

HOLLOWSHORE CRUISING CLUB



Commodore



As this is new to me, may I first say welcome to all our members and just remind you about some of the events that occurred in 2015. First was a trip to Medway Yacht Club for the annual Laurie Tester Dinner and race, which was well attended by 30 members, some of whom went by boat and some by car. Weather was a little damp this year, but the trips out were well attended, with 14 boats going to St Katharine's and members enjoying the sites and shows of London. In the summer various small groups went to the East Coast, Holland and even around Britain. Mark and Beryl left St Kat's and proceeded to sail anticlockwise around Britain arriving back in the creek late October. Then our last trip of the season was the Bus Pass trip to Chatham, attended by 12 boats with 39 members sitting down in Medway Yacht Club for the Sunday meal. The usual bus trip to Allington lock for a meal was followed by a very nice boat trip up to Tovil and back into Maidstone for a walk about the town, before returning to Chatham by bus.

Halloween Night

This was a successful night with 20 – 22 members coming along dressed in a variety of costumes, from witches, ghosts, monsters and other scary outfits. The room was well decorated by Bob, Janet and Tim each adding their contribution during the Saturday afternoon. During the evening Halloween jokes were read out, and this was followed by a selection of ghost stories some relating to mysterious happenings at sea. A good supply of sandwiches, sausage rolls, plus cheesecake and fruit dishes were consumed and enjoyed by all.



Christmas

What did you miss at the end of the year? Well, after the AGM there was the Christmas Party where over 40 attended, then came the Sunday lunchtime Xmas Bar and Nibbles, where there was another good show by members, once again thanks to Janet Webb who put in a lot of effort with decorations and a layout of excellent food, which this year all went, bar the crumbs. It was good to see old and new faces and the bar was very busy.



New Year's Eve

Finally, it was New Year's Eve starting at 2100hrs with Bob and Mark looking after the bar, those attending brought food for all to enjoy. Most sat and chatted about the past year with its ups and downs, some spoke of what they did over the Christmas break, some of their intentions for sailing trips this year. Janet gave her usual quiz of 24 questions of general knowledge which all enjoyed.

When the time came, phones were consulted, bells were rung, we all sang in the New Year, more drinks were poured and further chatter was had for another hour before it was home to bed. Thanks to all who helped and arranged the evening.

LED bulbs in navigation lights

At last year's Southampton Boat Show a demonstration was given on the dangers of changing traditional filament bulbs with white LEDs in navigation lights. This could be a result in which your boat does not correctly show the green, red and white colours, hence, if an incident occurs your insurance could be invalidated.

It is because a filament bulb gives a single wavelength of light through the red or green filters, and this output depends on the makeup of the filters used in the product. Most are manufactured to a required standard to give the legal red and green wavelengths of light. It has been shown that these filaments are not suitable for the white LED bulbs, because these bulbs emit a ratio of blue and yellow colours which without a filter show up as white light. Hence, due to the materials that make up the filters with a LED behind them they will emit a variety of different lights depending on their structure, these colours varying from dull pinks to bluish green.

The problem with tricolour and bicolour lights is that with only a 2° change in the angle of boat the light should indicate its heading, with LEDs this angle can be greater than the 2° even up to 6°. The light emitted in this enlarged angle will now be a fuzzy yellowish hue, which approaching vessels will not recognise and your intended course would not be clear to them. This problem does not involve those lights that have been specifically manufactured and certified for the use of LED bulbs.

This was part of a report by the Cruising Association.

Finally

If anybody would like to make a contribution to the newsletter whether it's just a discussion point, a view about what you feel the club should be doing or just what you as a member have got up to in the course of the sailing year. Please Email me at samorah@btinternet.com I will then consider and hopefully put it in, so don't be shy we all have something to talk about in our club on a Sunday, so why not let everybody know your secrets of sailing.

I'll finish by wishing you all a successful and healthy cruising for 2016. **John Webb**

February 2016