

UP THE CREEK



– The Newsletter of Tollesbury Cruising Club. February 2016

Commodores Musings:-

Yikes! Spring is just round the corner, and the boating season is almost upon us and yet I still haven't got Dionysus' bottom antifouled and top sides polished. So if you're like me, you'll be running behind with this year's preparations and the long list, of winter's jobs is just not getting any shorter. So I am beginning to think of cutting out some of the less essential jobs, and getting back in the water sooner rather than later!.... But that just makes matters worse, as once afloat there's yet another, to do list.....get the sails back from being laundered, sort out the spray hood, and don't forget to recommission the engine. So you just change from to do list No. 1 to list No. 2. How frustrating. All this work makes you wonder why we love being on our boats so much, when all you want to do is relax and enjoy the gentle lapping of the water against the hull?

Welcome to the new edition, and new style "Up The Creek". Over the winter the team and I have put together a full and encouraging program, specifically designed so that all members, with any style or type of boat can join in. Cruises for larger and smaller vessels, both power and sail are welcome to join. Some trips requiring a bit more experience, whilst others are great for the less ambitious. We also have a few races planned, but please read on to find out more about what joining in on a TCC event can offer.

Talk about being in the wrong place at the right time! Some of you will know that after working on the committee for nearly 15 years I managed to be voted in at the AGM to take the reins for the next couple of years. (Thanks guys, I have a very long memory!) So I really should have known better!

Anyway I have a mission, and that is to re-awaken the membership, and work with the management and marina staff to make TCC the premier East Coast Club. I want to actively encourage new and old members to get involved and experience "cruising in company." That is how I got started, and has always been a source of great enjoyment, and why I keep my boat at Tollesbury. It's a great way to share skills and knowledge, whilst having a good time, with great company.

We are planning (weather permitting) some new events and some old favourites. So please come and join us. You'll find me and my partner Yelena, on-board Dionysus - Pontoon C, where our friendly ginger Pharaoh Hound patrols the decks.

David Knight.

"Racing Review"

From Our Racing Rear Commodore .
Jose Zalabardo. Scallywag - Pontoon B.

T.C.C is a cruising club and cruising is what we do. However there are a few races each season, and these are very much in the spirit of what you would be expected from a cruising club. They are basically passage races run in conjunction with a cruising event.

In many ways you can think of them as cruises in which you sail round a couple of extra buoys and

Don't stick the engine on. They are perfect opportunities for improving your sailing skills and getting to know what your boat can do.

We run a personal handicap system that gives smaller and/or slower boats a fair chance of winning. The atmosphere is very relaxed. So if you are worried that you might feel out of place in a crew of hardened racers, ask anybody at the bar to tell you the story of how last season, your rear commodore racing, managed to cross the start line of a club race in the wrong direction! So come and join us and give it a go this season.

“Cruising Report”

From our Cruising Rear Commodore:
David Prentis. Wavedancer - Pontoon F.

The new season will soon be with us and the Committee has planned a varied program with some events close to home and some a little further afield.

There will be an Ice Breaker cruise to Bradwell for any hardy souls ready to cross the sill in mid-March. For many of us the 4 day Easter cruise is when the season really gets going. This year we will be heading for Heybridge Basin, via Brightlingsea.

We will be arranging several local events during the first half of the season, including a Saturday lunchtime trip up the Colne to Rowhedge and we are trying to plan a seafood lunch at Mersea. We will also have cruises to the Orwell, Crouch and Deben, some of which will include an optional race event.

There is usually an informal social gathering at each destination.

The Calais Rally will be held on the second May bank holiday weekend. This is a fun event which several east coast clubs take part in. This year the tides will suit getting to Calais and back (via Ramsgate) during the holiday weekend – although anyone lucky enough to have more time available could extend the cruise to take in Gravelines and some of the Belgian ports.

Although not every event will suit every boat, we are aiming for a programme in which most of the events will be achievable by most of the boats in the marina. If you have any questions about any of the events come along to the Season Briefing in the clubhouse, or contact me or one of the Committee members, or follow the pre-event postings on the events section of the forum.

“Come and Join In”

From Tim Wilson. Adagio - Pontoon F
Committee Member

Hi all, on the back of this copy of "Up The Creek" you will find a short copy of what's happening at Tollesbury Cruising Club program for the start of the 2016 season.

Looking at this year's program there is a lot going on with something for everyone, for those of you who like me are interested in events suited to smaller boats there are a number of local events as well as some more challenging trips for those who feel so inclined.

Looking at the first half of the program; events that might be of particular interest to the smaller boats are as follows:

March: For those of you who are keen to start the season early there is the Ice Breaker to Bradwell on Saturday the 12th March return Sunday.

Also in March there is a joint sail around the Blackwater with the Tollesbury sailing club, this starts on Friday the 25th March going to Brightlingsea, then back up to Heybridge on the 26th and Bradwell on the 27th returning to Tollesbury on the 28th, if the weather is fine this would be a good early season cruise with the option of doing all or part of it as you choose.

