

YACHT CLUB “HATCHED” IN HENHOUSE

Maple Bay Yacht Club, you’ve come a long way !

How many members know that as an embryo their club owed its existence to a few dedicated boat enthusiasts and a dance held in a former chicken coop ? (For an explanation ask Barry Roome!)

It would be interesting to learn if there are members still who attended the club’s inauguration back in 1924.*

Then, Mrs. H. W. Bevan was asked by a group led by Colonel R. E. Roome to organize some form of entertainment in order to collect money to start a yacht club. She accepted the challenge and decided to hold a dance.

The only building available in Maple Bay at that time was what is now the general store. Unfortunately, it had been used by some hopeful to raise chickens – and then abandoned.

Willing helpers went to work with shovels until brooms and mops could be used to clean up the mess left by the hens.

At last it was done and the coop was transformed with streamers, balloons and Japanese lanterns. Mr. Heaton’s orchestra from Victoria supplied the music and the dance proved a great financial success.

A few of the founder members were Mr. White of Arbutus Point with his schooner ‘Froggie’, Mr. B. Boyd Wallis of Paddy’s Mile Stone and his launch ‘Oxie’, Billy Bromilow and ‘Wanderer’ and Colonel Roome with his launch ‘Doreen’.

Colonel Roome was elected the President, a position later changed to Commodore.

1982 Year Book

Mrs. D.B Turner (nee Dolby Bevan)

* This should read 1925

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Yes indeed Dolby, - in 2001 we have a member who was present in 1925 when the Maple Bay Yacht was started. Susan Napier, who was made an Honorary Life Member of the Club in 1999, was a little girl of 11 when the Club was formed in 1925. Her parents (the Boyd Wallis’s) had their summer house at Paddy’s Milestone, and were very involved in the foundation of the Club. Susie remembers the fund raising efforts that took place and particularly the wonderful evenings everyone had as they danced to Heaton's Orchestra. Susie’s Mother was the first secretary of the new Club.

Susie remembers being given sailing lessons by Alfred Bazett, and she had a Cat Boat built for her by Duge Napier, (who she married in 1936). Also amongst her memories is the one from 1928 when she beat Billie Bromilow in a sailing race — much to his chagrin!