



Newsletter Spring 2022

Commodore's Comments

After two difficult years with covid we seem at last to have a full season ahead of us. Both boats are in great shape and ready to be used. Financially we have survived and by the end of the year our cash balances should be up to the level they were at pre-covid.

Membership too has held up well at a time when many clubs find their numbers in decline. It's not just numbers of members, but also the very active group of members which is driving the club forward. Nonetheless recruitment remains a priority and word of mouth is by far the most effective. If you want any leaflets or posters to distribute, please let me know.

Many of the articles in this edition demonstrate how the club is thriving, and we owe thanks to all those who have worked so hard for the club. Social media has played a huge part in maintaining this energy and our WhatsApp groups are full of positive comments from members so if you have not joined these groups you can be added by contacting Peter.

I have always thought that my freedom to go sailing was a privilege, and our freedoms seem all the more precious in the light of the terrible events in Ukraine. Our thoughts are with them.



James



This issue is packed with reports on Explorer and Ploes, news from Paul Newman that the “Ploes Experience” sailing still has a few dates available, new opportunities at Adastral Park Sailing Club (APSC), and an airshow enjoyed by Mark Taylor and the crew of Explorer. A lot happening already this year. Thank you to David Holland, who has volunteered to be club treasurer and to Ian Walker, who has served in the post so ably. Don’t miss the Summer Cruise update from ‘Brains’ Pountney!



John Scardino

Explorer

It’s been very encouraging to see so many newer as well as longer established members getting involved in maintenance this year. So far a total of 11 members have variously taken part in 14 maintenance days. Only a few such days have been advertised as sometimes specialist skills have been required e.g Colin working on the electrical wiring. The boat is being lifted out on 3rd May and back in again on 13th May (see WhatsApp group for the latest). This will give us the opportunity to do antifouling, service seacocks and clean the hull above the waterline amongst other things. No special skills required – just general DIY. Rollie will be inspecting the cutlass bearing and replacing if necessary. He will also be fitting a replacement engine temperature sensor and exhaust water lock.

As for the number of bookings on Explorer so far in 2022, we started well with three days usage in January but then had to have the standing rigging replaced following her 10 year rigging survey. The mast was lifted off early February and the rigging and furling system replaced within 2 weeks. The old Furlex drum was deemed unserviceable and replaced with a second hand Facnor system. We were then hit with several storms in quick succession which delayed the mast stepping until early March. Unfortunately we have had some problems with furling the Facnor drum and are working with the rigger to resolve the issue.

March saw 5 days usage and 10 days in April which is a good tally. This includes a 4 day trip to Belgium by Paul, Chris, Gill and Steve.

The take up for Club social sails has been excellent and we will organise more before and after the summer cruise if there is demand. Let me know if interested. These will be a great way to meet and get to know other members. Perhaps we



should encourage eating and drinking in The Lightship or Ship Inn, afterwards and inviting other members living locally to join in?

Happy sailing.



Ian Winters

Ploes

We had a very successful commissioning trip to Ploes in Fethiye. Paul Newman and I travelled to Dalaman on the 28th March on one of the first direct flights available to Turkey. The plan was to give maximum availability for Ploes bookings. At the moment of writing we have 13 weeks booked. We have 11 full weeks as income, one of the 13th weeks was paid for 2 years ago and one week is reduced income for use as a house boat. To have all those weeks booked is excellent! There are more weeks available this year and we are hopeful for even more bookings.

During commissioning we had many tasks to complete. Some were carried over from the last 2 years due to Covid. The main chore this year was the anchor winch. The anchor chain was slipping due to a worn gypsy. We brought replacement parts on the plane with us, including an overhaul kit for the oil seals etc. When we disassembled the winch we found that the main motor shaft was badly damaged and we had to replace it at a cost of £200. The total cost in parts was over £550. Although a new winch (at £1349) might have been justified in the long run, it weighs 28Kg and would have been an interesting challenge to hand carry to Turkey. Buying one there would be double the price.

