



THE ORIENT EXPRESS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL NORFOLK & SUFFOLK YACHT CLUB

AUGUST 2019

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It has been good to see the Club so full of people over the last few weeks. It started with a very successful motorboat weekend with powerboats visiting to race from all over the country. The weather helped bring crowds to the sea front to witness the exciting racing with the competitors using our Club marina and facilities.

The following weekend was the start of Sea Week. The weather was not as helpful here with too much wind on Saturday and Sunday and then too little by Monday afternoon. However, the sailors enjoyed their week with up to 23 Broads One Designs battling for line honours.

Along with this Orient Express you will receive all the paperwork you need for the AGM on the 27th September. I look forward to your attendance and support of our Club.

As previously announced, I extend a warm welcome to our new Head Chef Doug Roberts, who has joined the catering team. Kay Gooderham will be joining the office staff from 2nd September as a replacement for Pippa Nicolle.

Happy Boating

Richard Fryer Commodore

MARINA COMMITTEE

The Marina has generally been well used by visitors this summer but because of bad weather on the Dutch side, this prevented many from enjoying their cruise over to Lowestoft.

Marina Maintenance carries on daily, the work includes scrubbing mess left by the birds to re-fixing and replacing pontoon boards.

A replacement Pontoon has been installed, proving to be more complicated than at first thought.

Large commercial vehicles are unable to enter the Club gate because of its position in relation to the approach road. It was decided to deliver the new 30-foot pontoon to our Boatyard in Norwich and lift it with our crane onto our 'in-house' transport for delivery to School Road Marina. On the same day the old pontoon (which was narrow and had become hazardous) was taken from the Marina to School Road for the new one to be launched and the old one returned to Norwich to be used at Carrow Yacht Club.

When pontoons are launched they will instantly capsize and so had to be cradled between two boats ("Skylark" & "East Point 1"). This operation was very successful but took Stuart, Geoff, Tim Mobbs, David Jobson and myself nearly two days to complete.

We have a spare pontoon float in stock for emergencies. Fuel Sales are good and quite a long way up on previous periods.

The current list of Approved Crane Operators is now attached to the Club Crane.

"Skylark" is operating well and the new Ken Self Chart Plotter is a great asset, especially when placing racing marks.

"East Point 1". Unfortunately one of the two engines is showing signs of age. Stuart has thoroughly investigated and the engine requires about £1,000.00 of parts. In the coming months the Committee will investigate the most cost-effective future of both engines. Thankfully they behaved for Sea Week!

Dredging will be assessed shortly, especially the area between the Tug Arm and the Visitors' Quay. The Port plough dredger attempted to remove spoil from the area recently but, because this spoil is now so hard, an alternative means of removal will have to be considered. Under Club Rules I will have to retire as Marina Committee Chairman at the AGM. I would like to thank my team of Stuart, Tim Mobbs, David Jobson, Chris Merren, Ken Foster and Anthony Knights, to Janet for taking and producing the Minutes and to Simon for all the official paperwork!

Kingsley Farrington Vice Commodore

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A list of social events to come is printed later in this newsletter.

We have just completed a very successful Sea Week with functions each night. We tried some new ideas this year and they proved popular. There was a busy buzz about the Club throughout the week despite the weather not helping the sailing cause at all times.

Many more events are planned with the next event being the visit of Steve Burrows on 10th September. He is only visiting four venues in the UK to launch his new birder murder mystery book so we are very lucky to have him visit us to speak.

Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Social Committee

ESTATES COMMITTEE

The Club now has two electric car charging points situated by the 24 hour entrance. These are available to Club Members and visitors. The Club were able to access a government grant to contribute to the cost of the installation. Members need to register their interest with the office where they will get information about the app needed to access the chargers. Once downloaded the app will allow use of the charging points and then with your permission your Club card will be debited with your usage.

Richard Fryer Commodore

CRUISING

“Gwiazda” (David Jobson) had a short cruise to Woodbridge, Shotley, Royal Harwich YC and Levington in excellent weather during early July. The biggest hazard was very poorly marked crab pots from Orford Ness to Southwold, so do keep a sharp look out – most do not have flags on them!

