



THE ORIENT EXPRESS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL NORFOLK & SUFFOLK YACHT CLUB

January 2023

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

As the end of January approaches, Christmas is a fond memory. The Club was decorated to perfection. I have sent personal thanks to all those involved but mention here Hilary Turrell who selected another magnificent tree and Richard Fryer who transported it. June Yeaman continues to decorate the Club long term and my ongoing thanks to her.

The Christmas Dinner introduced new musicians in place of the Salvation Army. Jane Foster on piano was joined by Jan Jones who led the carol singing to much acclaim. The dinner was superb and the staff were without fault. I am pleased that the Brunches on both Christmas and New Year's Eve were well supported and will endure for future years. I am keen to bring more music into the Club's repertoire during the year as variety and uniqueness in events brings much to the life of the Club.

We must always remember that we are a long-established sea faring institution. It's in our DNA. On 25th January, I was pleased to attend an inaugural conference at Euston Park hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk concerning the setting up of 'The East Anglian Maritime Awards'. These will have a focus on youth. Chris Dicker who is a long-standing Member and accomplished Dragon and BOD sailor is a major figure on the Organising Committee. Early days but a worthwhile initiative supported not only by the Countess of Euston but also the Lord Lieutenants of Norfolk and Essex.

Britain has been an ancient maritime nation for some 1500 years. In the Longshed at Woodbridge Quay a full-size working replica of the Anglo-Saxon King's burial ship discovered at Sutton Hoo on the Deben in 1939 is being constructed with traditional skills. For those with an interest in history, the sea or both, the presentation evening at the Club on Friday 10th February concerning the project is a wonderful opportunity. The last time the Deben River will have seen the like is in about 650 AD. ! Please contact the Office to book. It is proving very popular and dining is available.

Last year, we celebrated the late Queen's Jubilee with a great week-end both on and off the water. Her passing in September was very sad but I received a lovely note of thanks from King Charles for the letter of condolence sent on behalf of the Club which is currently displayed in the Rotunda.

This year we will celebrate the Coronation on the 6th/7th May so please mark this week-end in your diaries. We

propose to screen the Event on 6th May and to dovetail celebrations to suit to create another memorable occasion. The Clubhouse was opened in July 1903 and 2023 is the 120th Anniversary of that event. The Architect was George Skipper, the celebrated 'Gaudi of Norwich'. This year also marks the 75th Anniversary of his passing. We plan to mark these occasions. The weekly diary will keep you up to speed with all the news.

The initial phase of the Flood Scheme is going well and to plan and it will be excellent to see the new marina quay, new awning and new Club entrance gates in place in the Spring. Meantime our large bespoke car park adjacent to the Pavilion is near at hand and the gate fully manned in the daytime. It is open 24hrs. Usage of the Clubhouse is unaffected.

May I wish you all a very happy New Year and an enjoyable season ahead.

Jeremy. R. Ives.
Commodore



Jan And Jane led the Christmas Carols

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 10th February

Talk by Woodbridge Builders of the Sutton Hoo replica boat

Wednesday 15th February Quiz Night

Sunday 26th February The Esplanade 1940 to present day. A talk by Richard Munday followed by Sunday Lunch

ESTATES COMMITTEE

Last year saw a strategy to ensure that equipment and decorations were invested in, to future proof our assets. Many of these things go on behind the scenes. We started with the re-enamelling of the gentlemen's urinals. The water heater which heats the changing room showers was time expired and has been replaced. With a kind donation from a Member we were able to replace the dining room carpet. To keep on top of external decoration the South elevation of the clubhouse was painted.

This year we have started with the reorganisation of Room 10. Providing robust shelving for books and supplies, keeping as much floor space clear as possible. Room 1 ensuite has been upgraded. In February the windows in the Silver bar and Members bar will be finally repaired and then repainted.

The gents toilet will be redecorated and the pipework repaired where needed.

The bar glass washer has failed, and a new unit will be installed.

We are making sure we keep up to date with general maintenance, including boilers, water heaters, tanks, pipework, fire alarm, extinguishers and CCTV.

A new awning will be made and fitted this summer once the flood defence works are complete.

