



Conyer Cruising Club

Springtime Newsletter from the Commodore

Here we go! A new season to play with and lots of fun to be had. I am not back in the water myself as yet but hope not to be too long. It has been too cold to work on Heron; others must have found the same looking at the state of the car park as there are not many back in the water as yet.

Social

My thanks go to Viv Austin for all her hard work during the off season keeping us entertained. The Coastguard did us proud in January with their safety talk and the timed sketch of putting on a life jackets and sending a safety message in which several members took part, including myself. Yes fun but also food for thought, do you wear your life jackets as often as you should? Are your life jackets fitted with crotch straps? Have you had your yacht safety checked?

Last month the quiz, did you know as much as you thought?

For me however it was the talk by Roger Taylor in February which enthralled me with his story of the loss of the Endeavour Two. Sailing a square rigger must have been amazing. Reminded of a book *The Last Great Grain Race* by Eric Newby. Roger's current sailing adventures and belief in small yachts to make long ocean passages should be inspiration to us all. Clearly one does not need a bottomless pocket to do it. Those of us there will remember the photographs of the whales circling his yacht. It was John Troy's face, a picture, when Roger told of his choice of yacht that I shall remember, an old bilge keeled Corribee made unsinkable and turned to a junk rig. All in the spirit of Blondie Hasler and the Jester Challenge; a true Corinthian.

Cruising

Thanks also go to Paul Smedley for the Easter Cruise. OK only four yachts made it due to the weather Breeze, Varende, Paragon, Caracticus and Veritas who joined from Queenborough. It was good to welcome Maurice and Jo on Veritas in true cruising spirit. Maurice and Jo have not been sailing long; it was particularly nice for me to see them there because they were members of a Day Skipper class I taught three years ago. Maurice and Jo have now made an application to join Conyer though will continue to keep Veritas at Queenborough. Please welcome them when you meet.

Though only the four yachts made it to Limehouse we had 29 sitting down to Dinner on the Saturday night, many having traveled up by car, a really good turn out, well done all.

Racing

The racing has not taken off so far largely due to the weather and number of yachts not in the water. There have been three races so far. I am sure this will pick up as the season progresses when the weather improves. In any case thanks to Robert Sim for his efforts.

Particular events for your diary

As you will know from your membership cards we have a very full calendar of events for the rest of the year and I would dearly like to see you all at every one, but I know that to be impossible.

However I would like you to, in particular, diary the following:

- 1) Rochester Sweeps Festival, May 1-3, Bank Holiday weekend.
- 2) Calais Rally, 22-24 May, Bank Holiday weekend. *I understand it is a Dunkerque Small Boats weekend to add to the interest. Rumours that you will need to book at the Marina are ill founded I have checked with them and it is turn up as usual.*
- 3) Swale Regatta, 11-13 June
- 4) Fun Day at the Club, Steel Band, 3rd July.
Dinner and Dance, 27th November.

If you have any photographs taken at any club events from last year, those you take this year, and would like to share them please email Viv Austin viva00@hotmail.co.uk

Committee News

As you will see from the above the committee has been working hard to provide an interesting and varied programme. You should have received a copy of the clubhouse rules from Swale Marina which applies to all users of the clubhouse CCC members and other berth holders, guests. We now have an agreement with Swale Marina as to our use of the clubhouse which formalises our position with regard to the clubhouse.

There have been a number of changes to the committee since last November which I must bring to your attention as elected officers are involved. Sadly there were a number of clashes that occurred during the above negotiations that culminated in a number of resignations from the committee/club. Don Cockrill has resigned from the club therefore making himself ineligible to continue as Vice Commodore, Simon Smedley and Peter Austin have resigned from the committee. I have written to them all thanking them for their contribution and would hope that they will, in due course, pick up their club careers once again.

On a happier note I would like to report that Anne O'Brien offered to take up the vacant post of Membership Secretary and will be acting in that position until confirmed at the AGM should she wish to continue. Many thanks Anne.

Nigel Armitage has taken up the post of Acting Vice Commodore and will continue in that position until the AGM. Nigel will then be eligible to stand for Commodore, continue as Vice Commodore should he wish to do so. Many thanks to you Nigel.

