



THE ORIENT EXPRESS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL NORFOLK & SUFFOLK YACHT CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIRAL

It is often said that there is no "I" in team and it is nowhere more apparent than watching your well lead management committee in action. Working as a team and bringing their considerable talents, enthusiasm and experience to bear, great things have been achieved. The clubhouse sparkles, the dining room has at long last been redecorated and the work in the changing rooms and everywhere else is bearing fruit.

You as members may not be aware that one of our principal sources of income are visiting yachts from abroad. It is of the utmost importance that we provide a good visitor experience to encourage visitors to come again and encourage their friends to visit. We used to be criticised for the state of our showers but no longer as they are now a source of welcome comments.

I am obviously biased as I have young grandchildren who now enjoy visiting the club and who would have thought, we would see 20 youngsters enjoying bingo one night during sea week. Well done, Avril, Janet, Louise, Paul and the parents who made the Mexican evening such a success. Our next generation can now be seen sculling around the marina without a care in the world and confirming we are now a family friendly Club.

I can genuinely say that the management committee work tirelessly and effectively on your behalf but they know we cannot stand still so they genuinely welcome any suggestions to improve your Club.

I remain, very proud to be the Admiral, of what is a great Club and I would like to close by thanking the staff who are some of the best I have ever worked with.

Tim Barrett Admiral



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Dear Members

What a great summer of sailing we are having and it is being enjoyed both on and off the water. A number of large Dutch Fleets visited the club in May and June. They filled the Marina and on several occasions the bars and Dining Room as well. It is such a colourful spectacle we are very lucky that they choose to visit us each year.

Our major regatta week of the year – Sea Week- was a huge success on and off the water. The Ball started the week, a truly lovely evening, lots of laughter and chat – everyone was dressed up and some fabulous photographs have been taken which will be on display at the club. The atmosphere on shore at the club whilst the sailors were at sea was full of fun. The children of both members and visitors enjoyed an underwater themed party on Monday with DJ Kev providing the entertainment. Although the Crabbing Competition was rained off, lots of crabs were caught, some of them several times. Rowing races and Bingo were new additions to the sea week agenda – and judging by the popularity they will be firm fixtures from now on. Trips to the beach and fountains by the club resulted in lots of happy tired youngsters.

A big thank you to everyone who was involved with organising Sea Week both on and off the water.

It was lovely to see so many members and visitors at the Sea Week reception when we were entertained by Evie and Maxim Calver. Local talented youngsters playing the cello and violin who created such a convivial atmosphere.

The club is at its best when it is being used and this summer we are. I look forward to seeing you all at the club enjoying its many facilities.

Happy boating

Ruth Davies Commodore

SOCIAL/HOUSEKEEPING COMMITTEE

Now that Sea Week is over the Committee continues to plan the rest of our 2017 programme including our ever-popular Christmas functions. We hope there is something of interest for everyone so do come along and join in. We are finalizing event dates for 2018 and the programme will receive input from both Members and staff in an effort to increase footfall through the Club. Our aim is to make the Clubhouse a vibrant, friendly and relaxing place to come and chat with other like-minded members and guests – who knows some may like to join the Club just for the Social events on offer.

The 'Evening in Provence' in July was a huge success generating around £600 in net revenue and it is hoped to continue these popular 'themed' evenings into 2018. The Mexican Night during Sea Week attracted many families with 20 children enjoying Bingo and 'Piñata's' from which they eventually extracted sweets! Our staff couldn't wait to get their hands on the Mexican hats and did an excellent job in ensuring everyone was fed.

Our Sea Week events were well supported, although the Summer Ball numbers were disappointing, but it was good to see our non-boating members joining in, proving that you don't have to own a boat to come along and enjoy yourself. Of particular note was the Children's Underwater-themed party hosted by DJ Kev who kept 23 children of a wide age range amused. Next year it is planned to put on something for the slightly older children such as rowing races.

The Committee is already looking at ways to improve the Sea Week events as these are an important part of the revenue of the Club.

Our Housekeepers, Anne and Christine, did an excellent job keeping the bedrooms and communal rooms sparkling whilst also keeping the external visitor showers in a clean condition for our foreign visitors. Members have commented on how good the Clubhouse looks these days and it is credit to them both for their hard work and enthusiasm.

We are currently looking for new younger members with fresh ideas to co-opt onto the Committee for 2018, so if you are interested in offering some help and have the time, please get in touch with the Commodore or myself.

