



Laying Up Supper Top Awards 2015 - Legends and Ducks

Two of my favourite award categories at the laying up supper are the Legend and Duck awards. These trophies reward those at our club (and there are many) who have special qualities that make them accident prone or things just seem to happen to them both on and/or off the water! It's a key part of our philosophy that we find humour in these events and it helps us bond, share and remember some great memories for future members to wonder at - and of course in the telling the tale always gets taller....

We can all vote for, or propose, our favourites of the year (with The Sailing Commodore having the casting vote). Well last night's events (I'll come to that later) got me thinking about some of this year's front runners....

Remember - Ducks are on the water heroes whilst Legends are off the water heroes.

Robin Wilkinson (a previous winner so has form) - on our trip back from Blackwater (3 passage's, one race, 105 miles - someone will tell you if you don't know) doses off on his boat as a large container ship bears down on him in the Thames shipping lane. We try to rouse him by radio, but no he is in the land of nod. Eventually he hears the roaring giant and sails to safety in the nick of time - Duck nomination 1.

Paul Shields - again on the Blackwater trip - after 40 odd miles of high sea sailing we eventually enter the Blackwater only for Paul's mast to fall over and he has to be towed the final 3 miles. The ignominy. Close scrutiny determined poor rigging maintenance as the blame. Not good for a Master Mariner (again just ask) - Duck nomination 2.

Joe Jones - Joe joined us on two long distance sailing events this year - The Three Piers Race (always that to me) and the Around the Island race (Sheppey and bust). Now Joe enjoys a sail but has a laid back attitude to racing - this lack of competitive streak inevitably puts him towards the back of the fleet, however on both these occasions he decided to abandon the race... This happens a lot but not within 50 yards of the finish after race distances of 25 miles and 35 miles respectively - a star! - Duck Nomination 3

Valerie Maysey and I - who says you cannot put yourself forward? On our return from Minnis Bay we decide to take a trip to the windfarm. Great idea - so we nip and out of the east side marvelling at the turbine structures. We liked it so much we decide to nip back at the west end. Unknowingly to us there has been a ban on sailing through the farm during the period of construction. We then get chased off by a large security cruiser bearing down on us at high speed. We both thought we were going to get nicked by the sea police....oh joy. Duck Nomination 4

Mr Wriggly - The Lott's dog. Steve and Julie have been desperate all year to sail in one of the long distance events but didn't have the boat (Mr Wriggly needed to join them - again just ask). So they purchase a Wanderer and join the fleet on the trip to Minnis Bay - 17 miles down the coast. Mr Wriggly (Mr Shivery by now) starts to get cold and



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wet as we all tack back and forth against the easterly wind and as they near Tankerton he finally insists that they pull over (funny that, it's his old stomping ground). After they come ashore with both Steve and Julie worried for his health, Mr Wiggles makes a miraculous recovery and spends the rest of the day strutting his stuff to "his ladies" up and down Tankerton parade - Legend Nomination 1

John Bainbridge - convincing 6 of us to dress up at the last pre-season ashore fitness coaching session. John came in full panda outfit - and insisted on keeping it on throughout the session. None of us are quite sure how he kept his head on and came through the sweat encrusted morning unscathed. Maybe he didn't? (you try and talk to him) Legend nomination 2

Valerie Maysey, Dave Lincoln, Andrew Runnells, Rob Smith and Caroline Pomeroy (what a team). So finally this brings me to last night - I'm putting 5 Seasalter members forward for this award (they also incriminated 3 further family members - so true legends). Jane and I had arranged two tables for SSC at the Scout quiz night in Whitstable and given clear directions to the event (honest). Unknowing to us and both sets of organisers, the Lions also had a quiz night on in the next door hall (what are the chances?). Anyway most clocked which one to go to, however as the start drew near, we were still 8 people short on our two tables. I decided to look next door and yes there were our stragglers making themselves at home and not having a thought as to where their other team members were. Rob and Caroline were busy chatting to a lady on their table about the support the Lions had given to our recent Defib purchase, Valerie and Andy had taken glasses from the bar and were dipping into their snacks, whilst Dave and Andrew were both waiting for the unexpected Fish 'n' chips to arrive at the interval - even though I'd said there was no food and hey had brought their own. I later found out that someone had gone home to make more question sheets up due to the unexpected arrival of two Seasalter teams! Did this not make our magnificent 8 think? Oh no. So imagine their embarrassment when I stroll in and exclaim "this is the wrong quiz....we are next door" (subtlety as many of you know is my stock in trade). So tail between legs and many apologies later we leave. Legend nomination 3.

The quiz outcome? Team SSC 2 snatch defeat from the jaws of victory thanks to James Bond, Croquet and Tommy Cooper to name a few to finish a respectable third. Team SSC1 kept going to finish mid fleet. - Another great SSC night.

The real story here is that anyone can nominate anyone at the club by any means (email, text, photos, chat etc.) for one of these two trophies for any daft or funny event. Don't be shy - get them in now as this all adds to the rich tapestry of SSC history and fun. Also sign up for the laying up supper (21st Nov) to hear the outcome and see if you are one of the lucky winners. And remember - the tale is in the telling....

Previous winners can be found on the SSC website under sailing/ Ducks and Legends

http://seasalter.org.uk.88-208-202-238.iws3.co.uk/content/sailing/2015-02-14/Ducks_and_Legends/1193/

Ian Mills - VC - October 2015