



# THE ORIENT EXPRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL NORFOLK & SUFFOLK YACHT CLUB



October 2023

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The Club Annual General Meeting provides a time for reflection on the Season past and also to look forward to the many varied and vibrant occasions of Autumn and the Festive period as well as to the New Year ahead.

As regards the Spring and Summer, many of us enjoyed a full Programme both on and off the water. The Coronation provided opportunities for racing, cruising, and special celebration. The Topper Dinghy Regatta showcased the best of our Race Management and hospitality to the youth sailors and the Edwardian Day championed the heritage which is such an important and integral feature of the RN&SYC. The Dutch Cruisers returned in force and River Cruisers came from Broadland to experience a warm welcome and - for them - a very different and interesting destination. Our 'showcase' Sea Week boasted near perfect conditions and an excellent evening on-shore programme.



The Edwardian Day

Into Autumn, the series of 'Talks' with lunch or Dinner that proved so popular earlier this year continue. By the time you read this, we will have heard from the Suffolk dialect voice coach who trained Ralph Fiennes in his role for the Sutton Hoo treasure Film 'The Dig'. There follows a presentation concerning the Kittiwake Seagull 'Hotels' that now grace the Lowestoft Sand Banks and a much-anticipated talk from the Divers who located and continue to explore the wreck of HMS Gloucester. This discovery is as important as that of the Henry VIII Flagship 'Mary Rose'. The Gloucester was carrying King James II and John Churchill. Had they not survived - and many did not - then the course of history would have been fundamentally altered.

From late October and through to Christmas the Club Calendar is stocked with events to enjoy. The 'iconic' Trafalgar Night, Laying Up dinner, Remembrance Sunday Lunch, the Christmas Fair and the Festive Lunch and Dinner. In addition, the Club will play host to celebrations by a number of our neighbouring and affiliated Clubs and Corporate Members. The regular social updates and Club Board will keep you up to date and the Office is always there to help with bookings, dietary and individual requirements and accommodation.

The formal opening of the first phase of the Lowestoft Tidal Flood Walls took place on 20th October 2023.

The benefits to the Club of the initial stage of the Defence works are there for all of us to see. They include a new Club main entrance gate with bespoke walling and landscaping, new Glass Wall frontage to the Marina, Curtilage improvements to include concrete and tarmac surfacing, new lawn and path area for the heliograph, Main Flag Pole refurbishment, Slipway tackle point and wall repairs, a new floating 'versadock' for the marina and a new summer marquee soon to be replaced with a bespoke new awning for summer 2024. This time last year, I put forward the vision of what may be achieved and I hope that all are pleased with the result.

There will be no work this winter or in the Season to come.

Come and relax in a 'home from home' as the nights draw in. Whether it is a coffee and paper in the Members' Bar, meeting with friends or a visit to enjoy some of the interesting and varied Programme on offer, you are most welcome.

I will close by thanking my fellow Officers and Committee for their support over the past year and for their valued service in the year ahead. Trafalgar Night reminds me of the words that properly direct us all - 'To have courage to do what is right, to be grateful for all that we have and to be ever mindful of the needs of others'.

**Jeremy. R. Ives.**  
**Commodore**

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2023

Following the AGM the following Members were appointed to the Club Management Committee.

Flag Officers (Jeremy Ives Commodore, Ted Hill Vice Commodore, Anthony Knights Rear Commodore, Ken Foster Rear Commodore)

Matt Clay, Mike Davies, Jill Fryer, Richard Fryer, John Humphery, Alan Ramsden, Jenny Riley.

## MARINE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

I can report that the Club has enjoyed a good year of Marine Activities. The Official Events were generally well supported, and a high level of private enterprise also took place, both sailing and powerboating. Sea Week was very successful, and the weather kind apart from a blow out on the first day!

The reintroduction of Saturday afternoon Club Racing running from May until October proved to be popular with the Squib Fleet. The racing benefitted from excellent racing conditions, week after week throughout the summer.

The Committee is now concentrating on producing a programme for next season. The usual Events will be incorporated, including the "Try a Squib or BOD Day" – an innovation from this year. This attracted a good number of visitors to the Club.

The Topper Dinghy Class have already confirmed that they will be back next season for their combined Training and Open Meeting weekend in July. The 8<sup>th</sup> Norwich Sea Scouts will be repeating their annual visits for Powerboat Training and RYA sailing Courses in May. My grateful thanks to the small and dedicated band of staff, Members and Friends who make these activities possible. Volunteers are welcome to assist.

### Ted Hill Vice Commodore

### Chair Marine Activities Committee

## 200 CLUB WINNERS

Month	1 <sup>st</sup> place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
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September	Avril Mobbs	Peter Mitchell	Tessa Shingler
October	Tim Barratt	Juliet Sallis	Marjorie Brown

Kay in the Club office will be in contact with the winners.



Thanks to Claire Drake for the Trafalgar Night flowers.

