

# KESSINGLAND SEA SAILING CLUB

## NEWSLETTER – Summer 2018

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

At last the sailing season has arrived. By the time this Newsletter arrives with you both boats will have been fitted out and in use.

Explorer has had one of the most thorough winter maintenance programmes in recent years. This included the rebuilding of her rudder, replacing the cutlass bearing, prop shaft and the stern gland (more of this below) as well as other improvements including AIS.

The Club Cruise this year will be 4 weeks visiting the Solent, Channel Islands and returning via the French coast some space is still available.

Ploes is fitted out and in use, a new dinghy has been procured and she is ready to go. The fitting out revealed she has some osmosis; It is a limited amount and is to be expected on a boat of her age. It will be treated as a part of the winter programme at the end of the year. We have had a small number of people not re-booking Ploes this year, the reasons vary but some of the feedback is that Fethiye has been done. This will invariably prompt a discussion again about whether to move Ploes, and where to. Although she will not move until Spring 2019 the earlier we start to think about this the better. I would like to repeat last years' invitation to all members to contribute to the next committee meeting, either in person or by sending in comments. The next date is the 30<sup>th</sup> August at the RN&SYC.

Despite this Ploes is still booked for 9 weeks with a hope of a few more weeks to come. There has been an impact on our membership however recruitment continues and is a priority.

The Fitting Out Supper was a great success and our speaker Claudia kept us amused with her sailing and drawing anecdotes. I will have to think about who to invite for the Laying Up Supper in November.

I wish you all a very good summer's sailing, whatever your plans are..

**James Parnell**  
**Commodore KSSC**

## Explorer

Finally, after a huge amount of effort by a small gang of volunteers, Rollie Beamish (marine engineer who helps the Club) and Wavetrade Ltd, a crew of Ian Winters, John Davie, Adrian Gregory and John Prime delivered Explorer to Suffolk Yacht Harbour on May 20<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately the engine overheat warning came on during the 7 hours of motoring to the Orwell. More on this below.

The maintenance schedule proved very challenging again this past winter! As well as all the usual winter jobs, we investigated play in the rudder that was reported towards the end of last season. After much research on the web as to possible causes it was decided that we should call in the professionals. Consequentially, Wavetrade removed the rudder to their facility in Lowestoft. On cutting away sections of the fibreglass it was discovered that the welds securing the two tangs to the shaft had broken. The welds were repaired and a third tang added. The rudder is now stronger than when first manufactured.

With the rudder off, we took the opportunity to remove the prop and examine the shaft and cutless bearing. Both were found to be excessively worn. With help and advice from Rollie we were able to remove the old stern tube (containing the cutless bearing), stern gland and prop shaft. Replacements were machined and fabricated in Norfolk. The engine had to be removed to gain access to the prop shaft etc which gave us the opportunity to replace the fuel lines, improve the fuel anti syphon system and realign the control cables so they wouldn't be impeded by the engine mounts.

As mentioned at the top of this piece, the engine overheat alarm came on during the delivery. Rollie and I investigated and found the thermostat to be suspect. This is being replaced. The coolant drain plug has been seized for a few years and we believe there is the possibility of a build up of sediment in the bottom of the cooling system, reducing efficiency. Rollie will be installing a new plug.

Over the winter we also demonstrated our versatility as window repairers. The window above the chart table leaked so JD and Arthur stripped, cleaned, re assembled and re fitted it (feel free to contact them with any double glazing problems...!). Also special mention to JD for cleaning and re-greasing all the winches – a job that hadn't been done for some time.



All photos of the work are on the website:

<http://www.kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/pictures-2/>

In addition to all the technical work described above, we have also tried to improve the appearance of the interior. We scraped off the old flaking paint from the ceiling of the heads and saloon, rubbed it all down and repainted in white. We have also replaced the mirror in the heads. The lighting has been an issue for some time. We have tidied up the wiring, removed broken light fittings and installed LED bulbs.

Next winter it would be good to lightly sand and re varnish the interior. We will be looking for volunteers to take some items home as a project (eg cupboard doors, wash boards and chart table top).

Unfortunately the delay in getting the boat to SYH resulted in the loss of eight days usage. It would be great to exceed last year's 64 days booked so check your diaries and submit your booking forms via the website.

