

CIVIL SERVICE SAILING

Civil Service Sailing Association



**Inter-Departmental
Offshore Regatta: Page 3**

**New yacht for Five
Kingdoms: Page 10**

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Seasons Greetings to all readers, I hope you all had a good conclusion to 2015! Here's also hoping the recent storms have left both homes and clubhouses intact. Up here in the North of England, we've taken something of a battering, and it currently feels as if the rain will never stop. So it's positively cheering to be reading about club plans for the forthcoming season, and the preparations already under way to ensure the CSSA yachts are ready to set sail shortly.

Magazine contributions, meanwhile, are very welcome, but do remember to send photos as separate high-resolution files: civilservicesailing@yahoo.co.uk.

Deborah Ward, Editor

■ Front page shows Jumbles Sailing Club members taking part in the annual Christmas Cracker Race

CSSA Membership Report at end of November 2015

There were 184 new CSSA memberships issued in 2015 to 31st December; giving a total of CSSC-paying CSSA members of 2,426 plus four Honorary members, with 16 members leaving, lapsing or dying. However this is still a healthy rate of increase continuing from the CSSC rule changes.

The big peak in the spring/summer in each year is probably partly due to new members joining for IDOR participation. At the end of November 2015, I believe that there were about 2,684 CSSA sailors paying CSSC subs (2,668 in 2014) whether or not they have joined CSSA.

Limited overall checks with CSSC have been possible, so some may have stopped their CSSC subscriptions without informing CSSA secretaries. The magazine distribution list increased from 2,310 to 2,432. Some members share one magazine between two or three members or do not want a printed postal magazine.

I have received membership updates for 2015 from most of the CSSA dinghy clubs.

Ken Pavitt, CSSA Membership Secretary

(30 November 2015)

Crewing Opportunities

If you have enjoyed Taster sails on CSSA yachts or have qualified as Competent Crew or Day Skipper, or just want to try some offshore cruising, then check the CSSA website (cs-sailing.org) Notice Board Sailing Opportunities.

I am looking for crew from 15th-25th June to take Freyja from Cherbourg to Brest along the Brittany coast. Contact johnfigures@hotmail.com for more details.

John Figures

New CSSA members by month for 2013, 2014 and 2015

	2013		2014		2015	
	Totals	Linked	Totals	Linked	Totals	Linked
January	12	2	23	4	11	2
February	9	5	17	3	11	0
March	19	7	25	3	0	0
April	18	1	27	4	28	3
May	70	9	28	1	0	0
June	12	3	36	3	30	2
July	9	5	15	1	30	1
August	21	3	7	0	30	3
September	13	2	11	3	20	8
October	4	0	12	1	13	6
November	19	10	48	0	11	1
December	6	2	10	1		
Year	222	49	259	24	184	26

... DIARY DATES ... DIARY DATES ... DIARY DATES ... DIARY DATES ...

- Sunsail Chiller, 20th-21st February
- CSSA AGM, Monday 25th April
- ECYD Cobweb Rally, Rivers Orwell and Stour, 29th April-2nd May
- Inter-Departmental Offshore Regatta 2016, Isle of Wight, 12th-17th June 2016

Civil Service Sailing Association Annual General Meeting 2016

Members are invited to attend the 58th Annual General Meeting of the CSSA, to be held on Monday, 25th April, starting at 18.00, in:

*The Civil Service Club
13-15 Great Scotland Yard
London
SW1A 2HJ*

A full Agenda will be included in the March edition of CS-Sailing.
For further details on the Civil Service Club, go to:
<http://www.civilserviceclub.org.uk/Home.aspx>

2016 CSSA membership

CS Sailing magazine is currently sent to 2,440 CSSA members on the assumption that recipients are still members of the CSSC Sports and Leisure. Please check your subscription status and renew if necessary to ensure that you remain a member of CSSA.

The magazine is sent out by mail, but is also available electronically. It seems that most people prefer to receive the hard copy but if anyone would like to opt for the electronic version only, please get in touch with the editor Deborah Ward at:
civilservicesailing@yahoo.co.uk.

Skippers' Day cancelled

Our planned CSSA Skippers' Day has been cancelled for this winter. Our volunteer trainers are stretched and priority must be given to preparations for delivery of practical training through our Sea School.

If you have any comments or would like to volunteer to help deliver a Skippers' Day, please get in touch via CSSAFirstAid@gmail.com

The Civil Service Inter-Departmental Offshore Regatta

IDOR 2016

12th - 17th June 2016
The Island Sailing Club, Cowes

The Inter-departmental Offshore Regatta (IDOR) is held every year between boats and crews representing Civil Service departments and agencies..

