



From the Class Captain

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Letter from Class Captain to All Members of the Class

Dear Member,

2011 programme

Information about the Centenary and, particularly, details of the events planned and about our pressing need for sponsorship can be found in a second newsletter which you should be receiving at the same time as this one. Can I encourage you to read it and consider what you can do to help? This note just looks forward to the rest of this year and brings some sad news.

Cowes Week 2010

The minutes of the Class Committee meeting (see the XOD website) will be self explanatory. I hope to see as many of you as possible off and on the water at Cowes. If you do not know me, come up and introduce yourself. If we meet in a race/on the water, I shall be sailing X178 Beatrix. I would appreciate it if you were to follow at a respectful distance – about 500 yards astern until after the finish would be counted very helpful.

More seriously – if only slightly so – you will be interested to learn that our entry already stands at 88, an excellent achievement and far in excess of any other One Design class. Whether that promises good racing or the unenviable prospect of a hideous pile-up at the first mark, only time will tell.

Derf Paton

Many of you will already know that Derf Paton, long standing stalwart (and former Divisional Captain) of the Lyminster Division died recently in Lyminster from cancer, having fought the illness for some time with typical spirit, determination and



guts and entirely without self pity. Derf was a remarkable man: a brilliant and inspired inventor and with that priceless quality of enthusiasm which never faded. He had enormous energy and a fierce sense of fair play and of what was right and wrong. Ever since I came into the class in 1995 he has been an enduringly cheerful fixture and the source of boundless energy and ideas. He sailed X48 according to exactly those principles: not always in precisely the right direction but with commitment, love of the class and complete determination. Many of you will also know how much he did for the class as a whole in some difficult times and it was typical of him that recently he helped to secure river moorings for the Lymington Division. In recognition of that service, he was elected an Honorary Member of the Class at the recent Class Committee meeting and had recently been made an honorary member at Lymington.

Derf was also one of the prime movers in bringing the recent legal case that has created a proper regulatory structure by which to control the introduction of the new “slightly larger” ferries that ply their trade between Lymington and Yarmouth. In short, he was a man you could not fail to notice, to admire and (if you didn’t mind the occasional very bent ear) to like and look forward to seeing very much. Our warmest sympathies are extended to his wife, Jean, and to his wider family including son Rory and grandson Ben who many of you will know best amongst its members. The Patons are a great XOD dynasty and the Class is lucky to have them. All of us who knew Derf can be proud of his friendship and will remember him with real warmth and affection.

Simon Russell

Simon suffered serious leg injuries recently. Although he is making a good recovery, it is unlikely we shall see him in an X at Cowes – a great shame as he is one of our very best sailors and his absence gives us one less grown-up to follow. But he assures me he will be back soon and we wish him every good fortune en route.

William Norris
XOD Class Captain

12th July 2010