

The newsletter of NCI Skegness



Hi Watch! - Happy Christmas to you all ! - 47 issues and still going strong!



NEW DEPUTY STATION MANAGER

As we go to press we are delighted to announce that Senior Watchkeeper Bill Isherwood has been promoted to the rank of Deputy Station Manager serving the team alongside our existing Deputy Manager Roger Gilburd.

Bill currently is responsible as, Project manager, chart officer, repairs, installations, and a multitude of other jobs, including the production of pelorus for NCI headquarters for new teams. Sincere congratulations to Bill, we are sure he will bring much help expertise to the team.

Steve Atkins takes the Quartermaster slot and John Bradley will look after press and publicity - more next issue.



Tony Harrison



Russell Hill

Welcome to new members

This month we heartily welcome two new members - **Tony Harrison** from Sandilands, Sutton On Sea and **Russ Hill** from Burgh Le Marsh. Tony has already taken his RYA SRC VHF Certificate, and both now start training for their Qualified Watchkeepers assessment. Welcome aboard chaps - show them the ropes, how to make tea and fill in the Log Book !!

COASTWATCH CHRISTMAS DINNER Dec 17th at 19.00 Hrs

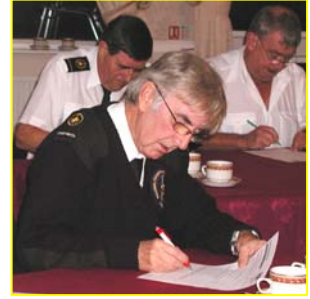
The team CHRISTMAS DINNER will take place at the Crown Hotel, Drummond Road, Skegness. Dress is smart casual. We are indebted to the proprietors of the Crown for offering this to us at £15.00 - a fraction of the price usually charge (£ 25.00) on their excellent public Christmas Party nights - we are getting the same menu and spread. Dress is smart casual, and you should have completed your menu order (on the notice board) by now. We will be having a grand raffle, prizes are required please. There will be a little entertainment included this year, but drinks are not included. **ALL ARE WELCOME**





VHF SRC Radio Course

The RYA SRC VHF Marine Radio course Radio course took place on Thursday 20th November 2008 when 13 members spent a day with COASTWISE Instructor Paul Martin at the Crown Hotel, Drummond Avenue, Skegness receiving excellent Quality training. After a full day instruction and practical, the team undertook the statutory RYA examination. Those who passed are: **Roger Hardstaff, Bob Page, Carl Short, Jack Wise, Mark Moore, Tony Walker, Tony Noble, Peter Preston, David Howden, Mike Ebborn,**



Frank Piling and Steve Atkins. CONGRATULATIONS to all - now practice! practice! practice! This gives us 100% qualified Watchkeepers at present.

UNION FLAG



With immediate effect, please be advised that a Union flag must be flown at ALL TIMES WHIST THE STATION IS OPEN, irrespective of weather conditions. The large regular Union flag should be withdrawn on winds reaching 20-25 mph and replaced by the small Union burgee until winds subside, nightfall, or station closure time, whichever is the earlier.

Smoking

Further complaints have been received from the café owners regarding the depositing of cigarette ends and ash over the balcony: With immediate effect Smoking is discretely only allowed on the south facing balcony: Any further complaints will invoke a total NO SMOKING ban

NCI MABLETHORPE



EXCITING NEWS - Lincolnshire's second National Coastwatch Station is on its way. Preparatory talks have taken already place with regard to the formation of a new station - National Coastwatch MABLETHORPE. Bill Watson is appointed Acting Deputy Station Manager to be caretaker until such time as the team recruits and develops. We are grateful to both Keith and Pauline Arthey having transferred to Mablethorpe to assist development and establishment of this new station. They will of course still be attending our meetings.

THANKS

I always like to try and make a mention of those colleagues who have given that little bit extra, helping with installation, cleaning and maintenance: This month I highlight **Bill Isherwood**, for his roof walks in re-configuring the antenna and installing further cables etc, also to **Terry Brown** for help in rewiring the trunking and adding new points. **Seamus O'Dowd** has completed a most arduous and difficult job of computerising our Training Manual, and is now working on the national Stations Manual that I have just brought up to date. Thanks to **Roger Gilburd** for accompanying me to Fleetwood Station and taking our old Radar that will be installed there. Thanks to ex-member **John Frost**, now resident in Nottingham - he has collected the grand sum of £30 towards our funds from his friends there: I have written to thank him. Thank you John, most welcome.

