

## KSSC

### The East Coast and Mediterranean SC

#### Friend's Update Dec. 2018

Season's greetings!

It's been a while since we chatted to you at our stall at one of the boat shows, so this is an update of what our year has been like and give you a flavour what our club is all about.

Our year started with some dramatic remedial work on Explorer's rudder. Contessa 32 build is strong but 40 years of wear on the rudder had taken its toll. The club decided that the looseness in the rudder had to be investigated and this resulted in the decision to take it all apart and get a professional rebuild.

With the rudder off, we took the opportunity to remove the prop and examine the shaft and cutlass bearing. Both were found to be worn. With professional help we were able to remove the old stern tube (containing the cutlass bearing), stern gland and prop shaft. Replacements were machined and fabricated in Norfolk. The engine had to be removed to gain access to the prop shaft etc which gave us the opportunity to replace the fuel lines, improve the fuel anti syphon system and realign the control cables so they wouldn't be impeded by the engine mounts. In the end and some £7,000K later the rudder and stern gear was as good (if not better) than new.

One of the advantages of our club is that this kind of repair, which would knock a serious hole in the pocket of most people can be absorbed by a club funds. It also means that we get the job done well and no corners cut.

We also upgraded Explorer's safety gear with a new EPIRB and an AIS receiver.

Later in the year our club cruise to the Channel Islands had to contend with very light winds so it was a lot of spinnaker work! The account of the journey is set out below.

Next year Explorer's day rate will increase to £70 per week day and £75 per day at the weekend. If there are a number of people on board that makes for very economical sailing!



Our other boat the Bavaria 40 – Ploes, had another successful year in Fethiye. Each year we review moving her, but again there were pleas to keep her in Turkey one more year. The Turkish exchange rate is good whereas the Euro-zone offers poor value at the moment. A small area of osmosis was discovered and this is being treated during the winter lay-up. A new dinghy was purchased for the start of the season. Next year a week on Ploes will cost £1300.



Our social year has gone well. Our fitting out supper was well attended and our guest speaker was Claudia Myatt who is a local artist and as well as illustrating books also has her artwork appear in sailing magazines.



Our members got to have a free day trip on the yacht Leila. Leila is a rare example of a gentleman's sailing yacht from the late Victorian era, built in 1892 by F Wilkinson of Charlton for a barrister who sailed with the Royal Temple Yacht Club at Ramsgate and won the 1904 Round Britain Race. She is one of the five oldest sailing yachts still sailing in the UK, and is included on the National Register of Historic Vessels.



Our laying up supper was addressed by Sara Hopkinson who many know as a local sailing instructor and author.



Sara lives at Pin Mill and is keen on both sailing and travelling. She has clocked up literally thousands of miles up and down the Wulfe, over to Ostende and across the Atlantic. Since obtaining her Yachtmaster Instructor Certificate in 1983 Sara has gone on to become an Examiner and been appointed as the RYA National First Aid Advisor. First Aid is one of Sara's particular interests and she has taught First Aid At Work and AED courses for one of the Voluntary Aid Societies since 1988.

Sara Hopkinson is the co-author of the first edition of the RYA Book of Navigation Exercises and writes the exercises used in the RYA Day Skipper courses. Sara also wrote Wiley's VHF Afloat and VHF Companion, Navigation a Newcomers Guide and the third edition of the Skipper's Pocketbook. She is an experienced sailor, a Yachtmaster Instructor and Examiner, a Shorebased Instructor, and retired Station Officer of HM Coastguard, Holbrook.

### **Explorer**

Explorer did a summer cruise this year to the South coast, this cruise is detailed on the following pages:

## Explorer Summer Cruise

Sat 23/6 - A few hours of gentle maintenance then a sail in fluky winds around to Brightlingsea. We decided we were not up to the excitement of the nightlife so spent the night on board.



Sun 24/6 – 0700 start to work the tides. Sailed and motor sailed a winding route through the Swinn Spitway, Fisherman’s Gatt, and on south past North Foreland to Dover. Pleasant but uneventful sail. This quote from the log sums it up, “1245 – Robin woke up (for about 30 seconds)”. Photo is South Foreland.