Find out how you or your department can take part, email idor@cs-sailing.org or visit www.idor.org.uk



Twice round the world for Freyja

Freyja is ashore at Shotley ready for her annual winter maintenance. This season, Freyja returned to the Baltic visiting The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, clocking up 3,779 nautical miles in the process. In her 10 years of sailing with ECYD, the total mileage is 50,495 nautical miles which is equivalent to sailing round the world twice, at a very leisurely pace.

The season was rounded off with the AGM and Laying-up Supper. The Ian Lummas award is presented to a sailor who has shown the same motivation and love of the sport in the club as Ian, and this year went to Steve Macgarry who became an authorised CSSA skipper in 2014 and has potential to go further.

Peter Burry stood down after nearly 30 years involvement with ECYD. He became the Principal of the CSSA Sailing School in the 1990s taking over from David Matthews. He was presented with a memento, a collage photograph of the five boats owned by ECYD. We will miss him.

In the 2016 season Freyja will be returning to Brittany. There is a Skippered Cruise, in previous years termed Seatime, starting at Cherbourg on Wednesday 15th June and finishing 10 days later at Brest on Saturday 25th June.

If you would like the opportunity to sail at this time, contact John Miller at cruising@ecyd.org.uk who will let you know of any berths available. A further Skippered Cruise starts at Le Havre on Sunday 18th September and finishes at Shotley on Wednesday 28th September.

This is skippered by our Cruising Instructor so there is the opportunity on this leg to cover the syllabus for RYA courses Start Yachting, Competent Crew, and Day Skipper. It would also be of interest to anyone who may be looking to gain experience for the Coastal Skipper course or Coastal Yachtmaster. To express your interest in a berth contact John Miller at cruising@ecyd.org.uk. The cost of a berth on a Skippered Cruise is £47.00 per day.

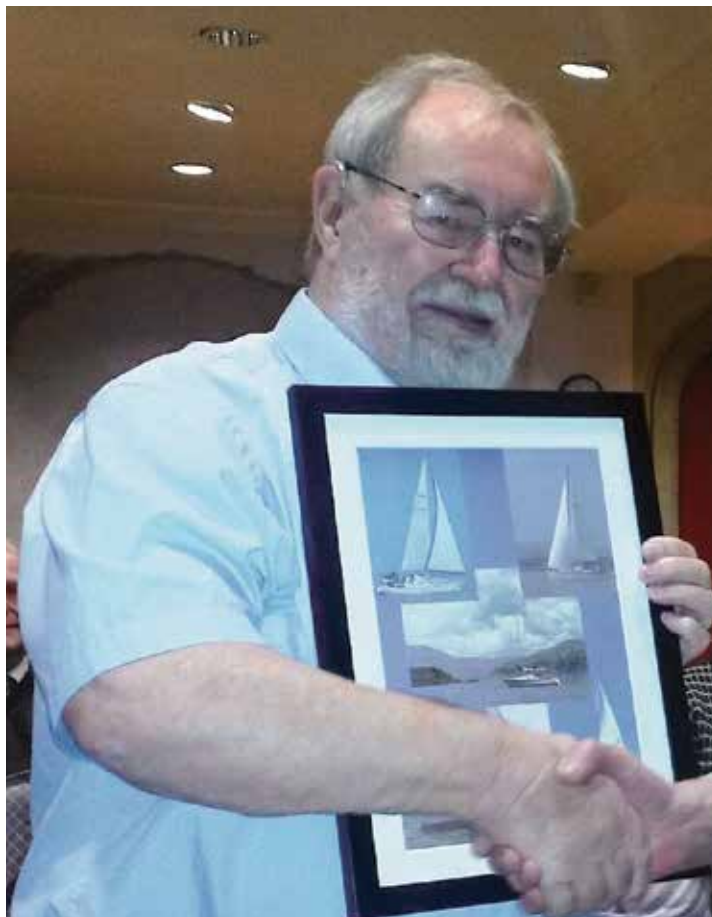
The Cobweb rally will as usual be run over the first Bank Holiday weekend in May, starting on Friday, 18.00, 29th April and finishing on Monday, 2nd May. The cost of the berth is £147.00. Food, fuel and mooring fees are shared among the crew. A chance to meet other East Coast sailors and practise your seamanship skills.