“Amadeus M” (Tony & Tessa Shingler) and “Gentle One” (Ken & Jane Foster) will shortly be cruising to Wells.

“Foxley Lady” (David Evans) has just returned from a south coast cruise.

“Dawn Walk” (Bob & Jean Shackleton) is still away cruising although not sure where!

Red Diesel – The consultation period runs out on 9th

September 2019. Send your response to gary.satchell@hmrc.gov.uk Please make your views known – it will have a big effect on cruising.

Kingsley Farrington Vice Commodore

AMBLERS GROUP

The Amblers Group first meeting took place at the club on the 22nd February 2019 when the plan for the years walks were discussed. This was followed by an amble along the prom to Pakefield and the railway carriage.

Since that day, walks have included

Southwold/Walberswick, Shingle Street and Bawdsey at the mouth of the River Deben, Oulton Broad starting at St.Michaels Church and walking along the river. The latest walk was St.Nicholas and South Elmham near Bungay.

The Amblers joined with the Book Club for a walk and talk on George Orwell and his connection with Southwold. The next walk is scheduled for the 20th September when they will be joining the Book Club again. This time there will be a guided tour of Carlton Marches led by a member of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, meeting at the club at 9.45, car sharing if necessary, tour starting at 11.00 at the Trust centre, returning to the club for lunch.

If you enjoy the outdoors and ambling please come and join us. Details of the walks are displayed on the board in the clubhouse and also sent out in the weekly emails. We look forward to seeing you.

Jane Foster



The above picture is a view overlooking the River Deben in the Ramsholt area.

GIG RACING: A future mission?

There are innumerable ways to keep fit, but surely the best solution is to combine the grind with something that is also enjoyable and fun.

The RN&SYC is a Yacht Club with a large membership of Yachtsmen, but is also keen to promote all types of waterborne activity and in recent years has become home to an increasingly active RIB fleet. However, it is also keen to promote other popular pursuits and Skiff/Gig racing/rowing has in recent years gained a great deal of interest and a large following – both as a sport and indeed an enjoyable way of keeping fit.

As part of the 'First Light Festival' a small fleet of gigs rowed into the beach to 'herald' the dawn on the longest day and used the RN&SYC as a base which enabled some of us to get a closer look at a modern boat, and when these photos of a St Ayles skiff were taken.

Gigs are part of our national heritage and played an important part in the maritime history of Norfolk and Suffolk. It is not my intention to relate the history of Gigs here, as Mick Hart, a very old friend who has spent a lifetime in and around boats is giving a talk on the 'History of Gigs' on Friday 11th October at the Club – and I hope many of you will attend.

Gigs, were and are, very seaworthy and ideal to be rowed off Lowestoft. The boats, and crews of these boats are often sponsored by companies to gain corporate awareness and promote a fun way of employees to keep fit. However, many boats are 'privately' owned by a group of like-minded individuals who want to row and keep fit at the same time – hence they are often crewed by 'middle aged' folk....Gig rowing and racing is not just the preserve of the younger members !!

The reason for this article is to hopefully generate interest in getting a group of members interested in acquiring a gig at the RN&SYC which can then be the start of another location for Gig Racing on the East Anglian coast.

Paul Jenkins Rear Commodore



A RN&SYC Member's Summer Cruise 2019

This year three boats from the RN&SYC decided that it would be a good idea to visit France starting with Dunkerque as it is the 75th Anniversary of Operation Dynamo. The plan then was to go down to Boulogne, Dieppe, Honfleur, across the Channel to the Isle of Wight returning via the South Coast and stopping at various places on the East Coast. However the best laid plans of mice and men, this was not quite meant to be.

Two boats Gentle One and Rovia III waited at the club for the arrival of the third vessel, Yorkshire Belle II who was cruising down from Brundall. The weather was not looking too great but by the time YB II arrived it was beginning to look a little more hopeful. The decision was made to set off on the 12th June fairly early and aim to do Lowestoft to Ramsgate in one go, a distance of about 75 nautical miles. Rovia III being the fastest boat set off first. By the time G1 and YB II left it was pouring with rain and poor visibility, fortunately the sea state was fairly calm. Even crossing the Thames estuary was not too bouncy. We arrived at Ramsgate at 14.45 having left at 10.30.

