



Autumn 2023

Commodore's Comments

As I reflect on this year, I am struck by how busy it has been. Capella has quickly taken her place in the club, the skipper inductions done, a summer cruise completed and a full booking schedule. In fact, she has been in almost constant use. Ploes has enjoyed a full season as well. The experience weeks have worked well and there will be more opportunities for members to join club events on both boats. Membership is up and there are new applications coming in.

All of this is great but it also brings challenges. High usage of the boats takes its toll on equipment and fittings. Capella is a more complicated boat than Explorer and that means increased use of professional help. The rise in membership, if it continues at the present rate could lead to difficulties with booking. None of these are insurmountable problems and the committee is discussing how we mitigate these challenges.

Income is high so we are accumulating a sufficient surplus. We may be able to repay members' loans earlier than expected. Explorer is now ashore and up for sale. Unfortunately, there has not been much interest from potential buyers to date, but autumn is a good time for selling boats (apparently) and the committee will review options in October.

There are many ways of contributing to the club by taking on a specific role and we will be sending out more information soon, so please help if you can.

This is my last newsletter as Commodore. After seven years it's time for a change. Thankfully, the new Commodore will take over a prospering club with a great future, thanks to the efforts of our membership. It's been a privilege to be a part of it.



James



Capella

Capella has been a great purchase, and since completing the sale in April has been in almost constant daily use. We are heading towards another record year! The bookings reporting period runs in parallel with the financial year i.e. 1/11 - 31/10. Explorer was used for 17 days between 1/11/22 and 19/4/23 and Capella bookings so far are 137 days bringing the total number of bookings over both boats to 154 days!!

Bookings are stretching into October and Capella's heating system will allow the autumn sailors to be comfortably warm on overnight stays.

We've had many day sails as skippers have taken opportunities to familiarise themselves with Capella, but we've also seen an increase in overnight and longer bookings as members take advantage of the improved accommodation offered. The summer cruise has been a success with Capella visiting St Katherine's Dock, France and Gosport amongst others in her 4 weeks away.

She's received rave reviews in respect of her sailing ability and accommodation. The new issues reporting system has enabled all to easily report any faults, and where possible these are being quickly rectified. Bigger jobs have required us to book a few days for maintenance, and a couple of issues may require professional attention, but are NOT safety related so there is no reason to take her out of commission.

As the season starts to draw to a close the committee's thoughts on Capella are focusing on the future charging policy, next year's summer cruise, winter maintenance and lift out. So expect more news on these in the run up to the AGM.



Paul



Ian



Ploes

Ploes is having an excellent year with more than 20 weeks booked. That's an all time record! She's been to the East coast on four trips. The 64 miles to Kekova is also a favourite and is old style Turkey. She's still available in October and the first weeks of November for a chance to get your Med sailing in this year.

Claire has been exceptional as always in looking after the boat. When Ploes was being refuelled by the crew just before my visit, the normal pump attendant was not on duty. All were surprised to discover the new fuel pumps deliver diesel at an enhanced rate. The diesel tank split and fuel spilled into the bilge.

Levent and the engineering team were away, so Claire quickly requisitioned the boat wash apprentice, and they cleaned the diesel out of the bilge and arranged for the damaged tank to be removed. By the time I had arrived that evening, Claire was mopping the last bit of the bilges and had arranged for us to stay in a hotel.

The repaired diesel tank returned early the next morning. I syphoned diesel out of the spare cans into the repaired tank to test it for leaks. All good, so we carefully took Ploes to the fuel pontoon and slowly refilled the tank. The following day we set off to Olives at Tomb Bay and happily found the bilges were dry. After that, we headed west towards Ciflik and our planned trip to Greece.

After Ciflik we went on to Datca where we checked out of Turkey to go across to Greece. Our engine cooling impeller however decided it wanted to stay in Turkey, so we were towed back into Datca for a replacement. The following day we set off on the 10 mile journey to Simi and checked into Greece, headed up to Nisiros and finally to Kos, pleased to put all of our troubles behind us.

I changed crews in Kos and we toured the Dodecanese Islands as far as Lipsi. That was for 2 weeks without issue and then returned via Simi and Datca to Fethiye, checking back into Turkish waters. In Fethiye, the Holland brothers took over Ploes and several days later they also had an impeller failure. Capella has also had an impeller failure this summer, which is unusual, but both yachts have been fine since new impellers were fitted. Levent believes impellers deteriorate in storage and says always fit a brand new genuine Volvo item.

A superior construction diesel tank was installed early in July, using 90 metres of 3mm welding rod plus a lot of Argon gas to make the aluminium tank. It also has a much larger 38mm vent pipe, equal in size to the intake pipe to help stop potential filling issues in the future. I sailed again this August in Fethiye for an excellent week on Ploes.

We have a minor list of issues to be debated and addressed over the winter: the elderly Garmin Chart Potter and the Autohelm. We may change both this winter if agreed. People also favour having wind speed instruments, and possibly an electric outboard, all costs to consider.

The linen service advocated by Claire is now being supplied on Ploes and it is proving popular. It allows you to travel from the UK without paying for hold luggage, which can be an extra large cost on the cheaper flights. Still, there's the problem with



the basic 10Kg luggage which doesn't leave much room for anything other than a toothbrush and a swimming costume.