The Replacement Boat Committee has recommended four boats for ECYD to test sail when considering a replacement for Freyja. It has been difficult to find a boat that fulfils our criteria in the same way as Freyja. The uncertainty in the market and the economic situation has caused us to hesitate in our decision to replace Freyja.

Club Captain Jean Rehill



■ Above, the Ian Lummas award presented to Steve McGarry by Jeff Herschel. Below, Peter Burry receives a memento of his service..



Charter prices 2016 (food & mooring fees not included)	April-May	June-August	September	October	November
Weekly **	£1,400	£1,645	£1,400	£1,176	TBA
Daily **	£200	£235	£200	£168	TBA
Weekend daily **	£250	N/A	£250	£212	TBA
RYA courses Boat Handling & Passage planning practice per day *	£70	£70	£70	£70	TBA
Skippered Cruise **	£47	£55	£47	£36	TBA
Skippered Cruise Weekend & BH **	£60	£70	£60	£	TBA

* Includes food on board, gas, mooring fees and fuel

** Includes gas and fuel



■ Above, night sailing on a Day Skipper course.

ECYD Sailing Programme 2016

Type	From	To
Shakedown with Yachthusband	Tuesday 5 th April	Thursday 7 th April
RYA Inspection days Yachthusband	Friday 8 th April	Sunday 10 th April
Private Charter	18.00 Sunday 10 th April	18.00 Thursday 14 th April
Skipper Familiarisation days	Friday 15 th April	Sunday 17 th April
Available for charter/training	Sunday 18.00 17 th April	Friday 29 th April
Cobweb Rally	18.00 Friday 29 th April	18.00 Monday 2 nd May
Available for charter/training	18.00 Monday 2 nd May	18.00 Friday 6 th May
RYA Start Yachting	18.00 Friday 6 th May	18.00 Sunday 8 th May
RYA Competent Crew/Day Skipper	18.00 Sunday 8 th May	18.00 Friday 13 th May
Taster sails one or two days duration	18.00 Friday 13 th May-	18.00 Sunday 15 th May
Boat Handling Practice	18.00 Sunday 15 th May	18.00 Tuesday 17 th May
Available for charter/training	18.00 Tuesday 17 th May	18.00 Friday 20 th May
RYA Start Yachting	18.00 Friday 20 th May	18.00 Sunday 22 nd May
RYA Competent Crew/Day Skipper	18.00 Sunday 22 nd May	18.00 Friday 27 th May
Maintenance	Saturday 28 th May	
Passage Planning Practice	18.00 Saturday 28 th May	18.00 Saturday 4 th June
Private Charter	Sunday 5 th June	12.00 Wednesday 15 th June
Skipped Cruise	12.00 Wednesday 15 th June	12.00 Saturday 25 th June
Private Charters	12.00 Saturday 25 th June	12.00 Sunday 18 th September
Skipped Cruise/RYA Training.	12.00 Sunday 18 th September	12.00 Wednesday 28 th September

Contact John Miller the Crew Secretary at crusing@ecyd.org.uk to book your berth on a RYA training course. To charter Freyja contact David Bedborough at yacht_sec@ecyd.org.uk for details of availability.

New boat heralded a successful year and brought new skippers

Looking back over 2015, it was gratifying for our Captain Andy Smith to welcome 30 members to the CSD AGM on the 28th November held in the Water's Edge at Mercury Yacht Harbour on the Hamble River. Attendees ranged from CSSA representatives through a large number of stalwarts to some new faces who, with their productive participation at the meeting, appear keen to take advantage of all CSD has to offer.

Andy was able to report a successful year with our new Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409, which was selected and ordered in December 2014, delivered in February 2015, then commissioned and coded in time to start revenue earning at the end of March.

The Commodore's wife, Fiona, gave the 'Sea Essay of Hamble' name to the boat on 7th April. (Our old Dufour 405 is now called 'Spring Zing'). Given the complexity of the process, this was a tremendous outcome thanks to the efforts of all those involved within CSD, CSSA and CSSC.

In the season running from the end of March through to the beginning of December we achieved 85% utilization with the boat, during which it travelled 4,854 nautical miles carrying 156 members. We also saw a significant increase in the number of Approved Skippers taking charge. We hope this will continue in the future and not turn out to be a 'new boat blip'.

The majority of miles were covered on the Summer Cruise which kicked off on the 30th May with a seven-day Sea Time to St Malo, continuing thereafter along the north and west coasts of Brittany as far as La Rochelle returning to Mercury via Plymouth on the 5th September, a total of 14 weeks altogether.

