

# TS Colne Light

Colchester Sea Cadets



*Welcome aboard to the first newsletter of 2009.*

What is news and what has been happening on board TS Colne Light.

In January our seamanship instructor Tony Adams completed his instructor qualifying course at HMS Excellent. He is now promoted to a uniformed member of staff as Petty Officer. Not content with this he has also qualified to an Advanced Seamanship instructor.

**Well done PO Adams.**

## HMS Illustrious

In January the Lightship welcomed aboard 2 members of HMS Illustrious crew. Lt Fiona McDonald & PO Lawrence, who are the liaison officers for Colne Light.

Whilst on board, they undertook the presentation of the Jack Petchey award for achievement.

The proud recipient was O/C Steven Blower.

## Competitions

The 1<sup>st</sup> of the area competitions was the football. After a couple of years absence from the field, TS Colne Light entered a team plus a few supporters. Not quite ready to take on the premiership but, great time was had on the day & a few more points were added to district score board.

The next competition was small bore rifle shooting. Not something that Colne Light cadets have had a lot of experience at but, due to some hard work from Peter Ward in helping with instruction & some practice, the teams represented themselves with some good scoring. More point on the district scoreboard.

In April TS Colne Light was host to the district Advex competition – for those unenlightened; Advex is an adventure training competition. Teams of Cadets from all units set off into Friday Woods Friday night to set up camp. After a night under canvas the teams are given a series of map co-ordinates to follow to each check point. At the check point there is different tasks that have to be performed, such as 1<sup>st</sup> aid etc.

Colchester “A” team put in a great performance to achieve a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> place – the scoring was very close indeed.

Well done to the competing teams & a special well done to the “Syretts” who put in a huge amount of time & effort ensuring that everybody was well prepared.

Hosting the Advex weekend meant the Colne Light Club facilities were put to good use. With the expertise of Grenny Southgate behind the bar, a tidy profit was made to help boost cadet funds.

*Big thanks to all those involved.*

## Sponsorship

Courtesy of the King Cole Kittens generosity, there are now 3 Toppers sailing dinghies on board the lightship to accompany the RIB. A small amount of preparation work and they'll be ready for the sailing season.

The RIB (rigid inflatable boat) has now passed its sea worthy examination, courtesy of Simon Evans from APB Marine services. R.J Cannon of Tiptree are presently constructing the lifting frame and all should be ready to put the RIB in the water by the end of the month.

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### Boats

Colne light has been lucky enough to be awarded another ASC (pulling boat) & Bosun (sailing dinghy) from area SCC.

The ASC is currently being refurbished by the Boats Officer with the view to being on the water mid May. The Bosun however, needs a fair amount of work to bring up to scratch. It's not anticipated this will be on the water this season.

PO Adams has successfully completed and gained RYA qualification for safety boat. This gives Colchester the cover required to carry out more sailing activities.

### Event of the year

The Cadets are now in training for the RNP inspection on June 17<sup>th</sup>. This inspection is a very important event in all sea cadet units. The Area Officer conducts an official visit to the unit to assess how the cadet are making progress with their training, specialisation and all other SCC activities.

Through the efforts of all, last year TS Colne Light was awarded a "Pennant" this was a great achievement and this year we are aiming for better, a "Burgee".

During the evening there is a formal inspection and then various demonstrations of cadet activities.

Put the date in your diary. It is very important for all cadets that they are well supported by everybody.

### TS Rebel

Race squad sailing is now underway and we wish the delegation from Colchester POC Syrett, AC Arrowsmith & AC Adams the best of luck & fair winds.

An important fundraising event in the offshore calendar is the "Royalist Regatta". The regatta take place as a 2 day event, sailing offshore yachts around the Isle of Wight on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> May.

Congratulation to AC "Chunk" Adams for being selected to represent TS Rebel. We wish him good luck.

### Events

Honda RIB Challenge – 9<sup>th</sup> May

Summer Ball – 16<sup>th</sup> May – Contact unit staff for tickets – don't miss out on a great night of dinner & dance.

Rowhedge Regatta – 11<sup>th</sup> June – Cadets will be on the water to "fly the Flag"

Quiz night & BBQ – 20<sup>th</sup> June. Fun night to support the cadets. All invited - Details from unit staff.

*We are always looking for willing & able volunteers – it doesn't have to be uniformed & instructional. You don't have to commit full time.*

*If you fancy swishing a paint brush, filing some papers or just serve at the "tuck shop" please come aboard and talk to PO Adams.*

The new bar area is almost finished. Lots of effort from PO Adams, countless hours from Philip Hartley, tea making from Kathy Hartley & food from Grenny Southgate, it's looking good.

A last final push of some painting, floor laying, cleaning & some bits n pieces it will be fully functionally.

All help will be greatly appreciated.

See you all on the 17<sup>th</sup> June (if not sooner).

Fair winds & safe passage

TS Colne Light