



Newsletter Spring 2021

Commodore's Comments.

At last, it seems we can make plans for the next season. Few of us thought we would be still in the grip of the pandemic so far into 2021 but the signs are that by May we should be getting back to something like normal.

For the club, a promising level of bookings for both boats gives me some optimism that we shall be in full swing by the summer though I suspect that it will take a few years for club finances to be restored to their 2019 levels.

Brexit has added some complications to the sailing world. Danny is updating the Explorer Skipper Instructions to include what skippers need to do before setting off to the EU. For Ploes our concern is to maintain our EU VAT Tax Paid status. Whilst this is not strictly a Brexit issue, the lack of clarity in some countries caused by Brexit means that we will have to be extremely careful on our next visit into EU waters.

We have lost a few members this year, as we do every year for various reasons, however the challenge for the club is to replace them and word of mouth is by far the most effective means of recruitment, so please spread the word. If you need more publicity materials, cards leaflets or posters please let me know.

Our new generation of sailors are rejuvenating the club and its fantastic to see so much energy and enthusiasm - particularly on the WhatsApp group.

We have much to look forward to this year and the freedom we enjoy as sailors seems all the more precious after these difficult times. I hope you have a wonderful season ahead.



James



Explorer

You would be forgiven for thinking that not a lot has been happening since lockdown version 3 commenced after Christmas. In fact you would be wrong as members have been working behind the scenes on various projects.

Colin dashed to the boat the day before lockdown to examine the wiring and has been continuing to work on the circuit diagram at home. Paul N has been inspecting the boat on a weekly basis as he lives nearby and can work a visit into his exercise routine. Luckily, he reports no problems. The low wattage heater we bought last autumn, combined with condensation absorbing tablets, have kept the interior nice and dry. There's very little water getting into the bilge and Cliff's water tank repair has been successful.

Paul retrieved the east coast charts from the boat and posted them to Chris Jones who kindly volunteered to mark up the updates. This task has now been completed and we will purchase a new set of charts when Imray re-publish them.

Danny Heartshorne has been busy reviewing the documents on board both boats (radio licenses, EPIRB registration) and updating as necessary. He has also volunteered to update the Explorer Skipper Instructions.

For my part, I had arranged to meet Chris Jeckells, the sail maker, at the boat on 6th January to measure up for the new genoa. Needless to say, that didn't happen. Hopefully we can rearrange for soon after 29th March.

Talking about dates, the rule of six meeting outdoors and being allowed to travel outside your local area comes into effect 29th March. This means we can get back to the boat for maintenance and for day sails. I'm delighted to report that Rob Holland (new skipper last year) has booked the boat for five consecutive day sails from 5th April. He will be looking for skippers to join him, on days that suit, free of charge, to help him become more familiar with the boat and local area. He's on the WhatsApp group if you can help.

From 12th April staying in self-contained holiday accommodation is allowed. Hopefully this also applies to boats so long as you don't sneak ashore to use the shared ablution blocks! This has the potential to be a bumper year for Explorer so get your bookings in! Happy sailing



Ian



Ploes

We are very hopeful of an excellent year on Ploes this year, we already have 11 weeks booked but unfortunately due to the Covid lockdown we do not know exactly when Ploes will be available to be able to be commissioned? Turkey is not open at the moment for flights, locals hope for information by early March, and the UK Government do not want us to travel overseas before the middle of May. The UK Govt announced on the 22nd February that it looks like international travel could commence on the 17th May, but this could be delayed.

We are continuously monitoring the situation and adapting our plans to suit. We will reassess this situation in April at our Sailing Committee meeting and decide then what we can do. At the moment Paul Newman and I were booked to go out to Turkey to commission Ploes in mid April, but our trip has been delayed until the middle of May at the earliest. We then plan to do checks and to assess what we need to do to get Ploes in top notch condition. The first booking on Ploes is the week starting on the 22nd May.

Our plan at the present for this year is to carry on minimising expenditure until we know the likely use this year of Ploes. Claire checks Ploes every week, she reports Ploes is safe and warm without any galvanic current Led indicator issues. Claire has tested the saildrive on Ploes under load several times (with Ploes restrained to the pontoon) and the excellent news is that the oil is still clear and the drive is watertight. Claire has also recently painted the bow thruster compartment and Levent has cured a water leak from the Anchor chain locker.

