

The

RAR



Volume 31 No. 3

March 2006

Annual General Meeting, February 2006



Outgoing President Rene Myrand, centre, receives gifts from General Manager Keith P. Jolley, left, and Mark Lewis on the right. Mark was elected the new VRC President.



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Entertaining? Need a little more space?

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For available dates and bookings, please call Dan @ 604 687- 3400

Room rentals are available to VRC members at a discounted rate!

General Manager's Message

The weather seems to be finally showing signs of spring and trust this will bring greater activity to come down and enjoy the Club.

The New weight room is being well used, and looking forward to starting the renovation of the Women's Change room and Washrooms. The Harbour Room Ladies washrooms are also being scheduled for an upgrade.

The New rowing dock is has been constructed and is awaiting installation.

Come down for St Patrick's Day Friday March 17th with an excellent Celtic Band

"The Stone & Sea Band", Tickets available from the office.

The safety Inspections start with Canadian Fuel Oil Polishing and Steveston Marine being on site for consultation.

The 2006 Winter Sailing Charity Challenge in conjunction with West

Vancouver Yacht Club March 3rd-10th with the Rowing Club hosting the Skippers night Friday March 3rd and a Chili Cook off Sunday 5th. Lions Gate Hospital Foundation More info www.charitychallenge.ca.

Rugby Captains Dinner on Saturday March 3rd.

We continue to improve our Member Bar Food service at the Club and welcome your comments and feedback.

Reminder to take advantage of the discounted Membership Private rental rates for your next meeting, function or party.

Please don't hesitate to contact me any concerns and comments

Keith P Jolly

General Manager

manager@vancouverrowingclub.ca

Web site www.vancouverrowingclub.ca

2006 Annual General Meeting



VRC Annual General Meeting was held February 16th.

The ROAR

Monthly newsletter of the

Vancouver Rowing Club

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Rugby

by Kelly Egilsson

First off, I would like to send my apologies out to the ROAR rugby section faithful for the lack of coverage over the last few months. Other obligations (kids, school, coaching, work and hair transplant therapy) were the culprits, but Jamie and I hope to have our submissions in on a more regular basis.

The see-saw 1st ½ left the first division squad beating the defending Meralomas and Premier Champion Crapilanos, but losing to teams we should have buried (such as UBC). The second half jitters and injuries seem to be on the mend, as after embarrassing losses to Langley in the 1st and 2nd divisions, the boys have looked more on track then ever.

In the second half, all three squads appear to be on target again after a shaky start, mostly due to some costly injuries. With a good portion of the pack injured (Scotty McKay, Marcus, and a revolving door of others) plus the loss of several backs on various days (Brian Anderson, Canada stand-out Stirling Richmond, Nick Hoogie and Matt Jones' various 'groin injuries' ... he is technically still a newlywed!), the 1st and 2nd divisions have had to up the ante for some of the up-and-comers. More than worthy and voracious fill-ins have been stepping up to the plate in a big way, showing some great offensive talent, speed and defensive prowess.

Stealing from the "BC Rugby News" site (http://bcrugbynews.com/show_news.cfm?ID=69), the Cowichan Pig Pen's John James report from the 1st and 2nd div games on February 11th:

Saturday saw the Vancouver Rowing Club travel over to Duncan for a couple of matches against Cowichan's 1st and 2nd Division sides. The Rowers, like Cowichan, failed to make the grade in the fall and were relegated to the 1st Division ranks of the BC Interlock League. The 2nd Division Men's Piggies, who have

been on a roll since November, were looking at some stiff competition from the boys in red and white. Certainly for the first half, with the score at 15-15 at the whistle, it was a good hard rugby match. The second half saw the more experienced Cowichan side pull away to an eventual 39-20 final score. Having another strong day for Cowichan was center Jake Teufel and man of the match for Cowichan, Stand Off, Gordy McGeachy.

