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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014

This winter newsletter once again comes to you primarily by email, following successful distribution of the newsletter in previous years. Members for whom the Membership Secretary does not hold a current email address will receive this newsletter and the AGM Calling Notice by post. I encourage all members to pass their email address to the Membership Secretary (afmd@btinternet.com) as this enables us to provide you with more cost-effective and sustainable correspondence.

Commodore

It has been a particularly good year for the REYC as we have sought to reinvigorate sailing opportunities for all of our membership, be they serving regulars or reserves, or retired. The season got off to a great start with a healthy competition at the Lymington meet and, despite us having to hand most of the silver back to the Royal Lymington Yacht Club, a great day's racing was had by all. Hopefully we will be a little smarter over the start line next year. Fortunately, the lack of trophies on that occasion was fully compensated for at the Army Offshore Regatta, where the REYC crews swept the board, winning almost every prize available including the much coveted Dolphin trophy.

It has not been all about racing however, and my thanks go to Murray Smith, Rob Duke and Col (Retd) James Anderson for organising a fantastic RE Sail Training Week in July in the Solent and picking one of the best weeks of the summer. All of the Club yachts were crewed, together with Victorias from JSASTC and retired members in their private yachts. This gave us a fine flotilla and a number of young sappers who had never sailed before the opportunity to give it a go. By all accounts, they thoroughly enjoyed it! We intend to run the same event again next year and I hope to see the same level of turn out by the REYC and private yachts.

Then followed Cowes week in August, again with a strong REYC representation, and I was pleased to see the Club yachts racing competitively skippered by Saskia Hart and Jason West, together with Rob Duke in his faithful Contessa 32. The final competitive meet of the year took place in September, when, in spite of Tom Barker's crew's valiant efforts, the Royal Navy offshore team beat us again to retain the Ilex Trophy. The final social of the year was considerably more successful, when a good number from the Club gathered for the Laying Up Supper in the Hamble on the final weekend of November to dine out our long standing Bosun, racing helm and winner of many a trophy, Roddy Simpson. He will be succeeded by a fresh faced and keen as mustard Spr Joel Reeve.

There are a couple of new appointments to make you aware of. As was announced at the last AGM, Major Bern Whishaw has taken over as Rear Commodore Inshore, and he is keen to reinvigorate dinghy sailing, windsurfing and kitesurfing with a RE Watersports Week at Army

Inshore Sail Training Centre (AISTC) Thorney Island next season. In addition Col (Retd) Peter Davies has volunteered to take over as Rear Commodore Regions from Col (Retd) Michael Gill and this will be proposed at the next AGM.

My thanks go to the Offshore Committee for keeping the yachts on the water and available for chartering. Ragna's rigging has been replaced and she is now in good shape and we have been amazingly fortunate to have been gifted a Norfolk Smuggler named *Hebe*. She is gaff rigged and will be available to sail out of Gosport from Easter onwards.

The next AGM is set for Tuesday 31 March 2015 followed by a dinner night in the Corps Officers' Mess (see Enclosures 1 and 2). Our finances are in good shape and membership remains strong but steady. In addition to the usual agenda items we will propose a hulls strategy and a modest rise to our membership fees. There are also some major events coming up in 2015, but I will leave this to the Offshore Racing Secretary to advertise. I hope to see you all at the AGM and REYC Dinner.

Offshore

This summer has been characterised by an unprecedented level of activity and buzz on the Dolphin Pool pontoons. For the racers the highlight was the Army Offshore Regatta this summer when LCpl Roddy Simpson's swan song event saw the Sappers sweep the board in every class, including *Ilex*, Andrew Douglas's *Rollercoaster* and the usual JSASTC Victoria 34. Roddy had set a hard target for his last event - to win the Dolphin Trophy for the team with the best overall results. In the end, although competition was intense in each class, none of the other clubs could match the REYC for overall consistency. This was a great result and a fitting end to Roddy's time as a Serving skipper (although we are hoping he will be back in the guise of "retired racer").