We have received demands for £ 350 for Council Poll tax: I have made enquiries and we are entitled to a mandatory rebate as a non profit making Charity, plus there is available an application for concessionary relief and a further grant-aid assistance: I have filled in all the forms (3 hours work) and sent them in backed up with a copy of our Accounts, copy of our constitution, copy of our equal opportunities policy: watch this space!

In memoriam and remembrance

We all offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences to our colleague Watchkeeper **David Byrne** in the sad loss of his wife Cynthia who died peacefully on Monday 10th November after a short illness.

In our thoughts

NEXT TEAM MEETING: WEDNESDAY 7th January 2009

At the CROWN HOTEL, Drummond Road, Skegness at 19.00 hrs

Radio - you've done your course now we put it into practice !

Reminder -

Teas and Coffee's in the watchroom still need paying for - you all seem to have forgotten where your pockets are or the combination to your wallets! Carl cannot purchase new supplies if there is no cash to buy them, and I have now insisted he no longer finances this out of his own pocket - EVERYONE can afford to put something resembling English currency in the cash tin. Also those who have credit accounts for uniforms recently received will you kindly settle up with Roger as soon as possible and not leave it for him to chase you.

COMPLAINTS DEPARTMENT

Following a recent spate of problems, whinges and complaints, I am taking the unusual step of appointing a highly trained, skilled and understanding Watchkeeper to listen to, recognize, identify, and discuss all your problems, complaints, or concerns, sympathise and commiserate with you, and reach a mutually acceptable conclusion to your problem. **Joe**, pictured right is at your service.



NCI Equal opportunities and diversity policy



The new NCI Equal opportunities and diversity policy has recently been published by NCI Headquarters and all members must be made aware of its contents, and accept the responsibilities contained therein, both existing and new members. An acceptance clause is now included on the Application for Membership form. You will find this document in Section 31 in the Stations Manual. If you have any problems with this please discuss with Mike Newbold.



SENIOR WATCHKEEPER

The rank currently known as SENIOR WATCHKEEPER is under scrutiny by the board of trustees following a spate of problems in Devon and Cornwall. Apparently, teams being unable to agree the qualification level or attributes for this important position. Some want it on merit and ability as we do, so want it because someone has been a jolly good chap and served long. There is all possibility this rank may be disbanded, re-badged or re-named. Watch this space.

COLLECTION

The Morrison's collection on Saturday raised £161 Tombola, £240 Collection boxes and £19 on promotional goods a grand total of £420: Thank you all so much, we are solvent again! Your efforts to support your team are greatly appreciated, and shows commitment.

OUR DIARY 2008/9 –put it in yours!

Dec 13th - **COLLECTION and tombola** at Co-Op Skegness

Dec 17th -CHRISTMAS DINNER at the Crown Hotel, Drummond Road

Dec 20th - CHRISTMAS DRAW takes place at the Crown Hotel, Drummond Road

Jan 7th - TEAM TRAINING - Radio practical

Feb 11th - TEAM TRAINING - The watchkeeper

Mar 11th - TEAM TRAINING

Mar 25th - Teams 4th Birthday Party

POSTITON	HOLDER	POSITION	HOLDER
Station Manager	Mike Newbold	Press and Publicity	John Bradley
Deputy Station Manager	Roger Gilburd	Beach Safety coordinator	Carl Short
And Hon Treasurer		Charity Collecting boxes	
Deputy Station Manager, Project Manager & chart master	Bill Isherwood	Station Management Team Rep	Vacant
Recruitment Coordinator	Jack Wise	Flag master	Chris Lines
Quartermaster	Steve Atkins	Training Officer	Vacant
Hon Team Secretary	Vacant	Statistics & records	Ann Wells
		Almoner & tea room prop	Eileen Gilburd
Watch Rota Coordinator & IT	Seamus O'Dowd	Training assistant	Roger Hardstaff