The 1st Division game saw Cowichan without a couple of its top players due Thirsty Thirds packing down to other commitments. Matty Evans was away with the National U-19 team #10, Scott McCauley had other commitments and hard hitting center, Louis Gudmundseth is still out with a sprained knee. Also didn't help

seeing Center, Ryan Walsh, go out of the game at the 5 minute mark with a turned ankle. In any event, not to take anything away from the Rowers who were full marks for their victory, and would have been that much better if International, Stirling Richmond, wasn't away playing for Canada. Up 21-3 after the first 20 minutes, The lackluster Piggies had to make

some strategic player moves defensively to stem the tide and hem in the very speedy Rower backfield. The Rowers expected the usual quagmire this time of year at Cowichan, but due to some cash input into the field this past fall, the Cowichan turf has never been better this time of year and certainly favoured the speedsters. The reserves that came in for Cowichan seemed to turn the game somewhat and Cowichan had much of the momentum in

the second half resulting in an unconverted try. Not enough though as the Rowers prevailed in a closer than the score indicated final of 31-8. Playing hard for Cowichan was Alistair Thompson from his back row position and Judsen Garside from the tight 5. The Rowers stayed on at Cowichan for the after game festivities that included a feed of fresh crab, prawns and other goodies.... The Rowers are on the rise which is good to see for an urban club. Full marks for their efforts and victories over the Capilanos and Meralomas in Elite League play this past fall.

Although the Super 2s did not finish up with the desired result, the 1^{sts} were able to drop kick the monkey from their backs after the losing to Cowichan in the BC Semis in the Pig Pen's notorious ankle deep mud two years ago (aka. Black Saturday).

Unfortunately, the current schedule forced a split in where the teams were to be playing, and the Thirsty Thirds hosted the beloved Caps at Brockton Oval while the 1s and 2s were in D(r)uncan. After an embarrassing loss to the Caps at Klahanie last year,



Thirsty Thirds packing down

the 3^{rds} had a score to settle. Playing some hard-nosed rugby, combined with a little flair led to a satisfying 12-12 draw. The boys and men kept up great pressure and continuity for most of the game, but missed tackles led to some quick points by the Cap side. Having bodies playing out of position led some serious line-out woes, and the Rowers were lucky that the Cap forwards weren't capitalizing on the some of the loose ball resulting from attempt-



RUGBY - continued from p3

ing to boost players 5'9", 240lbs. and a 2" vertical (and no- it wasn't Tugboat; too light!). With his fitness finally not in question, wing Gregory Kirkpatrick made a brilliant 60m run to set up the tying try. Kirkpatrick credited his re-found speed and lack of hamstring pullage to a strict regime of Appleton's, switching to Players *Ultra Light Filters* and imagining running away from his crying baby at 3am.

Speaking of babies, prop-turned-flanker for a day Dave Hill, flanker Chris Ptak

practises and actually had the luxury of turning non-practising couch potatoes away! A force to be reckoned with, the days of just showing up with kit on Saturday may be over, as the Thirsty Thirds just might be for real this year. Continuing to utilize a potent combination of youngsters and veterans, the squad dominated the hapless Brit-Lions starting from the nearly 1000lbs. front row combo of Jason Martell, Geoff Hill and Darin Calderwood. The rippling wall of man-flesh could have easily made mincemeat out of most Premier teams' front-row, but seeing as the Brit-Lions had a 17-years old prop, the boys took it easy and just won all the ball without creating a cervical/thoracic/lumbar spinal fusion for the newbie.

frustrations of the previous week's Cowichan loss. Playing a balanced attack setting up from solid platforms, the 2's forwards were unyielding in the sets and line-outs were spectacular. Dave Steer and Big George had no trouble boosting Angus and Humps Jr., retaining possession and stealing a few Brit-Lions' balls as well. Steadfast, straight-up, powerful running from Big George, Jamie Overgaard and Andy Donn gave the backs the space they needed to exploit a weak Brit-Lions backline. Brian "Mr." Anderson and Andy "Kiwi" had an outstanding day setting up ball for the rest of the backs, with Mr. Anderson making the Brit-Lions look absolutely foolish. If the Rowers decide to create a "punching bag of the year" award, Anderson would certainly become a front-runner. It might be his boyish good looks, silky-smooth running style that all seem to regularly infuriate opposition... or quite possibly his nasty comments that the



JT laying the smack-down!

and wing Carling played hard, representing the juniors well! All teams are at a great point right now, as some of the fossils have been playing with the babies. Pulling up some juniors has been the catalyst that the old farts may have needed, and the combination of game knowledge and sheer speed is beginning to pay dividends on the pitch. The 3rds trainers will be looking for donations of Huggies and Depends ASAP.