Elsewhere the racers had equally enjoyable but more mixed results. The Lymington Meet continues to be great fun, but once again we had to concede defeat to a stronger side. Similarly the *Ilex* Trophy went to RNSA but at least Tom Barker and his crew on *Ilex* showed their fellow competitors a clean stern from start to finish, honour maintained.

A great development this year was the return of the RE Sail Training Week. A mixed fleet of 10 yachts: the three RE vessels, a number of Victoria 34s and James Anderson's *Cleone* as the Committee Vessel had an amazing week of Adventurous Training. The weather gods looked favourably on the fleet and events including dinghy races, skippers' quizzes, night legs from Lulworth to Osborne Bay (the long way around) and picturesque sunset anchorages seemed to inspire the largely novice crews. The RE STW will be back next year; watch this space!

And finally, the Offshore Committee would like to thank all those members who have helped out running meets or who have brought boats, crews or just their enthusiasm to our events this year. The presence of *Cleone* at the RE STW and *Rollercoaster* at the AOR was great to see and of considerable help to the committee. We are always keen to expand participation in these events and are hoping that this trend will increase, perhaps with crews of Club members from coming to join the AOR, RE STW or Lymington Meet on their own boat or on one of the Club yachts. Everyone is welcome; just get in touch and we will make it happen for 2015!

Inshore

Windsurfing

This summer has again been busy for the Corps windsurfing team with training camps that have helped recruit a number of Sprs and JNCOs for the main competitions. This has helped to give a real boost to the sport and the "vibe" in the branch is very positive. After the retirement last season of the two most influential RE sailors of the last two decades, Lt Col Gareth Baker and Major Steve Jones, who have helped to secure the Sappers' dominance of the Inter Corps Championships for

the past 5 years consecutively, it will take the team several seasons to build up that strength and depth again.

The remaining team members stepped up this year to try and fill the big void that has been left behind. One young talented JNCO, LCpl George Main, has taken on this challenge and has produced some excellent results across all disciplines: Course, Master Blaster, Slalom, and Long Distance. He also secured a place on the Army team in the process after a 3rd place finish in the Forces Open Championships, assisting the Army team with a 1st place position over the RAF and Navy. Another individual, LCpl Ant Davies entered his first competition in the Novice fleet and walked away with a 1st place finish, which is an exceptional result. He has also completed his windsurfing instructor's course and is keen to promote the sport. Sprs Saw and Hoskin also found their windsurfing legs and through some excellent training were also able to compete and come away with entirely credible results in their first competition.

The Army Championships in July were a highly contested competition with individuals from the Club competing well. WO2 (SSM) Dave Curry was the highest placed Spr after gaining some excellent positions across the disciplines. After all the points and discards were counted he ended in 4th place overall.

In August, Lt Col Andy Gladen, Maj Mark Collins and Sgt Aaron Hickman travelled to Renesse in Holland for the 22nd annual North West European Windsurfing Championships. All three competed well, with Sgt Aaron Hickman gaining a 2nd place finish in the Novice fleet. Incidentally, due to the draw-down of British Forces in Germany, this would be sadly the very last time the Championships were run.

The team are looking forward to 2015 and will continue to recruit, train and develop individuals from across the Corps and provide opportunities at all levels. The programme of events is already full with the team looking at going to Cyprus in April for a training camp. There will be the expected UK competitions throughout the year and the highlight will be a Wave sailing trip to Brazil in September 2015.

Kitesurfing

Kitesurfing has seen another exponential year of growth across Defence. Whilst our focus is at the Army level, as a developing sport must be, the Sappers are well represented within the committee and competitors alike. The Army Sailing Association (ASA) Kitesurfing Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer (a recent addition to the Army Kitesurf committee) are all Sappers. The Corps was lucky to have the talented Maj Simon Warren - who won the Inter-Services event last year - and many other very capable kites in the mix. Simon's win was a significant result, secured with a massive handle-pass rotation whilst jumping over waves in North Devon. The Inter-Services this year saw Capt Richard Pierce narrowly lose out in the final heats; in addition, Maj Rosco Wendover won a prize new harness for the event's most spectacular crash! A good result for the Sappers all around.