**Ian Winters**

## Ploes

Paul Noton and I were unfortunately unable to be out in Fethiye for the spring lift out this year, we both had other commitments and the majority of the work could very capably be done in the yard by Levent, without us needing to be there. We then had a worrying time when Ploes was lifted out of the water and washed down, Claire and Levent discovered some blistering below the waterline, this turned out to be mild osmosis. Luckily the osmosis is not as bad as first thought, we had a Marine Surveyor assess her and it was not urgent to be repaired.

Ploes was then primed plus anti-fouled and put back in the water during the planned 7 days liftout, she was then ready for her first booking the following week with Paul Noton and crew. They had a very successful week, the next booking is two weeks in the middle of June when I am sailing on Ploes for two weeks. We will also do some minor maintenance during that two weeks but there is nothing major that needs doing.

We then plan to lift Ploes back out of the water in November this year, this is when Levents yard will be quieter and we then can dry her out and repair the Osmosis. I am not sure yet how long this will take and what the cost will be, I plan to go to Fethiye in November when this is being assessed, luckily because the Osmosis is mild we hope this to be reasonably quick. Luckily Claire has also said that we should be able to negotiate an extension for our annual Marina payment to compensate for the time we are out of the water.

My concept is that in place of the next April commissioning, Ploes will be antifouled and serviced during this November period and we will cancel the next lift out in April 2019, that will minimise the extra cost to the club. We find that Ploes is normally pretty clean when she is lifted out, so her having 18 months to the next lift out in 2020 should not be a problem

We have 9 weeks bookings on Ploes this year and we are very likely to have an extra week booked so we should have 10 weeks booked this year. I had delayed purchasing the new dinghy until the bookings were clearer, I ordered the new dinghy on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at a cost of £630, it will have a 2 year guarantee and I it will be delivered to Ploes next week. The dinghy will be an average cost of £315 per year for two years and is equivalent to the £35 per week for 9 weeks per year that we were paying to hire a dinghy in the previous years.

We can decide whether to move the base for Ploes at the Spring 2019 Committee meeting, the Osmosis issues have I believe stopped any ideas of moving from Fethiye late this year. The good news is also that we have good bookings again this year, so the necessity to move from Fethiye has been reduced, Fethiye is also cheaper than locations in Greece.

**Peter Girven**

## Day sail on Leila

David Beavan has generously offered KSSC a day sail on Leila. The weather was fair on May 5<sup>th</sup> and the wind slight, nonetheless a good time was had by all.



Leila is a rare example of a gentleman's sailing yacht from the late Victorian era, built in 1892 by F Wilkinson of Charlton for a barrister who sailed with the Royal Temple Yacht Club at Ramsgate and won the 1904 Round Britain Race. She is one of the five oldest sailing yachts still sailing in the UK, and is included on the National Register of Historic Vessels.

Thanks to David for a great day.

## Fitting Out Supper

The Fitting Out Supper was well attended and as usual the food prepared by the RNSYC was of a high standard. Our speaker Claudia Myatt was entertaining, relating her stories of combining her passion for sailing – particularly traditional vessels and her love for drawing and painting. She inspired us with life experiences starting out with no formal training to become a successful artist who is increasingly the “go to” person for illustrations for sailing magazines. She inspired and challenged us get sketching. It was pleasing to have members of the RNSYC join us for the talk.



The Log Competition was judged in two categories. The first was the most entertaining “fire-side read” of adventures on either boat. This category was won by John Davie for his account of last year’s Club Cruise on Explorer to the French coast and Gravelines in particular. A full account of John’s log is posted on the website.

The second category was judged by Arthur Riley as the best example of recording in the log book on Explorer. With a good example of accurate and relevant information, consistency and legibility the winner was – John Davie.

The photo competition gave more trouble than anyone predicted. There were no pictures of either boat under sail, and there were no humorous photos either. So the last category standing was the best photo. James and Peter drew up a short list

which was finally judged by John Bird. Although there were many lovely photos of happy crew and sunsets, the best photo was awarded for its composition. And the winner was – John Davie.



To save John Davie's blushes we quickly moved on to an update on this years' Club Cruise to the Solent, Channel Islands and returning via the coast of France.