The season's TSN Turning Point may prove to have been the gorgeous February 18th games at Brockton. A relatively dry (read slightly frozen) pitch allowed our free-flowing, run and gun style offence to finally shine. Having another score to settle with the Brit-Lions, who we struggled with last year, the boys were chomping at the bit to prove the Rowing Club is back on track. The 3rds started off the festivities by drawing on Coach Wayne's tight

Riding the wave of the confidence which the 3rd div started, the Super 2s were more than ready to take out their



I actually heard his spine compress...



Songs of Innocence and Experience after the Caps game; men of the match

refs just don't seem to hear. The Brit-Lions gave all the cheap shots and punishing tackles they could muster, beating him like a rented Mexican mule, and yet just like his Neo, he just on kept getting up. Oh... and scoring, too. Final score: Brit-Lions 17, VRC 36.

Losing both the BC semi-final and outstanding prop Kelly Egilsson to the Brit-Lions last year, the 1st div would not settle for anything less than an absolute pounding and unfortunately for the green and black, that's exactly what they



Jamie O. and Andy driving for the line

received. Although the scrums were fairly evenly matched, under the greatly-improved catching of Alex Heald and spot on throws by Aussie Ben, the line-outs were nearly perfect.

Having the ability to cleanly secure ball led to some great driving mauls by the Rowers, and the Brit-Lions did not appear to have much of answer. Big George subbed in for young prop Chris Veenstra after his sound performance up front, and with Matt Hope, George Richmond and the rest of the pack, began to wreak havoc in the ex-Brits forwards. Sucking in opposition forwards meant Matt Jones (until his "groin" acted up) and co. could light it up, making the Symphony of Fire look like one of Justin Wong's illegal back yard fireworks parties in comparison. Matt James stepped in at #10 for Mr. Jones and was unstoppable, creating gaps for the centres and wing to exploit with slashing lines. In typical Brit-Lions fashion, their frustration ended up with a man

in the bin, making their woes in defence even worse, although in typical Rowers' fashion, the 1^{sts} did have a couple of brain farts for about 10mins. The boys allowed a couple of cheeky tries, but managed to pull it together and commit to a rock-solid defence once again. In the last 10mins, the game's final try was scored on a 5m scrum. The hero, Paddy O'Gorman, scoring his record 583rd try, came on in fresh off the bench; the brilliant glow of his pristine white shorts must have dazzled the exhausted Brit-Lions' pack, as in their great respect of the storied lock they appeared to simply let him flop on the ball with little or no resistance. Either that or they were simply too knackered to push the three subs that came

with 'Gorman in his moment of glory.

Final score: Brit-Lions 18, VRC 32.

VRC is continuing to develop its programme by hosting minis on Sundays.

Richard Bice and Ian Cooper would love to see more younglings and even players come to Brockton and take part in the fun. Tim Shaddick has gotten together a U14 team, and he is looking for players and help as well.



and Matt James offering thirds... whether you want it or not!

thanks go to the Alumni who support the section by helping on game day, fundraising and cheering (with the odd jeer) on Saturdays. Hopefully they had a great time at the Alumni Lunch! Nick Galbraith and Chris Prince will be telling rugby members about an amazing tour opportunity coming up... hint- the Rockford Files of overseas...

Make sure to get on

the email list (bowyer@telus.com) and stay tuned for pics, news and info at <http://www.vancouverrugby.com>

Keep fit and have fun!



with Big George serving up seconds!



Alex Heald wins clean ball

Please contact me kegilsson@gmail.com or Tim (tootall1@shaw.ca) for more info.

Don't forget the Captain's Dinner March 4th (contact Bob Flood 604-261-1390) or Gregory Kirkpatrick (gregkirkpatrick@shaw.ca) for info and reservations.

Thousands of



Matt Hope offering up some Palm Sandwich...



The Executive Suite

By Dimas Craveiro

Regatta Information

In an effort to provide information to our members, Sue Low, our regatta chair, will post regatta information on our website readily available to rowers. The intent is to have all regatta information at one place. Sign-up, boat allocation, crew composition and other pertinent information will all be posted.

April 1st Social and Auction

The section will have a fundraising auction in combination with a social function on April 1 of this year. Any rowing members who wish to donate products or services are encouraged to contact Dimas Craveiro at craveiro@telus.net. Section memorabilia, including old wooden oars and photographs, will also be put up for auction. Corree Laule is currently planning the social aspect of that day.

