

KESSINGLAND SEA SAILING CLUB

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Our season has got off to a cracking start. All the work put into Explorer has resulted in her being in better condition than ever. Ploes has been fitted out and successfully launched and bookings for this year look good.

Our membership dropped last year. Part of this was due to people who joined to benefit from Ploes not renewing, and partly some of our longstanding members who have decided not to renew. However we continue to attract new members and this is vital for our future. Nevertheless our recruitment campaign will need to achieve significantly more new members and to that purpose our new poster and leaflet are being supplemented by our having a stand at some local Boat-shows - more on this below.

The extended cruise has been organised for 2 weeks in July, centring round the Kent coast with trips across the channel subject to weather.

The committee has also been looking into the future and laying plans for boat replacement in the next 5-10 years. A paper on this has been completed and will be circulated to members, along with an invitation to an open meeting in September.

Our AGM is always a crowded agenda and leaves very little time for discussion, so to ensure that adequate time is given to long term issues: boat replacement, where Ploes will be based next year and allowing any member to raise issues with the committee the next committee meeting on the 12th September will be open to all members. Members who live far away or who cannot attend the meeting will be asked to put their views in writing.

Finally we are always looking for a bit of fun –(along with serious sailing) so we have organised a visit to the IBTC at Lowestoft, and we will be having a Log and Photo competition to be judged over the winter with prizes at the next Fitting out supper in April 2018.

In the meantime I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM and Laying Up supper 4-11-17

James Parnell Commodore KSSC

Explorer

Bookings

Explorer had 60 days use last year. This year, so far we have 46 days. Whilst there is plenty time to book we will be lucky to see a similar use this year. We are looking at linking with other clubs and organisations but the under use of Explorer remains a concern. So far we have no bookings in August.

Maintenance

Phew! Talk about "just in time". Arthur and I finished the last of the major jobs at dusk on the 21st April, just as Francis Ursell and his delivery crew arrived to sail her south the next day.

April saw us:

- lower the forestay and strip down the furling gear to replace the worn swivels. (Arthur / Ian / John Davie / John Humphrey)
- replace the cockpit seat tops with new Treadmaster. (Arthur and Ian)
- drill out and replace the bolts on the cockpit locker lid hinges (Arthur and Ian)
- do various carpentry jobs (Ian)
- identify the problem with the gears not engaging and resolve by grinding a corner off the gear linkage. (Ian)
- cleaning the deck and topsides (Steve Powell)
- loading all the gear back on the boat.

Apologies if I have not mentioned everyone who contributed. A special mention must go to John Davie who travelled from Ely and stayed at my house so he could work on the boat for 3 days over the Easter Bank Holiday.

Skippers should be aware that there is no anemometer at the mast head at present. We removed the old one as it was clearly not working properly. On examination it was found the internal bearings were worn. We are trying to replace the bearings but may have to purchase a new unit.

So there you have it. A huge amount of effort went into the boat again over this last winter and just a few small jobs remain outstanding. These can be tackled as and when I can get down to the boat with any other volunteers. Offers of help to me please. .Let's get out there and use Explorer. Booking requests to James please.

Ian Winters

Ploes

We did all the normal checks on Ploes during the refit, one additional unexpected item was that the Aft Heads outlet seacock was jamming, this was replaced including hull fittings while we were out of the water. They also replaced the two adjacent ½ inch seacocks, all with good quality stainless new fittings. One third of the seacocks and stainless steel hull fittings on Ploes have now been replaced.

The Holding tank level has a new level sensor, Paul had selected an ultrasonic one and it looked very promising. It worked well at all tank levels but during tests we found it varying when the tank was a constant three quarters full. We have returned it for replacement under warranty and the suppliers are sending a new replacement.

The mainsail has been thoroughly checked, it is now about 8 years old but is in good condition. Celil has replaced the tack inhaul, he had re-stitched the outhaul last year so I asked him to re-stitch the top mount point even though he said the stitching looked okay. The headsail is now 4 years old and looks in new condition. I do not expect either of the sails to need replacing in the next few years.

