

Newsletter Archive 2001 to 2011

In late 2000 I took on the role as 'guest editor' with some hesitation as I had only been in the club a couple of years and didn't really know much about it. The magazine had not been issued since 1998 so it seems they were missing it.

Later I was given a three old copies of the club newsletter, 1995/6, 1997, 1998. These are good quality A5 booklets with many articles from members. There were many pages of text with a few photos. Ideal for a read while at anchor.

My first effort distributed in Jan 2001 was just about OK. I got the lightweight content by interviewing the members in the bar! They were almost the only people I knew in the club anyway and I wasn't in a position to encourage anyone to write better articles.

It was a time near the end of an old argument about accepting that 'Lady Associate Members' should get the vote at the AGM! Amazing considering all women got the vote in the UK in 1928, over seventy years earlier. The AGM in December 2001 gave validity to the gender neutral position of 'Associate Member', and the membership agreed to a smoking ban!

This and a matching musty atmosphere in the club encouraged me to call the newsletter 'Making Waves'. It's not very original but it does convey a safe but slightly challenging attitude maybe. Too subtle for most; someone said the since we had sailing boats it might have been better named 'Breaking Wind'!

I wanted a light feel to the content aiming at a 'young at heart' reader. So I went for an A4 size with plenty of photos and 12 point sans serif font, which is quite large, open and friendly. It also meant that if a contributor gave me only a few words I could stretch it out a bit! It had to be in black and white because colour doubles the printing cost. I didn't hear any grumbles but it wasn't quite the serious magazine that some had been used. People were very generous, said nice things and encouraged me to keep going.

For the first few editions I couldn't get much content from members so I wrote most of each edition while hiding this fact, not with pseudonyms, but with subtle reportage, interviewing people on the phone and 'improving' unpromising submissions. An editor has to work hard to make it not look like padding.

I began to get substantial articles from members. One of the first in 2002 was David Marler's report of his voyage back from the Mediterranean which made a very good story. Then in 2003 Paddy Marrison gave me Geoff Haynes' story, a substantial and moving account of her uncle building a boat just after the war. It was in many ways a break through; the acceptance of the magazine as a suitable medium to communicate in the club.

They say that size isn't everything but the number of pages of each mag is interesting:

Year	Pages
2001	8
2002	12
2003	16
2004	20
2005	16
2006	16
2007	20
2008	24
2009	32
2010	32
2011	32
2012	28

The first tentative eight pages rose steadily with my confidence and increasing contributions from members to 16-20 where is stabilised. Since I retired the magazine has grown steadily in size as I have given it more attention, but 28-32 pages seems a good size for a club magazine.

When I started as editor I had very little contact with the committees running the club. More recently I have been on the General and Sailing committees and have a better insight into the running of the club. These are the forums I use to 'make waves' so the magazine is spared further anarchy. The Newsletter is also a good way to promote BYC to outside sailors and clubs.

I hope you enjoy rereading these old editions. There are some very young faces in them. The editor in particular seems to have aged much more than you would expect from the passage of time, which can only be due to stress of trying to keep up the quality of the magazine.

So you see that I need your help; only a steady stream of high quality articles can save me from this editorial fate!

Keep sailing. Enjoy life. Then write about it and send it in to the newsletter.

Make some waves. Phil Bostock