New Trailer

Anyone attending regattas knows of the sad shape of our unwieldy boat trailer. This relic from another age has undergone considerable changes to make it legal. Some years ago, yours truly was sitting by the side of the highway waiting for a pilot vehicle to escort the trailer to Delta Deas where rowers were impatiently waiting for their boats. The trailer, as originally constructed, was too large and the boats also extended too far beyond the rear axle. Judicious application of a cutting torch

Theo Van Rijn



made it legal. However, the trailer has required extensive repairs through the years. Even so, it is not in the greatest shape and presents problems in transporting our boats.

Considering the repairs required, and the need to protect our very expensive boats, the executive committee is considering the purchase of a new trailer. Purchasing and financing options are being considered. Vespoli and Wintech trailers are currently being considered as worthy replacements. Vespoli has a motorized option for lifting eights to the top deck, something that would circumvent the juggling act every time an eight is lifted or taken down.

Learn To Row Instructors

Have you ever bemoaned the course taken by LTR boats as they leave the dock directly into your path as you are finishing your piece? Ever wondered why LTR instructors weren't as clever/articulate/accomplished as you? Well, there is an excellent opportunity for seasoned rowers to lead LTR crews and raise money for a new trailer. The target is for 6 rowers to volunteer their time twice a week for the summer months. Not only will you be showcasing your rowing and communication



Richard and Rene

skills, you will also be helping to buy the section a new trailer. Contact Jennifer Wiederick, our rowing coordinator, at row@vancouverrowingclub.ca.

Safety Information

A small craft operator's certificate course will be held March 19 at the club for members contemplating the operation of our coach and safety boats. This certification is mandatory for the operation of these boats. Cost will be \$55. Contact Carolyn [Thompson@bccampus.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Thompson@bccampus.ca) or Jennifer Wiederick at row@vancouverrowingclub.ca.

MS Ride June 17/18

This year sees the repeat of the Grape Escape, a two day fundraising event staged to raise money for MS research. Last year, 15 rowers entered as a team, raising approximately \$5000. It's a wonderful fun event with each team cycling around the Fraser Valley from winery to winery. Overnight accommodation will be provided at Trinity Western University, along with dinner and breakfast.

This year we hope to attract more rowers and raise even more money. If the mention of Langley brings to mind congestion on the Fraser Highway and strip development, think again. We will be riding over beautiful rural countryside and rolling farmland, at times parallel to the Fraser River. For a very memorable weekend combined with fitness, contact <http://www.ms biketours.com/> for further details.



JOKERS STANDINGS

Women's Premier

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pen	Pts
Hawks P	12	9	1	2	35	12	0	29
Lomas P	12	9	1	2	28	9	0	29
Vipers P	12	6	5	1	27	22	0	19
Jokers P	12	4	7	1	18	22	0	13
UBC	11	2	5	4	13	17	0	10
Vipers 1	11	0	11	0	5	44	0	0

Women's Division 1

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pen	Pts
Jokers I Orange	16	12	1	3	44	8	0	39
Jokers I Blue	16	10	4	2	39	10	0	32
Vipers 2	16	10	4	2	28	13	0	32
Hawks 1	15	8	2	5	20	9	0	29
Dragons	16	8	4	4	26	8	0	28
Ramblers	15	7	5	3	26	14	0	24
Meralomas 1	17	7	7	3	24	27	0	24
Mako Sharks	15	4	9	2	25	33	0	14
Hawks 2	15	4	10	1	17	44	3	10
India	14	0	11	3	7	41	0	3
NV Strikers	15	0	13	2	6	55	0	2

Women's Division 2

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pen	Pts
Vipers 5	13	11	1	1	51	11	0	34
Jokers II Blue	13	10	3	0	30	13	0	30
Surrey Sharks	13	8	2	3	31	12	0	27
Hawks 3	14	7	5	2	25	21	0	23
Richmond Rebels	14	5	8	1	13	27	0	16
NV Mariners	13	4	9	0	11	23	0	12
Fury	12	3	7	2	16	27	0	11
Vipers 3	12	2	6	4	11	27	3	7
Tigers	14	1	10	3	12	39	0	6

Women's Division 3

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pen	Pts
Jokers III	17	11	4	2	35	16	0	35
Lakers 2	15	10	1	4	41	16	0	34
Eagles	15	9	2	4	49	14	0	31
SFU	17	9	5	3	32	24	3	27
UBC Bluebirds	16	8	4	4	35	30	3	25
Vipers 4	15	6	7	2	28	31	0	20
Jokers II Orange	15	5	8	2	35	33	0	17
Meralomas 2	16	3	9	4	13	34	0	13
NV Thunder	16	3	13	0	19	56	0	9
Hawks 4	16	1	12	3	14	47	0	6