Our worries for the future is that we have the bow thruster missing, long term we need to fit a new bow thruster and we will reassess this at our April Committee meeting. Fitting a new bow thruster will be about £2000 plus labour and it will cost another £2000 as Ploes will need to be lifted from the water. We will also do the annual antifoul on Ploes at that time, but this work will be delayed until we know the likely use of Ploes this year.

The issues ahead are that if we require work to be done on Ploes after our visit in May, then Levent's yard will be very busy and we will have to wait for the yard to be available for our work. We may even have to wait for the summer and we then could lose our early summer bookings, but it is difficult at this stage to predict what we will be able to do and when we can do it. At the moment we are researching and waiting for the travel restrictions to be lifted in both the UK and in Turkey, we can then take the first steps.

I am confident that we will have a busy Autumn sailing season, I am very optimistic that with our vaccinations, we are seeing the back of all these Covid delays and we will have a good season on Ploes.



Peter



Membership and social

Whilst we are pleased to have recruited some new members in the latter part of last season, our overall membership numbers have unfortunately dropped by 10 this year, although we keep our fingers crossed that some members will yet decide to re-new. Membership currently stands at 44, which includes 7 honorary/life memberships. Although the membership numbers have dropped, the interest in sailing on both Ploes and Explorer this season is, nevertheless, looking promising.

Social Update

On the positive side we are hopeful that we will be able to hold the Laying Up Supper this year, aiming for 6 November, which will also be the date of our AGM.

With regards to the Fitting Out Supper, however, we had hoped, as an alternative to the formal Supper to hold a more informal get together in The Lighthouse at Suffolk Yacht Harbour on 10 April. Sadly this is not now possible within the current Roadmap guidance. We will keep the situation under review and if we are able to arrange a 'larger than 6' gathering at some point we'll send out a separate communication!

In light of the on-going restrictions, and with Explorer currently being based at SYH, we took the decision this year to not renew our affiliation with the RNSYC. However, Simon Cadle, Club Manager has kindly agreed that our members are more than welcome to use the Club under visitor's rules in the meantime.



Rose



The Cruising Association and Chris Jeckells

Chris Jeckells is supplying a new genoa for Explorer but I have to confess that I did not know that he used to be a KSSC member. The Cruising Association have kindly given permission to reproduce their recent article in which Chris talks about the history of his firm and some of their recent developments. The article is attached to email with this newsletter

The Cruising Association are holding another On-Line Promo Week. The last one was a great success with some really useful and interesting material.

To find out more please go to www.theca.org.uk

Some members did express an interest in joining the CA following the webinar I did in December, so if you are still interested – check out the ‘referred by a friend’ offer, I will be happy to refer you.



James



Explorer Summery Cruise 2021 – Boldly going into the post COVID world.

Before writing this I took a look back at previous cruise ‘kick off’ articles I have written. Last year, just a few months before we locked down, I laid out an ambitious plan for a six week trip down the UK coast to the Solent, across to the Channel Islands, and returning along the French coast. I was aware of plenty of risks but a global pandemic was not among them! However we did manage a much shorter cruise along our coast as far as Poole.

So to summer 2021.....

As of today, 3rd March, the situation is looking promising. Our government has a clear plan to exit lockdown and by the end of spring most adults will have had at least their first vaccination. Officially the first date for more than two families being allowed to mix is 21st June. A summer cruise is definitely possible but we need to plan to be handing over in UK mainland ports, this is what we have generally done anyway as it is easiest for logistics. We also need to have a plan which is flexible to changes in dates when mixing is permitted.

We have an offer to deliver the boat to the Solent and working from that I propose that we initially look to schedule four additional weeks of cruising ending up back in SYH. Four weeks is conservative but if there is additional demand we can easily add more weeks and maybe extend the range. The cruise will be capped at a maximum of eight weeks away from SYH.

This is a strawman itinerary which will be amended as we get your input but is intended to give a starting point to build on.

