



Class Captain

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This will be my last newsletter.

When I first embarked on the Captaincy the committee agreed that a five year Strategic review was appropriate leading up to the Centenary of the class.

1. This included the appointment of the centenary committee under the chairmanship of Jeremy Willcock. You already have a taste of the plans.
2. The appointment of a Marketing committee to regenerate interest in the class. The chairman of this committee is Ted Roose and his work has been one success after another. The class profile has never been higher and great things are still to come from Ted's group. I should mention Paul Fisher, our webmaster who manages the hugely improved website.

Both Jeremy and Ted have been action men and have needed little guidance from myself. I have been able to leave them, confident of the tasks being completed.

3. To establish a Budget for this new activity. The Class treasurer is Rory Paton.

The class lost the services of John Lacey as Chairman of the Technical Committee, on which he had served for over 25 years. Frank Powell our class Measurer passed away not long after. Both untiringly served the class and are greatly missed.

I would like to thank a host of members who have been so supportive throughout my Captaincy.

I will start with the previous Captain, Mike Flanders who helped me frequently in the early stages and has always been available when I have needed a little advice.

The Class Committee meetings have been non confrontational and every Divisional Captain has been open and frank with me. Bill Barnes was very helpful in the early stages with the Boat Check lists.

Nick Dorley-Brown from Yarmouth has been especially valuable to me to bounce ideas off whilst MOS Fitzgerald, a fellow farmer, has kept me abreast with the firm convictions of the Hamble Division.

A special mention ought to go to the Class Official Measurer, who has taken on a task which is growing day by day. The recent growth in new owners, the renovation of boats for the centenary and his monitoring of Xoanon has been quite overwhelming. Many thanks to John Wilson.

The Technical Advisory Committee chair has been taken on by Jonathan Fairchild. This has been a difficult role for Jonathan with the recent rigging discussion and the new boat distractions but he has mastered the task well.

Last but not least, I should mention Tina Scott who serves the class so well as our Secretary. I believe the relationship between Captain and Secretary is crucial to the

management success of the class. Tina has again had a role which has significantly grown over the last three years and has handled the extra work with enthusiasm. She has been most tolerant of my demands and I do not know what I would have done without her. She is a wonderful link with the rest of the Classes and Clubs in the Solent in addition to being an excellent sailor. Thank you Tina.

The next year leading up to the Centenary will be a time of constant planning to ensure that 2011 will be a celebration to remember. Let us concentrate on that and leave rules and resolutions for years to follow.

It has been a great privilege to serve you and I hope that I can continue to enjoy sailing our little boat for many years to come.

The sad passing of Barbara Payne recently reminds me that we have many members who have given so much to the class. The XOD is more than a much loved boat. To many it is a way of life or life itself. As we enter the next century we have a robust fleet with enthusiastic sailors. The next task will be to continue to build on the strengths of the classic XOD for those who follow.

Mark Hall