## SQUIB RACING AT RN&SYC

After lots of discussions at the Marine Activities Committee over the last winter, Richard Sullivan sorted out some Squib racing at sea from RN&SYC. Not having any regular racing for quite a few years, it was unknown how many Squibs would be racing. But by the end of the season, 7 different boats had enjoyed some remarkably close racing every Saturday afternoon.

Two races were arranged each Saturday - expertly laid windward / leeward courses by John Humphery and Stuart in Skylark, assisted by John Ward and Debbie in East Point 1. The season started fairly cold and windy in May and the Spring Series continued up to the end of June when a number of the boats went off to the National Championships. The Autumn Series gave some perfect sea sailing conditions - warm and sunny every day from the end of August.

Lifting in, lunch, racing, lifting out and a beer - a perfect way to spend Saturday afternoons with friends! **Chris Jordan**

### RESULTS:

#### Spring Series - Martello Trophy

**1st:** 855 Croc. Chris and Gill Jordan. 7 points

**2nd:** 810 Clever Dick. Richard Sullivan and Sue Harper. 12 points

**3rd:** 73 Brimstone. Bryan and Jenny Riley. 14 points

**4th:** 857 Spring Maid. Chris and Sue Williams. 19 points

#### Autumn Series - Reynolds Rose Bowl

**1st:** 73 Brimstone. Bryan and Jenny Riley. 15 points

**2nd:** 810 Clever Dick. Richard Sullivan and Sue Harper. 15.5 points

**3rd:** 855 Croc. Chris and Gill Jordan. 18 points

**4th:** 50 Firebird. Simon Marfleet and Stef Oosthuysen. 29 points

### Overall - Dolly Tiller Trophy. 20 races 12 count.

**1st:** 73 Brimstone. 18 points

**2nd:** 855 Croc. 19 points

**3rd:** 810 Clever Dick. 21.5 points.

The plan is to repeat this racing next year, starting mid-May 2024 - so if you want to enjoy some close club racing, please come and join the Squib Fleet!



## CRUISING SECTION

The Cruising year began in March with a 'Meet Up' meeting at the Club. The group consisted of like-minded Members who wanted to discuss various ideas for destinations during the year, which we did and the programme for the year was agreed. This was followed by an excellent lunch at the Club.

The first event of the season was the Coronation cruise to Southwold for one night. This was arranged as part of the Coronation weekend and all those who attended were presented with a memento by the Commodore.



Southwold Harbour

Next on the programme was a shake down meal in the Club house, followed by a Cruise and a Meet Up at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club on the River Orwell. We spent 3 nights in their Marina with superb moorings. More meals at the Yacht Club and the Butt and Oyster Pub. Whilst some boats cruised back to Lowestoft one stoic Member and Crew cruised to the Tidal Thames and spent five weeks visiting the Upper Thames.

Next on the agenda in June was an inland cruise on the Broads and a Meet Up at Beccles. We were honoured to be in company with one of our Members who legally flies the White Ensign.

It was decided at the early meeting that there would be a number of summer cruises, one of which was going to be a Meet Up in London at St Katherine's Dock which is adjacent to the Tower of London and is the best hotel in town. In the middle of June, two boats set off from Lowestoft, one from the River Orwell and the boat visiting the Upper Thames all met at St Katherine's. A week had been booked. The Commodore joined us two days before the return cruise. Some of the group paid a visit to the Little Ships Club, with which the RNSYC has a reciprocal arrangement. This Club is well worth a visit. Situated overlooking the Thames and the South bank, it has accommodation and excellent food.



Leaving St Katherine's Dock

The next port of call on the way home was going to be Ramsgate. Three boats locked out at 11am, two heading for Ramsgate and one for Harwich. Ramsgate Marina is to be recommended. A good location with easy access to the shops, buses and other attractions such as the Tunnels which are interesting and well worth a visit.

It also has the Royal Temple Yacht Club which provides accommodation and light lunches. After two nights it was decided that as the weather was becoming inclement the boats would leave the next morning and head for Lowestoft, leaving the Commodore to stay a night at the Royal Temple to fit in with his plans for the Saturday. The boats cast off at 9am. A little choppy crossing the Thames Estuary, conditions improved the nearer to Lowestoft. By 13.30 the boats were back in the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Marina after an excellent cruise.

At the beginning of August the Meet Up planned was a visit to Woodbridge.

Three boats set off from the Marina at about midday. A fairly calm cruise down the East coast but the weather decided to change off Sizewell. A very heavy thunderstorm occurred with visibility down to 50 yards although the sea remained flat calm fortunately. Whilst in Woodridge Tide Mill harbour, four other Members of the Club who moor in the Tide Mill harbour joined the group from Lowestoft, so it turned out to be a proper 'Meet'. During the two-day visit there was much socialising and walking the local area. The return cruise to Lowestoft was most enjoyable with good visibility and fairly calm seas.