Join boat	Leave boat	Departing	Arriving	Some of the places to visit.
	Fri 9 th July	SYH	Solent	Delivery
Sat 10 th July	Fri 16 July	Solent	Brixham	Solent, Poole, Lulworth, Weymouth, Exmouth
Sat 17 th July	Fri 23 rd July	Brixham	Weymouth	Dartmouth, Salcombe, Exmouth
Sat 24 th July	Fri 30 th July	Weymouth	Brighton	Lulworth, Poole, Solent, Portsmouth
Sat 31 st July	Fri 6 th August	Brighton	SYH	Eastbourne, Dover, North Kent, Thames

What happens next? Please note the dates!

Step 1 – Let me know if you are interested in joining the summer cruise. (Replies by 2nd April)

- When are you available during July and August (bearing in mind we may extend beyond what is in the strawman itinerary?)
- What legs interest you most? Are there legs you would not want to do?
- Are you interested in joining a crew or do you have your own crew you would like to sail with?
- Are you a KSSC skipper? And are you happy to skipper?

Step 2 – I take the information from step 1 and lay it out in a timing plan. (Ready by 11th April)

Step 3 – We circle around a few iterations of different dates, locations, and late replies, to arrive at a plan that works for everyone. (Ready by 21st May). In reality this often goes on longer....

My aim is that everyone who wants to participate can. This is not always possible but it is my aim.

I would prefer you to contact me by email cliff.pountney1@gmail.com

But you can phone me on 01245 476688 or 07854 768926

Get involved. You'll enjoy it.

Explorer anchored off Swanage 2018 and on a mooring in St Marys harbour, Scillies 2019





Cliff



Media

Social Media Accounts –

I have updated the website with our latest prices, so we are ready for 2021 season, the website booking system for this year is also working and has been tested. Understandably all media accounts are quiet during the winter season, but we have had quite a lot of activity in our WhatsApp subgroups. Once the restrictions are lifted and the season begins then our media accounts are ready to start promoting our sailing year.



Peter



Covid Guidelines

The following are taken from the RYA Guidance. They should give members a steer on when and how to manage their bookings. However if more detail is required please access the RYA website and look for:

'RYA Guidance on Sailing and Racing with Participants from Different Households during Covid-19 in England

The club relies on the skippers making bookings to do so in accordance with these guidelines.

At the moment there is no foreign travel allowed (except for certain reasons) until 17th May.

Step 1: 29 March

Outdoor sports facilities including sailing clubs can reopen, subject to the Rule of six/two households. The Rule of six means that (apart from a set of limited exemptions including work and education) any social gatherings of more than six people are against the law. Formally organised outdoor sports – for adults and under 18s – will also restart and where compliant with guidance issued by the national governing bodies (the RYA) will not be subject to the gatherings limits. Indoor facilities, such as changing rooms, should not be used at this time, although toilet facilities can be accessed.

Will it be possible for people from different households to sail together in the same dinghy, keelboat or yacht and is there a limit on the numbers onboard?

Yes. Organised activities should comply with the RYA Guidance on Mixed Household Sailing and Racing. Organised activity is any activity organised/delivered by an RYA affiliated organisation, which may include racing or recreational activity. Activity that falls outside of this should conform with the wider social contact regulations, which include social distancing and the Rule of six/two households.

Step 2: no earlier than the 12 April

Overnight stays away from home in this country will be permitted and self-contained accommodation - those that do not require shared use of bathing, entry/exit, catering or sleeping facilities - can also reopen, though must only be used by members of the same household.

Hospitality will be able to open for outdoor service, with no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcoholic drinks, and no curfew. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated ('table service') will remain.

Step 3: no earlier than the 17 May (as per above and in addition)

Indoor hospitality will be permitted with no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcoholic drinks, and no curfew. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated ('table service') will remain.

Overnight stays away from home in this country will be permitted subject to the Rule of six/two households.

The Government will further ease limits on social contact, enabling people to make informed personal decisions.

Step 4: no earlier than the 21 June (as per above and in addition)

The Government hopes to be able to remove all legal limits on social contact.

James



Last Bits

Imray are doing a great Podcast interviewing the authors of the pilot books – really interesting!

We have added the **East Coast Pilot** web page to our website – just go to **Links** and you will find it there together with info from Harwich Harbour Authority.

And finally: it's been about 12 years since I took on the editing of the newsletter; if editors have sell by date then I think I must be well past it by now. So, if you would like to contribute to the club by editing 3 or 4 newsletters a year Then please let me know. Thanks. James

