



# THE ORIENT EXPRESS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL NORFOLK & SUFFOLK YACHT CLUB

April 2020

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

This edition of Orient Express comes to you during some particularly challenging times for everyone.

I will update you all on what has happened during the last few weeks. Once the government decided to call for the shutdown of Clubs, the Club was closed. Simon (Club Manager) is working from home making sure our bills are paid, staff are paid, and everything is safe and ticking over until such time we can reopen. He has answered queries from Members and keeps Members up to date with emails.

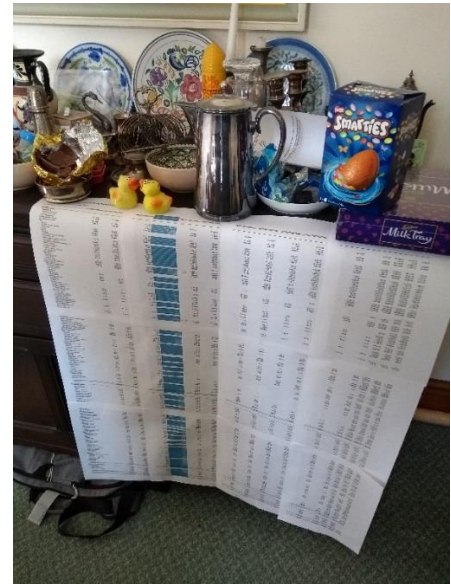
Stuart (Bosun) continues to work each day checking the Marina to keep boats safe and looking after the Clubhouse making sure everything is running smoothly. He is assisted by our new assistant bosun Keith Soanes. Keith joined us just as the shutdown started and has taken over from Geoff who had decided to retire. We will organise an opportunity for Members to say farewell to Geoff once we are able to arrange it. Lorna continues to clean the Clubhouse and the 24 hour toilet and shower facilities. The other office, bar and catering staff have been furloughed and are ready to return once circumstances change. I thank them all for their understanding at these unprecedented times.

I stay in touch with the Management Committee as we try and continue to make sure the Club runs on a stable footing.

For those interested in the weather station and anemometer; this has been returned from a total refurbishment by the makers and it is promised to be ready for at least another forty years' service. It awaits being restored to the pole on the roof but cannot be erected until the rules of social distancing are relaxed as it takes two people to lift it into position. The new weather station will then also be put in place.

Please keep in touch with us all and if we can help anyone at anytime please let us know.

**Richard Fryer Commodore**  
[richardmarkfryer@gmail.com](mailto:richardmarkfryer@gmail.com)



**The Commodore keeping an eye on the Club budget. Yes, he did steal the egg from the cancelled children's Easter egg hunt but did allow the other dozen to go to North Bay Care Home where his mother in law is safely living!!**

## MARINA COMMITTEE SKYLARK UPDATE

Skylark has undergone some essential repairs, particularly the rear cockpit floor area which required almost complete replacement. The Cockpit sole plywood floor was rotten in places and following its removal the supporting members underneath were also in need of urgent attention. All defective material was removed and new timber and reinforcements were installed. It was also necessary to repair the king post supports and engine bearers and bolts which had rusted away. All the new construction was epoxy cited and new floor boarding installed and fibreglassed over. The opportunity was also taken to replace the propeller shaft and upgrade the cathodic corrosion protection, as it had corroded in places.

These repairs were done with the objective of keeping Skylark in top condition for many years to come, as it is critical to our marine activities.

Skylark is now back at the Club and looking and sounding very smart. Our thanks to Stuart and Geoff who assisted with the work and to Kingsley and his Craftsmen who carried out the work efficiently and to a high standard.

**Tim Mobbs Marine Committee Chairman**



Stripped out and below new floor timbers ready to receive the new floor.



## FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Update – April 2020

In the middle of March the Club – and the Club's Solicitors, Nicholson's - were busily negotiating a legal agreement with East Suffolk Council to allow the main contractor, Balfour Beatty, to visit the Club and carry out some Ground Investigation Work. This was due to start on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. In the event, final approval by all parties to the legal document was delayed until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March by which time all hotels and restaurants were closed and the contractor's workers had nowhere to stay in Lowestoft, so they went home and no work has taken place.

We are now awaiting decisions about when and what activities will be permitted by the government, but I anticipate that no work will be carried out at the Club until such time as hotels and guest houses have re-opened. This will permit the contract workers to stay near the Club while they carry out their work. What impact this delay will have on the overall project schedule of design engineering, contract placement and purchasing is difficult to estimate. So, we await developments.

Meanwhile, the survey of the Newcome Sands that I normally carry out at this time of year, has also been delayed. I await a suitable time and spring tides that will enable two of us to work on board Skylark; one to drive the boat and the other to take the soundings.

Chris Merren Admiral

Chair of Flood Defences Committee

**THIS IS WHAT A FEW OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UP TO DURING OUR ENFORCED STAY AT HOME AND SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

June Yeaman sent me a picture of her new friend. Her family thought she might be lonely distancing herself from them and her other friends, so found her this rescue dog called Dinkie. Dinkie was found wandering in London and was covered in brambles, hence the short haircut! June says she is currently very scared of other dogs and follows her everywhere.





Richard Fryer has changed sailing for biking as his daily exercise. He has been social distancing daily around the roads of Norfolk and Suffolk. He is currently worried his box of bike parts might run out so unfortunately, (for our bank balance) has learnt how to order spares on the internet. Pictured is his stack of spares and of course books of different bike trips he can dream about when our shed (motorhome) is allowed out again.



### Sunflower challenge

Knowing how competitive some sailors can be there has been talk of a sunflower growing competition. In this household the growing has been delegated to me and here is my effort so far. If anyone within ten miles of Blundeston/Lowestoft would like some of my spare seeds delivered by the Commodore for you to plant just let us know. Unfortunately, you will have to see him in his cycling lycra! **Jill Fryer**



## A CHALLENGE FROM YOUR REAR COMMODORE

As some of you may know the Rear Commodore Paul Yallop spends his spare time restoring old cars, motorcycles and boats. He's taken some pictures of items in his shed and also some older pictures for you to answer questions on. Send in your answers to the Club and the person that gets the most correct will a free bottle of Adnam's champagne when they have a meal at the Club. Please enter by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Answers please to: [Paul@parklandsifa.co.uk](mailto:Paul@parklandsifa.co.uk)

1) Name the manufacturer of this engine (it's a petrol hydroplane engine).



2) Name the make and model of this car.



3) Name the make and model of this tractor





4) Name the make and model of this car. (They were rally world champions)



5) Name the make and model of tractor.



6) Name the manufacturer of this engine



7) Name the make and model of this car.



8) Where was this boat built (not far from Lowestoft)?



9) What is this?



10) What was the top speed of this boat?



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF**

The current situation we are all under has provided some unique challenges. I have been particularly proud of our staff either those who continue to work keeping the Club and Members boats safe or the changing rooms clean and the staff who have been furloughed who have relayed to me they are very eager to get back to work. They continue communicating and checking up on each other via a Whatsapp group, sharing experiences and funny videos.

We would all like to pass on our regards, best wishes and good health to all the Members and we look forward to seeing you all at the Clubhouse as soon as possible.

**Simon Cadle – Club Manager**