It is our aim to enhance our building and replace items as they come to the end of their useful life and as finances allow.

Richard Fryer and Anthony Knights

Joint Chair Estates Committee

Committee Members: Avril Mobbs, David Jobson, Ian Pickering, Mark Drake, Simon Cadle (Club Manager)

FLOOD DEFENCES WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The contractors are making excellent progress. In front of the Club the railings have been removed and the new concrete base is being constructed ready for the installation of the new glass wall in early March.

Across the boat park the foundations are being laid for the demountable flood barriers. The contractors will be off site by the Summer and hand back our car and boat park for your use.

MARINA COMMITTEE

The Marina Committee is responsible for all aspects of the Marina and to try to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the Marina.

One of the first tasks of the Marina Committee is to set a budget for the coming year, to cover the expenses associated with maintenance and improvement of the Marina as a whole.

We look at all aspects of the running of the marina, for instance fuel & foul water pumps, condition of the pontoons and any replacement, Pontoon lighting and water, Club boats, our crane, Versadock units for rib boats. A big challenge for our Marina is the requirement for continuous dredging to keep the depth of our marina. This item is very expensive and takes up a lot of our time.

We meet once each month to review how the marina is functioning and amend items as necessary. I also report to Management Committee each month.

In 2022 the Committee purchased the Clubs first Versadock, a means of providing a dry berth for a Rib on the water. A second one has been purchased this winter (this time funded through the Flood Defences project by the Council) to enable our training provider to be able to continue to deliver a service during the works on site.

Off site winter storage was also arranged by the Committee, alongside the flood defence Committee to ensure safe winter storage for Members boats.

Ken Foster Chair Marina Committee

Committee Members: Tim Mobbs, Kingsley Farrington, Chris Merren, Matt Clay, Alan Ramsden, Stuart Brown (bosun), Simon Cadle (Club Manager)



MARINE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The 2022 season afloat was a very successful one for the Club. With one notable exception, the weather was remarkably kind. The diversity of events was astonishing. After the interruptions caused by the pandemic, it was good to see KNZ&VR and Assumada & Toerzeillers from Netherlands back in considerable numbers. A fleet from the Haven Ports (Harwich) also raced to the Club for the Britannia Cup.

The Eight Norwich Sea Scouts continued with their long term and annual visits to the Club to undertake sailing and powerboat training. There was also a visit from Hickling Broad Sailing Club to train safety boat personnel.

A Merlin Rocket Open Meeting was hosted on August Bank Holiday weekend in perfect conditions. Merlins used to come to the Club regularly and they will be back in 2024.

A new event for the Club last year was the Excelsior Trust Smack Race. Fourteen assorted sizes of Smacks raced on a course between Lowestoft and Gorleston in testing conditions. On the evening after the race, the South lawn became an impromptu dance floor for sailors. A couple of days later the lawn collapsed into a large sinkhole.

The weather did not smile kindly on the Platinum Jubilee Regatta. After a good practice race, conditions deteriorated and the competition for the new Platinum Jubilee Challenge Cup for BODs had to be deferred to Sea Week.

Sea week was one of the best for several years with no races lost and unbroken sunshine.

One of the final events of the year was a memorable trip to Newcome Sand at low water Spring Tide, an opportunity for a walk in very unusual surroundings.

The programme for this season will incorporate one notable change. By popular request, Club racing will be concentrated on Saturdays and will be extended through the season. The first race will be on May 13th, and the final race will be on October 14th.

It is hoped that this will encourage a greater number of regular participants.

There will be some special activities laid on for the Coronation Long Weekend on May 6th – 8th.

The Topper Class will be coming to the Club on July 8th – 9th for a training day on the Saturday, and a Traveller Series Open Meeting on the Sunday. The expected entry is thirty to forty dinghies.

Ted Hill Chair Marine Activities Committee

Committee Members: Jenny Riley, Chris Merren, John Humphery, Richard Sullivan, Richard Fryer, Jo Warns and Stuart Brown (Bosun).

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee meet regularly to plan Club events. We try to provide a balance of daytime and evening events to appeal to as many Members as possible. We are always open to ideas of activities and events to try.

