

FELLOW SAILORS...

A message from Mirror Class Chairman, **Jeremy Pudney**

At last summer's AGM in Brightlingsea, there was considerable discussion about how to improve communication with all our members – and it was clearly recognised that relying on our website was not enough, especially for people like me who confess to being pretty computer illiterate!

IMAGES, this new magazine / yearbook, is one way we hope to improve the situation. But like all class magazines, it's only as good as the contributors we can find to send in interesting articles, photos and so on. So let us know how you feel about this edition and what other topics you'd like to see in any future ones.

Meanwhile we are hoping this type of publication may encourage 'non-member' Mirror owners to join – as well as being a useful publicity tool for 'prospective' Mirror owners, who will hopefully realise what a lively, friendly bunch of people we are!

As with so much of our Association's work, we have to thank Simon Lovesey who has taken on the considerable editorial task to get this project going.

IMAGES is also a reflection of your committee's confidence in the state of the Class and how we might expand in the future. There is no doubt that the new rules have allowed us to update an already good boat. This latest Mirror from Winders looks a 'cool machine' and feels so nice to sail – it is no wonder that they have 25 orders on their books. But it is nice to see that so many older boats have successfully adapted to the new Bermudian rig and centre-main.

I don't think there is any doubt that the modern Mirror is a much better proposition than its older

cousin, the Cadet. And in terms of a sailing challenge, much more interesting than the Feva: a very heavy machine with a sloppy rig that often means it is slower around the track.

We have a very good product – we just need to let more people know about it, and TRY it!

And this is where all of you come in. We don't have a sales force or a large marketing budget like the three large manufactures we could all name. But instead, we do have all of you – often second if not third generation Mirror sailors. A priceless asset of sailors proud of their Class. But also proud to be a Class that was prepared to move with the times to meet the needs of today.

So let's do ourselves a favour. Let's – each one of us – go out and persuade and cajole other club members, friends, cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces to try a Mirror and hopefully join the Mirror fraternity.

It is really quite extraordinary that there is still no other class that quite fulfils the role of the Mirror. No other class that meets the needs of a young family entering our sport and wishing to see their kids progress through the learning curve, to become confident sailors in their own right.

Our task is to spread this message far and wide – and I mean not just in the UK!

We have the right product, we have the dream, we just need the ambition, energy and resolve to make it happen.

Meanwhile, happy sailing for 2008 – but don't forget the dream. ■



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ABOUT OUR CHAIRMAN

Chairman Jeremy Pudney has returned to the Mirror Class with his second set of children, Meg and Jack. His first son, Jonathan, is now introducing Jeremy's grandchildren to the delights of sailing in the original 30 year-old Pudney family Mirror. Jeremy is no stranger to top class sailing, having won the International 14 Worlds, and although the Mirror may not be the fastest boat on the water, he enjoys the challenge of squeezing the most out of these sensitive little craft.



PHOTO: Tim Bees/otohoo