The last main cruise of the season was a visit to Wells-Next-the-Sea. The skippers and crew of seven boats met for a meal at the Club house before setting off the next day at a respectable hour. Allowing three and a half hours and watching carefully for lobster pots around Cromer, the flotilla arrived at the town quay at 14.45. Most of the cruise was spent carefully watching out as the coast was covered in fog but the sea was like a mill pond. The sun was trying to get its hat on and by the time the Wells leading buoy appeared the sky was blue and the fog had disappeared.



The town has a great deal to offer; lovely shops, plenty of eateries, local transport to Sheringham one way and Holkham and beyond the other way. A lovely walk through the woods and/or on the beach will lead the explorer straight to Holkham Hall. This area is also good for cycling and of course swimming. A newly built RNLI complex stands at the entrance to the harbour. Wells now has a brand-new lifeboat which has been named the Duke of Edinburgh. On her journey to Wells she stayed a couple of nights at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk, so it was nice to see her in her home port.



Wells Harbour

Thank you to all of you who have made this year's Meet Ups so successful.

The laying up supper is on Saturday the 04<sup>th</sup> November, please book with our office.

If you are interested in cruising in company or just meeting at an agreed location, look out for notification of the cruise Meet Up meeting which will be early next year.

**Jane Foster Gentle One**

**Social Dates for your diary. Menus available under Social Tab on website.**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** From 10.30 Games morning Bring a game or play one of those brought by another person.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** 10.00 followed by lunch. Talk by Rupert Masefield of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust on Kittiwakes.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November** Laying Up Supper. A chance to catch up on tales of various activities and trips this year by Members.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 11 – 3** Christmas Fayre Various stalls with ideas for Christmas gifts.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 6pm meal for talk at 7.30.** Julian and Lincoln Barnwell and Prof Claire Jowitt talk on the wreck of HMS Gloucester. There is no charge for this talk but there will be a collection for their charity to find a permanent local home for the treasures found.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November** 10.30 talk followed by lunch on Opals by Maria Pennington.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Club Lunch

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** Club Christmas Dinner

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December** Children's Christmas Party

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

The Social Committee continue to organise both formal and informal events for Members.

Our Friday morning and evening talks programme has returned for the Autumn and Winter. All events are advertised in the weekly email and lists are also posted in the Club Noticeboard. Please book in good time to avoid disappointment. Anyone with ideas for speakers or activities please let us know through the office.

**Jill Fryer, Ruth Davies Joint Chair Social Committee**



## SQUIB INLAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two RN&SYC boats went to Rutland Water for the Squib Inland Championships at the beginning of October. On Saturday, the winds were at times 18-20 and at times 8-10mph, but mostly around 12-15mph. It was also rather shifty, so lots of concentration was needed by the helms over the 4 races. Surprisingly, there were 3 broken masts - all on Burnham boats - mostly due to rigging getting tangled up with each other.

On Sunday, it was calm at 09:00, and calmer still at 10, 11 and 12! Hence the racing was abandoned. The RN&SYC Squibs won the Ruby Cup (for married couples), the Old Sea Dogs trophy, and the 3rd place cup - well done to **Bryan and Jenny Riley** in 3rd, **Chris and Gill Jordan** in 11th.



Bryan and Jenny with their trophies

## RN&SYC CLUB MERCHANDISE

We have a great selection of RN&SYC Merchandise for sale. Ideal for Christmas presents!

- Belts £17.50
- Umbrellas £19.00
- Woolly Hats £11.00
- Polo Shirts £28.00
- Rugby Shirts £40.00
- Sweatshirts £32.00
- Tote Bags £9.50
- RN&SYC Burgee (Various sizes)
- Club Defaced Ensign (Subject to Permit)



## ANNUAL MOORINGS 2024/25

The Club has annual moorings available for vessels from 6 to 13 metres. (April 2024 to March 2025)

We have limited availability for larger boats by request.

Our Marina is accessible in all states of tide with Members discounted diesel and free pump out.

*No mooring charge fees for arrivals up to the 31st March subject to an annual mooring.*

Please contact either Simon Cadle- Club Manager or Stuart Brown- Club Bosun for further information.

## 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.



## WINTER BAR & CATERING HOURS

**From Sunday 29th October**

**Mondays - CLOSED**

**Tuesdays - Bar Service 10- 14:30**

**Food Service 12- 14:00**

**Wednesdays - Bar Service 10- 14:30. 17:00- 21:00,**

**Food Service 12:00- 14:00, 18:00 to 20:00**

**Thursdays - Bar Service 10- 14:30. 17:00- 21:00,**

**Food Service 12:00- 14:00, 18:00 to 20:00**

**Fridays - Bar Service 10- 14:30. 17:00- 22:00,**

**Food Service 12:00- 14:00, 18:00 to 21:00**

**Saturdays - Bar Service 10- 22:00,**

**Food Service - Breakfast 08:30 to 11:00,**

**Lunch 12:00- 14:30, 18:00 to 21:00**

**Sundays - Bar Service 10- 16:00,**

**Food Service - Breakfast 08:30 to 11:00, Lunch**

**12:00-14:30**

*Teas / Coffee and Bar Service are always available at times during office hours*