At the Virtual AGM in November the members heard that over the past couple of years, there have been many changes to the Committee. A change of Yacht Secretary when Andrew Lewis took on the role and James Allen came forward to take over as Crew secretary.

This year David Crofts stood down as Membership Secretary being replaced by Terry Parker, whilst Martin Hugo took over the role of Webmaster from Tony Lewis.

Since the AGM there was another change at Yacht Husband as Vic Crawshaw has started to feel the effects of Anno Domini and decided it is time to stand back, and so Paul Dunn has taken that spot. Also, John Wilson has also stood down as Minute Secretary.

John Garside has put away his quill pen and stepped aside as Editor of the ECYD News. He has done a magnificent job over goodness knows how many years in securing a variety of articles, and excellent production of the magazine.

We would be pleased to hear from any member interested in taking over this important job, but until then unfortunately there will be no more ECYD News.

We were planning/hoping to repeat the 2020 programme for 2021, sailing to the Baltic, but in a report from the Cruising Association and the RYA they are saying anyone sailing to an EU country should be prepared for a more “administrative environment”. For in previous years we have been able to turn up in France, Belgium, Holland etc and not worry too much about where we were – it could be the middle of the night or a weekend in whatever port we could make a safe passage.

France and Belgium at least have advised that we may have to go to specific ports of entry and go back to filling in Custom forms and showing the Q-flags.

Of course, this is all assuming that the various countries will give access to British sailors after Brexit, for we still have no real idea how things will pan out later this year and the RYA view is “it’s a case of wait and see”.

But the good news is, that we do have on the East Coast some excellent sailing and this year’s summer programme will possibly include non-certificated training, taster sails and sea time. We have a range of interesting ports from Aldeburgh and Woodbridge in the North down to Ramsgate and Dover in the South. There is also the opportunity of travelling down the Thames to St. Katharine’s Dock.

But in our plan for this Summer, we are hoping that Freyja will be based in Portsmouth for a few charters and then moving on to Plymouth and Falmouth.

Brian Barnes