



# Conyer Cruising Club

Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association

## Newsletter - Spring 2012

Well, we had some brief snow once more and a fairly longer spell of cold weather to frustrate our boat maintenance schedules, but Spring has officially arrived and we can now hopefully look forward to better weather to get to the boats and finish the jobs we have postponed in time for the imminent start of the season.

### **News.**

Many of you will know that the club tragically lost two of our long standing members early in the New Year. Annie O'Brien and Peter Austin will be greatly missed by individual members and the club as a whole and our thoughts are with John and Carole.

Plans are being made to lay a Club mooring buoy in memory of Annie. The location is being researched at the moment, but it is hoped that it will be in or near South Deep. More details will follow when arrangements have been finalised.

The Committee have been working hard during the winter months to bring the 2012 sailing calendar to fruition. We have some good tides to play with for those of a racing disposition and some new venues to visit for those of a cruising persuasion. We have also combined some self-timed races with cruises to offer the best of both worlds.

This year the Club will once again be sponsoring the Swale Regatta and the eagle-eyed may have seen the posters that are already appearing. It will hopefully prove as successful as ever and the Committee hope we have a strong club turnout.

The Club notice board next to the Swale Marina office door has been updated so look out for details of the latest news and events. When the Clubhouse is open of course, all the information will be repeated inside.

The New Club Website is almost up and running. Melvyn Biddle has been working hard to make it fit for purpose. We will let you know when it is ready.

### **Cruising.**

Neil Bowsher has begun his first year as RC Cruising by planning several new venues for us to visit and also giving cruise options to alternative destinations.

He is planning to provide 'Cruising Notes' for each cruise to help and encourage particularly those who have less experience in visiting our cruise destinations or cruising generally.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee offers us the opportunity of celebrating in our own way with the CCC Diamond Jubilee Cruise in June. With luck, the weather will be kind enough to ensure we have a really memorable Jubilee weekend.

Additionally for those who want to take part there is the rare opportunity to purchase a (very) limited edition CCC Diamond Jubilee Cruise burgee!



### **Racing**

RC Racing Alan Turner has once again organised a thrilling race schedule. Although the weather last season conspired against us, this year he is concentrating on encouraging smaller boats to take part in the Spring Tide races.

Its fun, not too onerous and provides plenty of opportunity for some friendly rivalry which can be discussed in detail in the Clubhouse afterwards!

### **Social.**

The winter period saw several successful social events being held.

The Christmas Party and the Annual Dinner Dance at Hempstead House were a success, but following on from the views of a number of those at the AGM in November that the two events were very close to each other, the Committee is trialling moving the dinner dance to Spring 2013 and making the Christmas Party a bit more of an event, with perhaps making it a Black Tie supper.



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To encourage club members to socialise after the various cruises and races, we are introducing post- event BBQs. Weather permitting, the BBQ will be lit to provide burgers and hot dogs to hungry participants. No frills - just grub and chat!! If it works it can become a regular thing.

Pot luck suppers will be introduced to provide some 'Friday Club Camaraderie.' On one Friday a month (starting Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April) the Club will provide one pot of either Chilli, Stew, Curry etc. There should be a maximum of 20 inexpensive servings available and when they are gone they are gone until the following month. .

## Training

Stuart Bradley has organised one VHF/DSC radio course in mid-March and another at the end of the month.

The first course was full and has been and gone, but if you are interested in a place on the second course this coming Sunday (25th March), starting at 09.30 please let Stuart know asap by contacting him by email at [sgbsailing@gmail.com](mailto:sgbsailing@gmail.com) .

More informally we are still trying to arrange Roger Gabriel's half day practical course on rope work, knots and splices. Stuart will be circulating the details when they are finalised.

## Red Diesel

For those planning to sail or motor to European destinations this year, much has been reported recently about the ongoing uncertainties of UK boats being found with red diesel when sailing in EU waters.

The UK government is reportedly bringing forward proposals requiring yachtsmen to sign a declaration when they buy fuel that it will only be used in UK waters and the RYA is lobbying on behalf of us for clarification.

Regular updates are to be found on the RYA website ([www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)) and the site also provides up to date country specific information, including a downloadable multi language letter from the EU may assist in negotiations should you find yourself eye to eye with EU customs officials!!

Finally on this topic the well respected London-based Little Ship Club has initiated an on-line petition to give a voice to those who oppose the UK Government's proposals by signing the petition on the following link. <http://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/30209>

## London Array Wind farm

Some of you will be unaware of the large scale construction that is taking place at the London Array wind farm site and the cable laying in the Swale Channel.

Up to date details can be found in the relevant Notice to Mariners, but of particular concern to those of us who travel west out of the Swale, is that there are much reduced depths at the Kentish Flats and BritNed cable crossings caused by a rock berm which has been laid to protect the cables. It makes sense to be sure that your Passage Plan reflects these changes.

## Finally

The Committee hope you all have a very good season on the water. Whether you plan to go on an adventure to waters further afield or prefer to keep nearer home, please remember that a little planning beforehand can save a lot of angst or embarrassment later on!

That being said – we all know that you are not a 'proper' Conyer Sailor until you have experienced a tide or two 'on the mud'!

The full list of Committee members is on the Club notice board, but I thought it would be an idea to include it in the first newsletter:

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
Training .....	Stuart Bradley
Committee Member .....	Andy Weekes
Committee Member .....	Viv Morgan
Committee Member .....	Nigel Day

Don't forget - if you have anything you want to discuss about how YOUR club is run, please don't hesitate to share your thoughts.