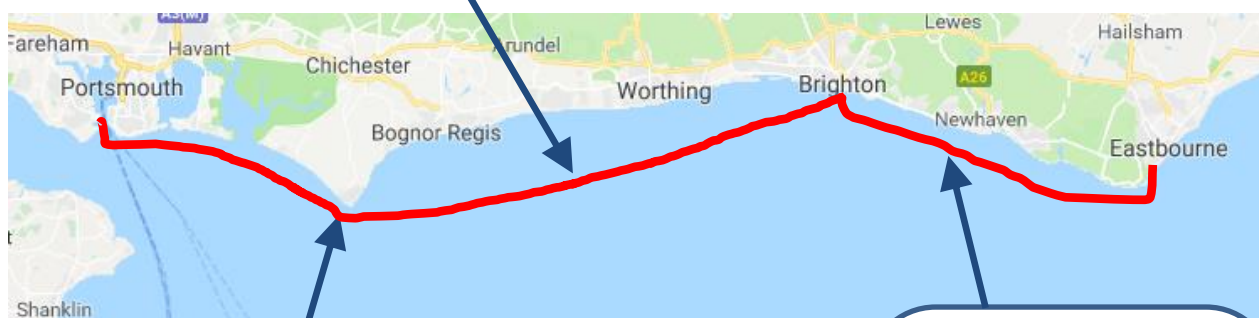
Mon 25/6 – 0500 start to get the best west going streams. More motor sailing in light winds past low lying Dungeness with its nuclear power station. The outfall from the station was pushing up a strange mushroom shaped bit of water. Some excitement a few miles later when the firing range patrol boat chased us (and about five other yachts) off the range.

Eastbourne has an ‘interesting’ lock. Arriving at low water lock fills at an alarming rate. Then to further increase the excitement the lock gates start to open with about 4 feet of water on the uphill side. The resulting maelstrom had foam all across Explorer’s deck. Photo is Dungeness.



Wed 27/6 – Set off at 0930 to make sure we got to Selsey Bill for the last of the west going stream. After passing Selsey Bill we dropped back into East Coast mode sailing over the flats outside Chichester harbour in just a few meters of water to keep out of the foul tide. We successfully avoided hitting the submarine barrier east of Portsmouth then motored on into the harbour to stop at Haslar Marina in Gosport.

In Haslar we berthed up next to Marchetta, skippered by Brian, from the Classic Sailing Club who are based in Pin Mill.



Tue 26/6 – Late morning start. No wind for the first couple of hours but after another relaxing meal afloat an easterly filled in and blew us goose winged around to Brighton. Brighton marina entrance was ridiculously choppy much like trying to sail up a weir! That evening we had a walk into Brighton along the prom', up and down the pier, and visited the famous palace before ending up in a two for one cocktail bar.



Thu 27/6 – We had a day off sailing. In the morning we took a tour of the harbour patrol boat we were berthed next to. Lunch was had on the deck of the lightship watching our new (yes we all paid for it!) aircraft carrier being pushed around by tug boats. In the afternoon Robin and Sarah headed off across to Portsmouth to check out the shopping in Gunwharf Quays. I stayed aboard to plan the next leg (well I had a beer and a kip!). New crew of Kay, Linda, and Colin joined that evening.

Fri 29/6 – Left mid morning and took a gentle sail over to Trinity Landing at West Cowes. After a slow lunch we headed back out into a light easterly. Spinnaker up we sailed slowly down to Yarmouth.

