Wivenhoe Sailing Club

Wivenhoe Sailing Club, Walter Radcliffe Road, Wivenhoe, Essex, CO7 9WS

The Commodore's Clock.

Whilst turning out some papers, I came across notes made years ago, on the occasion of a visit to Ipswich to collect what we now call the "Commodore's Clock". This is the story I've been able to glean from the scrap of paper and my memory – as always, I so much wish I'd kept better notes at the time!

In 1982, whilst researching for his book 'The Story of Wivenhoe", Nicholas Butler met Mr Edward H. Coursellis Squire, then living on Bixley Road, Ipswich. Mr Squire's mother was from the Coursellis family, and had told him how she and his uncle had lived at Wivenhoe Hall, the great house which stood until 1925 at the top of what is now the King George V Playing Field.

Mr Squire was at the time 87 years old, and had a good memory of his mother's childhood home, aided by a painting of the house hanging over the fireplace in his little bungalow (a copy, he said, of the original Constable which was 'in the bank' – another Constable, of Alresford Hall, was in a corner). His father, Edward Herbert Squire, had been the Wivenhoe doctor, and a founder member of the Colne Sailing (or it may have been Yachting or even Boating – he wasn't sure) Club. Indeed, in the 1870's, shortly after he left school, he had been its commodore. Nick thought this was an informal association of yacht owners who kept their boats at, and recruited crews from Wivenhoe.

It is said they met in the Black Boy and organised a regatta each year. As the ambitions of the organisation grew, it moved to Brightlingsea about the turn of the century, and became the Colne Yacht Club. However, in recognition of his sterling service to the organisation, Commodore (Doctor) Squire was presented at some point in the late 19th century with a handsome clock. It is an 8- day clock about 4" in diameter, mounted in a ship's wheel adorned with 2 cannons and a foul anchor, all mounted on a marble plinth.

It was originally silver-plate on brass, but nowadays no trace of the silver remains. It was this clock, handed down, which Mr Squire was determined should return to Wivenhoe whence it had come, and which he still fondly regarded as his real home.

The little club his father had helped found was probably fairly informal and sociable. It was a likely forerunner of the group who formed the Wivenhoe Sailing Club in 1925 – with the village doctor as its leading light, and a membership of independent business and tradesmen, and one or two retired military men. They designed and built the Wivenhoe One-Design as a class which would enable more people to get on the water and enjoy the newly popular sport of sailing.

Jan and I had tea with Mr Squire one afternoon and he seemed very determined to give the clock to Wivenhoe Sailing Club. His bungalow was an antique-collector's paradise. I believe he died several years later. Since the Club has owned it, the clock has been repaired several times (the balance wheel seems to be of a particularly fragile kind, and it does not take well to being moved about).

The case has also been completely dismantled several times for cleaning. In the process, one or two of the little flourishes may have been mislaid, but it is substantially complete, and a very elegant piece to grace any mantel-shelf. This particular trophy is given each year by the Commodore at his or her discretion to an individual club member (usually not a committee-member) who has made an outstanding contribution to the club over the past year or so.

Alan Tyne. 27th January 2004

Wivenhoe Sailing Club

Commodore Squires'Clock

"Awarded by the Commodore annually to a member or members who, not being an officer or committee member, made an outstanding contribution over the past year."

The clock has been awarded to:

1983 Jack Pettitt
1984 Tony Frostick
1985 Brian Sinclair
1986 Mary Williamson and Jan Tyne
1987 Peter Sankey
1988 Geoff Soole and Peter Cobbold
1989 Deborah Pettitt and Barry Clarke
1990 Jan Frostick
1991 Guy Ward
1992 Andy Diggens
1993 Myrna Johns
1994 Carol Coppin
1995 Tim Snow
1996 Trevor Heath
1997 Edward Halsall
1998 Chris Mullins
2000 Francis and Dennis Ilsley
2001 Bill Kippen
2002 Doreen Brimm
2003 Ted Reddish
2004 Ian Hunter
2005 John Bampton
2006 Andy Bingham
2007 Paul Newman
2008 Margaret Handley
2009 Carol Mitchell
2010 Carolyn Osborn-Jones
2011 Ray Hall
2012 Albert Scott and Cath
2013 Linda Morgan and Ken Jordan
2014 Malcolm Goodwin
2015 John Bampton
2016 -
2017 -
2018 -
2019 Caroline Osborn Jones
2020 -
2021 Cadet leaders
2022 -
2023 Ben Lyon
2024 Nigel Cook
2025 Jenny Gifford



There are some years for which we do not know if an award was made. If anyone has information on any of these, please contact Alan Tyne on 07986 538228