



## Class Captain's Newsletter

Dear All

### 1. Class Captain

At the Class Meeting on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, John Harding was remembered fondly by the Committee. John Long as Deputy Chairman lead the discussion as to whether it was felt appropriate for the Committee to agree upon an interim Class Captain until the AGM in November. Members freely expressed their views. At one stage MOS FitzGerald was asked to leave the room. The Committee asked MOS to become interim Class Captain for 2014 until the AGM in November, which he accepted.

2. It is with much humility that I write to yourselves and wish to thank Tina and John Long for all the work they have done, particularly since the sad demise of John Harding. John Long has agreed to remain as Deputy Chairman which I am delighted to announce.

3. At the Class Committee meeting, Mark Hall and Nick Dorley-Brown representing the Way Ahead Committee (WAC) presented a very comprehensive final report on their work and recommendations, for which the Class Committee expressed their grateful thanks. The full report will be in the meeting minutes and on the XOD website.

4. Cowes Week planning: XOD needs are in place and reflected in the Notice of Race. Entries for Cowes Week are on par for this time in the year. The intent from the Race Committee is to much improve on our experience from last year. We will not be left waiting for our Committee Boat start because of a second start for another Class, nor will the line be set too close to another's turning mark. John Long has ensured our issues from last year have been well aired and acted upon. Cowes Week 2014 is our 90<sup>th</sup> year of racing at this Regatta. How wonderful if we achieved 90 entries.

5. Classic Cowes continues to build as a complimentary regatta to Cowes Week. Again this year one of the receptions is being held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, which is approaching a special year in their history. Our numbers at Classic Cowes are growing year on year. For those who no longer do Cowes Week, this Regatta is well worth considering. Less crowded, all Committee Boat starts with a square line to windward. So, if you have no intention of doing Cowes Week, come and join us at Classic Cowes.

6. Whatever you do, enjoy your racing. This is why we have our lovely boats. A lot of work goes on in the background, but it's racing that we are truly interested in. For me, I first started sailing X124 out of Hamble in 1966 and have thoroughly enjoyed every moment. They are wonderful boats to own and look after, for moving through to the next generation as the premier one design class within the Solent and beyond.

Yours

*MOS*

M.O.S. FitzGerald  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014