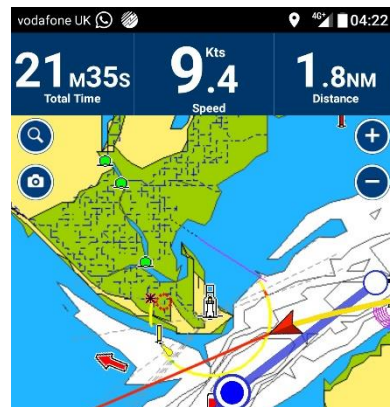


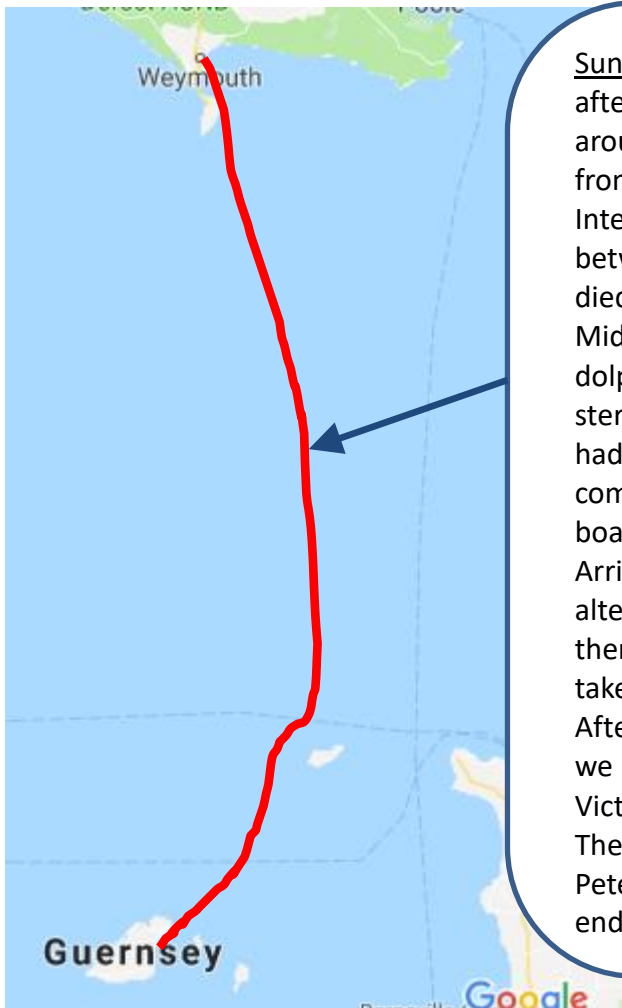
Sat 30/6 – 0400 start to ensure we caught the last of the west bound tide past Hurst Point. Good breeze all morning and were making 6+knts through the water, almost 10knts over the ground in the tide just off Hurst Castle.

Hugged the shore past Christchurch and by about 0800 were at Poole. Tied up in Poole harbour, to the north of Brownsea island for two or three hours to have breakfast and a kip whilst we waited for the tide.

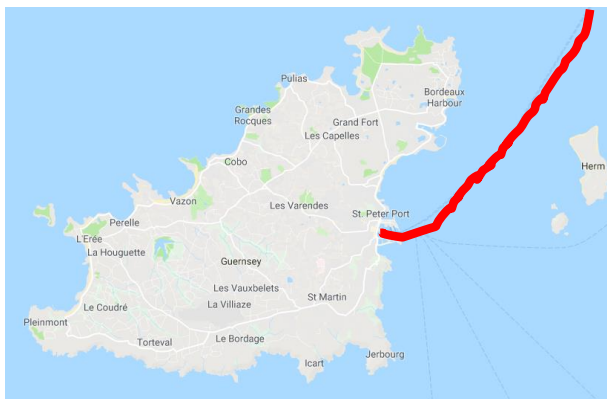
Around 1100 we dropped the mooring, and headed back out. The wind had dropped a lot and we motor sailed past Swanage, St Alban's head, and across to Weymouth. At Weymouth we rafted up in the middle of town which was a pleasant change from a marina.

Photo – Colin and Linda sailing in Poole Harbour.





