



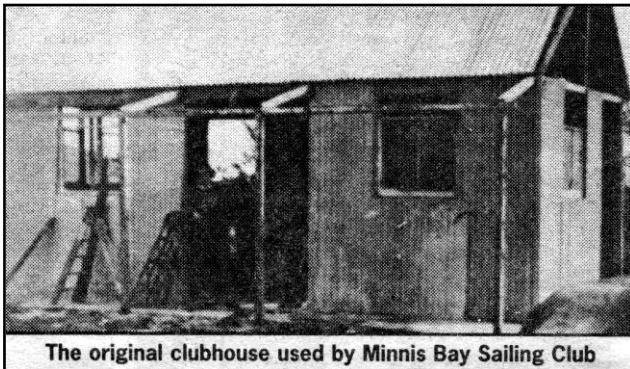
MINNIS BAY SAILING CLUB

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Minnis Bay Sailing Club has celebrated its 50th year in 2000: Formed after a dispute with the Margate Corporation, the club has gone from strength to strength. It started with 11 members. There are now 250, who take part in weekend sailings and yearly regattas.

The dispute centred around boats that were kept on a piece of Corporation land between King's Avenue and Canute Road. The Corporation demanded their removal. To strengthen their position, the boat owners and friends met outside the Minnis Bay Café and formed the "Minnis Bay Sailing Club".

Its first achievement was to lease land behind the Minnis Bay Café car park, to replace the former boat park. They have been there ever since. The first Clubhouse cost £50 and was made out of corrugated asbestos on a steel frame building. Some of the timber was bought as a job lot, some was salvaged from the sea or the beach and quite a lot was salvaged on 1 February, 1953, following the great storm and flood.



The original clubhouse used by Minnis Bay Sailing Club

The Clubhouse was certainly basic – during the first regatta in **1957**, the men had to change in a small tent – and the accommodation was replaced in **1958** by an American style pre-fab bungalow bought from the Ministry of Supply. The lorry driver who brought it back from Rochester was hired at the cost

of one bath from the pre-fab – which we didn't need!

The new Clubhouse had a bar - and a games room was added later. But in the late Sixties it had to be replaced once again, as it proved to be too small. Rebuilding took place in two stages, due to our financial constraints. A new bar, kitchen, men's changing rooms, toilets and shower were added in time for the **1967** season.

In **1973** the new Clubhouse was finished and over the years improvements have continued to be made.

The club's growth can be seen in the development of the various classes of craft. For the first few years, classes were unheard of. Our boats were generally converted fishing or rowing vessels or home-made designs.



Members of the Club - 2000

In **1954** came the first class boat, a Chichester Harbour 12ft restricted class called the 'Brise'. This was followed by the 14ft Kent restricted class, 'Sturgeon', and in **1955**, 'Foam'.

This developed as more types of boat entered the club. These included 'Hérons', 'Ospreys', 'Scorpions', 'Mirrors', 'Condors', 'Hurricanes', 'Toppers' and 'Lasers'. Another change in the club was the move from being primarily a cruising organization in the **1950's** to a racing organization by the **1960's**.

Some members now travel as far as 300 miles to take part in races while cruising has almost disappeared apart from one or two in mid-season. The club retains its links with its past. Part of one of the original club boats – 'Boz' – is used as a trophy and is awarded for the most meritorious performance of the year.



A 'Sturgeon' dinghy at Minnis Bay – 1950s, perhaps

[Note added by Jennie Burgess – October 2016]

MBSC new members welcome – Information can be found on -
www.minnisbaysailingclub.co.uk

Anyone interested in joining the club can contact
enquiries@minnisbaysailingclub.co.uk