All interior window frames have now been repainted, with the new curtains fitted Ploes is looking very tidy below and also topsides. We have also replaced 4 stanchion mountings, there had been no water leaks all winter but some stanchions were wobbly, they all are now stable.

We unfortunately have had to replace the domestic batteries as Paul had trouble with them during his sailing week, they were only 4 years old. Paul also had trouble during his week when pulling the mainsail out, it was jamming partly way out along the boom, Paul has sprayed the track with PTFE spray and it is now functioning smoothly. A free repair!

The new dinghy purchased by Andy Seal and myself in May last year is still in excellent condition. The cost of the dinghy hire this year is incorporated in the booking fee.

Ploes has been booked for 10.5 weeks this year, this is almost the same as the 11 weeks last year. Our expenditure at this stage is lower than last year and is detailed separately, but we still have many spare weeks that could be booked. Any extra weeks booked would be very beneficial, our costs are constant, we may even make a small surplus

Peter Girven

What this club means to us

We joined KSSC 17 years ago, when our children were 13 and 14 years old. The Mediterranean boat has enabled us to sail together, usually every year; so we feel blessed that we had the opportunity to holiday as a family, until our children are in their 30's. At the time we had the use of my father-in-law's 7 berth Carter 33 which was based in Aldeburgh.

My husband Alexander and I, always had sailing holidays on the East coast, so the KSSC Mediterranean boat was alluring – our chance to try warm weather sailing, and to lure teenagers to continue to come sailing with us !



We soon discovered that the first boat, a half tonner called 'Edna May', was very much the baby of John Bird . He knew everything that was needed to be known about the working of this boat; there were exhaustive diagrams and instructions-- so we felt that we were very well supported. The boat was based in Villamoura in Portugal and that was where we had our first experience. The children felt it was too "tippy and a bit too exciting" as the prevailing Atlantic swell rolled in, so we made adjustments to our trip; travelling inland by car!

Edna May was sold to buy a Bavaria 34, 'Deuxieme Amour', initially based in Majorca. She was equally well looked after by John Bird, but as the first users of the boat for more than a week, our mobile phone bill was rather large! We often spoke to John about various problems, and although he must have got rather sick of us, he never gave any hint of irritation. The KSSC boats rely on users sorting out problems as they go along which is the main reason the costs are manageable. Memorable ones include a long walk with the outboard on our shoulders in hot weather, and sorting out a blocked holding tank – enough said about that job!



We next sailed her in North-east Sardinia, missing out on Barcelona and Southern France. Deuxieme Amour was moored in a marina near super-yachts, which was fascinating. The sailing grounds here were beautiful, both to the south and north to Corsica. We had the best snorkelling here also.

Next KSSC went to Athens where the club upgraded to "Ploes", a 40 foot Bavaria. Her previous owner was very helpful, when once again we were among the first users; advising us not to sail east of the Inner Cyclades. We had such a great time that we strayed to Delos in the Middle Cyclades, then getting caught by a meltemi, and stuck in Tinos for six days! Ploes remained based near Athens for a few years, but the northerly winds whistling down the Aegean made the sailing rather hard

work, so, despite several years of enjoyable trips, we were not sad when she was sailed to Fethiye, in Turkey.

We have had 5 years of memorable sailing holidays from Fethiye, getting to know Gareth and Clare, who keep an eye on Ploes, very well. They have been able to help out with most problems that we encountered. Fethiye Bay provides a wonderful sailing area with lots of lovely bays to visit, great swimming, and waterside restaurants.



We have had adventures too- Losing power, fortunately when coming into a marina, and getting a tow from a rib. Finding that the propeller had fallen off, and having a second hand one sourced and fitted by Levent , a local Fethiye boat builder, who fitted it by diving in the dark! This was all done with the aid of the wonderful Gareth.

Another adventure was when we were at anchor in our favourite bay and my daughters were swimming , I glanced over the side and saw a small snake going under the boat .The swimmers came aboard quickly and we pulled up the anchor . I went forward below decks to get something and saw the snake coming up out of the forward heads sink. A lot of shrieking happened and brave Alexander went up forward armed with a wooden spoon, a bucket, and a pair of gloves and returned it to the sea. It was a non venomous snake you will be pleased to know - something I checked out on my return .