We have also replaced the black water tank level sender unit. The ultrasonic one we fitted about 4 years ago had sounded ideal being low maintenance, but it has always been erratic and unreliable. The new sender is a traditional float type and hopefully will give trouble free service, but we may have to clean it every year during our commissioning to aid its trouble free operation.

We have a long list of detailed changes, including the bow and stern navigation lights, servicing all life jackets and replacing flares, and fitting a portable VHF radio. We also installed a USB charger outlet to the chart table panel and one to the bow cabin, as well as one on the steering pedestal for charging navigation tablets. These USB outlets have voltage readouts so are useful for Claire to easily check the charge state of the batteries. We also now have a map reading light for night time navigation.

We also double checked the earlier installation of the bow thruster and saildrive. We had been told that the bow thruster was not being charged by the new mains charger. Actually, it turns out its charging fine on the mains, but not charging when on the engine. So the good news is that the bow thruster has been charging by



mains for the last 6 months and our galvanic corrosion issue has not re-occurred. (Claire still only connects Ploes to shore power every few weeks to charge the batteries, as a safety precaution, while we puzzle over why the galvanic corrosion happened in the first place.)

Paul Newman has disassembled the slipping Raymarine Autohelm unit and we both feel that it is worth spending £200 for a new drive belt and cogs. A complete new Autohelm is £1,600. We are delaying large expenditures due to the uncertainties in Ukraine. The depth gauge is also getting very difficult to read, but again it is £600. We can look at replacing these next year depending on the club finances.

We have installed a new longer stern ladder, making it easier to get back on Ploes after a swim. We also fitted a new impellor for the speed log. This unit must be removed when Ploes is not in use, otherwise barnacles growth destroys it over several months. This is one of our many chores when there are long gaps between bookings. We have also replaced the power cable on the pedestal Garmin Chart Plotter. The old one being intermittent and unreliable.

Either Paul or myself are on Ploes for over half of the booked weeks this year. Between us we will be keeping an eye on these details and considering additional improvements for next year.

Peter Girven



Ploes Experience Update

The Ploes Experience has proven to be highly successful. This has resulted in 32 days being booked either directly or indirectly as a result of the initiative and has allowed five members (including three first timers) and some partners the opportunity of sailing Ploes. At the time of writing there is still some opportunity for w/c 10th September with Chris Jones. Please contact Chris at chris.jones@sandycot.co.uk if you're interested.

Paul Newman



Communications

The Website, Facebook and WhatsApp are typically less active during the winter months. For brevity I have combined all media reports together as one. Facebook and WhatsApp each have their own individual audience and we need to post in both groups to reach most of the members. I post media on all 3 sites as I receive it and I certainly hope that there will be a flurry of activity in the summer months. The WhatsApp Groups are certainly very active and are being used regularly. That is excellent to see.

Chris Jones, Paul Newman and I have been discussing online changes. It is early days and these changes are mainly to do with Google Drive and access to storage of Yacht information, but we are expanding this to give online access to features like reporting of any faults with the yachts. We will soon notify everyone of the specific changes that will be coming.

Peter

A reminder of our WhatsApp, Instagram and other links:

KSSC Main Group:	https://chat.whatsapp.com/JJKKiuH6oUmK79koN0yDGS
Explorer Crewseekers:	https://chat.whatsapp.com/CnARSJl1Z2w5ESFKVPzorH
Explorer Technical Group:	https://chat.whatsapp.com/KSbFJdcLOCNIUoXuHJIVzG
Ploes Sailors Group:	https://chat.whatsapp.com/Kleg7ptXYw0Elr2uRzU8Ed
Instagram:	https://www.instagram.com/kessinglandseasailingclub/
Website:	www.kssc.uk
Explorer Photos:	https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/explorer-in-2021
Ploes Photos:	https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/ploes-in-2021
Newsletter archive:	https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/newsletters

Social Events

We held our FOS on 2 April. Numbers were quite low but we had a lovely evening with very good food and an interesting speaker in Chris Jeckells who took us through the history of his family sail-making company that started in 1832 – now 7th generation. A fascinating insight into sail making, (and Rose was very pleased to win the Jeckells sailing jacket prize!)

