



## Newsletter Autumn 2022

### Commodore's Comments

Normally at this time of year I would be reflecting on the concluding season. Not this year! The season is full swing. Explorer is still taking bookings and Ploes even has a booking in November.

This year's usage has been at record levels for both boats. Explorer's summer cruise was a huge success (again) and the "Ploes Experience" weeks have enabled more members to access our wonderful boat in the Med. Both are reported in detail below.

Membership is growing. Seven new memberships approved in September alone. This and boat usage has meant that our finances are in good shape. Not perhaps back to the pre-pandemic level but well on the way to recovery.

Activity within the club is vibrant, not just on the various social media channels but also social sails and for the first time in many years a summer get-together with twenty-two members gathering for an informal dinner, followed by a quiz at the Lightship at SYH on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

This provides a firm foundation for the future. The boat replacement subgroup has analysed the results of the survey, which had an excellent 77% return rate. The findings have been discussed at a special committee meeting and there will be a full debate on boat replacement options at the AGM on the 12<sup>th</sup> November before the Laying Up Supper.

So - much achieved this year thanks to the commitment and hard work of many members and much to look forward to.



James



## Explorer

Another excellent year for Explorer!! One hundred twenty two (122!) days booked since the last AGM, of which 5 were taster sails and 6 were skills days and skipper accreditations. We still have a month left until the next AGM so the tally may go up further.

Explorer got off to a cracking start this season with a trip to Ostende crewed by Paul Newman, Chris Jones, Gill Green and Steve Bird. On her return she was lifted out for a few days at SYH for antifouling, hull inspection and adjustment to the furling drum height.

All was going well until the inevitable last minute pre summer cruise panic. A chain plate U bolt failed 3 weeks before the start of the cruise and the engine suffered overheating problems. The latter was traced to a loose jubilee clip on a coolant hose which was an easy fix. The former meant Paul sourcing replacement plates from Jeremy Rogers Ltd and then a rapid refit by volunteers. The backstay chainplate will be replaced this winter when she is lifted out for antifouling.

Talking of volunteers, thanks go to Paul, Chris, Colin, Arthur R, Arthur N, Clare Giles, Gill, Norman, Peter, Mark T, Robin, Helen and myself who have all made special trips to the boat to carry out maintenance this year.

The summer cruise passed off with almost no issues and there was still a strong appetite for sailing when she returned in early August. In fact, there were only eight days in August and six days in September when the boat wasn't being used. There is still availability in October and nothing booked over the winter... so far!

Unfortunately, last month, the mainsail decided it was too old to carry on and ripped in a couple of places. We are incredibly thankful to longstanding members Bob and Jean Shackleton, who by chance donated their old mainsail to Explorer from their identical boat a couple of years ago. It attaches to the mast by way of sliders as opposed to the previous bolt rope method. Chris Jones was able to purchase a new mast gate for the sliders for about £50, and fit it. An excellent solution all round and has saved us buying a new main, at least for the time being.

From now until spring it's important that we keep the boat free from condensation below decks as far as possible. To that end could you please connect to shore power at the end of your trip and plug in the tube heater. Also leave a condensation water trap in the heads sink, leave the forward hatch open 10mm and wedge the forepeak cushions up on their sides to dry out underneath.

Also connect the battery chargers.



Don't forget to add a quarter teaspoon of Marine 16 to the diesel tank prior to filling up.

And finally, after 5 years in the job, I will be passing the mantle of Explorer maintenance co-ordinator to Paul Newman from the AGM. I will continue to administer the bookings.

Fair winds,



Ian Winters

## Ploes

Ploes is having an exceptionally good year, she has 16 weeks booked, one a delayed booking from 3 years ago and 1 as a houseboat, but that is a total of 14 fully paid for weeks. We will have had 41 members sailing on Ploes this year, that also is a record and it is excellent for the future, giving more members a taste of sailing on Ploes and very helpful for future bookings next year. We even have a booking in late October to early November this year.