When in Fethiye, among the highlights are a meal in the fish market where you chose your fish from a stall and it is cooked in a nearby restaurant for you. I must also mention the fabulous air conditioned showers in the marina and the 'as much as you can eat' breakfast, on the top floor of the Yacht Boutique restaurant next to the marina, for £6. All in all you will love it. With grateful thanks to John Bird ,Peter Girven and everyone else involved for the fabulous opportunities the KSSC has offered us and fellow members over the last 17 years and hopefully many more to come

Alex and Penny Walker

Social Diary

The Fitting Out Supper was a great success albeit a number of people could not make it as it was later than usual and a Bank Holiday weekend. Despite that the food and company was good. Arthur Riley was presented with this year's sea-Bird Trophy for all his hard work on Explorer and organizing the winter working party. Arthur accepted the trophy "on behalf of all who had contributed to Explorer's maintenance.

John Bird was presented with a water colour by Anthony Osler, a local marine artist, Nancy was presented with flowers recognizing the "commodorial spouse roll" (interrupted meal times, urgent calls from abroad etc.) Both were given a substantial John Lewis voucher to enjoy some time at their leisure. The club had shown gratitude and generosity – a mark of the regard and respect with which John and Nancy are held in the club.

John Humphery did an admirable quiz as his swan song which taxed the grey matter and produced many laughs.

IBTC visit was been organized for the 21st June. 10 people attended including guests from Adastral Park Sailing Club and the Lowestoft Cruising Club.

The Laying up supper will be on the 4th November 2017, not Remembrance weekend this year. A separate notice will be coming out in the autumn with menu choices. Anthony Osler (see above) has agreed to be our after dinner speaker. Sailing from Suffolk Yacht Harbour in his Fisher Anthony (Tony) knows the local waters intimately and will hopefully be bringing a selection of his work to display.

Remember that the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club has 9 letting bedrooms. If you are interested to book one for the night after the meal, then contact the RN&SYC office, during office hours 01502 566726.

Explorer Extended Cruise 2017

Building on last year's trip to Holland, we have put together a 16 day cruise for this summer. You've heard me talk about this at the social events or read about it in the newsletter but now I can provide more details.

I will be taking her south, departing from Suffolk Yacht Harbour Thursday 6th July. We will be sailing in short legs with the aim of visiting the Blackwater and the Medway before heading out around North Foreland and off to France. By the 14th we will be back in a Kentish port for the changeover. John Davie and Ian Winters will then pick her up and I believe they hope to go to Ostend or Dunkirk before returning to Harwich via the Medway

If you want to join us there are still one or two places remaining

Good sailing

Cliff

News from Rick and Debbie Asker

As many of you know KSSC members Rick and Debbie Asker sold up and sailed away. We hope to keep in touch with them – a blog on Facebook called 'Travels of Farr Horizon' so family and friends can follow

Rick and Debbie are continuing their long term cruising despite being plagued with a recurrent and illusive engine problem. Farr Horizon got to Lagos in Portugal, overwintered there, and enjoyed the social life of the live-aboard community. The marina earning its reputation as the Velcro Marina – because once there you do not want to leave.

Winter has bought much maintenance and a welcome opportunity to get to know the boat systems in detail. While this was happening engineers came and went announcing the fault fixed! Only for it to reoccur, even the innocent propeller was blamed and replaced. Eventually an engineer discovered a small hole behind the injector pump was letting in air but only when hot! A permanent repair would have to wait for another winter lay-up and a temporary fix was made.

This enabled Farr Horizon to leave Lagos before marina charges sky-rocketed and begin a leisurely cruise along the Algarve. Rick writes:

“We are currently anchored in the lagoon at Alvor.. heaven! ...All of about 3 miles along the coast! I've attached a photo I've just taken while laying here in the cockpit and a couple I took the other evening while we were strolling into Alvor along the boardwalk. The boardwalk extends out from the town to the harbour entrance where we are anchored. (We just dinghy ashore about two hundred metres then walk into the village which about 1.5 miles away).