The next two days were beset by strong winds, force 7 and bad seas so we remained on our moorings. Ramsgate is an interesting place with many good restaurants, shopping facilities and transport. By the 15th the sea state had calmed down enough for the boats to venture out. We cast off at 08.00 and the crossing could not have been better, calm seas and sunny skies. We arrived at Dunkerque at midday and were safely moored in the YCMN, (YC Mer du Nord) a good marina with all facilities and close to the town. We walked to the beach where Operation Dynamo took place, a beautiful beach. However, there are no dunes there now only a promenade with many high rise buildings and restaurants. There is a very interesting museum called Operation Dynamo which has been established within defences built by Napoleon. It is extremely well done and very sobering. Worth a visit.

After spending a couple of days here we moved on to Boulogne, 43 miles down the coast. Casting off at 8.00 French time we arrived at Boulogne marina at 12.15, by which time the weather was beginning to get hotter. Boulogne has a very interesting entrance in as much there is a large promontory that juts out into the entrance. Attached to this but under water is a wall that cannot be seen even at low water. You keep well to starboard of this and navigate along a wall, find a large white painted circle on the wall and then turn sharply to port and follow the channel into the harbour. It was said that a few had come to grief on this underwater structure.

Boulogne is another very interesting town. A ten minute walk from the marina takes you straight into the shops and the modern part. Another ten minutes up a long hill and you enter the historic part of the town which is closed off to vehicles. It has cobbled streets, many restaurants and a magnificent church. This area is surrounded by a high wall which you can walk along and admire the beautiful views over the town and out to sea.

It was such a lovely place that we decided to stay for five days which meant adjusting our plan. Two boats

needed to return by a certain date so the decision was made to return to Ramsgate and then Lowestoft via The Orwell and The Deben. Although the weather was good the sea state was about to change. We cast off at 7.00hrs French time and arrived at Ramsgate at 9.15 BST in time for breakfast. A lovely cruise with smooth seas, wind 2/3, sunny with excellent visibility.

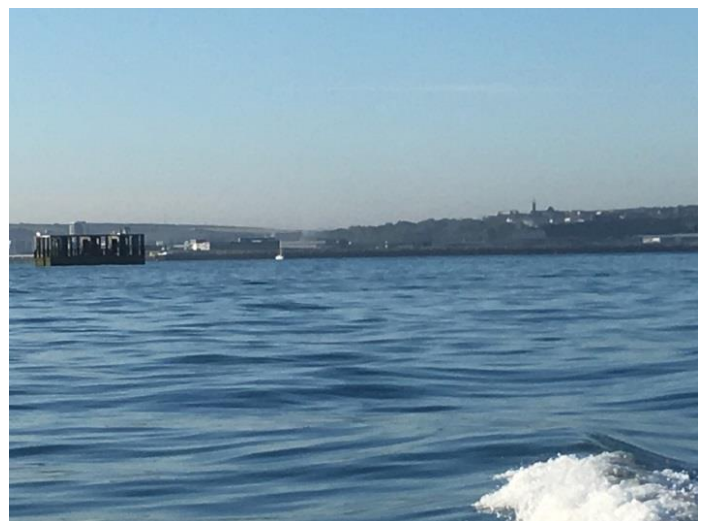
The wind began to pick up and it wasn't until two days later that we were able to leave Ramsgate and head for Shotley as the seas had calmed down again. By now G1 was on her own so once in Shotley we decided to take advantage of the marina's deal of a lift out and summer bottom scrub. Extremely good value and a most efficient service. To be recommended.

The next week was spent visiting Ipswich, Royal Harwich Yacht Club and Woodbridge where it was great to meet up with Bob and Jean Shackleton on Dawn Walk. On the way out of Woodbridge we passed Gwiazda with David and Jad Jobson and Kingsley and Janet Farrington heading for the Tidemill Yacht Harbour just starting their cruise.

A lovely cruise with excellent company. We will look forward to the next one which could be Wells - next-the- Sea in September.