Around the Summer Cruise, we operated a full programme of CSSC Taster Sails, Day Sails, Sea Times and CSD Sail Trim, Boat Handling, Radar and Plotter courses. The only disappointment being the need to cancel all our programmed RYA Training courses due to insufficient candidates and instructors, compounded by uncertainty in the status of the CSSA RYA Training Centre.

A tightening of RYA rules for sea schools and instructors that impose additional burdens on clubs has led to a review by the new

training school principal Mark Round and CSSA on how best to secure an effective and reliable RYA training school for future years. The outcome of the review as presented by Mark has given us confidence to offer our usual RYA Competent Crew, Day Skipper and Yachtmaster courses in 2016.

The full 2016 Programme which can be viewed on page 8 (but for the latest go to our www.channelsailing.org website), is being constructed around another 14-week Summer Cruise running from June to the end of August. You will see it includes the full range of opportunities to get onto the water on a 40ft cruising yacht so please contact the relevant sailing organiser (see committee list) if anything appeals.

For those initial CSSC Taster Days, you will need to contact Jenny Yarrow (jennifer.yarrow@cssc.co.uk). We would particularly like you add your name to the CSD Crew Bureau along with your experience and sailing preferences so that you can be informed of any specific new or short-notice opportunities that may meet your criteria.

In addition to those activities shown on the programme, we can also offer a one-day course on the Multi-Function Display Plotter fitted to Sea Essay of Hamble, if this is of interest to you see the notice at the end of this article.

The AGM saw the stepping down of long-serving committee members Eric Smith, Martin Bellamy and David Hartland all of whom have performed various roles, including Captain, over many years. Grateful thanks were extended to them for their support and expertise. Fortunately the committee was able to introduce two new and very welcome faces; Susie Welch who will be the new Crew Bureau Secretary/Sea Time Organiser and Simon Richardson who be taking over as Charter Organiser.

For the latest CSD news and information follow us on Twitter @seaessay409.

Adrian Barnes, CSD Yacht Secretary

Sea Essay Raymarine E125 Multi-Function Display Course

CSD is trawling CSSA members for interest in a one-day E125 Multi-Function Display (MFD) course to be conducted in Raymarine's Demonstration Room, Segensworth, Fareham. This course will start at 09.30 and finish about 17.00 on a weekday with a minimum of six students per course to cover the costs.

This is a further opportunity to attend this course, which has been specially designed for CSSA members who sail on Sea Essay and covers all navigational aspects of the

use of this equipment. It is suitable for sailors who have a good understanding of coastal navigation.

The cost has yet to be finalised once the response from members to this trawl has been received but as a guide previous courses have been £25.00 each.

Replies please to Colin Smith, CSD Honorary Secretary by email csddaysails@btinternet.com



■ This photo was taken at the mouth of the Hamble looking across Southampton Water towards the Fawley Power Station Chimney, which is now decommissioned but still serves as a good navigation mark.

Your key CSD contacts for 2016

Post	Name	Additional Responsibilities	Contact Email
Captain	Andy Smith		csdcaptain@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary	Colin Smith	Day Sail Organiser	csddaysails@btinternet.com
Yacht Secretary	Adrian Barnes	Health & Safety	boscombe@lineone.net
Treasurer	Lindsay Cole		lindsay.cole@btinternet.com
Yacht Husband	Jeff Llewellyn		j.llewellyn57@ntlworld.com
Crew Bureau Secretary	Susie Welch	Sea Time Organiser	seatimebureau@channelsailing.org
Member	Colin Hurd	Training Organiser	training@channelsailing.org
Member	Simon Richardson	Charter Organiser	charters@channelsailing.org
Member	James Savage	Web Master & Publicity	webmaster@channelsailing.org
Ex-Officio	Ken Pavitt	CSSA Membership Secretary	kenwpavitt@aol.com
Co-Opted	David Haward	Yacht Husband Team	davidhaward@btinternet.com
Co-Opted	Dave Price	Skipper Rep.	df.price@btinternet.com

See next page for CSD 2016 Sailing Programme →

SEA ESSAY SAILING PROGRAMME 2016 - 15/12/2015

		Maintenance & Preparation																																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Jan																																			
Feb							FAM	FAM																											
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Aug																																			
Sep																																			
Oct																																			
Nov																																			
Dec																																			
Jan17																																			

Charters : Charters/SC Simon Richardson e-mail charters@channellsailing.org Training Colin Hurd e-mail colinh@channellsailing.org

