

Club leaves 'Sea Vixen' for £13,000 new HQ

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THE new £13,000 Highcliffe Sailing Clubhouse was opened on Saturday by Christchurch's Mayor, Coun. John Morgan.

This week the former Motor Torpedo Boat "Sea Vixen" which served as the club's home for 12 years was due to be burnt by demolition men.

Coun. Morgan who was accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs. Morgan said there had been criticism about the clubhouse's design but he thought it blended very well with its surroundings. He said he had been chairman of the planning committee at the time plans were passed and had been involved in the project almost from its conception.

Yachting, he said, was no longer the past-time of the wealthy few.

He said there might be the threat of a marina in this part of the harbour but he was against anything which would increase the number of craft in the area. The beach committee was trying to tidy up the harbour.

Coun. Morgan unveiled the bronze plaque which was bought by the club's junior members. They raised £42 from a "sausage sizzle" at a fair.

In recognition of their help, Coun. Morgan said he would give a perpetual junior challenge cup with cup replicas to each winner.

Dr. Brian Wood, the club's commodore, thanked the mayor and the council for their consideration and co-operation.

He thought the clubhouse would fit in with any eventual development and it was the club's intention to live in harmony with all those who use and live in the area.

Dr. Wood thanked Christchurch Sailing Club for presenting a barograph to the club. Representatives from the local Sports Councils and from, surrounding sailing clubs were welcomed.

Money for the new club has come from member's subscriptions, and from fairs. Members have also been invited to take debentures and it is hoped the overdraft— between £3,000 £4,000 — will be paid off within three years.

The club, founded in 1957, started raising money three years ago. Building began last September and was completed a week before the official opening.

The clubhouse is composed of a large hall, a gallery which look out upon the harbour, a committee room, showers and a galley.