

Dear Member,

### THIS IS DECISION TIME!

This is the first Newsletter for some time, there are a number of reasons for that. I seem to have been busy taking on other commitments, our sailing achievements have diminished in recent years and I have not received much copy from members to incorporate in Newsletters.

We have lost a number of club stalwarts over the last few years: John Barker our Club Captain for many years plus Shelagh his wife and also Win Boardman and David Turner. We have lost contact with Dennis Hutchings. Ernest and Avril Mills sold their boat. Ernest Mills was Club Treasurer and decided to resign his post.

In 2011 Bill Boardman took over as Club Captain but sadly earlier this year Bill suffered a fairly severe stroke, his vision is impaired and he can no longer drive. Although Bill did not launch Norlas this season, Priors have it varnished and Bill is planning for its early launch next year. So despite his positive attitude Bill has decided that he must resign as Club Captain on medical grounds.

### THE COMMITTEE.

The three Club Officers are Bill Boardman [Captain], Colin Palmer [Hon Sec] and Douglas Potter [Treasurer].

I have just sold Southern Coaster and wish to resign my position as Hon Sec.

Douglas Potter [Coaster No 46] agreed to take on the post of Treasurer in 2011 when Ernest Mills retired. Douglas moved the club's financial account from the Alliance & Leicester BS/Santander to his local branch of Barclays in Burnham on Crouch. The signatories of the Barclays account being Bill, Douglas and myself.

Douglas's contribution of sorting out the bank accounts and signatories having been successfully completed he wishes to retire as Treasurer.

The three Officers of the Club intend retiring at the end of November!  
We need a new Committee to be appointed before that date!

### WHAT IS THE CLUB FOR?

The Constitution of the Club [as amended in 22 Oct 2011] states that the Objects shall be to:

1. provide help and information to the community at large about yacht cruising in general and about the Prior Coaster in particular.
2. organise social and sailing functions for Club members, their families and friends.

3. provide technical updates to members and promote self-help to deal with members' technical or practical queries.
4. record current owners' details and promote the Prior Coaster and Passagemaker yachts.
5. liaise with R J Prior & Son on matters concerning the above yachts.

In practice the Club has concentrated upon Items 2, 3 and 4. Due to the spread of Coasters both in UK and abroad the organisation of social and sailing functions has never been really practical. However it has been possible to organise the AGM with a dinner in Burnham on Crouch most years.

Club members have always responded to queries from new or prospective owners on many aspects of repair and maintenance and new equipment.

The Coaster Owners List has always been kept up to date and circulated regularly to members. Unfortunately not all new owners have joined the Club. Out of the 50 boats built we are currently only in touch with about 20 members plus five non-owners.

The Club is very much indebted to Iain Clement [Coaster No 2] who off his own volition and without any charge to the Club set up and kept updated the Club Website [[www.coaster33.co.uk](http://www.coaster33.co.uk)]. The site provides details and various photos of Coaster33 yachts and is often the first port of call of prospective owners and members of the Club. In addition it provides details of Coasters for sale, a very useful facility.

## CLUB DISSOLUTION?

Clause 5 of the Constitution concerns "Dissolution". It states that: In the event of the Club being wound up any assets remaining after payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Currently the Club's assets are £939.39, on deposit at Barclays.

## COMMENTS FROM IAIN CLEMENT

"At the risk of sticking my head above the parapet, I am quite content to continue with the website and act as a point of contact until someone more worthy steps forward. We've all put in a lot of effort into raising the profile of the class and it would be a shame to let that slip. I would have thought that Colin has amassed quite a lot of Coaster information and history along the way. Again, that should not be lost. The reason I offered to set up the website all those years ago was because I couldn't find out much about the class. And if boats are being sold directly or indirectly via the website, then it fulfils a secondary role. A lot of the text you see in brokers' adverts is lifted from the website. And some of the photos too (there's one that used a photo of my boat!)

"We perhaps don't need to the Club as such (I'm not familiar with the Club's constitution) but I would be keen that some form of forum / owners association is continued. By all means put the feelers out via a Newsletter, but I'm happy to potter . on with it for now. The cost of running the site is £20 per year I think, so no huge

overheads in that regard. But losing all the work of the Club officers would be a high cost.”

#### WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

1. Ideally the best situation is for three members to come forward to be appointed by an AGM/EGM to the positions of Captain, Hon Sec and Treasurer. In which case the Club can continue in accordance with its Constitution.
2. If the above option fails then the Club should be wound up.
3. A third option? As Iain suggests above, perhaps a less formal arrangement such as an owners forum or association replace the existing committee arrangement.

#### EXPANDING ON THIRD OPTION.

For this option to work it would still be necessary for volunteers from the existing membership to come forward and take on specific roles, such as :

- \* Keeping the Owners List up to date,
- \* Responding to queries from existing and potential members,
- \* Acting as librarian of historical records and documents.

Iain has already volunteered to continue as web site administrator.

All of the above roles would potentially have the need for ongoing expenditure on stationery, postage and IT costs. But perhaps not the amount currently in the Club accounts.

#### OVER TO YOU!

Please let me have your comments on the above options which will be considered by the existing Committee. We would be delighted for volunteers to take on the Committee roles so that the Club can continue in its existing format, recognising the logistical difficulties if the three members were not from the same region.

The Committee will keep you informed of the responses and their recommendation.

Kind regards,

Colin Palmer, Hon Sec.  
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6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014.