



## **Newsletter Christmas 2019**



### **Commodore's Comments.**

We finish the year in pretty good shape. Thanks to the efforts of members who have helped prepare the boats, organise the boats and help with events. Not to forget the many who have booked and enjoyed sailing the boats - what we are all about!

At the AGM we agreed to hold both membership fees and contributions for boat use at last year's level. This is because we broke even this financial year and even had enough to put something aside for Ploes depreciation. The AGM was followed by our Fitting Out Supper attended by 30 people at which the skippers of various legs of the summer cruise talked about their experiences augmented by some wonderful photographs.

The new publicity together with our usual stands at Woodbridge Regatta and some boat shows helped us recruit 18 new members last year, which is wonderful.

However, this is no time to rest on our laurels. The membership drive will continue, part of that is reviewing our communications. The WhatsApp group has been a surprise success so we now also have Twitter and Instagram accounts. Thanks to Peter for setting these up and promoting them, see his article below.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

James





## Explorer

After a very successful season, Explorer is now on the hard at Lowestoft and looking forward to some TLC over the winter. The work has already started with people participating in Saturday workdays since the beginning of November.

All the portable equipment was moved to a self-storage unit rented nearby as John Bird's box trailer, which we have used in previous years, is no longer available. The sails have gone to Jeckells for valeting. This left the boat clear for work to commence on numerous tasks such as cleaning the large build-up of sludge in the diesel tank. Rollie Beamish has completed this and is in the process of re installing the tank. He will also be supplying a couple of modern engine raw water filters for us to look at. His other task is to re fit the coolant drain tap and secure it with a bracket to prevent vibration causing a crack in the pipe as happened on the summer cruise.

So far, the antifoul has been cleaned and is in good shape to accept a new coat in March. The cockpit bilge pump has had a new diaphragm fitted. The deck and anchor/chain have been washed and cable ties attached at 5m intervals. The anemometer cable has been fed along most of the saloon and the bracket for the masthead is being fabricated by Arthur.

Four windows have been removed. Three have been cleaned of sealant applied last winter as they were found to still be leaking. The fourth is being disassembled into its constituent parts by me at home ready to re seal and install.

Other projects being done by various members at home are:

Outboard servicing – Cliff

Cooker servicing and remodelling the life raft cradle – Colin

Lifejacket servicing and First Aid box replenishing – Ian Walker

She is a venerable boat and consequently there is still much to do to keep her ship shape. To that end, we are looking for painters, decorators and DIY'ers to join us on Saturdays throughout the winter plus Sundays and weekdays if that suits anyone better.

“Keeeeeep working” to misquote a Strictly phrase!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Ian Winters



Explorer at St Mary's Scilly Islands July 2019





## Ploes



We have had an excellent year with Ploes having confirmed bookings for 79 days, this also luckily for us included 5 days when Rose and James were sailing on Ploes. We unfortunately have had a late 7 day postponement but the income is booked in this year and that sailing will actually take place in late April next year. We have now paid for all expected expenditure for the financial year and even with all the expense on the osmosis repairs we were close to breaking even.

Recent expenditure on Ploes in the summer has been new diesel injectors at 700 Euros, Levent felt Ploes was a bit smoky and smelt of unburnt diesel in the summer, new injectors after 15 years were overdue. She can still be smoky if left idling in the marina for a long time without a load, we have never noticed an issue when we use the engine under load at 1800 rpm, in our 3 weeks autumn trip we used a minimal amount of oil.

We have also had minor repairs late this autumn; these were completed once the bookings were finished. There were some water leaks around the shrouds and stanchions, these leaks have all been repaired. The diesel tank has also been removed as it had a minor leak, Claire had smelt diesel after Ploes had been filled in the summer and noticed the problem. We have also added wider treads to the boarding ladder, this will make it easier to get back on Ploes when using the swim ladder. I still have an ongoing issue with the black water tank gauge having a mind of its own but I hope to repair that in the spring.



Ploes in Tersanne

The mainsail is also now being replaced, we chose late October to replace it to move the expenditure into the 2020 year accounts. The sail is expected soon and we chose a superior quality Dacron for the sail, this was only 12% dearer than the cheaper Dacron and will give us a much longer life expectancy. The existing mainsail was fitted in about 2008 and had stretched; it was very baggy making furling and unfurling difficult. The old sail will be kept as a spare and we will add a picture to the website when the new sail is supplied in the next few weeks.

Next year we already have 3 tentative weeks booked, one is the delayed booking from this year but the other two are new people making bookings, this is promising for a successful year next year. There are pictures on the website of the recent work on Ploes, this has mainly been work to cure water leaks and repair the diesel tank, they can be seen on this link. <https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/ploes-later-in-2019-photos>

Peter.