The potential for Sapper Kitesurfing is huge. The development of the sport, with the policy, safety requirements, instructor development, committee build and everything else required will take time. The intent is that Corps will roulement through funding bids under the Army umbrella in order to build their capacity and equipment holdings whilst benefitting from the Army infrastructure at Thorney Island. The Sappers have a number of fantastic locations with 24 Cdo Engr Regt in North Devon, 23 Engr Regt (Air Assault) on the east Suffolk coast, and 22, 26 and later 35 Engr Regts located near the Solent to take on development of the sport. There is also the opportunity for distributed training elsewhere. Until the Corps has its own independent training capability, any volunteer kitesurfers are encouraged to apply for courses through the ASA.

Regions

Lymington Meet

We were blessed with near perfect conditions for the racing. Sadly the Royal Lymington Yacht Club (RLymYC) romped away with the Carlier Trophy but the event was enjoyed by all and some new yachts joined the fray. For the record, the detailed results were:

- **Carlier Trophy:** Won by the RLymYC (8pts). REYC (13pts)
- **Ithnan Cup** (Div A): Won by Robin of Cowes (5pts). 2nd Gualin (6pts), 3rd Right Royal (7 pts), 4th Ilex (8pts)
- **Shapland Bowl** (Div B): Won by Seraphim (2 pts), 2nd Rosinis (5 pts), 3rd Hurrying Angel (6 pts).

The prize for the most stylish lunch must go to Chris Davies on *Robin of Cowes* whose BBQ at anchor near the starting platform attracted many an envious glance.

Once again we were fortunate to enjoy the warm hospitality of the RLymYC at the reception and prizegiving followed by an excellent supper.

For your diaries, next year's Lymington Meet will take place on **Saturday 16th May 2015**. The calling notice, NOR, SIs and Entry Form will be distributed in the New Year.

Mary Cup

Well done to all who entered, many having travelled some distance. The race officers did a fine job as did the catering team who provided a rather tasty BBQ. Our thanks are due to the Commodore of the Medway Cruising Club for the use of the clubhouse for the prizegiving.

The results were as follows:

Class 1 - 1st REYC yacht -	Mary Cup tankard - <i>Big Zipper</i> - Clinton Lyon
Class 2 - 1st REYC yacht -	Mary Cup tankard - <i>Pochard</i> - Malcolm Crawford
Class 3 - 1st REYC yacht -	Mary Cup tankard - <i>Swanti</i> - Jill Moore

The Bill Stewart trophy tumbler was awarded to Jill Moore for being the first lady skipper on the REYC moorings.

Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the Mary Cup in its present format. We are hoping for a special turnout for this event including one or more of the Corps' own yachts. **The date for your diary is Saturday 5th September 2015.**

Log Book Trophies

Now is the time to write up your cruising adventures of 2014 and make an entry for one of the two cruising log trophies. These awards are open to all serving and retired REYC members. Cruises may be undertaken under sail or power but not on commercial 'cruise ships'. The log is to be written and submitted by an REYC member, who need not be the skipper or owner of the vessel. Entries may be submitted in hard or soft (preferably pdf) copy format, no later than 28th February 2015 to allow for a presentation at the AGM in March. Accounts (or extracts) may be included in subsequent Year Books. Please send entries to Rear Commodore (Regions) at the address below.

- **Long Distance Log – Avalanche Trophy.** Awarded for a cruise containing a passage of longer than 1,000 nautical miles.

- **Coastal Log – Torch Trophy.** Awarded for a cruise in mainly coastal (or inland) waters, with a duration of 7 or more days. An account of a weekend dash to the Folly Inn and back would not be eligible!

