



Detail from a painting by D L Munro



HONORARY SECRETARY'S NOTES

CATERING PROVISION

The Committee are always looking closely at Club finances to ensure that costs are running within budget. Over the past few months a dramatic reduction in catering turnover has been noted, primarily due to fewer Members using the excellent facilities on offer.

A full catering and bar service is offered during the hours stated in the Club Yearbook. Analysing the daily use has shown that on most occasions during the day, turnover does not come near to covering staff costs, let alone contributing to overheads. Evening turnover just about breaks even with only Friday night generating a surplus.

The Committee have discussed the situation at length and agreed that,

in order to get catering back on track, there is no alternative but to reduce staff costs.

Consequently, as of Monday 20th February 2017, a full catering service will no longer be available during the day. Instead, soup, filled sandwiches, panini and baked potatoes will be provided. The full catering service will still be offered in the evenings in the hope that Members will use the Club more often. Turnover will continue to be monitored closely to determine if the costs involved in continuing with the full evening food service are justified.

DINING ACCOMMODATION

Attached are some pictures to remind Members of the facilities on offer. The room upstairs is there to

be booked if Members would like a more private dining experience, with parties of up to twenty accommodated. The first three of the attached pictures show an example of a table which is set for ten. An intercom from this room to the bar will be installed shortly, allowing Members to give their order to the bar staff who will then bring the drinks to your table. A Bluetooth music system will be available to allow the facility of playing the music of your choice if required. There are now both male and female toilets on this level. It is also possible to have a set menu put together in advance, with the food of your choice at an agreed price.

The remaining pictures show the

Topics

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set up for a more individual and intimate dining experience in the very warm and cosy bar area, where Members can choose from the a la carte menu or from any of the special menus often available. The menu is currently being revised and priced to encourage Members to use the Club more often. The Club staff work extremely hard to ensure that Members enjoy themselves when visiting the Club, whether dining or just popping in for a drink. If Members do intend to book a table, it would be appreciated if as much notice as possible was given to allow staffing numbers to be proportionate to the bookings, thus avoiding unnecessary staff costs.

Maintaining the viability of the Club and its services depends on the support of all Members and the Club can ill afford to provide facilities which are little used.

Stephen Keenan
House Convenor

BLUE ENSIGN WARRANT PERMITS

Flag Etiquette

Flag etiquette is a combination of law, good manners and tradition. It is a legal requirement for a UK flagged vessel to wear her ensign as required by the Merchant Shipping Act, when entering or leaving a foreign port and on demand. In most cases the correct version to be worn is the undefaced Red Ensign (the national maritime flag), which denotes the nationality of the vessel. It is recommended that it is worn all times in daylight, especially when near to or in sight of land or another vessel.

Special or Privileged Ensigns

In addition to the Red Ensign, there is a White Ensign, a Blue Ensign and there are a number of Red Ensigns with a badge, Blue Ensigns with a badge and a light blue Ensign with a badge. These additional Ensigns are special or privileged Ensigns and may only be worn with permission, which is granted ultimately by the Queen. A warrant grants this permission and the Ensign must be worn in accordance with the warrant. In most cases the warrant is granted to a Yacht Club, which in turns gives its Members permission to wear the Ensign under the conditions of the warrant, by issuing them with a permit. In the case of the Royal Gourock Yacht Club, **the permit requires the simultaneous display of the Club burgee.**



Blue Ensign Warrant Permits

The Club may issue a permit to wear the Blue Ensign to Members who can provide proof of entry on the British Register of Shipping (normally a current Small Ships Register Certificate). The permit is valid for the duration of the registration, providing the owner(s) remain(s) Member(s) of the Club. The expiration date is noted on the permit. It is the Member's responsibility to seek renewal in advance of the permit's expiry by contacting the Honorary Secretary in writing. If not renewed, permission to wear the Blue Ensign is rescinded.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Never one to miss an opportunity, I would like to remind Members that the 2017 subscription was due on 1 January 2017. Please arrange payment as soon as possible if your subscription is still outstanding.

George Fairhurst
Honorary Secretary