

ARTICLE IN 'COUNTY GUARDIAN' NEWSPAPER
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PEMBROKESHIRE YACHT CLUB
PRESENTATION OF CUPS AND MEDALS

A very successful smoking concert was held on Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Pembrokeshire Yacht Club, at The South Wales Hotel, Neyland, when the silver cups and medals were presented to the successful competitors in the regattas and boat races which had been held during the year. Sir Hugh Thomas, Commodore of the Club, presided in a very genial manner, and was supported by Captain Donaldson, R.N., the new Vice Commodore, Mr. F. B. Summers, Chief Constable of Pembrokeshire, Commander Lawford, Col. Evans, Mr. Ley and Mr. J. C. Ward, junior (Hon Secretary of the Club)

The function had been capitally arranged by a small committee and everything passed off successfully. The cups and medals were placed on a table at the top of the room and made a brilliant display. During an interval in the proceedings a flash-light photograph of these and the large company present was taken.

The Chairman said he was sure they were all pleased to see their new Vice Commodore, Captain Donaldson, amongst them. (applause) He thought it was a very fitting thing that Captain Donaldson, who had held a very important position in that harbour, should be a member of the Yacht Club. (loud applause). They were also very pleased to see Col. Evans and Mr. Ley present. He was not going to mention everyone in the room by name, but he must refer to one other gentleman, and that was Commander Lawford who had materially helped to make a success of the pleasant days they had last year. (loud applause).

Telegrams and letters of regret at being unable to be present were received from several members, including Vice Commodore Gen. Sir F. C. Meyrick, Rev. J. J. Woolsey, Coshston; General Sir Ivor Phillips; and also Commander Hammond, who played a very important part in the Pembrokeshire Yacht Club.

Continuing, the Chairman said he has now a very pleasing duty to perform. He had to present three cups – the Cup of The Lord Lieutenant, his own, and the Vice Commodore's Cup. They were fortunate in having Colonel Evans of Dale, and Mr. Ley, present, and they would present their own cups. He then presented the Lord Lieutenant's Cup for yachts under five tons, given by Lord St. Davids, won by "Nigger", owner Mr. A. Mathias, Pill, Milford Haven. It was the first cup won in Milford Haven for many years. There were cups given in the old days and they were very much treasured. He hoped the cup would ultimately become the property of Mr. Albert Mathias. He also presented medals to Mr. J. Hancock, Mr. Frank Vaughan, Mr. T. A. Morgan and Mr. W. G. Davies, Milford Haven.

Sir Hugh then presented his own cup for 14ft class, won by "Elsie", owner,

Mr. A. Bowen, Pembroke Dock; and medals to Mr. T. Bowen, Pembroke Dock.

Mr. H. Bowen, Neyland and Mr. J. E. Thomas. The Vice Commodore's Silver Bowl for 16ft class was presented to Mr. J. Furlong and medals to Mr. J. Bowen, Mr. Owen Bowen and Mr. C. Dunford, Pembroke Dock.

The Ley Challenge Cup, presented by F. Ley, Esq., Swansea, for 17ft class was won by the "Daisy", owner Mr. W. Thomas, Pembroke Dock.

This was handed to the winner by Mr. Ley himself, who also presented the medals to Mr. W. Bowen and Mr. E. Furlong, Pembroke Dock.

Mr. Ley also presented the cup for 14ft A Class, won by "Dilys", owner, Mr. T. John, Neyland.

Col. Evans presented the Warren Davies Cup, given in memory of the late Mr. Warren Davies, for yachts under five tons sailed at Dale Regatta, won by "Lettie", owner, Commander Lawford. He said he was afraid he was the only representative of Dale Yacht Club. It was a year ago that he tempted them to try a bit of water. They were a small club and they had to do their little best. It had not been such as they would have liked to do but it was as much as they could do. For several months he was the only one who took any interest in the club and then he managed to enthuse some others and it was the Dale Yacht Club, which worked under The Pembrokeshire Yacht Club. If it had not been for their great help Dale Regatta would not have been held. He knew that and acknowledged it willingly. He hoped sincerely when the next regatta was held they would have a better day than they had before and with more than two months to work it up they might be able to do more than they did. It was customary when cups were given like that to give medals and replicas. As soon as their financial arrangements would permit, the good sailormen who received these cups would have something to show that the cups belonged to them. But at the present the club had to feel their way. They were not going to hard up next year. They had made a reputation and would promise them a good day at Dale if they came down there. They would do all they possibly could to make The Pembrokeshire Yacht Club a great success. He was presenting this cup in the memory of one of the best sailor men they ever has on this haven; he not only sailed his own boats but built his own boats. (cheers). He then presented the cup to Commander Lawford.

The next cup was also won under the auspices of Dale Yacht Club and was presented by Col. Rind, for 14ft B Class, won by "Kenneth", owner, Mr. A. Richardson, Neyland.