Rear Commodore (Regions)' address:

Col (Retd) Michael Gill
Hamilton House
Wyke Regis
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9EY
Tel: +44 (0)1305 775854
Email: michael@hamiltonhouse.demon.co.uk

Membership Matters

Contact details and new qualifications. The Membership Secretary is having difficulty contacting members who have changed their address, email or phone number. He also records qualifications, so that he can offer you opportunities to sail. Please send any changes to him at afmd@btinternet.com.

Hulls Fund and Gift Aid. Our new charitable status gives the opportunity to recover tax on donations to the Hulls Fund from 2011 onwards. Current rates of tax mean that we can claim 25% of the amount received. That means an extra **£2,500** in arrears, and **£800** per year in the future, **provided we have your original signature** on a Gift Aid form, attached at Enclosure 3. If you have not completed one, please do so and send it to the Membership Secretary, at the address on the form. It will cost you no more, and Higher Rate tax payers can get extra benefit by including the gift on their tax returns.

New Members. If you have a friend who would like to join, please get in touch, and we will send them encouraging messages!

Membership Secretary's address:

Lt Col (Retd) Andrew Douglas
6, The Row
Pusey
FARINGDON
Oxfordshire
SN7 8QF
Email to: afmd@btinternet.com

Communications

The Club uses a variety of outlets to advertise its activities, namely:

The website. <http://www.home.sappersailing.org>. The website lists all Offshore, Inshore and Regions activities, details of how to charter a REYC yacht, the Club Rules and many other details. It serves as a first point of call for all queries about Club matters.

Tumblr gallery. <http://royalengineeryachtclub.tumblr.com/>. The Tumblr gallery and blog is linked to the website and gives an opportunity to see images, film, articles and related material. There are some particularly striking photographs from the Ilex Trophy currently on the website.

If you have anything you would like publicised, have articles or submissions to share or just have a great sailing photo you want to show off, please get in touch with Maj Murray Smith (Offshore Racing Secretary) at reycoffshoreracing@yahoo.co.uk.

Offshore Facebook page. For the offshore racers there is a busy Facebook page allowing for discussion, crew trawls and the usual 'banter' before, during and after events. If you would like to be invited to join this page, once again, let the Offshore Racing Secretary know.

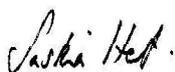
Group Email. The MailChimp group email system is employed for e-mailing information, trawls and the like. With the vast majority of Club members now providing us with an e-mail address there is an intention to continue use this medium to ensure that members are kept fully aware of Club, ASA and RYA issues and events. If anybody wishes to be added to the regular 'E-Bulletins', Offshore Racing Secretary will add them to the distribution list.

Yearbook 2014. With a busy club there are a lot of interesting stories, and what better way to get your newly spun yarn to the wider Club than to submit an article for the 2015 REYC Yearbook! If you have been out sailing in interesting waters or against interesting opposition, please consider putting an article together (with photos if possible) and emailing it to the Yearbook Editor, Maj Rob Duke (rob.duke@gmail.com). The deadline for inclusion is **20 January 2015**.

Administration

H&M Trust Fund. The H&M Trust Fund is available to support costs of sailing, windsurfing and kitesurfing activity and is open to all serving Sappers. Priority is given to soldiers, with any remaining in-year funds then available to officers. A planning figure of £10 per person per day can be used, but consideration will be given to the personal costs involved. In the event of a large number of bids then payment may have to be delayed to the end of the season to allow fair deconflition of limited funds. The information required for any bid is on the REYC website, otherwise email the Honorary Treasurer at reyctreasurer@outlook.com.

AGM and Dinner 2015. Details of, and the proforma for, the REYC AGM and Dinner is included at Enclosures 1 and 2 of this email (as well as on the RE Institution¹ and REYC website under 'NEWS'). Both events will take place on 31 March 2015 in Brompton Barracks (Chatham Station Auditorium and Officers' Mess respectively). Please return your form in good time as this greatly simplifies the business of organising the dinner and accommodation.