Sun 1/7 – We left Weymouth in the early afternoon having spent a pleasant day looking around. Sailed along the coast past Portland and from Portland Bill we struck off south. Intermittent northerly wind had us switching between motor and spinnaker. Later the wind died and we motored through the night. Mid Channel we were joined by half a dozen dolphins who seemed to be attracted by our stern light. Playing a torch beam on the water had them coming along side and jumping completely out of the water just ten feet off the boat. Arrive a little up tide of the Casquettes we altered course a little to pass safely to the west then shaped up for the Little Russell channel to take us into Guernsey. After a short wait on a pontoon in the harbour we had sufficient water over the sill to move the Victoria Marina in time for breakfast. The rest of Monday was spent exploring St Peter's Port and taking a hike down to the south end of the island.



Me possibly doing something serious with the kite but more likely just arsing around. 😊



Tue 3/7 – “Tour De Guernsey”

We made loop of the island on hired bikes. Taking in bays, military sites, cafes, and pubs. The “Museum of Occupation” is well worth a visit. Photo – Colin, Kay, Cliff, (Robin taking shot) touring Guernsey.





Wed 4/7 – Left as soon as we had enough water to get over the sill. We motored north up the Little Russell and were joined by dolphins although not as close as on the way over. Soon we were reaching with the spinnaker up which we held onto all the way to Braye Harbour, Alderney.



We stayed on Alderney until Thursday afternoon. The island has lovely beaches and interesting military sites all of which are open to the public. On Thursday the land was bathed in sunshine but just a few hundred meters out it was thick fog. Photos – Beach to west of harbour. Fort Tourgis.





Fri 6/7 – The fog lifted late Thursday afternoon and we were able to set off that evening. The passage north was an uneventful mixture of motoring and sailing.

Arriving in Swanage late morning we initially picked up a buoy but quickly moved and anchored when we were told the cost.

Robin didn't fancy another trip in the flubber so swam ashore whilst the rest of us opted for drier transport.

We wandered around Swanage had lunch and generally hung out.

Just for fun I insisted Kay sailed us off the anchor. We then had probably the best sail of the trip in reaching north past Old Harry's rocks and then close hauled into Poole harbour. We sailed all the way up to the top of the harbour and in our delight at getting some good sailing in almost got squashed by the fast cat ferry!

Poole Town Marina found a berth for us under the bow of the most enormous motor cruiser.

Sunrise somewhere in the channel!



Explorer at anchor in Swanage Bay



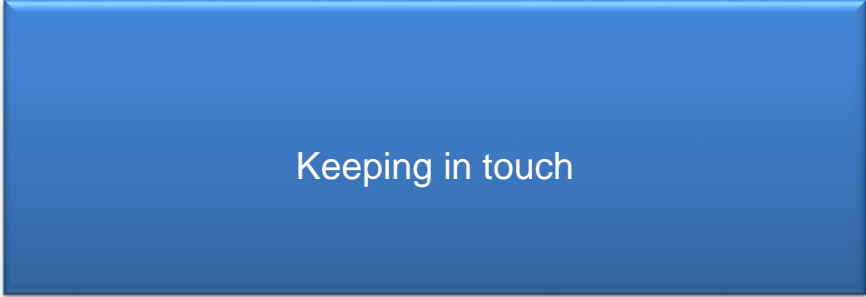
To sign off I would like to say thanks to all those in the club who make the boat 'work', to John, Richard and Kay for picking her up in Poole and taking her back to Harwich and, most importantly, for the great crew who sailed on this fortnight.

Cliff Pountney



- 1) Sarah, Robin, and Cliff in a Brighton cocktail bar.
- 2) Kay concentrating on getting the highest apparent wind to dry the tea towel.
- 3) Robin's feet claiming the Channel Islands.
- 4) Colin, Linda, Cliff and Kay sailing in the west Solent.





## Keeping in touch

We would love to hear from you so email us at:

[admin@kessingland-seasailingclub.uk](mailto:admin@kessingland-seasailingclub.uk)

visit our website at :

[www.kessingland-seasailingclub.uk](http://www.kessingland-seasailingclub.uk)

If you would like further information or discuss club membership call me on  
07766338423

Have a very Happy Christmas and a good year afloat in 2019!

James Parnell  
Commodore  
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The East Coast and Mediterranean Sailing Club