Since last November we have also welcomed John Troy back onto the committee after a break of twelve years. Welcome to you John

Your complete line up of committee members goes as follows.

Stuart Bradley, Commodore	Martyn Webb
Nigel Armitage, Acting Vice Commodore	Melvyn Biddle
Julia Armitage , Secretary	Jim Moore
Trudy Ward , Treasurer	Andy Weekes
Anne O'Brien, Acting Membership Secretary	Alan Turner
Paul Smedley, Rear Commodore Cruising	John Troy
Robert Sim, Rear Commodore Racing.	Ken Bater
Viv Austin, Rear Commodore Social	

My thanks to all the above for their support.

Training.

Starting in September we hope to run a Day Skipper course in the clubhouse. This take place in either one of two modes.

a) Five weekends Saturday and Sunday mornings. Working round bar opening times, so we need to get everything packed away by midday. Something like 8am to midday though we will probably end chatting in the bar after that. This will be run by myself. The cost of this will be in the order of £120 for club members and £150 for non members. Why non members I hear you say, well as an RYA affiliated club we must allow non members of Conyer, who are members of the RYA to join in. I do not think there will be many takers in this category.

b) Twenty weeks at one night per week starting in September and completing by Easter. It will be 2.5 hours per night. The cost of this is unknown as I shall not be running the course and we will be buying someone in.

On this one I need a response from you if interested. The more of you there are the cheaper it will become. Please either email me at stuartbradley@talktalk.net or express your interest on the sheet on the notice board in the clubhouse.

We also hope to run a First Aid and Radio courses during next winter so please let me know if you are interested in that at the same time.

Please do let me know

Commodore's Challenge, Estuary Challenge Race.

Most of the sailing events we organise take into consideration the smaller yachts in our now not inconsiderable fleet. This is only fair and right in order to be inclusive. However in order to provide something more challenging I am proposing something more demanding for the more experienced. We have a splendid triangular shaped estuary for the purpose after all!

Do the race as you wish, pick your weather, have as many goes as you like, do it crewed or single handed, sail in company or on your own, work the tides as you wish, take a gap of a few days between legs while you explore the East Coast or do it in one.

Please advise myself Stuart Bradley at stuartbradley@talktalk.net or the Rear Commodore Racing, Robert Sim at robertsim@hotmail.com if making an attempt.

Evidence your attempt through photographs and a properly kept log, club handicaps apply.

Course: **leg one.** Start between Ham Gat Pollard, Columbine port, SW Barrow starboard, Maplin port, Maplin Edge port, NE Maplin port, S Whitaker port, Whitaker port, Swin Spitway starboard, Wallet Spitway starboard, Medusa, **end of leg one.**

Leg two Return to Medusa to start, **do not forget to take your time,** Long Sand Head starboard, Kentish Knock starboard, NE Spit starboard, SE Margate starboard, S Margate starboard, Between Hook Spit and East Last, Whitstable Street port, Finish between Ham Gat and Pollard. Approx 96 NM. Are you up to this?

You are on your honour to take your own times, periods of engine running will be times three. Log and evidence of your attempt should be with the Commodore or Rear Commodore Racing within 7 days of completing the course and submitted with the summary sheet which can be found on the clubhouse notice board.

Please get back to me if you are interested in this or more adventurous rallies/races on stuartbradley@talktalk.net We really would like to know what you would like to do!

Please let me know!

New Buoys at Harty.

In the near future we hope to have in place two new club buoys on the north side at Harty Ferry, much nearer to the Inn than the current two. It is quite shallow so this is really a facility for the smaller yachts and lifting keels if stopping through LW. The original Gemini Buoys will remain in place.

Regalia

Nigel Armitage is now looking after regalia and has a budget to buy in stock. Order forms can be obtained from and returned to the bar. Some items will be stocked at the bar e.g. Burgees. We will have a supply of Burgees, for which I know some members are waiting, within the next few days.

Well I think that is all for now

May I wish you all an enjoyable sailing season, I am looking forward to seeing you all on the water.

Stuart Bradley
Commodore