Col. Evans said that Col. Rind had been good enough to give this cup. He wanted it to be raced for by a type of sailor man who was the best in the world – that was a man who could go out in a small open boat and come back. Col. Rind was anxious that this cup should be given to the 14ft. B Class and he had very much pleasure, in his absence, in handing it to Mr. A. Richardson.

The Challenge Cup for 14ft. Class B, presented by Brigadier-General Sir Frederick C. Meyrick, Bart., C.B., C.M.G., was won by the "Francis", owner, Mr. J. Furlong, Pembroke Dock.

Mr. Gwyther, Pennar, Pembroke Dock, said they had all heard with pleasure about the good sailors, but without leaders they could not have sailors. The Pembrokeshire Yacht Club had a good Commodore and also a good Vice-Commodore. (loud applause). Until he attended the first meeting there he had never met the Commodore in his life but when he shook him by the hand he found him a through (sic) gentleman. It was up to the members of the club to support everything the Commodore and Vice-Commodore did. He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to them for presenting the cups that evening.

Col. Evans seconded and said that words failed him to tell them what Sir Hugh Thomas had done for them. Without his help there would never have been any club. If there was ever anything in South West Pembrokeshire that was worth doing, and they wanted help, they would get it if they went to Sir Hugh. But he would not touch anything that was not worthy of assistance. They had from him to honest help of a man who appreciated what they were doing. It was because the members had done everything to make the club a success that Sir Hugh had backed them up and felt

honestly it was a thing he could help and when he lent his support to anything they could rest assured it was right.

Commander Lawton supported the motion and said it was entirely due to Sir Hugh and the support the members had given him, that the club had been such a success. (loud applause)

Sir Hugh Thomas said he thanked them very much for the manner in which the motion had been received by the meeting. He thought they would like to know five little items which Commander Lawford had given him. The club had only been going about eight months. They had got about 100 members in the first year. They had raised for the club this year the magnificent amount of £170. (cheers) They had had 14 races and on the various occasions they had over 200 boats taking part. A man who he told in London would not believe him. If they had done that this year what in the name of goodness were they going to do next year. He felt that they could not let that portion of the meeting end without saying one or two words about certain people. It was a very dangerous thing to mention people's names but if he did not mention the names of three gentlemen they would blame him as the Commodore of that Club. It had been said that evening that the Club could not do anything without leaders. They had only had one leader and that was Commander Lawford. He came to his house one evening and said "We are going to have a Pembrokeshire Yacht Club." Sir Hugh said "Can you?" Commander Lawford said "Leave that to me" It was Commander Lawford who had formed the club and they would always remember his for it.

Mr. Ward, their secretary, Mr. J. C. Walters, Mr. W. G. Thomas of the Trinity Wharf, and their treasurer, Mr. Campbell, had rendered invaluable help. Mr. Campbell was not present because his wife was ill and he was sure they all extended to him their heartfelt sympathy. He had much pleasure in calling on Captain Donaldson to propose a vote of thanks to the officials for the great work they had done during then year.

Captain Donaldson said that although he came to Pembroke Dock late in the year he had seen a little bit of the Dale races and he could testify to their energy and determination. Before proposing the vote of thanks to the officials he should like to thank them for the great honour they had conferred on him in making him their Vice-Commodore. He promised that while he was ion the locality he would endeavour to do all he could in the interest of the club and when he left to transfer the same feeling of goodwill to his successor. (cheers). That was some little time off. Now he wanted their help. It had been discussed in the Dockyard about forming a Sports Club, to consist of all forms of sport and it had been suggested to hold a regatta next summer. (loud applause). At the meeting that had been held that week he said he was going over to that concert and he would mention it to the Pembrokeshire Yacht Club and ask them if they would take part in the races and he further stated he was quite sure they would. He endorsed what had been said about Lieut.-Commander Lawford; his energy was great and he was a driving force that would make anything go. He had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the officials of the Club. What this healthy infant had done augured well for the future and he wished them years of success. (applause).

Commander Lawford referred to what Sir Hugh Thomas had done for the club and said it was entirely due to him and the support the members had given him that the club had been such a success.

The Chairman returned thanks and said he had more fun out of the club this year than anyone.

Mr. Ward also thanked them for the vote of thanks to the officials and said they would go on doing their best next year for the prosperity of the club.

The toast of The Pembroke Yacht Club was drunk amid a scene of great enthusiasm.

Capt. Ley intimated that he would give 50 guineas to The Pembroke Yacht Club and, independently of that, would do all he could for the club, as well as giving a cup. Three hearty cheers were given for Capt. Ley and the whole company rose and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

A concert followed in which several comic songs were given by Mr. W. Bailey, Milford Haven: Mr John Thomas of Pembroke Dock also rendered several songs which were enthusiastically received, as was also a duet by Mr. Rowlands And Mr. Vaughan, Milford Haven, and a recitation by Mr. Wilson. An excellent programme had been provided and a very pleasant and much appreciated time was spent by the large number who were in attendance.

When Capt. Donaldson left at 9.20 those present rose en masse and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."