Women's Division 4

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pen	Pts
Lakers 3	15	12	1	2	34	6	0	38
Eagles Gold	13	9	1	3	32	5	0	30
Eagles Black	15	9	4	2	25	16	0	29
Meralomas 3	16	8	5	3	29	22	0	27
Hawks 5	15	8	5	2	30	16	0	26
Jokers IV	15	5	1	9	22	8	3	21
Vipers 6	15	6	9	0	13	27	0	18
Vipers 7	15	5	9	1	20	34	0	16
NV Breakers	15	3	10	2	11	29	0	11
Fossil Sharks	15	3	11	1	10	32	0	10
Leopard Sharks	15	1	13	1	8	39	0	4

Men's Premier Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pen	Pts
UBC-A	12	10	2	0	45	13	0	30
United Brothers-A	13	9	2	2	48	17	3	26
Vancouver Hawks-A	12	7	5	0	24	20	0	21
India-A	12	6	5	1	26	21	0	19
VRC Jokers-A	12	5	5	2	31	26	0	17
Victoria Selects	12	4	5	3	23	29	0	15
Burnaby Lake-A	11	2	8	1	15	38	0	7
West Vancouver-A	14	1	12	1	7	55	0	4

ROWING REGATTAS Monster Erg Results!

Sometimes our rowers achieve wonderful things that slip under the radar and don't get enough attention... not this time!

Monster Erg was held on February 5, amidst a wild and woolly windstorm in Victoria BC. Simultaneous events happened in Toronto and Nova Scotia for the Canadian Indoor Rowing Championships.

Congratulations to:

Annette O'Shea - placed 5th at Monster Erg and 6th nationally in the Women's B division!

Peter Klinkow - placed FIRST at Monster Erg AND nationally in both raw time and age-adjusted time! (and for those of you who are interested, beat John Alexander's erg time!) Peter has qualified to compete at the World Indoor Rowing Championships (CRASH-B) in Boston this Saturday.

Let's hear a round of applause!!

Susan Low



The Finleys Aboard *Speedbird*

Speedbird at Minerva Reef It was a wild, fast ride from Kelelesia, the last of the Ha'apai chain, to the Tongatapu archipelago. These are the most southern group of islands in the Kingdom of Tonga with Nuku'alofa, the capital, based on the main island from which the group gets its name. Nuku'alofa was a pleasant surprise.

Reports we'd heard were not that encouraging. We'd heard of petty crime, garbage and rampaging cockroaches.

We found none of these and from the moment we arrived there was a beer and a welcome at the tiny yacht club which was steps away from where we were tied and a succulent scotch steak was to be had at a fancy restaurant nearby.

Checking in was a breeze and friendly, cheap taxis were our transportation all over the city. We had not been in such civilization for some weeks and were happy to find up to date food stores with just about everything we needed. We also took in the 'Friends Internet Cafe' which supplied excellent lattes and lunches together with adequate internet access and watched the latest 'Harry Potter' movie at the local movie theatre.

Getting fuel and checking out was not so easy. This took us a couple of days of walking from office to office with forms and papers but eventually with the right signature we were able to buy cheap duty free fuel on the afternoon of our departure.

Throughout our stay in Tonga we had regularly checked in with other cruisers as they travelled to New Zealand and each night had collected 'Grib Files' [weather faxes] via the Email. Fifteen years ago when technology was limited, we experienced a terrible passage from Fiji to New Zealand with storms and then southerly winds that slowed us down to a crawl making a 10 day passage 15.

We really wanted to stop at Minerva Reef en route to NZ and watched each day for a suitable weather window to open for us. For several days the winds were perfect for the reef but a series of lows off Australia were making the rest of the passage look difficult.

Anyway we decided to head for Minerva and if need be wait there till more settled

conditions arrived.

Minerva Reef lies about 260 miles south of Tonga. It is a circular fringing reef about 5 miles wide and totally invisible until you are nearly upon it, much to the distress of many a sailor who has found it by mistake! The only landmark is a tower erected by Tonga many years ago.

Otherwise there is nothing to see from the outside but pounding surf and even that diminishes at high tide. The pass into the lagoon is wide and easily navigable and once inside there are no other hazards. It is a beautiful, turquoise, tranquil hole in the ocean that is supposedly safe in winds up to 30 knots.