Day Sails : DS Group Day Sails Crew Bureau & Susie Welch e-mail sealtimebureau@channellsailing.org Group / Day Sails Colin Smith e-mail csddaysails@btinternet.com

Sea Time : M Maintenance Skipper Familiarisation Jeff Llewellyn e-mail jllewellyn57@ntlworld.com

Summer Cruise : FAM Skipper Familiarisation Competent Crew Jenny Yarrow e-mail jennifer.yarrow@cssc.co.uk

Boat Handling : BH Boat Handling CC Competent Crew

Day Skipper : DS Day Skipper YM Yachtmaster

Bank Holidays 2016
 25 March Friday Good Friday
 28 March Monday Easter Monday
 02 May Monday Early May bank holiday
 30 May Monday Spring bank holiday
 29 August Monday Summer bank holiday

Note 1: all dates that are blank (i.e. not colour coded) are available for member charter subject to the usual requirements, including for an Approved Skipper
Note 2: if there is sufficient demand it may be possible to organise sessions for qualifying activities that are not currently covered

Great results from 2015 as we plan for another year of racing thrills

If you wish to join us for our AGM you'll be very welcome. It will follow soon after the CSSA AGM at the Civil Service Club in London on 25th April, about 8pm (see page 3).

CSORC had a slightly quieter year last year than usual but made up for it with an excellent Fastnet entry and two crews in the June IDOR.

We entered the first of the year's Sunsail two-day Regattas in March with a steady improvement in performance over the seven races. We were able to give three crew members the opportunity to helm during the weekend.

The generally windy IDOR produced some good results in both crews. The whole IDOR fleet completed the Round-the-Island race in under eight hours, a very good performance and a measure of the wind strength.

The last regatta was the Junior Offshore Group (JOG) race to Poole and back in September. This was a great weekend with plenty of wind and sun. We got 10th place out of 16 on the way out and 5th place on the return.

The Fastnet campaign produced a good result for CSORC under skipper Simon Zavad in Blue Juice, a First 40.7, with a crew from a range of Civil Service departments. Their best qualifying result was the 3rd out of 23 in the Channel qualifying race and then they

had 49th out of the 72 in IRC class 2 in the Fastnet race itself. They finished at 21:30 on Thursday having started at Cowes at lunch time on the preceding Sunday.

Our 2016 programme

Sunsail Chiller: 20th-21st February, Skipper Bill Taylor

Sunsail #4: 2nd-3rd April, skipper Nick Bowles

IDOR: 12th-17th June, Nick Bowles and hopefully a second crew, skipper TBD

St Peter Port JOG: 26th-28th August, Skipper Trevor Drew

Poole JOG: 10th-11th September, Skipper TBD

In addition, we are thinking of entering the Services regatta on the 29th June-5th July and perhaps the Roscoff JOG 65th anniversary race starting on Saturday 28th May.

In any case, the programme for 2016 is now on the website www.csorc.org.uk under "programme" and we will be keeping it under review, so please get in touch. We eagerly await your bookings for crew places. There is also a full account of the Fastnet race from one of the CSORC crew under "Fastnet".

Hope to hear from you soon.

Bill Taylor, CSORC Secretary



■ The crew of Blue Juice at the start of the 2015 Fastnet Race

Welcome to Ynot and all who will be sailing on our good ship

The "new" 5KSC boat is Ynot, a three-cabin Beneteau Oceanis 37 with accommodation for a complement of up to eight crew. She is currently moored at POG where she will stay until the end of March while being prepared for 5KSC operation and MCA Coding. She will be lifted in late winter for a small amount of routine maintenance below the waterline and available for sailing from mid-April onwards.

5KSC's provisional programme for 2016

It is 5KSC's intention to do a delivery trip from the Solent back to Liverpool at the end of April or in early May. If necessary, this will take the form of a single continuous journey. Please get in touch (skipper or crew) if you are interested in making one of several shorter contiguous legs, e.g. Solent to Plymouth; Plymouth to Milford Haven or Wicklow in Ireland (possibly including the Scilly Isles); Milford Haven or Wicklow to Dublin; and Dublin to Liverpool.

Weather permitting, Ynot should reach Liverpool by mid-May where she will be available for taster days until the end of May when she will start her journey north to the Clyde. Depending on interest this may include some cruising in the Irish Sea with Anglesey, Dublin and the Isle of Man all within reach.

On the Clyde, Ynot will be based conveniently for travel by air, train or car for charter handovers as agreed by skippers. Largs and Kip are always popular. In addition to charter by CSSA-Approved Skippers, Ynot will be available for training and charter by "Inshore Skippers", a pioneering option by 5KSC to enable CSSA members with Day Skipper qualifications to gain experience skippering a yacht.

