

UP THE CREEK



– The Newsletter of Tollesbury Cruising Club. September 2016

Commodores Musings :-

This season is certainly flying by, but we have finally had a settled spell of weather and given us all a great opportunity to get out on the water. Some of our members have been sailing in the Baltic, the Dutch Canals, Belgium and France. Whilst I write this there is a club cruise into St Katherine's Dock London, whilst other members have made their way down to the South coast, Devon and Cornwall.

I managed to get across the channel and ended up getting weather bound in Graveline for a few days, then having a small weather window got back to Ramsgate in rather heavy conditions. Immediately upon tying up in the Royal Harbour, Yelena jumped ship to take the train home. She assures me that she had to relieve the dog sitter, and had nothing to do with my seamanship. However a couple of days later and a few minor repairs fixed I bought Dionysus back on my own.

Tollesbury marina holds up to 250 boats, and I feel that it is a great shame that that the Club, is not supported by more of the membership (if you're a berth holder, you're a member!). The great thing about joining in is, being able to sail in company, with social events, and meeting like minded people. This, apart from being great fun, can aid safety, and always access to a pool of knowledge. When I first came to Tollesbury nearly 18 years ago, I was keen to get involved and can honestly state that by doing so it has helped me improve my sailing abilities, and given me great opportunities within the sailing community. Apart from the obvious of gaining some great friends and having some big laughs and fun times along the way. I am keen to welcome all members to join in whether your boat is 20ft or 40ft, whether it is powered by the wind or by engine. My aim is to organise events that all members are welcome.

As I said, currently we have 4 boats making their way up the Thames for a few days of being tourists, in London. Then on the 17th September we have our "Round the Island Race" or round Osea Island, an annual challenge from our friends at the Tollesbury Sailing Club. There are two more cruises, one to the River Orwell and Suffolk Yacht Harbour and another to the River Crouch and Burnham.

I want to invite all members to our "Laying Up Supper" on the 22nd October where we will be having an excellent meal in the restaurant, followed by the prize giving. The next day is our AGM, so please make a note in your diaries, as I am keen to find out how we can improve your club.

Not to be missed is our cruise to Brightlingsea for Bonfire Night, where the sailing club spectacularly launch their display, what feels like right over the pontoons!

The closing event of the season is our Christmas cruise on the last weekend of November where we go to Bradwell and supply a seafood buffet. So bring a bottle of something bubbly and let's celebrate!!

David Knight – Dionysus – Pontoon C

"Cruising Round Up"

From Rear Commodore Dave Prentis – Wave Dancer – Pontoon F

It's been an eventful season so far, with some 14 events on the water. At least a dozen boats have participated in one or more events. One of my favourites was the Buxey Ashes, our traditional meeting with Maldon Little Ships. Blessed with perfect weather we went to

Brightlingsea on Saturday afternoon for a pontoon party followed by supper in Colne Yacht Club and a firework display. Bright and early next morning we headed to the Buxey in time to see our pitch emerge from the waves. It was occupied by a pair of rather surprised looking seals – they didn't stop to enjoy the match. There were around 20 yachts at anchor, including us, MLS and some guests from London Little Ships. Despite some heroic individual performances,

TCC's run rate did not quite match that of our rivals. Still, there's always next year.

We managed to pick one of the warmest weekends of the summer for our beach BBQ. After the gentlest of sails up to Thirstlet Spit and back, we moored in Bradwell before hiking out along the sea wall to the beach by the old power station. It is a lovely spot on a summer's evening, with great views over the river.

After the BBQ we finished the evening with a game of Beach Boules whilst watching a perfect Blackwater sunset.

There are still plenty of events to come. If you want to find out what is happening, search for "Tollesbury Cruising Club Forum" and click on Events 2016. Or, do it the old way and walk round to F Pontoon for a chat.

"Racing Review"

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

We've managed to run three races so far this season. The Goldie Challenge, on 30 April, took a fleet of seven TCC boats to Burnham. It was won by Robin Kemp, on Polo IV, who also took line honours. The Passage Race, on 2 July, was a ridiculously fast passage to the Orwell. The winner was Paul Kemp of TSC, with Grey Goose. David Prentis and Tony Westbrook's Wave Dancer was the first TCC boat in. Line honours went to David Knight, with Dionysus. The Wallet Long Race, on 30 July, was an intimate affair, with only four boats taking part, three of ours and one from TSC. Paul Noyland's Moonshine took line honours, but on corrected time the race was won by Rum Run, an Anderson 22, by far the smallest boat in the fleet, sailed single-handed by Brian Corrie, of TSC. Size clearly doesn't matter. Your rear-commodore (racing) did the honourable thing and stayed at the back of the fleet to make sure everyone got in safely.

"Small Boat Cruising"

From Tim Wilson. Adagio - Pontoon F Committee Member

West Mersea Sea food Lunch 4th & 5th June.

The day started overcast and cool but improved as the day went along, sadly only Harmony joined us at West Mersea, where we were allocated suitable moorings.

