



Newsletter Autumn 2021

Commodore's Comments

With the evenings shortening and the end of the summer in the offing, we can reflect on our season so far.

It is extremely gratifying to see Explorer used so enthusiastically. Those who follow her on the WhatsApp group have been treated to great photos and brilliant, often very funny, comments. It's good for encouraging our new members and helping them integrate into the club, so please join the WhatsApp group.

We have had another very successful summer cruise, well organised by Cliff and very much enjoyed by all who took part - see below.

With Turkey firmly in the Red Zone for much of the summer it has been a disappointing season for Ploes. It has been heart breaking to have such a lovely boat ready to go and yet beyond our reach. However, with the latest rule changes we have been very fortunate, at this late stage, to salvage some bookings this year.

We do have things to look forward to. We will have a Laying Up Supper this year, details below. With Explorer in the water all year, there is a prospect of a winter sailing season. Recruitment continues to be strong and the prospects for our club are good, despite the havoc wrought by this pandemic.

This is the first newsletter under our new editor, John Scardino who has kindly volunteered to take over this role from me and done a fine job!

I hope you have had a good summer whatever you have been doing and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 13 November, in person!



James



Explorer

I'm delighted to report it's been another record breaking year for Explorer. Since the last AGM we have achieved 103 days booked and no doubt there will be more before the next AGM.

Fingers crossed we don't have any more lockdowns and we can continue to sail through the winter.

Back in May we lifted the boat out for ten days to enable an insurance survey to be carried out. The surveyor commented on what good, solid condition she was in except for damage to the fibreglass at the prow, half way down to the waterline. We knew there was damage but not the extent until the surveyor pushed a knife through it! The damaged area turned out to be several inches long! Thanks must go to Robin and Peter for making an excellent repair in poor weather conditions and against the lift in deadline.



Fresh antifoul was applied by Matt and Arthur Newton (apologies to anyone I haven't mentioned) prior to lift in.

A special mention in despatches goes to Colin who spent a lot of time in the spring and early summer investigating and fixing the erratic depth display readings. It transpired there was a bad connection in the transducer cable near the engine.

When the engine was running the cable was picking up electrical interference. Colin installed a new cable and made the connection near the transducer in the bow, well away from the engine. Had Colin not fixed the problem, we would have incurred significant costs and loss of bookings.

Colin has also been investigating the old wiring on board with a view to upgrading as necessary in the autumn.

The summer cruise went very well, which is always a relief! The woodwork looked a little tired after six weeks intensive use so Helen applied a coat of boiled linseed oil to the toe and hand rails. The boat now looks a lot more cared for.

Arthur Riley and I recently scrubbed the hull below the waterline by leaning over the front of the dinghy and using a broom with a curved head to follow the contours of the hull. She seems to glide through the water a bit quicker now and I don't think it's a figment of our imaginations!

Rollie Beamish has been busy installing oil pressure and temperature gauges, plus a warning buzzer, in the cockpit. We'll label with min and max. He's also welded up a couple of cracked welds on the pulpit.

The massive increase in usage means we need to keep on top of maintenance all year round. Maintenance days will be slotted between bookings as necessary. If crews have spare time before, during or after their booking, it would be appreciated if they could get in touch to find out if there are any jobs need doing. To misquote JFK: "Ask not what your [Club] can do for you – ask what you can do for your [Club]". Every little helps and will keep the boat in good condition.



A couple of extra notes:

- There is now a manual air fog horn on board. It's bright red and located in the shapes and spotlight bin under the chart table, against the hull. You blow into the hole on the side!

- Do not rotate the battery selector through "Off" whilst the engine is running as doing so can damage the electrics.

Happy sailing



Ian



Ploes

Ploes unfortunately has not had a very successful financial year, we have been constrained again this year by Covid and by travel restrictions. As I write this, Turkey has been released by a UK Government announcement and is now no longer in the red zone. That is excellent news. It has been a mad rush in these last 2 weeks but as of the 3rd October we do have 3 weeks this year booked on Ploes. We also have had two enquiries about sailing in November. This is possible and there are cheap flight options from Gatwick and from Stanstead. Jet 2 from Stanstead is very cheap with direct flights at £119 return. This is departing the 4th November and returning on the 11th or the 13th November, we hope that these bookings will materialise.

We also need Ploes to visit Greece again before the end of September 2022. This is to renew our Greek Vat paid status. I had hoped that we could go and complete this in 2021 and this will be possible in the last 3 weeks in October. We also have had the issue of the long delayed saildrive test. Paul Newman and I are in Turkey at the moment doing this test and the results so far are looking very promising. Levent our Turkish Engineer is now confident that the saildrive will last a few years and we agree with that assessment.



