

## **HUNTER'S YARD COMPLETES A SUCCESSFUL FIRST SEASON** under the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust

*A promising future lies ahead*

A small group of relieved, not to say jubilant, people assembled in the boatshed on the afternoon of 30th September last year, to mark completion of the purchase of Hunter's Yard from Norfolk County Council by the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust. The yard staff, members of the steering group and the trustees met with council representative Michael Edwards for the ceremony. Trust Chairman, Bryan Read's symbolic handshake with Mr. Edwards marked the final handover of the fleet of fifteen boats, sheds, dykes and land known as the County Sailing Base and formerly the business established as Percy Hunter & Sons, in 1932.

### *COMPLETION CEREMONY*

*Bryan Read,  
Chairman of the  
NHFT returns the  
old County Sailing  
Base burgee to  
Michael Edwards  
at the completion  
ceremony*



Eight weeks later with the fleet safely tucked up and the winter maintenance schedule well under way, a meeting of the trustees concluded that the operation of Hunter's Yard in their first season had been extremely successful with hirings up and the break-even target comfortably achieved. As we go to press Lisa Morgan, the yard administrator, reports that lettings for 1997 are looking even more promising and advises 'Friends' still hoping for a Hunter's hiring this season to book it without delay as available dates are now quite limited.

## What Next?

*Richard Sargent, Chairman of the FHF steering group,  
reports on the Progress of the Friends*

What the correct aquatic equivalent to stamping ground is I know not, but since child-hood mine has been a little round the bend from Womack Water where sailing, punctuated by numerous capsizees, swims and more or less stylishly acrobatic methods of falling-in along with other traditional marsh and riverside activities have continued to ruffle the water and make life fun; at times surprisingly so.

The qualifications for the role in which I now write are in there somewhere; most likely the bit about the bend - for I am a volunteer. Having bought a computer package to juggle names, addresses, subscriptions, donations and such like, Jane Bartlett and I set about entering some one thousand individuals' details on computer. The petulant behaviour of this package, which included a brief eleventh-hour game of hide and seek for all the data, finally resulted in a batch of labels.

Meanwhile Tim Munsey, assisted by Paul Stevens, had been doing a great job putting the 'Hunter's Yard' newsletter together, twice, as it had to be reorganised when it exceeded its sell by date while we were waiting for other bits of the jigsaw to slot into place.

Seeing the mails hot off felt a considerable achievement, in fact we were so pleased with the finished product that we sent some people more than one copy. However, the response has made it all worthwhile and we now have a fledgling association with some two hundred and fifty members; a total which is still creeping up a little week by week.

The answer to the question "What next?" is, of course, one which should be influenced by members' suggestions, and the April Meeting will provide an ideal forum for everyone to become acquainted and share ideas - as well as have a good day out, whatever the weather.

Plans already in hand are that some of the money raised will go to assist the Trust with providing the Fleet's office with the sort of technology which will help it hum with modern efficiency. Future fund raising also has to be financed, so some of the Friends' assets will be invested in the purchase of items we hope to be selling for further profit such as badges, burgees and T-shirts. Our budget also has to allow for the next Newsletter. I touched earlier on volunteering; Jane, Tim, Paul and I have been greatly assisted on the Steering Committee since the launch of the Friends by Bryan Read, The Chairman of the NHFT and Lisa Morgan, the Yard's Administrator, together with Jennifer Mack, Peter Charlton and Basil D'Longh - for which, many

thanks. We would be very grateful to hear from members who could join us to assist with organising events, coordinating purchasing and sales and such like. If the various jobs needing to be done can be shared the work involved will not need to be very time-consuming.

You will all, I am sure, join with me in wishing The Norfolk Heritage Fleet a successful year, hopefully the more so because of our contribution. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our first event in April.



## ***Updates... Updates... Updates... Updates....***

### *Inaugural Meeting of the 'Friends': 26th April*

The First Meeting of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet will take place at the boatyard on Saturday, 26th April at 11 am. It will be followed by a lunchtime barbecue at a modest charge and an opportunity to sail the boats in the afternoon. All members of FHF and their families will be most welcome.

### *Beginners' Keelboat Course: 28th April - 2nd May*

Hunter's Yard will be running a five-day residential (i.e. sleep on board) course on the above dates for keelboat beginners. You have to be over 18 and the cost will be approx. £175. Instructors are Graham and Simon, with Robin Slatter as Chief Instructor. An Advanced Course is planned for September.

### *Ian Grapes leaves Hunters*

It is with regret that we have to report that Ian Grapes will be leaving the staff of Hunter's Yard in March to work for his brother in his recently established pheasant rearing business. His calm efficiency will be greatly missed by both staff and customers. We wish him well in his new venture.

### *David Dane, 'Last Sail of the Day' Prints*

Prints of *The Last Sail of the Day* by David Dane, from the painting of the Hunter yachts he donated to the Trust, are still available from Hunter's Yard. They cost £35.00 each, plus £2.00 p & p. The full £35.00 purchase price goes to support the Trust. David is also available for private commissions and can be contacted at: Marsh Cottage, White Horse Lane, Briggate, Norfolk.