Peter

Membership and Social

Membership

Our membership continues to grow. As of September, we have 79 memberships, 69 of which are a mixture of single and family sailing. This is very encouraging.

AGM & Laying Up Supper

Our AGM and LUS will take place on 11 November at the RNSYC, Lowestoft. Further details and menu options will be sent out to everyone shortly. Our speaker will be Judith Keogh of the Wherry Yacht Charter Organisation, Norfolk. This should be very interesting, particularly for those of our members who have signed up for the June 2024 trip organised by Ian Winters. We are planning for Capella to be in the RNSYC marina over the weekend and hoping to hold a small reception on Capella for our local members late afternoon/early evening on Friday – more information to follow!



Rose

Social Events for 2024

When the busy sailing season draws to a close, and only the hardy souls can be found out on the water, there will be a few options to consider for meeting up with other club members on dry land. Planned events include:

- a weekend boat trip to Ross Revenge, located on The River Blackwater. This is former pirate radio station from which Radio Caroline is still broadcast each month. The trips are very popular but 2024 dates are not yet available. Booking opens later in October and up to 10 places will be available. We can then meet up again afterwards at a nearby pub for lunch for those who wish.
- Talks at The Royal Harwich Yacht Club. We have been offered up to 4 tickets (as guests of the RHYC) to two of their winter talks. They are on Thursdays 25/01 and 21/03 and start at 11.00, followed by lunch so will suit those who are available midweek.



-A walk on The Shotley Peninsular, a visit to The Ganges Museum (which is full of memorabilia from the Royal Navy Training Establishment) followed by a meal at The Bristol Arms, Shotley for those who wish to join. Date to be established (to suit museum volunteers) but hopefully on a winter Sunday.

Anyone interested in any of the above events please email me on geegee2000@yahoo.com. Further details will be circulated nearer to the dates. If any members have ideas of their own that they wish to add to the social events programme then please let me know and I can help them co-ordinate.



Gill

KSSC MERCHANDISE soon to be available. Details and hopefully samples at the AGM and Laying Up Supper.

Media Report

The KSSC Media Accounts have been working well this summer with lots of input from club members. The WhatsApp Group is very successful with numerous Groups like Crewseekers being used to connect people together who would like to sail. I have also now been posting information about Ploes in a separate WhatsApp Ploes Group to reduce the traffic on the main KSSC group.

It is a difficult balance supplying enough information without overloading people. Several years ago we reduced to mostly only one post each day and we also reduced the number of pictures. This helps people with minimal data contracts on their phones. It is a difficult balance to please everyone.

I also post some WhatsApp photos through onto our Facebook Group, where a reduced number of Club members are active. I also add them to our website photo albums. That way people can admire the photos when on their home computers rather than looking on a small phone screen.

The website albums also give a historical view of where Capella and Ploes have been. That is useful if people wish to research, but I am not sure how many people use this? I do find the website albums very useful whenever I am asked questions about places. I can quickly post a link to the website photo, which is worth a thousand words.

Peter



Capella Open Day 14th May 2023

During April many skippers had the opportunity to have a familiarisation sail on Capella but the committee were keen to show our new boat to as many members as possible after she became available for general booking. So on 14th May an Open Day was arranged to give as many people as possible the opportunity to have a short trip on board to view Capella's interior and to see how well she sailed. We were, of course, subject to the vagaries of the British weather when planning a date but the day was fine and we managed to hoist sails in gentle winds for each trip.

There were 4 trips planned of 2 hours duration and it was great to see one of our longest standing members- Harry King Gardner - able to participate alongside some of our newest members to the club who had joined recently for 2023 season.

Each "mini sail" took advantage of the tidal flow and members were impressed by the comfort and quality of sailing offered on board Capella. Refreshments were served alongside some "bubbles" and a good time was had by all. In total we had 20 sailors participate during the day and most also met up at "The Ship" later for a meal to talk about the experience and options for future new sailing crew mix options.

The open day and the opportunity for club members to meet each other at a social event proved extremely popular and may well become a regular feature on the calendar in future seasons.

Thanks to Paul Newman and Chris Jones for skippering throughout the day.

Gill





Capella Open Day
14th May 2023



KSSC RYA Affiliation and RYA Courses at Pin Mill

We are now an RYA affiliated club. This will give us access to advice and we will be taking our place in the regional forum, which will be good for raising the profile of the club.

In other RYA news, Sara Hopkinson is again running a series of RYA courses at Pin Mill in the coming weeks, including DS and CS/YM courses starting the week of September 25th. They will run throughout the winter. Highly recommended way to learn:

- A DS course over 3 weekends starting in November. Dates are on Sara's website www.pinmillcruising.co.uk
- A radio course Sunday 12th November
- A first aid course on Sunday 1st October (possibly) Or she may do a special course for our members at a reduced price later in the year or in the spring, to be determined.



James

Ladies Sailing Day



A first for Capella! A great day for "Ladies Sailing" on 3rd August when we had a short sail into the Stour and swung on a mooring buoy for lunch. The first of many days for us, we hope! All females welcome to join our relaxed and stress free sessions.

Gill