In 2022 there were many successes. The weekly yoga sessions have continued and been very successful with an excellent turnout. If you are interested in joining please let the office know.

Ongoing activities like Book Club and Quiz Nights are popular. Our Thanks to Terry Payne who continues to organise these and to the volunteer quiz masters who think up such a diverse range of questions.

Bridge Club continues each week and new Members are always welcome. You do not have to be an expert and understanding of the game is all you need. The sessions are very friendly, and Bridget Shreeve is always on hand to help others when needed. Thank to her for her ongoing support of the group.

The monthly talks have gone well. From Smoked fish to adventures on boats in WW11, Wells harbour and the Lowestoft third crossing, all have been well attended and followed by an excellent meal from our chefs.

Formal Black tie events continue to be supported with the addition last year of a Summer Ball which was held on the Saturday before Sea Week.

There were two Sunday Fayres, one at Christmas and a Food Fayre in Spring. We aim to repeat these this year.

This year the Committee have already planned talks about the building of the replica Sutton Hoo Ship, the changes on the Esplanade from the 1940's to current day and the return of the popular wine tasting night and other chefs themed nights.

We are a very team orientated committee and although we have a named chair all Members willingly take on responsibility for different events.

Jill Fryer, Ruth Davies Joint Chair

Social Committee Members: Hayley Pickering, June Yeaman, Louise Dell, Paula Yallop, Marian Walker, David Walker, Emma Wilshaw (staff)

The Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Cruising Section Afternoon Visit to the Thursford Norfolk Christmas Spectacular.

In April last year cruising members met at the Club to discuss and finalise a cruising program for 2022. At the end of the meeting one member suggested doing a land based event during the winter period. One suggestion which seemed very popular was a visit to Thursford to see the Christmas Show. A few people who had been before said that it really was spectacular and well worth a visit. So the decision was taken that this should be our land based event but who was going to organise it?

One kind person, Maggie Cole said she would contact a local coach company and make some enquiries. Within a few weeks we had all the information we needed. The coach company from Brundall required between sixteen and twenty persons and the company would do all the booking and the tickets. The biggest challenge was getting that many people to commit to an event that was quite a long way off i.e December! However, within a fairly short time the correct number had signed up and the coach was booked. It was then decided that as it was an afternoon event we should end the day with a meal in a local restaurant. A restaurant was found in Brundall which had started to serve food on Mondays so that was booked for December 5th.

It seemed a long time to wait but like most days and weeks the boating season came and went rapidly. The day arrived and the coach had arranged to pick us up in Brundall at 11 am and return by 19.00. The restaurant had been booked for 20.00. We all met at the agreed bus stop and were taken on a tour around Norwich to pick up other show goers. This proved very enjoyable as we saw different parts of the city that we would not normally see.

We arrived at Thursford at 13.00. which left an hour to have a quick sandwich in the café. A huge place, the Show takes place in the middle of nowhere, almost like a village of its own. We took our seats at 14.00 and the curtain went up. The auditorium is of massive proportions as is the stage. The acts were first class accompanied by a brilliant orchestra. One particular act was a gentleman who played a Wurlitzer. He had been playing the instrument for forty years and was quite phenomenal.

The show finished at 17.00 but as it was so packed it took a little time to return to our coach. We arrived back in Brundall in good time for our table booking. The meal proved a great success and everyone started to leave at about 22.00.

Thanks must go to Maggie Cole who organised the event initially. Such a good time was had by all that it may be organised again for December 2023.

Jane Foster Gentle One



PRIVATE FUNCTIONS AT THE RN&SYC

The Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club is the ideal location for you or your family/ friend's celebration for any occasion be it a milestone birthday, a special wedding anniversary, wedding, christening or just a get together with friends. Our Clubhouse has several rooms available for such an occasion.

Our bar & catering team has an excellent reputation for organising these events and we would be pleased to hear from you.



CLUB BERTHS

We have limited availability for both larger (9.5m to 13m) or smaller vessels (up to 9m) on our annual berths. If you are interested or can recommend someone to the Club, we would like to hear from you.