James





Explorer Summer Cruise is Go

Hello All,

We now have enough bookings to make this year's summer cruise viable. Thank you to all who have agreed to sail on her for this year's cruise. There are still some places available if you wish to join us. Explorer's itinerary is below with the spaces indicated. If you are interested in joining for a week, or possibly a few days if the logistics allow it then please email me.

Cliff Pountney cliff.pountney1@gmail.com

- Sat 18th June (SYH) to Sat 25th June (Lymington) – **A few days available**
- Sat 25th June (Lymington) to Sat 2nd July (Plymouth) – **One space**
- Sat 2nd July (Plymouth) to Sat 9th July (Falmouth) - **One space**
- Sat 9th July (Falmouth) to Sat 16th July (Plymouth) – **No spaces**
- Sat 16th July (Plymouth) to Sun 23rd July (Weymouth) – **No spaces**
- Sun 23rd July (Weymouth) to Sun 31st July (Solent / Brighton) – **No spaces**
- Sun 31st July (Solent / Brighton) to Sun 7th August (SYH) – **One space**

You can also follow her progress on the WhatsApp group.



Update from the Treasurer

Since 31 October last year, I have taken over the Club Treasurer responsibilities from Ian Walker. Much thanks must go to Ian for the marvellous job he has done as Treasurer for last decade or more and he has been helping me bed into my new responsibilities.

The main early challenge has been to get Barclays Bank to recognise my new position and allow me to operate the bank and Barclaycard accounts. I think after 4-5 months we may now be fully up and running; for example, we can now settle club expenses by BACS payments from the club current account. Additionally, following two COVID years the club's cash balances are lower than one would ideally hope for so there has been a close monitoring of the cash flow supervised by the committee.

As we come out of the winter, bookings for Ploes are very healthy and expectations for Explorer - where there is a shorter lead time to bookings - are expected to be strong. So we can look forward to a good year for the club's finances to restore the position after the challenges of the last two years.

David Holland

KSSC Links with Adastral Park Sailing Club (APSC)

We have an owner level membership of APSC (www.adastralsailing.org.uk). This allows us to participate in the APSC rallies on Explorer, and attend their social functions (e.g. winter walks and evening presentations). They have recently released their summer sailing programme, and Explorer can participate in the rallies/cruising events coloured blue in the attachment. If any events grab your interest why not use the Explorer Crewseekers WhatsApp group to get a skipper and crew together, get Explorer booked and drop me a requesting I inform APSC that Explorer will be participating.

Additionally, APSC own the Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 33i Yacht 'Carina', located on berth G216 just down the pontoon from Explorer. As owner members we wouldn't normally have access to Carina, but to build a relationship between the two clubs I've negotiated an opportunity for our members to crew Carina for a day on Saturday 28th May. Carina will be skippered by one of their approved skippers, Nigel Johnston, and there are up to 4 places available on a first come first served basis.

By reciprocal arrangement Chris Jones will skipper and host up to 4 APSC crew members on Explorer. The cost for both boats is £172, and will be split by the total number of crew (not skippers) across both boats. If this is a success we can look to repeat at a later date, to give further members an opportunity. To book a place please email both Chris (chris.jones@sandycot.co.uk) and myself (paul.j.newman@btinternet.com) as soon as possible.