S J HART
Maj
Hon Sec

Enclosures:

1. RE Supplement calling notice for REYC AGM and Dinner.
2. Proforma for REYC AGM and Dinner.
3. Gift Aid Form.

¹ <http://www.instre.org/pages/notice-board.php>

RE Supplement calling notice for REYC AGM and Dinner

REYC – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 31 MAR 15

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the Royal Engineer Yacht Club will take place on Tue 31 Mar 15 at 1600hrs in the Chatham Station Auditorium (formerly known as Command Wing Auditorium), Brompton Barracks. Tea and coffee will be available in the Auditorium reception room from 1530hrs. Any items for inclusion in the Agenda under “Any Other Business” should be notified by Fri 13 Feb 15 to the Hon Sec (contact details below). Please note that, in accordance with Rule 29c of the Rules and Bye-laws 2011 only full members of the Club may vote or forward any new proposals to the General Meeting of the Club. Hon Sec contact details: 552162 Maj S J Hart, SO2 ENG OPS COORD, HQ RRC-FR, LILLE, BFPO 26. Email: REYC@live.co.uk.

REYC – ANNUAL DINNER – 31 MAR 15

The 2015 annual dinner of the Royal Engineer Yacht Club will be held on Tue 31 Mar 15 in the HQ Officers’ Mess, Brompton Barracks. Dinner will be at 1930 for 2000hrs. Dress for serving officers will be Mess Dress; otherwise it will be black tie. Members are encouraged to bring their spouses and may invite other private guests. An application form is on the Inst RE website www.InstRE.org and on the REYC website <http://www.home.sappersailing.org>. Forms should be returned to the Hon Sec by Fri 13 Feb 15, which is the closing date for guaranteed applications. Any dietary requirements are to be made clear on the application form. Accommodation is available in the Mess and will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis once the needs of official guests have been met. Confirmation of the application and of accommodation will be sent by email.

**ROYAL ENGINEER YACHT CLUB
AGM & ANNUAL DINNER 31 March 2015**

Return to: 552162 Maj S J Hart
Honorary Secretary REYC
SO2 ENG OPS COORD
HQ RRC-FR, LILLE, BFPO 26

Or

Email: REYC@live.co.uk

From:

Rank/Title	Initials	Known Name	Surname	Decorations
Address:		Postcode:		
Car Details:		VRN:	Make:	Model: Colour:
Tel No:				
Email address:				

2. I wish to attend the AGM (Chatham Station Auditorium): YES /NO
(copies of the previous Minutes will be available at the meeting).
3. I wish to attend the Annual Dinner (RHQ RE Officers' Mess): YES /NO
4. I wish to invite the following guests to the Dinner:

Rank/Title	Initials	Known Name	Surname & Post nominals	Appointment/Representing *

*Please include any pertinent appointments eg Flag Officer appointments.

5. Changing Facilities / Accommodation Requirements:

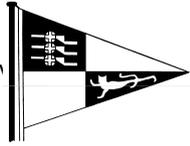
Accommodation		Changing Facilities	
SELF – YES/NO	GUEST – YES / NO	SELF – YES/NO	GUEST – YES / NO

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Received by Hon
Sec:
Confirmation email
sent on
Dinner places

Processed:

Room type &
Qty



The Royal Engineer Yacht Club Hulls Fund

I wish to donate £_____ per year to the **REYC Hulls Fund**, to be collected by Direct Debit on or after 1 February each year, until further notice. This supersedes previous instructions concerning such donations. *(Please delete if no change is to be made)*

Gift Aid Declaration – for past, present and future donations

Please treat as Gift Aid Donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

Today In the past from 2011 In the future

(Please tick all boxes you wish to apply)

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand at current rates the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Donor's Details:

Title: _____ First name or initial(s): _____

Surname: _____

Full home address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please notify the Club if you:

- *Want to cancel this declaration*
- *Change your name or home address*
- *No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains*

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please send this original form by post to:

REYC Membership Secretary, Autumn Cottage, The Row, Pusey, Faringdon SN7 8QF