In mid-July Ynot will sail to Mallaig where she will be based for handovers between those wishing to cruise around Skye, the Small Isles and the Western Isles. Mallaig is at the end of the line from Glasgow and Glasgow airport and is one of the most beautiful railway journeys in the world. For steam enthusiasts, some of the journey can be made aboard The Jacobite steam service.

In mid-August Ynot will start the long journey back to Liverpool, again offering the opportunity for calling in Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. At the end of August, Ynot should be back in Liverpool for taster days and long weekends in North Wales, throughout September.

If you would like to charter Ynot, are interested in crewing on her or would like a place on a taster day please contact David Hedley at the 5KSC crew bureau, email david.hedley@hsl.gsi.gov.uk.

Are you an aspirant CSSA skipper?

Would you like to gain your pre-requisite solo skippering experience aboard a CSSA yacht? The RYA Sail Cruising and Yachtmaster Scheme recommends that you gain two days experience as a skipper before you sign up for the RYA Coastal Skipper practical training course. The RYA Yachtmaster Coastal exam includes two days as skipper as part of the required minimum experience. To be eligible you must hold RYA shore-based course certificates for

GMDSS radio, First Aid, and Day Skipper or Yachtmaster theory and hold a Day or a Coastal skipper RYA practical course completion certificate. You must be familiar with both Ynot and the Clyde – you will likely gain the required experience if you complete cruising or training aboard Ynot on the Clyde. Apply to the 5KSC Committee for approval to participate in the scheme.

Your skippering experience will be limited to within 20 miles from a nominated departure point in favourable weather (Force 4 or less) and daylight – to fall within the terms of the The small commercial vessel and pilot boat code of practice and MGN280. A 20-mile limit gives you a vast range of opportunity to visit many marinas, anchorages and hotel moorings in the deep and sheltered waters amongst the beautiful islands and lochs of the Firth of Clyde.

Yacht preparation and skipper familiarisations

Ynot is at POG for pre-season preparation through until mid-March. There are no major projects but there is plenty of opportunity to join the work parties for a thorough valeting. This is an ideal opportunity for you to complete your Skipper or Mate yacht familiarisation ahead of the season. Contact Colin at colinandgill@uwclub.net for dates.

Clyde Muster 2016

The Clyde Muster 2016, a muster of 5 Kingdoms Sailing Club and the Scottish Civil Service Cruising Club will likely take place over one of the weekends in early July. This will be a cruise in company and a Muster at a favourite restaurant. It would be good to see you join us aboard Ynot, Foxfire, Scorcher V or other charter yachts. For further details or to enter a yacht, e-mail Captain@5KSC.org.uk.

RYA First Aid shore based course

CSSA First Aid offers RYA First Aid training for members. E-mail CSSAFirstAid@gmail.com if you would like further details.

Your 5KSC committee for 2016

Captain: Paul Brereton Captain@5KSC.org.uk

Officers

Rob Rawlinson Secretary@5KSC.org.uk
 Martin Hugo Treasurer@5KSC.org.uk
 David Hedley Crew_Bureau@5KSC.org.uk

Members:

Martin Strohmaier, Andy Deyes, Elaine Lloyd, Keith Pember-ton, Steve Wing, Eric Deyes, Colin Atkinson, Dave Messham and David Smeatham.

Come and join us!



Five Kingdoms Sailing Club

www.5KSC.org.uk

Cruising, tuition and racing

- All public sector welcome - bring your family and friends
- Island cruising - Scottish isles, Isle of Man, Anglesey
- Taster sails - Liverpool, the Clyde and elsewhere
- Tuition available, from beginner to RYA Yachtmaster
- Competitive rates



Contact: crew_bureau@5KSC.org.uk
or: www.5KSC.org.uk/main/Club_Contacts



RYA
Affiliated





Sailing Santas enjoy a cracking time on the water as the spirit of Christmas breezes in

■ Right, Jumbles Commodore Brian Hoy was among the festive competitors (opposite page) in the annual Christmas Cracker Race, won by the matching Santas, below, in a Topper Buzz



Self-starting engine ... a surreal experience

Returning from a short cruise to Yarmouth, we berthed Lady Cindy in Ocean Village on our last night. Just as we were about to turn in, with no warning, the engine burst into life. I dashed into the cockpit thinking someone was aboard but found no-one and no key in the ignition. I pulled the stop but to my amazement this merely slowed the engine slightly and it continued to run. I tried this several times with no effect and in an attempt to give the stop more oomph, revved up, provoking an unhealthy sound from the engine which ran on merrily.