The Sea Bird trophy for services to the club was awarded to Peter Girven. Peter has done a terrific job in managing Ploes booking and maintenance. Peter has also looked after Explorer bookings when I have been away. He has improved and updated the website and created and maintained our Facebook account. Then there is all the many discussions decisions and correspondence, associated with being a committee member. Not content with that he gets his hands dirty and together with others saved the club a small fortune re-building Explorers wind instruments. So a very well deserved award.

**James Parnell**



## Explorer Summer Cruise 2018

From 21-6-18 Cliff will be starting from Suffolk Yacht Harbour to the Solent and then on to The Channel Islands. Hand over day will be 7-7-18 then John D will be returning to SYH Via the French Coast. If you wish to join – some places are available for some of the time if you interested in Joining the cruise, contact the relevant skipper for the latest on availability.



## What this Club means to me

As a resident of the village of Kessingland since 1981 I was of course familiar with the sailing club on the beach and had often wondered what had happened to it. By chance I happened to be at home on leave, in 2005 or 2006 when the Lowestoft Boat Show was on. It was a bitterly cold day and the commercial stall holders were complaining of a poor turn out, (sounds familiar to those of us who attended at Suffolk Boat Jumble in March!); KSSC had set out their stall at Lowestoft, it was manned by several stalwarts all of whom were cheerful and friendly and made a very good impression. Ruth and I were easily persuaded to apply for membership, a decision we have never regretted.

KSSC has given me the chance to sail a modern classic in Explorer, to expand my sailing experience, to make good friends and to meet other sailors who I would never have met outside the club. I have had the opportunity to take part in the annual boat maintenance for several years, even run it for a couple of those. It has certainly helped me to ease into retirement without getting bored!



Networking with other members has opened up new sailing and social opportunities, I have the choice of several long and shorter cruises this year to fit in with other commitments. I will be making my first trip to Turkey as skipper on Ploes in July. I have got to know the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club (RNSYC) members and staff, as an affiliate club we have our club functions at the RNSYC and get to use and appreciate the facilities of their unique listed Edwardian clubhouse.

As a KSSC member I can involve with the club as much or as little as I like. I'm a part of (a very small) management committee whose main focus recently, is to recruit more members. In common with most clubs these days we lack sufficient members to make this cooperative venture truly viable. This may be a reflection of a more frantic pace of life. This only makes the relaxation provided by sailing and other sports and hobbies more important. It can have a very positive effect on the development of young (and not so young) people. While the club has healthy reserves, in order to move forward we need more new members.

If anyone reading this is considering joining us, I can thoroughly recommend the club as a very low cost way to get afloat in sailing cruisers, to acquire or improve on sailing skills, to make friends and be a part of something worthwhile. You can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome from all our membership. I can only thank everyone for the courteous treatment which I have always enjoyed.

Best wishes to all,

**Arthur**



Website and Facebook

Changes to the Website and the Facebook pages have been slow during the quiet in the winter, but we have had one new member join the Facebook group. People have also liked the summary page of photos that I prepared for the Fethiye area, I thought that we needed a summary to sell the advantages of Fethiye to potential new viewers

I have uploaded pictures to the website of Ploes to say she is back in the water and I have added some pictures of Explorer, both sets of pictures of the yachts show some of the hard work that has been done to them during the winter and spring. Both the Website and Facebook sites are ready for more use and the Facebook site directs people to the website pictures, the main question is how to attract people to both sites?

The Closed Facebook Group is this address. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/402855803408838/>

One of the Public Facebook Group is this address, people searching can see this.

<https://www.facebook.com/kessingland.seasailing>

If anyone has suggestions on changes we can make or improvements then please contact us about these, we are open to suggestions on ways to improve.

**Peter Girven**



A trip on the Thames Sailing Barge Thistle

Following my earlier email asking for interest in a possible APSC club trip on board the historic Thames Barge 'Thistle'. The consensus was for a 4 hour sail out of Ipswich (rather than 2 hours out of Maldon) and for a weekday (cheaper) rather than weekend. It was about 50/50 on packed lunch or on-board catering. The estimated cost will be £20/head

Some KSSC members have already expressed an interest, however there is still space available for KSSC members who want to join in.

SO... the provisional date is going to be Tuesday 7 August. Friends and family welcome. Please reply if possible by Friday 8 June.

**James**