



Conyer Cruising Club

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

Newsletter - Spring 2013

The seemingly endless cold spell might actually be at an end, as April has arrived and with it brings a new sailing season.

I noticed a flurry of last minute activity at the beginning of the month as skippers were trying to get their boats ready for their launch window after their annual winter layup and I was no exception. A new shaft seal and toilet have been installed on Dragon Lady and I can tell you there were a few anxious moments as she was lowered into the water, hoping that she didn't keep going down to the muddy bottom!!! After a minor hiccup with a jubilee clip that wasn't on properly, all now seems well, as the first shakedown trip confirmed.

News.

After some uncertainty last year, the Queenborough All-Tide landing, which is a popular overnight stop for our members, is being advertised as being available once again. Daytime restrictions of 20 minutes for dropping off still apply and you can see what facilities they offer for mooring at their new website at www.queenborough-harbour.co.uk

Our own club moorings at Harty have been refurbished over the winter and have been given the all clear. We are still planning to improve the decals on the two Gemini buoys to make it clear to which club they belong and I would urge any of you who use them to fly the club burgee when you are on them, so that our club use becomes more familiar to all.

Annie's buoy in South Deep has also been surveyed and is fine for the season, although please be aware that one of the three Swale Marina buoys appears to have been dragged out of position recently by a large fishing boat moored to it.

For those of you planning passages to Europe this summer, the RYA report that there are no changes to last year's advice – that is that you may still use your red diesel in Dutch and French waters as long as you can provide proof that you have paid duty in the UK.

As before, however, in Belgium users of red diesel risk a fine, although the RYA received no reports of any UK sailors being fined there in 2012.

Club News

Several new members have recently joined the Club, having either moved to the area or bought a local boat recently. Welcome to Mandy & John Collins, Delma Hughes, Phillip Rawsthorne and Maurice Smith. We all hope you will enjoy a long and satisfying association with the Club.

As the Clubhouse is open to both CCC members and Swale Marina Bertholders, I would like to take the opportunity to remind all CCC members to please sign in their guests / wives / children / aunts / grannies etc, if they are not covered by their membership category (i.e. a Full Family or Associate Family).

This is both a condition of the clubhouse licence and more importantly, saves the bar staff any embarrassment.

Social.

The winter period again saw several successful social events being held.

The Christmas Party provided an excuse for us to get out the glad rags and posh frocks and start the festive season in style and the January socials proved to be as popular as always.

Dick Holness was the speaker at the fish and chip supper in January and his talk took us through the creeks and swatchways of the East Coast. February saw the ever popular quiz night organised once more by the R/C Cruising (Neil) and Secretary (Denise) and at Start of Season Supper in March the Kent and Essex Police Joint Marine Unit gave a very interesting presentation on their team's work, together with some sound advice about protecting those valuable items on our boats.

Feedback provided after the Spring Ball, which took place at Faversham Golf Club on 20th April showed that it was a resounding success. The Social Commodore worked very hard to put this new event together and our thanks go to her for her sterling efforts.



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Cruising.

Although the Easter Cruise disappointingly had to be cancelled due to the extreme cold (Now that's a first!), the Rear Commodore Cruising has risen to the challenge of matching last year's historic Jubilee Cruise by organising a Summer Cruise to the Rivers Stour and Orwell, which should prove to be a memorable event.

Neil's 'Cruising Notes' have also proved to be very popular and will continue to be provided to update and assist skippers prior to each cruise.

Racing

At the time of writing, the first two races in the diary have come and gone. True to recent form, both had to be cancelled due to the weather although like the Easter Cruise it was the extreme cold that was the cause, rather than high winds! Fingers crossed for the rest of the season!

Swale Regatta

This year's Swale Regatta will be held on 21st to 23rd June. All those wishing to take part should check and, if necessary, update their handicap and notify the Regatta Handicap Committee via email at the very easily remembered address of handicapsubcommittee@conyeryachtclub.co.uk

It is hoped that we will again put out a strong contingent from our club that will enable us to retain the Inter-Club Trophy once more. Hopefully, the weather will be kinder to us than last year and that we will be able to take part in all the events over the entire three days.

Calendar changes

25th to 27th May – The cancellation of the Southend Air Show has required some frenzied additional planning by the R/C Cruising for the May Bank Holiday Club Cruise. As a result provisional bookings have been made at Walton on the Naze, Manningtree & Ipswich.

Finally

The Committee meets once every month (except August and December) in the clubhouse to ensure that the facilities of our club are maintained and hopefully improved on year on year.

The Committee's hard work enables the club to provide ample opportunity for members to sample social, cruising and racing events throughout the year and I hope that you all have the opportunity to take a full part and enjoy the various activities.

We welcome to the Committee this year Richard Hargreaves and Carole Austin and hope that they enjoy their time helping to steer the club through the next 12 months.

I'd also like to thank long-standing Committee Member and Past Commodore Stuart Bradley, who stood down from the committee at the end of last year. Stuart's sterling service to the club is not to be underestimated and we all wish him well in his role as the Chairman of the Medway and Swale Boating Association (formerly the MYA) and as a newly retired yachtsman.

The full list of Club Committee members for this year is available on the Club notice board and on the website, so don't be shy to approach any of them if you have any suggestions that you think would benefit the club.

- Commodore Nigel Armitage
- Vice Commodore Paul Smedley
- Rear Commodore Cruising Neil Bowsher
- Rear Commodore Racing Alan Turner
- Rear Commodore Social Julia Armitage
- Hon Treasurer Trudy Ward
- Hon Secretary Denise Bowsher
- Membership Secretary Melvyn Biddle
- Committee Member Andy Weekes
- Committee Member Viv Morgan
- Committee Member Nigel Day
- Committee Member Richard Hargreaves
- Committee Member Carole Austin

Don't forget to look at the club notice boards for up to date information about our activities. They are sited to the left of the Swale Marina entrance doorway and in the corner of the clubhouse.

Alternatively, our website is a font of knowledge and advice that is updated regularly by our hard working webmaster. Access it on www.conyercc.org.uk