I had heard of engines that could not be stopped and knew they will run without electrics once started, so I turned off the fuel at the tank. The engine continued to run and at this point I noticed smoke emitting into the saloon.

I realised that the primary filter bowl was still full of fuel so in desperation I removed the whole filter assembly. The engine ran on and I noticed the starter was issuing smoke. My crew suggested I turn off the engine battery. As I did this, the engine finally stopped, I wasn't sure whether from lack of volts or lack of fuel. The whole incident took around 10 minutes but by now the starter motor was too hot to touch and still smoking dramatically. Everything else seemed in order and after things had cooled down, we turned in.

The following morning I rang Sea Start. An engineer asked which starter motor was involved as I suspected mine was beyond redemption as a minimum problem. Lady Cindy has a Yanmar 2GM20 engine and amazingly the engineer advised he had a spare starter. He was alongside 45 minutes later and soon reported that a relay I'd fitted a year earlier was extremely corroded. I had fitted this on the advice of the

engine supplier to improve starting which I must say it did but it was exposed in the engine bay and I believe water from the sink above had been dripping over the edge of the worktop and finding its way on to the relay which was unprotected.

Clearly this had shorted, causing the starter to turn continuously thus restarting every time the stop was pulled. My revving up had probably done for the starter. I don't know if a starter would run continuously in sync with an engine on tick-over, probably not, and would presumably have eventually got just as hot. The engineer made short work of fitting the new starter and the filter assembly and after a quick bleed the old girl started on second attempt and ran perfectly normally.

A Yanmar (Hitachi) starter motor, would you believe, is £440.00 retail. By a stroke of luck the engineer advised this was a purchase for a client and had only been used for demonstration purposes, so he let me have it at half price. I thanked him profusely and gave him a big tip. We were under way in 10 minutes.

I will leave you to think what might have ensued had there been no-one aboard or worse, if I was asleep alone in the forepeak and this had happened.

Lessons learned: Turn off the electrics when the engine is not in use, preferably fuel too, and check regularly for corrosion. If your engine is difficult to start, try fitting a relay. They make it easy!

Ian Ayres, POG member

British sailors warm up for Rio with clutch of golds

Britain's top sailors rounded off the 2015 competition season in style with a seven-medal haul at the Rio 2016 Games venue in December.

The British Sailing Team brought home four golds, two silvers and one bronze medal from the Copa Brasil de Vela, gaining further valuable insight into the Olympic courses and conditions with only months to go before the Games start.

Victories went to Finn World Champion Giles Scott, RS:X windsurfer Bryony Shaw, 470 duo Hannah Mills/Saskia Clark, and John Pink/Stuart Bithell who claimed their first regatta win in the 49er class.

Nick Dempsey saw a return to podium form with silver in the RS:X men's event, while Luke Patience and stand-in crew Chris Grube overcame a tough start to their regatta to see out the week with silver. Bronze went to Ben Saxton/Nicola Groves in the Nacra 17 multihull event.

Giles Scott, unbeaten since October 2013, extended his winning

run further with Finn class victory in Rio. The 28-year-old beat Slovenia's world bronze medallist Vasilij Zbogar by just a single point to claim event honours.

Fellow Podium squad Finn sailor Ben Cornish concluded his regatta in sixth, Bryony Shaw retained her 2014 Copa Brasil crown in the women's windsurfing event, beating Hong Kong's Chan Hai Man by four points, while Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark added gold in Rio to their victory at the ISAF Sailing World Cup Final in Abu Dhabi last month.

Mills and Clark's teammates and training partners Amy Seabright/Anna Carpenter were also in medal race action, finishing sixth in the final race and tenth overall.

John Pink and Stuart Bithell held off Australia's Olympic Champions Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen to claim their first event victory since teaming up in the 49er class.

The duo, European silver medallists, finished fourth in Sunday's medal race to secure a winning 12-point winning margin.

Double dose of honours in recognition of club volunteers' all-round commitment

Two Littleton Sailing Club members have been recently presented with awards in recognition of their volunteering achievements at the Club.

Vanda Jowett has been presented with a prestigious RYA Lifetime Commitment Award. Vanda has been an active member of Littleton Sailing Club for 40 years, during which time she has taken on a number of roles at the club.

She has taught adults and children to windsurf, helped with the building of the current clubhouse, produced promotional marketing materials and looked after club clothing sales. She was also the Solo Class Fleet Captain for around five years and Bar Secretary for around 10 years.