Ploes has been relatively trouble free since the last report. Work has been done on the electrics and a new diode splitter fitted. The bow thruster battery is now back being charged by the diesel engine and all charging has been double checked. We also have had the gas cooker hoses replaced and the cooker serviced. The hoses would have been original from 20 years ago. The fridge lid has also been resealed and the fridge is working well.

Chris Jones has been on Ploes recently and he had issues with the anchor winch. He quickly identified this as a corroded cable feeding the winch stopping it from retrieving the anchor. He has done an excellent job in repairing this and we will need to assess the other heavy cables feeding the winch. These cables were repaired in Paros back in 2009. We will assess what further work is needed on these and other DC cables later in this autumn.

We will have had 7 Committee members sailing on Ploes the last 12 months and all members of the committee will have sailed on her in the last 10 years. It is excellent that so many of us are familiar with Ploes. This will help assess what improvements we can make to her after an excellent financial year. I am also confident that next year will be another excellent year and we can look to a bright future.

We have purchased and fitted an Epirb for Ploes. Although luckily not as important for safety in the Mediterranean, a reassuring device to have on board. I do not anticipate any more major expenditure for now. Everything due this financial year is



already paid for and we will finish the year in a strong financial position. There are some items like the cooker at 300 Euros but these may appear in next year's financial payments. It depends on the timing of Claire's next invoice.

Overall, a record year for Ploes for income and usage, plus excellent foundations laid by the Ploes experience weeks for future use of Ploes by our members.



Peter Girven

### **Ploes Experience Weeks**

We will be running Ploes Experience weeks again next year, with the first opportunity possibly being available in April, following on from Ploes' commissioning. If anyone is interested in an Experience week in April (before 22<sup>nd</sup>), with Peter or Paul skippering, please contact Peter Girven as soon as possible, but no later than 18 November so that flights can be booked. First come, first served!

There will be further opportunities during the year and if you have any weeks you might be interested in, or locations that you would like to go to near Fethiye then please contact us. This last year has been very successful and we wish to build on that, maybe even do a cruise with changeover points, please feed your ideas to us and we will consider them.

Bookings on Ploes open on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 but we are pencilling in requests now.

Peter





Ploes in Coldwater Bay

## Communications

### Website and Media reports.

Facebook and WhatsApp have been very active and busy. It is excellent to see many contributors posting photos from the summer cruise. It gives the club members at large a good view on activities and I am sure this will continue to build with many new members joining. Our Facebook Group has over 40 members and the WhatsApp group has 38 members. We also have numerous specialist WhatsApp groups.

I do upload photos from both Facebook and WhatsApp to the Google Photo Albums on the Club website. This gives us an annual record of activities across the years and it is an easy place to find all the club's photos. Facebook in particular can make it difficult to find a post that you have seen before and are looking for.



I have not been posting to Instagram and Twitter. We have laid the foundations but these do not seem to drive much interest so far to our club. Facebook and word of mouth have been the main drivers of new club members in the last 2 years.

Peter

**For newer members the links are as follows:**

**Website:** The quick address is [www.kssc.uk](http://www.kssc.uk) this will automatically redirect you to the main address of [www.kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/](http://www.kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/)

**Facebook: KessinglandSeasailingClub**, the address is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/402855803408838/>  
(For data privacy this is a private group that you need to request to join).

**Instagram: kssc14** But real actual site is. <https://www.instagram.com/kessinglandseasailingclub/>

**Twitter: kssc17** This is the quick and only account <https://twitter.com/KSSC17>

**WhatsApp:** Message me (Peter) on 07974960935 if you would like to be added to the WhatsApp Group. We have several What's App Groups to reduce the unnecessary traffic. I can send you a link to join any of these groups, or message me and I will add you.

*KSSC Sailing Club, Explorer Crewseekers, Ploes Sailors Group, Ploes Maint Group*

## Social Events

You should all have received notice of our **Laying Up Supper** on 12 November at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club. Please remember to send me your menu choices by 4 November at the latest, if you are able to come along.

The LUS will be at 8pm – a slightly later than normal start but this is because we will be holding the **AGM** at 6pm – there are a lot of key items to be discussed, and also the AGM will take place in the restaurant area so we need to leave a gap between meeting and dinner!

