



Conyer Cruising Club

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

Newsletter – Autumn 2013

As I left home for work recently at 'silly o'clock', I looked out over Creek to see that a blanket of mist had descended overnight and was laying over the water and adjacent floodplain. The stillness of that early morning and the distinct nip in the air was a salutary reminder that for most of us, our season was now at a close. For me, it also meant that it was time to think about writing the Autumn Newsletter.

So here I am a couple (?) of weeks later trying to gather my thoughts and summarise what has happened since I wrote the Spring newsletter in April. What I remember most of all about the early part of the season is that it nearly didn't arrive! We had races cancelled (again!) and our cruises around Easter were lightly attended due to the poor weather (again!).

But Summer did in fact arrive and we had some glorious days of warm weather, good sailing and friendly socialising. Such was the euphoria generated by the kind weather that we even had a great turnout of boats for the last Cruise of the calendar and the final Spring Tide races of the season!

NEWS

Continuing developments at Queenborough throughout the season saw an increase in the mooring charge, but also the incorporation of the trot boat service within the mooring fee. Although the trot boat has now ceased for the winter period, it should be running again next year.

CLUB NEWS

Last winter's servicing of the Gemini buoys saw a couple of maintenance jobs carried out, but Bluey reports that they remain serviceable and fit for purpose. (Although it was recently reported that one of the buoys has a torn/cut pick up line that will need attention). Once again, may I remind you to fly the CCC burgee when moored there as it makes it easier for members to identify each other.

I would like to welcome all our new members who joined the club this year and thank them for choosing us. I hope that they have already attended some of our events and are looking forward to a long association with the club.

Again I would remind everyone that they need to

sign in their guests into the Clubhouse in accordance with the Clubhouse Rules.

SOCIAL

The summer social calendar was highlighted by the annual Fun Day in August and unusually this year we were blessed with glorious weather with which to enjoy the wide range of activities, before relaxing into the evening with musical jazz entertainment provided by club member Mike Porter-Ward and his band. Our two new gazebos proved themselves to be perfect for the purpose and they made setting up the various stalls a doddle! – Many thanks to the stalwarts who helped set up for the day and those who ran the stalls.

As the Rear Commodore Social will be standing down this year, the Committee would like to give a big vote of thanks to Julia for the time and effort she has given to ensure that the various club social events have been well organised and popular.

CRUISING

The late start to the summer meant that the early club cruises were very much hit and miss affairs, but the August Bank Holiday cruise to Brightlingsea and the River Colne saw the club field a good number of boats. A very convivial club meal in the Colne Yacht Club on Saturday evening and an exhilarating sail home on Monday ensured the weekend's success.

The end of season Stangate Raft-Up at the end of September was also very well attended and I must thank everyone for making the effort to come and providing for a very enjoyable time. The weather once again was a major factor in making the best of that 'Indian Summer' weekend.

Rear Commodore Cruising Neil Bowsher is also standing down this year, but his oversight and organisation of the cruising calendar over the past two years and the wealth of information he has provided to assist those planning their passages on the various cruises will, I hope, provide a solid foundation for his successor to build on.

RACING

The 2013 CCC calendar reflected the recent (and hopefully temporary) downturn in racing interest in the club, as only six races were scheduled. Despite the best efforts of our R/C Racing (well done Alan!) it wasn't until the end of the season that interest seemed to pick up and for those of us taking part in the last two races it was a lively and exhilarating affair



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that certainly put the boats and crew through their paces.

After three years at the helm, Alan is now hanging up his damp Sou'wester and Rear Commodore's Burgee and will be handing over to his successor

SWALE REGATTA

Once again the regatta was blighted by poor weather, which necessitated two of the three days being cancelled. However, some frantic and last minute calculations and assessments by the Regatta Committee using the 'extended wet finger' method ensured that the Saturday Round the Island event was not lost as well – and what a corker it was too with most, if not all, boats finishing.

Unfortunately, however, the last minute change and an extended breakdown of the Kingsferry Bridge meant that several 'early bird' boats expecting races on the Medway on that day were stranded at Queenborough and were frustratingly unable to take part.

(There is absolutely NO truth in the scurrilous rumour that a brown envelope was passed to the bridge engineers to ensure that those at Queenborough stayed there !)

AGM

Moving on now to this year's AGM meeting on Sunday 8th December.

The AGM notification, as well as details of any nominations for Committee / Flag Officer posts is being circulated and this year we will also be formally introducing member proposals to be debated at the meeting. Further details how to submit your discussion subject will also be circulated with the AGM documents.

You will by now realise that the club management committee will be undergoing significant changes this year, as post-holders reach the end of their tenure - and extended tenure in some cases.

As Commodore of the club, my two year tenure has also come to an end and I will be handing over to my successor at the AGM. Additionally, Club Secretary Denise Bowsher will also be stepping down and many thanks must go to her for ensuring that the Club has been well administered during her watch and also for reminding me on the (*very rare*) occasions that I had forgotten to do things (!)

This year we are also going to be welcoming a new Club President who will step into the shoes of Martin Cartwright, who has provided a discrete and invaluable sounding board for the past five years

The choice of a club President is always a difficult one for the Committee, as not only must the preferred candidate be well respected and widely known to the membership, they must also be someone that all members of the club feel that they can approach for impartial advice about the various issues and concerns that arise from time to time.

It is with those qualities in mind that the Committee is very pleased to announce that John Troy has agreed to take up the mantle as the next President of Conyer Cruising Club. I hope that you will join me at the AGM to both ratify the Committee's choice and also welcome John to this important position.

In conclusion, this year's AGM will see many changes to the makeup of the Committee, but the most important things that all clubs must do in order to grow is attract new members and ensure that those who run it are exposed to new ideas and enthusiasm.

For those reasons the committee would be very glad to hear from any member who would like to step up to the plate and have more of a say in how the club is run and make the decisions that affect its future.

And finally....

To repeat what I have said before, this is your club being run for you. The Committee have worked extremely hard throughout the year and their combined efforts have brought you the opportunity to be involved in numerous cruises, races and social events. We are always looking for suggestions to improve and if you have any thoughts that will benefit the club or its members, please share them with us.

Don't forget to check the Club website for CCC news and function updates – the address once again is <http://www.conyercc.org.uk>

With Christmas just around the corner please remember that we have a range of regalia all tastefully emblazoned with the club crest. Baseball Hats, Tee Shirts, Polo Shirts, Rugby Shirts and Fleecees will all make the perfect Christmas gift or stocking filler.

Nothing now remains but to wish you all my very best for the future,

Nigel Armitage
Commodore