I still also have the new replacement cheap saildrive here in the UK on hold. This was retained by paying a deposit earlier this year at Dartmouth. The sail drive is now due for delivery from the Volvo factory to Dartmouth on the 8th of October and we can arrange shipping to Ploes after that date. We will then have to decide whether to purchase this new sail drive and to export it out to Ploes. I am considering a quick trip to Rhodes in late October to update the Vat on Ploes and to collect the saildrive. However the timing is very tight and the sail drive may not be there in time for us, if we proceed with this option. We will reassess all of the options in the next few weeks and decide which is our best option.

So far we had proceeded throughout this year minimising expenditure on Ploes, but by early August 2021 we had to decide whether to antifoul Ploes and to fit a new bow thruster. This installation was needed to allow safe sailing in September, the work has now been completed and Ploes is back on her pontoon complete with new bow thruster. She is ready for autumn sailing. In fact in early October we are in Turkey doing thorough testing.

Ploes is still only being connected to the mains power once every two weeks to charge her batteries, and the bow thruster is now not connected to the mains power charger. This is the way we ran Ploes for many years and we are now back using a portable charger to charge the bow thruster battery. This is belt and braces caution but it is a wise step. The new galvanic isolator will stop any earth leakage current but we are being extra careful as we do not want any more galvanic corrosion issues.

In early September we had also considered moving Ploes to Greece, this was to gain bookings because Greece was in the amber zone and it would have allowed some sailing in the Autumn season. However all members that I had contacted at the time (and who were previously booked) had cancelled their bookings. They were understandably worried about potential Covid travel changes and declined the option of flying to Greece. (For us to move Ploes was complicated. It would have meant Paul Newman and myself sailing her to Greece in early September and then we

would have had to stay in Greece for more than 10 days. This was to escape the requirement for us of hotel quarantine costing £2200 each on return to the UK).



To summarise, we hope for a much better year in 2022. We hope that Covid will be behind us and that the UK Government will continue to allow us to travel to Turkey, without it ever again becoming a red zone country. We are set up and ready for a very good season and we hope that the expense next year will also be minimised. We can then start to refresh the club bank account and look forward to an excellent sailing season in the following years.

Peter



Social Media Accounts – Sept 2021

WhatsApp:

We have had an active period on our social media accounts. WhatsApp has been very active. We did ask people about the postings and we have reduced the traffic to a more reasonable amount. We also have sub WhatsApp groups for things like Maintenance on Explorer and also a new one for Explorer Crewseekers. We also have a group set up for Ploes, these sub groups cut down the traffic on the main group and make it easier to find individual posts.

If you are interested in joining our What's App Group then please send me your mobile phone number and I will add you to the group. We also have links for these sub groups to make it easy to join them.

Explorer Crewseekers is: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CnARSJI1Z2w5ESFKVPzorH>

Explorer Technical Group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KSbFJdcLOCNIUoXuHJIVzG>

Ploes Sailors Group is:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Kleg7ptXYw0Elr2uRzU8Ed>

Facebook:

We have been quieter Facebook recently. We are considering data privacy so are looking at what we post in terms of photos of people and how to monitor this. Paul Newman and Chris Jones have been very active in promoting the club website on wider Facebook sailing groups and this has generated good interest. Through this we have new members signing up now in September to take advantage of the introductory offer to join the club.

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

Instagram:

I have also posted a few generic photos on Instagram. So far this does not seem to be a good method for attracting new members, but it is a good way to promote our

club and we will continue posting.

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

Website:

There are photos of Explorers Summer Cruise on the Website, also photos of Ploes Summer lift out. Ploes is now ready for sailing. Our website is most quickly found using the link www.kssc.uk

Explorer Photos: <https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/explorer-in-2021>

Ploes Photos: <https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/ploes-in-2021>

Newsletters:

Also on the website we have copies of many old Newsletters. John Bird also has a treasure trove of old paper newsletters in his loft that I may photocopy. I look forward to receiving them at the LUS.

Cheers, Peter Girven



Membership and Social

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 6pm on 13th November at the RNSYC. An agenda will be sent nearer the time

Members wishing to put a resolution to the AGM should do so 3 weeks beforehand.

Membership

Whilst we sadly lost some members last year, our membership levels overall have remained steady as we have been fortunate to recruit some very enthusiastic new members. At the time of writing we have 52 memberships, 45 of which are sailing memberships (plus one other pending!). Welcome to our new members: Jack Brewer, Alex Hall, Stuart Walker, Aleks Drezek, Mark Taylor, Mark Dewell and a special welcome to returning 'new' member, Bob Shackleton. So overall we are in a good position.