Recently she has played an important role in developing and monitoring the club website, and organising open day and sailing taster events.

Vanda said of her selection: "I am honoured that Littleton Sailing Club has chosen to nominate me for this award. Discovering the sport of sailing as a teenager at Littleton has been a big influence in my life and I have enjoyed being able to contribute in any way I can to keep my home club thriving, so it can continue to offer opportunities for more people to take up sailing."

"Discovering the sport of sailing as a teenager at Littleton has been a big influence in my life"

The RYA Award Ceremony and Luncheon took place in London in November, with awards being presented by HRH Princess Anne.

Malcolm Underwood has won Spelthorne Sports Council's 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award. The list of his volunteering contributions is impressive, ranging from instructing adults and children to sail; to taking on many key maintenance jobs at the club, such as lowering the slipways to improve launching facilities, helping to build new storage facilities for junior equipment, and taking on the job of Junior Equipment Bosun. He has also been actively involved in improving the club's safety boat fleet.

His nomination reads: "Malcolm's support of the club touches very aspect. He helps with everything. He rarely needs to be asked as he volunteers as soon as he thinks he can be useful, or just gets on quietly with what is needed, and although he prefers the hands-on, practical work to more managerial tasks, he nevertheless takes an active interest in the running of the club.

"There can be no doubt that Malcolm's willingness and enthusiasm at Littleton Sailing Club has make a difference to every club member."



■ Above, The Princess Royal presents Vanda Jowett with her award. Below, Malcolm Underwood at the Spelthorne Sports Awards



Push the Boat Out returns for 2016

The RYA's Push to Boat Out programme returns in 2016, offering everyone the chance to experience sailing, windsurfing and more through 'have-a-go' taster sessions at clubs and centres across the UK. It will run over nine days, from 14th-22nd May. Push the Boat Out connects people with their local sailing organisation, showing

people just how easy it is to get involved. In 2015, more than 24,000 newcomers attended events at almost 350 locations. Clubs were able to attract more than 2,000 individual members and almost 1,500 families. More than 3,000 people signed up for follow-on activities. www.rya.org.uk/go/ptbo

Special guests at Dinghy Show

Land Rover BAR, together with TeamOrigin Events, organisers of the Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series Portsmouth 2016 event, will again be exhibiting at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show. Having proved a huge success at the 2015 event, the Portsmouth-based America's Cup sailing and event teams will be in attendance as their preparations for the America's Cup step up a notch, ahead of the 2017 35th America's Cup event.

Land Rover BAR is aiming to bring the Cup home as the British Challenger for the 35th America's Cup. In July 2015, the team

claimed victory at the Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series Portsmouth event, before going on to race in Gothenburg and Bermuda, finishing third overall in the 2015 series. The stand will offer exclusive insight into their Cup campaign, while crew members and organisers of the 2016 world series event in Portsmouth will talk about preparations and opportunities for spectators during 2016. Advance tickets to the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show, which takes place at Alexandra Palace from 5th-6th March, are available at a reduced rate of £10 to RYA members.

New edition of COLREGS with interactive images

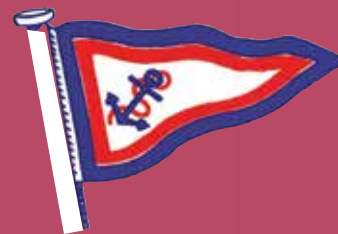
The brand new edition of RYA International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Seas - 2nd Edition (COLREGS) is now available in print and digital formats. The regulations are essential for people taking any course in the RYA Yachtmaster scheme and are vital for maritime safety.

Sailors must be able to identify vessels during the day by their shapes and at night by their lights, as well as understanding their own obligations and those of other vessels. The eBook version has enabled the inclusion of a new interactive 360° tool to allow readers to gain a more realistic view of how vessels will actually appear in a wide variety of contexts, both by day and night.

Changes in the pipeline for exercises and assessments

Meanwhile, changes are afoot in the RYA navigation exercises and assessment papers. Last year saw a complete re-write of the RYA Day Skipper exercises for the northern and southern hemisphere. In addition the RYA is re-writing the exercises for the Essential Navigation and Seamanship courses (due in January 2017), and the northern and southern hemisphere Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster courses.

There will be an addendum to the 2015 Yachtmaster exercises to bolster teaching on electronic navigation and use of chart plotters. A new set of exercises will be available in 2017. The assessment papers will continue to be updated each January.



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