The crews took the Harbour launch and went to the Oyster bar, and managed to get a table outside. Shortly after this the Commodore and his partner Yelena arrived by car, and we all enjoyed a very pleasant meal. Amelia (Tony & Mandy) also arrived in their boat soon after we had finished, but despite communicating with them somehow failed to meet up. After a pleasant evening on board we sailed back to Tollesbury via a round trip past Radio Caroline.

Brightlingsea Sea Food Supper 25th June.

Despite thunder and lightning as we set off, there was a good turnout for this event, with a final tally of 15 people dining in "Winkies" the excellent Fish Restaurant near the centre of town. One or two people chickened out, and came by road, but it was a very enjoyable evening.

"Anyone for Cricket?"

Tony Westbrook. Wave Dancer- Pontoon F Committee Member

The annual cricket match held on the Buxey Sands takes some careful organising. It has to be a big Spring tide so that the sandbank on which the match is played is exposed for at least 2 hours. And it needs to be low tide mid Sunday morning so we can leave Brightlingsea at a reasonable hour in the morning to anchor off the Buxey Sands, with a high tide in the afternoon to return to Tollesbury or Maldon. And there ought to be a gentle southerly breeze and bright sunshine.

All this came together on Sunday 24 July and some 18 boats duly anchored in the sunshine in the Swire Hole on Sunday morning with

Some 30 people, from TCC and our rivals Maldon Little Ships Club, along with some spectators, and a few extra team members supplied by the London Little Ships Club (who had been holding their annual reunion with MLSC the night before in Brightlingsea).

Maldon set up the stumps (they have a special set of cricket gear just for this once a year event) and TCC won the toss and elected to bat. We agreed on a limited over format of 12 overs per team - to avoid being stranded or drowned. There had been some seals basking on the pitch just when we arrived, though they did not stay to see the first ball being bowled.... After a slow start, TCC made good progress with some notable performances. David from Wave Dancer scored a career best score of 4 runs, Tony and Mandy both tried hard -

Tony diving headlong for the line to avoid a run out, though he claimed he tripped over.. Brian managed not to pull a hamstring this year and added a few more runs, as did Jose, and our 2 ringers (extra crew from Amelia) Daz and his partner - and your captain felt he ought to wield the bat too, bringing TCC to a half reasonable total of 28 runs.

Maldon went into bat and Daz took 2 quick wickets in the first over, including a Golden Duck, but gradually their run total added up, meaning they only needed couple of runs from the last over. Maldon ended up with a score of 34 meaning they have again retained the Buxey Ashes Trophy. It was a lovely occasion and played in a good spirit. Conspiracy theorists could point out that as MLSC provided both the umpire and the scorer, no wonder they won, but as TCC captain I would have to say that it was a fair match and MLSC deserved their victory. There is always next year though...

Thanks to all who took part.

“My first year on the TCC Committee”

From Mandy Jarvis. Amelia Pontoon B - Committee Member

The first event requiring me to count boats and people, then apply those numbers to berths and seats at a dinner table was the Shotley trip on 23rd April. A good turn out - even though cold, a strong wind on the nose and choppy water - 6 boats arrived with 14 people for dinner at the Bristol Arms.

The second event, on 6th July to Bradwell, was slightly more challenging as games were involved! We had an extremely good afternoon/evening with hot sunshine, BBQ's on the beach and a nail-bitingly exciting game of Boules!

The third event where I injected some input was the late summer cruise. It was a great team effort with David Prentis at the helm, hatching the Medway/Chatham idea, Bob Gant chipped in with booking the 3 Queenborough over-nighters and I, with help of Tony and Robin Kemp, managed to book 2 nights at St Katherine Docks. It was a most enjoyable and interesting week attended by 4 boats from TCC.

I have really enjoyed helping out with events this year, and am excited and enthusiastic for next season.

<u>Tollesbury Cruising Club End of Season Event Calendar</u>			
September 2016			
Sat 03/09 – Sun 04/09	14:27	2.9M	Local Event, Sail to Osea, overnight at Bradwell.
Sat 17/09 –Sun 18/09	13:26	3.1M	Kings Head Cup/ Sail around Osea Island, Joint Event with TSC. BBQ at Bradwell Quay Yacht Club.
October 2016			
Sat 01/10 – Sun 02/10	13:27	3.0M	Pursuit Race/ Cruise to Orwell , overnight at Suffolk Yacht Harbour
Sat 08/10 – Sun 09/10	17:04	2.2M	Tollesbury Boat Show. Cruise to River Crouch.
Sat 22/10	17:24	2.5M	Laying Up Supper & Prize Giving
Sun 23/10	18:29	2.3M	Annual General Meeting
November 2016			
Sat 05/11 – Sun 06/11	15:06	2.5M	Bonfire Night at Brightlingsea
Sat 26/11 – Sun 27/11	10:05	2.5M	Christmas cruise and Party at Bradwell.

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

<http://www.tollesburycc.co.uk/forum/>

Join our Facebook Group “Tollesbury Cruising Group”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tollesbury/>