I also need to let you know about an issue with car parking. Because of flood defence work, parking within the RNSYC grounds is not currently available. However, there are designated places in the Marine Parade car parking area that we can use, at no cost. In order to take advantage of this we have to register vehicle details in advance to the RNSYC. Once I have all the bookings, I will email those of you who are coming to request your details.

Rose



## Explorers Summer Cruise

*The Summer Cruise 2022 was another cracker. Organised by Cliff with the right blend of patience, understanding and steely resolve. Over 7 weeks 7 skippers and 17 crew, sailed over 1000 miles to Scilly isles and back. Each week could fill a newsletter with their exploits, so this is a selection.*

*James and Rose*

This was our first summer cruise. It was a delight setting off to explore unknown waters. What was less delightful was the weather forecast and a huge cross-tide as we reversed out into a river in full flow running through the marina. Needless to say, our exit from Weymouth was quick and the F5/6 meant conditions were just the right side of brutal. The wind was behind us but we ran out of tide so the resulting wind over tide sea conditions were spectacular. So, Poole was a haven. Pip Hare's boat Medallia was there, being up close to a foiling ocean racer was sufficient reward for our passage. Next day's passage was to Yarmouth via a swim in Studland Bay and then through the Needles channel catching a couple of fine mackerel on the way, that was dinner sorted. The sail from Yarmouth to Portsmouth was first serene, then bonkers as we went sideways past Bramble Bank then hairy as we skated in F5 across the sandbanks to find the entrance channel to Portsmouth.

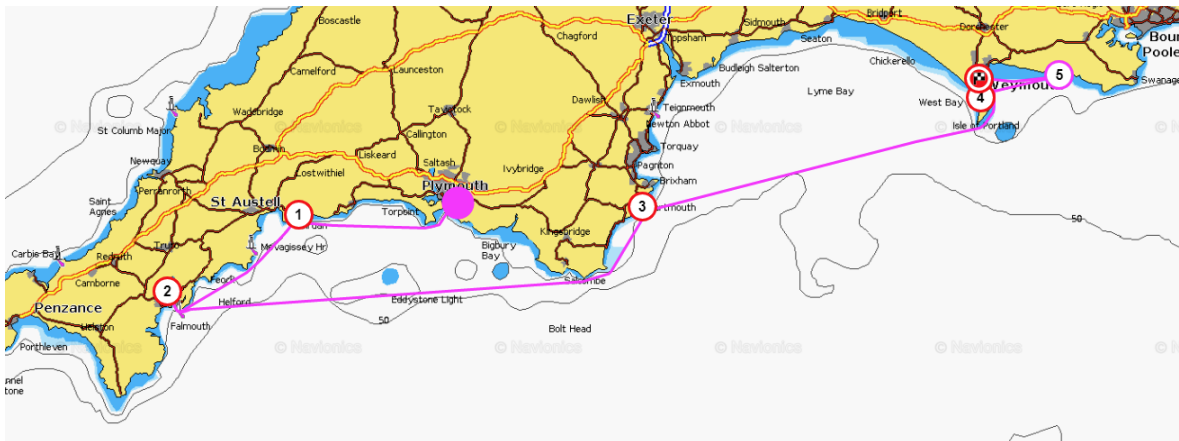
Rose left and friends Rick and Jack joined. We braved the entrance to Bembridge, very pretty. Next day a pleasant sail to the mouth of Chichester Harbour, more mackerel, and a sea bass. Our final day started at first light with a nail-biting crawl along a shallowing channel to exit into the main river. We made Shoreham in 6 hours, too much under engine but pleased to be in, although the washing machine effect of the locks gave us some last-minute excitement.





## Plymouth to Weymouth Leg, 16<sup>th</sup> July

(Cliff (Skipper) & Kay, Colin W, Robin)



We hoped to go to Guernsey and Sark but forecast of strong northerlies later in the week (which did not actually transpire) meant it might be hard work getting back. Instead, we had a lovely cruise of the lovely rias of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. We stopped at Plymouth, Fowey, Falmouth, Dartmouth, Portland Harbour, Lulworth Cove and Weymouth.