Finally, my thanks go to everyone on the Social/Housekeeping Committee, the staff and members who have added to the success of Club functions during 2017.

Janet Farrington

MARINA COMMITTEE

The Marina goes from strength to strength with the Visitors' Quay full to capacity with vessels from all over Europe - often rafted three or even four deep. There are large shoals of fry around the Marina which we think could be Grey Mullet. These have come to the attention of at least one Kingfisher, which appears to be roosting in the Trawl Dock. The Marina and our visitors make a huge contribution to the Club's finances – if only we could make it bigger!

The Committee has recently finished installing a grating at the bottom of the fuel quay steps and it should now be less slippery at low tide.

On Sunday 20th August a sunny and very sociable afternoon trip to Scroby Sands to see the seals was enjoyed by 14 people on 3 Club Members' boats. No landings took place but everyone enjoyed a picnic. This is an annual outing that can be enjoyed by every type of vessel from the Marina and to which any Club member is welcome to come and join in.

Club Member Stephen Carter has just left Liverpool on the Clipper Round the World race. We wish him Bon Voyage and good sailing. What an experience!

Kingsley Farrington Vice Commodore

BOOK CLUB

First Thursday of the month at 10.30

We have read an eclectic mix of books over the last seven years resulting in a variety of opinions, so this is great opportunity to discuss books that you might not ordinarily consider.

Come and join us for coffee, cake and our friendly, lively and sometimes controversial reviews.

Books can be borrowed from and returned to the Club office.

Isobel Haysom

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The external painting of the Club is now complete and thanks must go to Shield Decorating, Total Build and Oakes joinery shop for working to complete the painting and window repair and replacement on time.

The House Committee would like to recruit some new members who are interested in maintaining your Club for the future generations. Please let Simon know if you are interested.

Richard Fryer Rear Commodore

JUNIOR NEWS

Member Joe Drake aged 16 has enjoyed another year sailing. He started sailing a Laser with a smaller radial sail but has now moved to a full standard Laser sail.

Joe started the year in February and March with three World and European Qualifiers two in Weymouth and one at Hayling Island Sailing Club, which on the radial ladder left him in 6th place getting him a place in the first round of allocation for the World Championships in Medemblik.

He competed in the Youth Nationals at Hayling Island Sailing Club during the Easter holidays which was a week-long event finishing in 5th place.

In June Joe did his first event in a Standard Laser at a Youth Regatta at Lymington which he finished 1st.

Then in July/August he sailed the Laser Nationals at Abersoch again a week long which he again did in the Standard Laser in which he finished in 3rd place.

In August he represented GB in Medemblik Holland at the Youth World Championships with a radial sail but struggled with the smaller radial sail and light and shifty conditions.

The second Member who has had a very successful year is ten year old Tom Thwaites.

In his first season moving on from Optimist sailing he has sailed in a Topper with a smaller 4.2 rig.

Competing in the 4.2 National series events Tom came first at Grafham, Rutland and Lowestoft. Then he went on to the Nationals held in Pwllheli in Wales where he came 5th.

Nearly every competitor in these events was older than Tom making his results even more remarkable.



Tom with his Lowestoft winning trophy

MARINE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

I wonder how many people visiting the Club recently – possibly during Sea Week, thought how well the Club looked. My thoughts on that subject started whilst looking over the railings at the 'Regatta Quay' and then looking down and seeing the new pontoons that were added as part of the 'Troika Gate' Project have worked so well and have made such an improvement to the moorings so close to the Club House.

Not only has the success of Sea Week in recent years meant we have to cater for a considerable number of extra boats – but their owners as well as they bring their floating hotels..... none more magnificent than Matthew Thwaites' new cruiser that added a de-facto extension to the Regatta Quay that I, and indeed others, were delighted to make use of.

Not quite so obvious, but I'm sure members are aware of the huge amount of work that was done in the Marina replacing the Piles that had corroded.....but also the addition of a professional WiFi System to serve the yachts moored in the marina to ensure that members and visitors alike can stay connected.

When I turned around during my musings, I looked up and saw that the scaffold had been removed from around the club indicating that the painting of the Club House had been completed and as I left to get a beer from the bar.....I went under the awning and realised that was new as well..... ***we ALL owe a considerable debt to those who have made it happen.***

And then I thought as I sipped my beer, how well the club looked and then I looked around me and saw it buzzing – and I think I know why.....