April: On Saturday the 9th April there will be a pontoon party at Brightlingsea returning Sunday 10th, this should be an easy relaxed sail and social, (providing the weather is good), ideal for those who were not in the water in time for the March events.

Although not sailing events don't forget the fitting out supper on Saturday the 16th April.

May: There is a plan to go to Pyefleet on the Friday the 20th, go to Rowhedge for lunch on the 21st, come back to Brightlingsea overnight then back to Tollesbury on the 22nd. However to do this it is necessary to leave Tollesbury at midnight on the Friday, something that I suspect most of us

small boat sailors would rather not do, (however if you like a challenge go for it!), In any event there is nothing to stop us joining the more intrepid sailors at Brightlingsea on the 21st and then all sailing back on the 22nd.

June: On the 12th June there is a day sail, anchor and lunch to Lawrence bay.

Also over the weekend of the 25th and 26th June while the larger boats are off on the Spring Cruise to Holland I thought we could have a fish and chip supper at Brightlingsea.

Oh and don't forget the Commodores Cocktail Party on the 11th!

Do keep an eye on the notice board and forum for any changes or additions.

If you would like any more information about the events contact any member of the committee, (or pop over for a chat on Adagio: F33), we would be happy to help.

Wishing you all fair winds and good sailing (and motor boating) in 2016.

"Thankfully We Were Sailing in Company"

From Many Jarvis."Amelia" Pontoon B

This was a lesson we learnt at the beginning of our sailing adventures.

We joined a Cruising Club passage from Tollesbury to Suffolk Yacht Harbour - Levington the longest passage, in hours and distance for us. The sun shone, the winds were light and we were enjoying our maiden trip to the dizzy heights of Harwich!

Suddenly, as we rounded Walton Pier, a fog bank rolled in from seaward severely reducing visibility. We hadn't appreciated that we were sailing far too close to the beach on an ebbing tide and rapidly lost depth to the tune of only 1.2 metres.

We quickly headed East into deeper water and the fog. Unsure of our exact bearings after finding enough water to float upon, we consulted our GPS for help. However, our GPS coordinates placed us

close to the French coast and nowhere near Walton!

After much conversation on the radio, Alan Wilson on Kiitaja, came and found us, and we eventually moored safely at Levington later that evening. Helped by Kiitaja's stern light!

Three Lessons learned:

1. Fog Happens!
2. Keep deep!
3. Correctly Calibrate the GPS!

We also very much appreciated the fact that we were cruising in company, and there were other members near-by to help us out!

You can join any event by registering your interest on the Forum at

www.tollesburycc.co.uk



Join our Facebook Group

"Tollesbury Cruising Group"

Tollesbury Cruising Club Early Season Event Calendar

Date	Tide/Depth	Event
March 2016		
Sat 12/03 –Sun 13/03	14:30 3.1M	Ice Breaker Cruise to Bradwell
Fri 25/03 – Mon 28/03	13:29 2.9M	Easter Cruise , Good Friday to Brightlingsea With TSC, Saturday To Heybridge, Sunday to Bradwell, Return Easter Monday
April 2016		
Sat 09/04 – Sun 10/04	14:34 3.2M	Brightlingsea/ Local Event. Bring and Share Supper on each other's boats
Sat 16/04	08:29 2.1M	Fitting Out Supper in Clubhouse at 19:30 Hrs
Sun 17/04	09:50 2.3M	Season Briefing & New Members in Clubhouse at 11:00Hrs
Sat 23/04 – Sun 24/04	14:00 2.8M	Tollesbury Boat Show / Cruise to Orwell
Sat - 30/04 –Mon 02/05	06:00 2.2M	Race/Cruise, Joint Event with TSC to Burnham on Crouch Start 09:00. Dinner at Crouch Yacht Club. Sunday sail to Pyefleet, return Monday 08:30 2.1M
May 2016		
Sat -14/05 –Sun 15/05	06:40 2.3M	Deben. Lunch at Waldringfield. Overnight Ramsholt Return Sunday at 20:20 2.1M via. Ewarton Ness
Sat 21/05 – Sun 22/05	00:00 2.6M	Leave Midnight Friday Anchor in Pyefleet/ Rowhedge Lunch/Brightlingsea Saturday Night
Sat 28/05 – Mon 30/05.	04:55 2.5M	Calais Rally, Return Monday. Or go onto Graveline and Belgium ports
June 2016		
Sat 04/06 –Sun 05/06	12:18 3.0M	Mersea /Seafood Lunch
Sat 11/06	05:13 2.5M	Commodores Cocktail Party in Clubhouse at 18:30 hrs
Sun 12/06	06:05 2.3M	Day Sail – Anchor St Lawrence Bay for Lunch.
Sat 18/06 –Sun 19/06	11:52 2.5M	Early Summer Cruise to Holland for 1-2 weeks. (if weather is not suitable for a crossing, we will revert to a East Coast cruise.) Or weekend cruise to Shotley & River Orwell
Mon 20/06	13.09 2.8M	Mid-Week Cruise/Where the wind blows
Sat 25/06 – Sun 26/06	16:23 2.6M	Brightlingsea / Local Event. Fish & Chip Supper