Paul



2022 APSC Yacht Sailing Programme															
4 April		5 May		6 June		7 July		8 August		9 September		10 October			
Day	Evening	Day	Evening	Day	Evening	Day	Evening	Day	Evening	Day	Evening	Day	Evening		
								1	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise					
								2	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise					
				1				3	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise					
				2				4	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	1	London Rally	London Rally		
1				3			1	Bank	Bank	2	London Rally	London Rally			
2				4			2	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	3	London Rally	London Rally	1		
3			1	Colwell Rally	Colwell Rally	5		3	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	4	London Rally	London Rally	2	
4			2			6		4	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	5	London Rally	London Rally	3	
5			3			7		5	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	6	London Rally	London Rally	4	
6			4			8		6	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	7			5	
7			5			9		7	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	8			6	
8			6			10		8	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	9	East Sand Landing Rally	East Sand Landing Rally	7	
9			7			11		9	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	10			8	
10			8			12		10	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	11			9	
11			9			13		11	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	12			10	
12			10			14		12	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	13			11	
13			11			15		13	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	14			12	
14			12			16		14	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	15			13	
15			13			17		15	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	16	Orford/Walsburgh Rally	Orford/Walsburgh Rally	14	
16			14			18		16	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	17	Orford/Walsburgh Rally	Orford/Walsburgh Rally	15	
17			15			19		17	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	18			16	
18			16			20		18	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	19			17	
19			17			21		19	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	20			18	
20			18			22		20	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	21			19	
21			19			23		21	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	22			20	
22			20			24		22	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	23			21	
23	Thorppe Rally	Thorppe Rally	21	Blackwater / Burchin Inshore Rally	Blackwater / Burchin Inshore Rally	25	Southwold Rally	Southwold Rally	23	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	24	Quinton Air Show	Quinton Air Show	22
24	Thorppe Rally	Thorppe Rally	22	Blackwater / Burchin Inshore Rally	Blackwater / Burchin Inshore Rally	26	Southwold Rally	Southwold Rally	24	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	25	Quinton Air Show	Quinton Air Show	23
25			23			27		25	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	26			24	
26			24			28		26	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	27			25	
27			25			29		27	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	28			26	
28			26			30		28	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	29			27	
29			27					29	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise	30			28	
30	Colwell Rally	Colwell Rally	28					30	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise				29	
			29					31	Summer Cruise	Summer Cruise				30	
			30											31	
			31												

RNSYC Affiliation Update

During Covid, when the RNSYC club house was closed, we suspended our affiliation. When things returned to something like normal we reviewed our current arrangement and in discussion with the RNSYC we renegotiated our affiliation at a reduced rate. The terms are as follows:

1. Use of a meeting room and equipment up to twice a year
2. Visits to the Club by our members - 5 times per calendar year maximum.
3. Cradle storage (but only in relation to that existing)
4. Ability to book the Dining Room or equivalent in April and November for our KSSC Fitting Out and Laying Up suppers



We have not established a mechanism for recording visits made but if you could let me or Rose know that you have visited then we will keep track. I think this is a firm foundation for our continued links with the RNSYC. Throughout the negotiation they have been very positive and I am glad we have been able to renew our affiliation on mutually satisfactory terms.

James

Supper AND a show!

Friday 25th March, just before dusk. Mark Taylor, Norman Savigar and Danny Cummings put *Explorer* onto a mooring at Bathside Bay. Then, while dining on chilli con carnie under a cloudless sky, were entertained by the amazing 'Fireflies' aerobatic display team as former Wing Commander Norman, who was chief navigator for an RAF display team flying Phantom jets, provided us with a commentary of the various manoeuvres happening directly overhead. This was part of the Harwich Illuminate festival which also saw the Trinity Ship lighthouse *LV18's* Lantern lit.



Once the Fireflies had departed it was time to get underway as we were joining up with Shotley Point YC (SPYC) for their shakedown night sail (motor...no wind) up to Ipswich Haven Marina. We were heading for low water as we carefully ticked off the various buoys under a moonless stary sky. With Normans credentials, we would have taken some serious ribbing if we had gone aground! On arrival at Ipswich the friendly SPYC guys were well prepared, waving a torch to guide us to our berth and standing by to take lines. Then a welcoming beer on the SPYC commodore's boat and off to bed.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, and we were joined for the ritual bacon sarnie by potential new member Steve C. A gentle hop out to Medussa and then back to SYH, leaving the boat in time to join up again with SPYC for their fitting out supper at 'the bistro on the quay', Ipswich basin.

All in all, a most agreeable start to the sailing season.



[Shotley Point YC](#) is a friendly cruising club of boat owners as well as a non-boat owning members. Their sailing calendar is packed with cruises and events, and they also hold winter training days; passage planning, lifejacket servicing, splicing etc. Family membership is just £52.



Mark Taylor