Paul Jenkins Rear Commodore

CRUISING

Two rivers Cruise 8/17 September 2017

There is still time to book a place on the forthcoming Two Rivers Cruise starting on the evening of 8 September 2017 with briefing and dinner in the Club and departure on 9 September. The plan is to visit two rivers, the Deben and the Alde and return to the club on 16th/17th September. This cruise is suitable for both yachts and motor cruisers and the sea distances involved are not particularly great. An opportunity to visit the nature reserves of the River Alde should not be missed – particularly at this time of the year. If you are interested, please complete the attached booking form and return it to Simon Cadle at the Club ASAP.

Laying Up Cruise 14/15 October 2017.

This is a cruise wholly within the Broads and should not be quite so weather dependent. There will be a briefing prior to the cruise on the evening of 13 October followed by supper in the Club. The proposal is to proceed from the Club Marina via Mutford Lock to Beccles with a Saturday evening cruise supper at a suitable hostelry.

Members with boats not in the marina are welcome to join us, but we do need to know that you are coming and know the numbers for dinner on the Saturday night. If you are interested, please complete the attached booking form and return it to Simon Cadle at the club ASAP. The cruising committee look forward to seeing you on this event.

Annual Cruising Meeting, Sunday 26 November 2017 11 am in the Club.

This will be an opportunity for you, the members, to come and express your views as to what you want by way of an organised cruising programme for 2018. The cruising committee needs your help and guidance as to what you would like to do in the future. We also need additional members on the Cruising Committee; if you feel that you would like to contribute, we shall be pleased to hear from you. You do not need a lot of experience – but you do need some enthusiasm to promote a cruising in company programme for the club. The committee have an outline proposal for a weekend cruise each month and longer cruises to cover the spring/summer. The question is where would you like to go? – Holland, The Friesian Islands, France, Springtime in Paris, Windsor and the upper reaches of the River Thames, the Normandy Coast or further afield to the Channel Islands and Brittany. Plenty to talk about; we look forward to hearing your views on the 26 November.

David Evans Cruising Committee Chair

SOCIAL EVENTS

AGM & Supper

Friday 29th September

Two Course Supper at £19.00 available after the AGM.

To book please contact the Club Office.

Dress Code: Smart Casual

RNLI Coffee Morning

Wednesday 11th October

The RNLI will be holding a Coffee Morning and you will be able to purchase Christmas Cards & Diaries. Tea/ Coffee & Cake available.

Trafalgar Night Dinner

Saturday 21st October

David Caswick from the Nelson Museum will speak about the four sides of Nelson's Column in Gt.Yarmouth. This will be a genuinely entertaining and interesting evening with all the ritual that goes so well with our Trafalgar Celebration 19:00 for 19:45, Black Tie, Three Course Dinner £31.00

Festive Fun with Flowers with Gloria Goodley

Thursday October 26th 11.00 - 15.00 hrs

(Coffee 10.30)

Be inspired and creative for the festive season, bring your old Christmas decorations, and transform them for your Christmas table or anywhere else in your home

Please see the website for more details or call the Club Office

Laying Up Supper

Saturday 3rd November

A lively evening discussing all the adventures the Members have experienced on their Summer Boat trips. 19:00 for 19:45 Two Course Supper £19.00

Ladies Talk & Lunch

'Diamonds are a girl's best friend'

Wednesday 8th November

"Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" with jewellery expert Maria Pennington. Those of you who came to Maria's talk on Pearls last year will not want to miss this very interesting talk about how and where diamonds are found and to see some beautiful examples. Bring a piece of your own diamond or pearl jewellery to find out whether it is genuine! Invite some of your friends for a relaxing 'girlie' day. Coffee 10.30. Talk 11.15. two-course Lunch 12.45. Price and menu available soon.

Weatherquest Talk & Supper

Saturday 11th November

Talk by the BBC's Weather expert Jim Bacon on 'How to predict the Weather', further information to follow.

QUIZ NIGHT-

20th September, 18th October, 15th November,

13th December

Food Available from 18:00

First Question 19:30

BRIDGE CLUB / CLASSES

Thursdays 14:00

All levels of Bridge enthusiasts welcome, £2.50 per person including Tea or Coffee & Cake.

Date for your diary

Friday 27th October Crane out