We were the only boat and we anchored close to the northern edge of the reef. The next day we decided to explore but snorkeling off the coral heads nearby revealed dead coral and limited sea life. This was disappointing but when Morgan dove down, he found the heads to be hollow with snapper, trevalli and more species hiding inside.

It was also discovered that the reef abounded with life so the potential for a crayfish hunt was on the cards for that night. Tropical crayfish are nocturnal creatures, so shy in fact, that they don't even leave their caves if the moon is too full!

Morgan has discovered that if you shine a spotlight directly at the creature it will rush for cover. You have to kind of spot it in the periphery of the light and move in quickly to trap it.

A night dive is a totally different experience from the day. Luminescent parrot fish were still, apparently sleeping, the flashlight picked up a turtle wedged in a crevasse and even as the beam moved over its face it continued to sleep. The dark shape of a stingray lay motionless on the sea bed while creatures not normally seen by day emerged to take over.

Bill and Morgan were not in the water too long before they had found their prey and as a result surfaced with TWO 4 1/4 lb lobbies plus a 2 lb one for good measure. What a feast we enjoyed that night! After dinner we tuned in to check the weather. It appeared that the lows were being deflected by a weakening high and

if we didn't make our move the next day, there was a possibility we would be stuck in the lagoon for a week or maybe longer. We were somewhat disappointed as we had hoped for a few days at the reef but the morning of our departure we decided to snorkel the pass. What a great decision that was!

As soon as we enter the ocean a magical, underwater world of vibrant corals of every imaginable colour and construction surrounds us. Multitudes of reef fish swim by, many so inquisitive they come right up to us to check us out.

Large grouper and snapper that would on any other occasion have been a feast in the cockpit were instead a feast for our eyes. A platoon of easily fifty juvenile barracuda all in the same striped uniform swim by in regimental precision each fixing us with a glassy doll's eye as if in salute.

They all turn slowly together and move off into the distance. We drift over a chasm and below us we see resting sharks, oblivious or else not interested in our passage.... for the moment. Slowly they start to circle and move up, so it is time for us to climb back into the dinghy which we have been towing with us. It was the best underwater experience we had had so far: the clarity, the colours, the size and numbers of fish, how close they came...

On Speedbird we quickly had lunch and squared away everything ready for passage. We had about 800 miles to go and about 5 days before the predicted weather change.

The winds were perfect and we arrived in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, just four days later. We'll be here till the end of April enjoying the southern summer after which the plan is for some of us at least to return to Minerva again.

Cheers

The Finleys on board Speedbird

2006 Yachting Yearbook

Please let the office know if there changes in your information. Photos are welcomed. Please give to Evan Seys.



Coast Guard Inspections

Ladies and gentlemen of the VRC Yachting section! Oh, Ye! Oh, Ye! Oh, Ye! Oh, Ye!

NOW PAY ATTENTION!!

Please be advised that your inspections are due in March and if you have not already booked a time, DO IT NOW!! And then do

PLEASE TURN UP ON TIME!!

I know we go on about this every year, but I cannot stress enough how much the volunteers do to get this done for us, and they do it in their own time and on their own nickel. Just turning up and hoping somebody will drop everything and jump along to satisfy your needs is asking a lot. Don't do that!

BOOK IT DANNO.

E-mail your safety officer Jim Miller at Jimkit@shaw.ca or call the office at 604-687-3400 to book a time for the following dates: MARCH 11th & 12th and MARCH 18th & 19th.

There are no other dates so you had better have a *really* good excuse if you cannot make any one of these four days. It helps to make sure that the boats in the club are all working boats, and that they are safe to go to sea. This helps with your insurance (if you are insured with TOS) and most of all, it can SAVE YOUR LIFE. Do not take this lightly! It is a requirement on your moorage contract, and without it you WILL be denied moorage!

LAY OUT YOUR FLARES ETC.

Make sure you lay out all your required stuff, such as flares, buckets, manual pumps, extinguishers and so on for inspection if they are not fixed to the boat. This makes things go a lot quicker for you and the inspector, AND YOU DO NOT WANT TO UPSET HIM, right?

Extinguisher checks are FREE on the club deck during these days, and they will need to be up to date to pass your inspection too.

OK, SO HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR TIME YET?

