunteer officers. Over many years Simon Forbes and Guy Gibbins have been primary in issuing MOCRA ratings and this has often been a thankless task. The only person who is happy with their rating is the skipper who has just won a race and Simon and Guy have had to put up with having their ears bent whenever they have turned out to race. Competitors have been demanding a professional service so we have decided to change the way MOCRA ratings are issued. From January 2006 the RORC Rating Office (based in Lymington) will be issuing rating certificates on behalf of MOCRA; you will find the details elsewhere in this yearbook.

Last year I stated that my agenda for MOCRA was as follows:

1. Running the Association on a more professional basis by contracting paid help with the administration
2. Improving communication through-ensuring the Yearbook and Newsletter are produced on time. By redesigning the website and having more frequent news updates plus a 'new boats and gear for sale' section.

3. Better recruitment of new members
4. Improving the Rating Rule and its administration
5. Improved liaison with other multihull sailors

There will always be work to do and we will continue to work hard to improve the association but without overstating the case we have made a start. Our new approach to ratings will be a considerable improvement. We have also been working to improve communication. Your new Secretary Diana Holder is a wiz at I.T. so she has been persuaded to do a lot of work to the website. This is not yet apparent on the site because Di quite understandably found the chance of crossing the Atlantic on Dazzle an offer that was too good to refuse but she will finish the work on her return and you will see the results in the New Year. Di has also set up a web forum which will allow the membership to join in online discussions on whatever topics they choose. The service should also be up and running in January.

The recruitment of new members and liaison with other multihull sailors is also receiving attention. The website and forum should, along with an advertising campaign, lead to a natural increase in the membership and improve communications with other multihull sailors.

And finally I must write about a boat. The multihull scene has been blessed with another great new design recently: - the Seacart 30. Liz and I were privileged to join Paul Larsen and Helena Darvelid who are promoting this very special boat for a trial sail. The boat has a very tall rig and, being carbon, it is light; a combination that provides unrivalled performance. However the boat has big rudders and is set up for sailing from the float so she is very controllable. We sailed in a mere 10 knots of breeze but were able to fly the main hull with ease. Sure it's a race boat and Paul delighted in flying as high as we could for the cameras but the boat was always under control. There is a surprising amount of room below and the boat has real offshore potential. It's not a boat for novices but there are plenty of less sporty cruiser races around and this boat takes the game to a higher level - it is ORMA 60 style sailing on a practical 30' boat! Those who have been luck enough to sail on the boat have one thing in common; we want one.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Wendy Goodland has kindly volunteered to become Membership Secretary taking over from Mike Butterfield.

If you would like to become a member or update your existing details please get in touch with her. In order to simplify the job and make it much more efficient, her main task over the next season is to get everyone on direct debit payment terms.

Members co-operation in this would be very much appreciated. Postal address: 14 Pipers Drive, Mudeford, Dorset.

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