Jane and Ken Foster Gentle One

Entrance to Boulogne Harbour



A Message from Pippa Nicolle

Hello to you all.

I wanted to just put a few lines together to say thank you to you all for the past two years with me being Club Assistant at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk. To all the Members; but in particular the Commodore and Jill and all the Flag Offices and Admiral for all their support and help I couldn't have done it without you all. I will really miss being a part of the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club. It has been a real privilege and honour to work alongside you all. I wanted to say a special thank you to Simon, I have so enjoyed working here these past two years. I am grateful for having had the chance to work alongside you. I will never forget your kindness and professionalism whenever we worked on projects together.

And to the team for helping and supporting me in the two years I will really miss everybody on the staffing team. Keep up the great work team 😊. My reasons for leaving are personal ones, so I can help in supporting my granddaughters in their schooling and I have taken on a new role that fits in time wise with the schooling. I hope that you all understand and will welcome the new Club Assistant with open arms and give them the support that you have given me.

Thank You

Pippa Nicolle

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For all these events see Club notice board and emails. Please book in advance where possible.

Thursday 5th September book club

And every first Thursday in month

Tuesday 10th September

Talk by author Steve Burrows

Saturday 14th September

Heritage Open day

Wednesday 18th September

Quiz night Charlotte Clark librarian from Southwold library as quizmaster.

Every third Wednesday of the month

Friday 20th September

Guided walk of Carlton Marshes
9am car share or 10 am at Carlton

Friday 27th September

Macmillan Coffee morning 10.30

AGM followed by Club Supper

Monday 30th September

Theatre group visit to marina for One man, two guvnors live screening.

Thursday 3rd October

Book club

Saturday 5th October

Chef's night meet Doug and sample his delicious food.

Friday 11th October

Gig talk. Mick Hart

Wednesday 16th October

Quiz Night

Saturday 19th October

Trafalgar Night

Friday 25th October

Coffee morning

Saturday November 2nd

Laying up supper

Sunday 3rd November

Donatella's Christmas Fayre **Friday 8th November**
Talk History of firearms by Robert Tilney

Wednesday 20th November

Quiz night with Grant Turner

Saturday 23rd November

Christmas Wreath making workshop with Gloria Goodley

Wednesday 27th November

Talk on Danish silversmith Georg Jensen by Maria Pennington

Thursday 5th December

Book Club

Wednesday 11th December

Quiz with John Humphery

Saturday 14th December

Club Christmas Dinner

Sunday 15th December

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday 22nd December

Club Christmas Lunch

Christmas Day

This year the Club will not be offering Christmas lunch on the 25th December.

SEA WEEK RESULTS 2019

A.W Rix Memorial Trophy; First Race Sea Week

Moorhen; Mark Duffield, Guy Foulger

Tadpole Cup Morning Series

1st Shoveller ; Stuart Rix, Rosie Rix, David Bye

2nd Solan : Richard Dell, Ian Timms, Graham Waring

3rd Marsh Harrier: Jimmy Tubby, David Gale, Jeremy Ives

RJ May Challenge Cup: Afternoon series

1st Marsh Harrier Jimmy Tubby, David Gale, Jeremy Ives

2nd Chris Schonhut, Annabelle Drake, Graham Reeve

3rd Matthew Thwaites, Anthony Knights, Richard Catchpole

Martello Trophy 1: combined day 3 results (Tuesday)

Solan :Richard Dell, Ian Timms, Graham Waring

Martello Trophy 2: combined day 4 results (Wednesday)

Ibis: Matthew Thwaites, Anthony Knights, Richard Catchpole

Curlew Cup: Day 4 and 5 combined (Wednesday, Thursday)

Ibis: Matthew Thwaites, Anthony Knights, Richard Catchpole

Lady Mayhew Trophy last race Sea Week

Chris Schonhut, Annabelle Drake, Graham Reeve

Guernsey Coffee Pot; previously not won a trophy in Sea Week

Dipper: Nick Heath, Henry Bird, Lorna Cole



Photographs

The Club are always keen to receive any photographs taken at Club events such as Sea Week, powerboat weekend. If you have any photographs you are willing to share please send them to the Club. Email to Simon@rnsyc.org.uk