Communiqué from your Commodore

Well, 2005 is now past and before 2006 is much older, I would like to wish all of our Yachting Section members a safe and prosperous new year. For those of us who were hardy enough to make the trip to Bowen Island over the New Year were treated to a most entertaining celebration to welcome in 2006. The eve provided us with a spectacular fireworks display (courtesy of Craig and Craig), and musical entertainment in the warmth of Snugglers Cottage into the early hours (courtesy of David, Mark, Craig and with Rose on vocals). New Year's Day was a blast as we watched the antics of other boats maneuvering in wind gusts that were brushing 50kts. The 12 VRC boats at the Outstation were well secured and in no danger. Thanks go to *Robbie Rampaul* and his team for making the New Year's cruise the success it was!

At the last yachting AGM I was asked a question on the rates that we were paying for the various Outstations. At the time I did not have the data on hand to provide a response. I have since crunched the numbers and these are the rates we are paying for the current year:

Pender Harbour	90 Ft	8 mo/yr	\$.10 per Ft/Nt
Silva Bay	210 Ft	All Yr	\$.17 per Ft/Nt
Snug Cove	240 Ft	197Nt/Yr	\$.20 per Ft/Nt

As an added bonus at Silva Bay and for this year only (up to September 30th), members will not be charged for electricity used at the Outstation. Thank you to *Steve Creagh* for negotiating this concession with the marina at Silva Bay.

To keep you informed, here are some of the upcoming changes affecting our members:

· The Mast Room will be undergoing renovation in the next couple of months;

· The VRC Club Staff will handle bookings for Marina Facilities. (The effective date of the transfer will be posted on the Notice Board)! Our thanks go to Richard Lees for his commitment to handling the booking for these facilities on behalf of the membership for as long as I can remember!

· The Marine Facilities Committee is finalizing conditions that will allow some easing of the Tide Grid restrictions (subject to VRC Board approval) as an interim measure;

· Staff Captain, *Bob Poulton* will replace *David Dorman* as the Moorage Committee Chair to the VRC Board.

*Richard (Dick) Murray,
Commodore*



The Winter Sailing Charity Challenge 2006 Race on March 5 is the 1st annual winter sailing event of this kind in support of **The Lion's Gate Hospital's New Emergency Room**. This will be an important fund raising event for years to come and a focal point on the Vancouver racing scene. For all those sailors out there, you will be the real winner if you come out and support this event. What could be more fun than participating in the race and helping to raise money for a worthwhile cause.

www.charitychallenge.ca



CLUBHOUSE HOURS

OFFICE

Monday to Friday 9 am–7 pm

Saturday, Sunday 10 am–2 pm

LOUNGE HOURS

CARVER ROOM (LOWER LEVEL)

TROPHY LOUNGE (STREET LEVEL)

Monday		Closed
Tuesday	5-10 pm	Carver Room
Wednesday	5-10 pm	Trophy Lounge
Thursday	5-10 pm	Carver Room
Friday	5-10 pm	Carver Room or Trophy Lounge
Saturday	Noon-10 pm	Carver Room
Sunday	2-8pm	Trophy Lounge

COMING EVENTS

CLUB

Mar. 7	Just Singin Round
Mar. 17	St. Paddy's Day Dance
Mar. 31	Irish Whisky Tasting
Apr. 4	Just Singin Round

FIELD HOCKEY

Mar. 18	Social
Apr. 22	Social

YACHTING

Mar. 3	Winter Charity Challenge
Mar. 5	Winter Charity Challenge Chili Cook Off
Mar. 10	Pub Night
Apr. 9	Sun Tan Series
Apr. 21	Pub Night
Apr. 23	Sun Tan Series

RUGBY

Mar. 4	Captains Dinner
Mar 18	Home Game
Mar. 25	Home to Richmond
Apr. 1	Home Games
Apr. 29	Rugby Awards Dinner

ROWING

Apr. 1	Social
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2006 March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1			1	2	3 Winter Charity Challenge	4 Rugby Captains Dinner
5 Yachting Charity Challenge Chili Cook Off	6 VRC Board Meeting	7 Just Singing Around	8	9	10 Yachting Pub Night	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Paddy's Day Dance	18 Field Hockey Social/Rugby Home Game
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Rugby Home to Richmond Game
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Rugby Home Game/Rowing Social

2006 April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Just Singing Around	5	6	7	8
9 Yachting Sun Tan Race	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Yachting Pub Night	22 Field Hockey Social
23 Yachting Sun Tan Race	24	25	26	27	28	29 Rugby Awards Dinner
30						