Social Events

Date for diaries – 13 November!

Keeping our fingers crossed, we have booked the Laying Up Supper on 13 Nov, 7.30pm for 8pm. This will be at the usual venue – Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club in Lowestoft and will follow on from the AGM – see separate article. If you can make it, please do come along - it would be amazing to get together again after this long break and a good opportunity to meet some of our new members.

I will send out a reminder and the menu choices within the next few days. Also don't forget to book a room if you want to stay over!



Rose



Explorer Summer Cruise 2021.

Every year I am impressed by the interest and support shown for the summer cruise. This is the 6th consecutive year we have put together cruising with 'away from home' crew changes.

2016 – North Sea crossing to Holland.

2017 – Cruising the Eastern English Channel visiting ports in France and Belgium

2018 – Solent and Channel Isles.

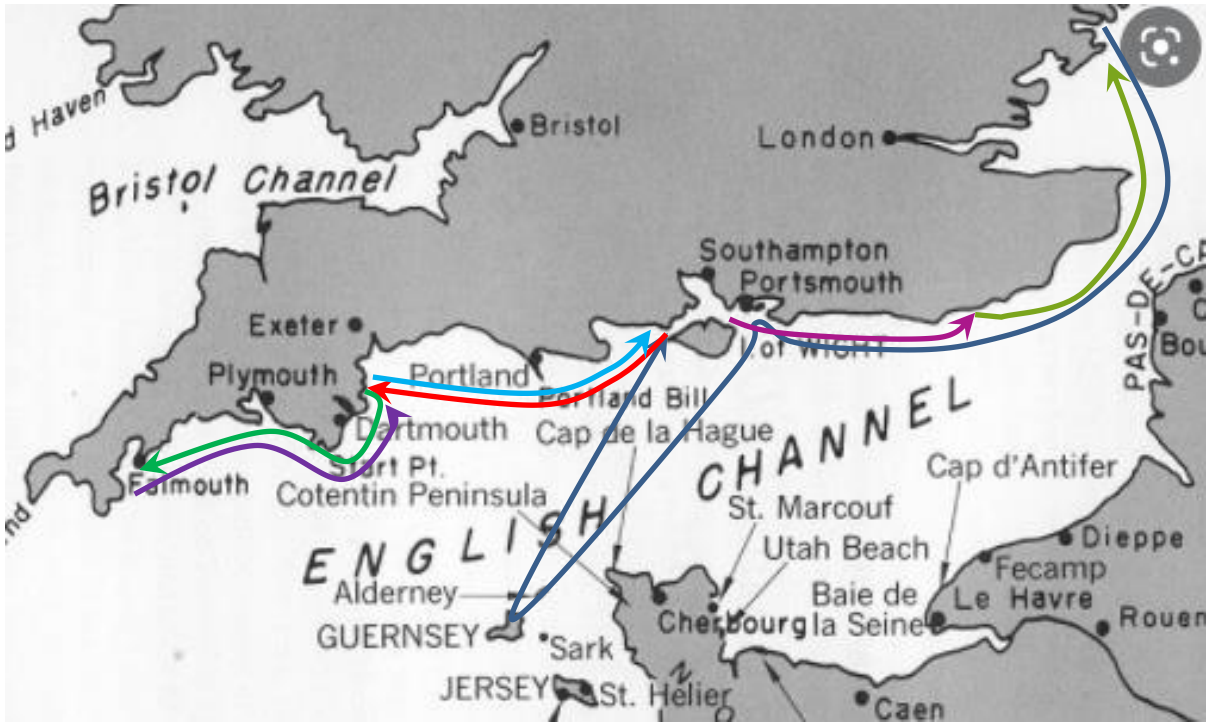
2019 – Pretty much every viable port on UK side of the Channel all the way to the Scillies.

2020 – Back to the Solent and Dorset coast line.

This year she was away for seven weeks, with seven crews, and 19 different sailors. I'm hoping we can pull together a report from each leg for the laying up supper but just to give you a flavour of what took place...

Paul, Chris, and Steve took her for the first two weeks starting from SYH and ending up in the Solent. They took in not just UK ports but also managed to 'go foreign' with a visit to the Channel Isles. Paul tells me this was intentional and not a navigation error.

The following weeks played out like below, but to hear the stories you'll have to come along to the laying up supper or read a fuller report in the next newsletter.



Motoring, on a still morning, heading east from Helford River.



There's still plenty of fun to be had on Explorer this year and it even looks like it will be possible to use Ploes (assuming Peter can remember where he left her). But let's look beyond this year. Where are your cruising thoughts taking us next summer?

Thank you all for making this possible.

Best wishes,

Cliff