Alvor was only going to be a couple of nights stopover but it's stunning here, we mostly have a very secluded anchorage all to ourselves and we've just heard friends are coming to visit at the end of June so we've decided to stay here until they've been.



We've got a new anchor being delivered because the 30kg Bruce we have is on the lower end of the scale for a boat the size of ours, so a 40kg Rocna is on its way. I'll feel happier with that holding us. We still plan to have a cruise along the Algarve after our friends have been although at the rate we're going I'm not sure how far we'll get before we return to Lagos in September.

Ok, I'm sure we will eventually get bored and will want to move on but currently we are still very much enjoying the relaxed snail's pace of life - after all it's not like we have a timescale. We always intended to do this until we tire of the lifestyle and yearn for the rat race again, (I can't see hell freezing over anytime soon though), or we become too ill or old to do it. I'm hoping we have at least 15 to 20 years doing this so my response is.. what's the rush? We are trying very hard not to have the holiday mentality, we don't have to fit everything into two weeks, this is it, this is our life, it takes as long as it takes.”

We will all raise a glass to that! We will try to get a full transcript of Ricks email and more photos on to the website but with the cruising season upon us – it may take some time. ED

Membership

First a very warm welcome new members: Zosia Bredow and Adam Falk, Matthew Langly and most recently Robin Bromham we look forward to getting to know and sail with you.

Brundall Boat Show

Deft work by Ian Winters secured us a free pitch at the boat show, and although more motor than sailing and being rather out on the edge of the show we had a reasonable amount of interest shown and 7 people left details to be followed up.



We have booked a pitch at the Woodbridge Regatta and Riverside Fair on the 16th July. Arthur Riley is co-ordinator for the day – helped by William Wickham, however more help would be appreciated so if you can spare a few hours at, what promises to be, a really interesting event let Arthur know.

We have also booked a 2 day pitch at the Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival on the 9-10 September – again help is wanted.

Finally we are continuing to contact sailing clubs locally to see if we can interest people in joining. Our strength is that people can still enjoy their dinghy or sail board sailing while getting cruising experience with us. We are complementary, not in competition. If you have links with a sailing club let us know and we can organise a discussion.

Despite all of the above word of mouth remains the most effective recruitment tool so keep talking us up to anyone who may be interested and if you need leaflets or can post a poster at work or in your community let someone on the committee know.



Website and Facebook

We have debated and decided in the sailing committee to keep Ploes in Fethiye for this coming year, we had discovered that the costs of the marina's in the Ionian are significantly higher than that the marinas in in Fethiye or Rhodes. We will assess the options later in the year but if the situation in Fethiye does deteriorate then we do have the option to easily move to the nearby Greek island of Rhodes.

Unfortunately we have had to increase the charges for the use of Ploes, this is mainly because of the drop in the value of the Pound against the Euro, most marine costs in Turkey are priced in Euro's.

We have decided on an increase of £200 to £1175, this mainly covers the drop against the Euro but we have also agreed to incorporate the dinghy hire charge back into the Ploes fee. Last year 11 out of the 12 bookings paid £35 per week to use the dinghy and many people do not understand why it is a separate cost.

We have 6 weeks booked on Ploes this year so far so we look forward to many more weeks to be booked, hopefully we can get 12 weeks booked again this year and have another year sailing in the delightful Fethiye area. One good aspect this year is that the flights are cheaper, this hopefully will help reduce the overall holiday cost.

Peter Girven



Log/Blog and Photo comp

A staple feature of most clubs –why not us?

Our competition will run over the summer with a closing date of the 31st December 2017. The judging will happen during January and the results announced at the fitting out supper in April 2018

The categories are as follows:

1. The best Photograph of Explorer or Ploes Under sail
2. The best humorous Photograph
3. The best kept log book – this will be easier to judge for Explorer but Ploes logs will be considered if you can get a digital record
4. The best Log/blog of a sailing trip – a narrative with pictures and text submitted in whatever format inspires you (not Vellum).
5. There may be another award at the discretion (whim) of the committee

Have fun and send them in.

James

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