We saw dolphins on average once per day, when west of Portland, in pods of 4 to 6. Sometimes swam alongside for an hour or so, sometimes their paths just crossed with ours. Mostly swam quite shallow and jumped to breathe once or twice per minute. We did quite a lot of walking ashore. The highlight of the week for me was swimming ashore in Lulworth Cove, followed by a fast reach, close to the Jurassic Coast, back to Weymouth on the final day.





One challenge is conquering queasiness. I think the main solutions are: no tea or coffee (just keep water bottle handy); skip breakfast; minimise smells (bilges, maintenance solvents etc.); minimal alcohol night before; keep lunch snacks and sandwiches in handy location for consumption while underway; put on more clothing than you think necessary before leaving port.



Pudding on Fowey, featuring Cliff's folding table.



Departing Fowey





Enjoying fried mackerel under the sunshade.



A nice fair-weather berth in the cockpit, using Colin's multi-purpose duckboards.

### Lymington to Plymouth Leg





Me, Adrian (Skipper) and Paul N

We called at Lymington, Poole, Portland, Dartmouth, Yelm, Plymouth.

We had fresh south-westerlies all week, for our westward-bound leg of the summer cruise, so we had exciting sailing, and visited great places ashore. I did not take many photos, to avoid getting seawater on my phone!

Many thanks to Paul for a great week and all his hard work skippering.

Robin

### **Boat Replacement Members Survey**

In August the committee invited all members to participate in a survey.

We are pleased to report that the survey has been well received and the response rate was in excess of 70%. The results indicate a number of common themes with respect to club activities and our boats. Following analysis of the returns the sub-committee recently presented a strategy and a number of recommendations to the full committee. These have now been reviewed and critiqued by the full committee, who have provided unanimous support for a proposed strategy. The committee continue to work on a plan to implement the strategy, and this will be presented to the full membership at the AGM. If the strategy and plan are endorsed by the members, then exciting developments will follow possibly as early as next season. We'd therefore encourage as many members as possible to attend the forthcoming AGM so they can have a say on the club's future direction.

Paul

### **Update from the Treasurer**

The club has had an excellent financial year with both Explorer and Ploes having record levels of usage both in terms of number of days sailed and financial revenue for the club. So following the two COVID years where the club's bank balance fell by about twenty thousand pounds; this year's profit will replace about half this amount



to bring the club's finances back into much better health. In addition, the Treasurer has been working with the Boat Replacement sub-committee to make sure that any replacement boat will be adequately financed.



David Holland

### **From Our New Members**

In September 2021, emerging from the Covid re-evaluation of “the important things in life” that seemed to affect us all, I returned to live in the Ipswich area with a determination to start sailing again after a gap of nearly 10 years off the water. One sailing contact led to another and I found myself corresponding with a member of the KSSC. I considered how often I would want to trek up to Norfolk and was then delighted to find that the club boat is now berthed at Levington - so close to home. The news that the club also provides the opportunity to sail in Turkey was the icing on the cake, and my trial sail was booked immediately!

I sailed as crew again before the end of last season and found the club members to be friendly and enthusiastic to meet newbies. The lengthy conversations on the WhatsApp group regarding rigging, mechanical issues and equipment are fascinating and spurred me on to organize an RYA Diesel Maintenance course with others in the club, simply to be able to decipher the jargon. Happily, I now know my tappets from my valves and rockers!





*New members Gill Green, right, and Jo Wood.*

KSSC is giving me so many opportunities to get back in the cockpit and rediscover the joy of sailing- a cruise to Ostende, my first visit to The Scillies and two trips to Fethiye this season. I have also become a club skipper this year. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the members who work so hard to keep both Explorer and Ploes so well maintained and ready for us all to enjoy. In a short space of time life is revolving around sailing again – I am doing my best as an ambassador to recruit further members (an easy sell) and I will be there with my paintbrush come the lift out!

Gill Green