## Membership and Social

### Annual Subs

The Annual membership subs are the same as last year. I will send out a renewal notice as usual in early January, then a reminder in February and one final reminder in March. At that point we will only include in the year book those members who have paid their subs (see below). Of course that does not stop people from paying later in the year but their names may not appear in the year book.

### Year Book and list of members

This year we took the decision not to put the list of members and their contact details in the year book, reflecting greater concerns about data security. The feedback is that people have missed the list of members so next year we will reintroduce these details, subject to consent. The annual renewal form will ask members for their consent to publish their address, telephone and email address.

### Recruitment

This year we recruited 18 new members. That is a considerable achievement. We picked up a lot of new members from the Yachting Monthly letter and now we have a second letter published. We will plan to do boat shows and regattas next year. We had a great invitation to the RYA event at Holbrook in November, James and Arthur ran a workshop and talked to many interested people all of whom will be followed up.



Our Stand at the RYA Cruising Conference at Holbrook in November

Still word of mouth is the best form of recruitment, so if you would like a supply of leaflets posters or business cards then let me know.

### Social Events for 2020

The next committee is on the Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January so we can combine with an Explorer working party. We will have an informal dinner together that evening so if you wish to join us for a meal or a drink please drop in.

The Fitting Out Supper will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. This is not a Bank Holiday weekend, this year the Bank Holiday has been moved to the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

The AGM and Laying out Supper will be Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

We do not have any visits or trips organised so if you have an idea then let me know.



Rose





## Communications

### Email

To reach all members we now mainly use Email and this is very much the best communication channel, using the Post Office to post information has greatly reduced. The website is now our best place to go for historical information, it has most of our old newsletters and up to date information about fees etc. for the Club. The website also has numerous excellent photo albums of both of our yachts. We are now also using WhatsApp for some day to day communication, at the moment we only have 18 members but that is the majority of our committee plus the more active members and it is more successful than our Facebook Group.

### Website

The website has worked very well and we have added many photos from this year, photos that were taken during the summer trips for Explorer and Ploes. I have also updated the look of the website to have nested photo albums on the menu bar; this makes it easier to navigate the numerous photo albums.

I use our Google Photo albums (which we get free with our Google account) as a common landing place for all of our photo albums. This can then connect to the Website, plus to Facebook and WhatsApp, this makes administration simpler for me.

<https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/>

### WhatsApp

I must admit that our WhatsApp Group has been more successful than I had imagined. Sonia had suggested creating a Club group and Ian Winters said that he was keen on only using one method for communications. WhatsApp seems to be giving us some of that. If you would like to join then you need to email us your mobile phone number, or text me on my phone 07974960935. It is an optional system and you have to request to join, I can add you into the Group. (You do need a reasonably modern mobile phone to use WhatsApp).

WhatsApp was very successful during the summer for the Cruise and for keeping people up to date with Club happenings. It is also proving useful for connecting people for the Summer Cruise bookings on Explorer. Unfortunately with WhatsApp any new members joining do not get to see any of the previous postings, only those created after they joined.



## Facebook

The Facebook group also has 18 members and I copy the posts from the website and photos from the WhatsApp Group on to Facebook. New members can see all previous posts and it allows any potential members to see the history of the club. We also have previous members like Rick Asker who are members of the Facebook Group, Irene Noton has also recently joined. I have also personally joined the Facebook Contessa32 Group recently, this is with the idea of promoting our club, they have over 1000 members and they are quite active.

Our Facebook Group is a private group to allow us to keep some control on what is posted, we also have public groups that advertise our private group should people wish to join. Our Facebook Groups can be found by searching for Kessingland Seasailing, the address of the private group if needed is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/402855803408838/>

## Summary

All four communication methods have their advantages and disadvantages, Email, Website, Facebook and WhatsApp are all complementary and it is reasonably easy to keep them all up to date. So far we have also had many of the recent new members joining these sites and they are all very useful for promoting the Club for any new potential recruits.

The best source for new recruits so far was the editorial article from James in Yachting Monthly this year which brought us many new members. These new communication methods then allow the new members connect to us and to understand what the club is and what we do.

We have also recently added two new communication methods (this is to reach the new young generation) Twitter and Instagram. These can all be fed by a common system to minimise administration in the future. These new communication methods will work happily on a desktop computer but are more normally used on a tablet or a modern smart phone.

For those who are interested to see us on Twitter our name is "KSSC17", and on Instagram we are "kessinglandseasailingclub", next year we will start to promote the club with these modern methods. Their addresses are as follows but it must be said no one needs to follow all these methods, they are there to suit whichever target audience we are aiming at, and to promote the Club to potential new members.

<https://twitter.com/kssc17>

<https://www.instagram.com/kessinglandseasailingclub/>



Peter

