
HOLLOWSHORE NEWS



www.hollowshorecc.co.uk

Spring 2008

SPRING NEWSLETTER



What a long way we have travelled in the last six months! Looking at my last report, I was preparing members for all the decisions that would have to be taken at the AGM regarding the future of the club and now, here we are with

the new clubhouse up and running and the major conversion work largely complete.

We can claim, like the Windmill Theatre, that 'We never closed' as we moved, without a break in service, from the old to the new clubhouse. This was only made possible by the sterling efforts of our working party which effected a speedy evacuation from the old clubhouse and by the generous offer of temporary storage and provision of transport by Ed and Barbara Bollen. Our thanks are also due to Maurice Sundin who kindly accommodated the bar stock and equipment after our final departure.

While all this was going on, Mike Perkins and his team of helpers were busy on the new clubhouse and made such progress that we were able to open for business as planned, albeit with temporary arrangements in place and some of the services still to be connected. Those of you who have been regular visitors to the new clubhouse will have noticed that each week something further has been done, and we are now well on the way to completion.

We have really been very fortunate in the support and skills provided by various members at various stages of the operation and are also most grateful to those who made generous donations to the Redevelopment Fund, either in cash or in kind.

Another excellent initiative was the 100 Club, organised and operated by Eric Spratling. This has got off to a good start and will provide members with the prospect of a win as well as contributing to club funds.

I would urge those of you who have not yet visited the new clubhouse to do so as soon as possible. You will, I think, be surprised and impressed with the progress made.

With Easter being early this year, I think most members have made reasonable progress in fitting out and this perhaps bodes well for the season. It is a risky business making predictions about the weather, but I read somewhere that this summer promises to be more typical of an English summer than has been the case recently. I leave you to work out what that means in reality!

Members wishing to take part in Club events can always get the latest information from the club web site or the notice board and many will no doubt 'do their own thing'. Don't forget that we award trophies on an annual basis for such feats as the Best Log and the greatest number of ports visited during the season, so anyone thinking of putting their name forward at the end of the year should remember to keep appropriate records.

I hope to see as many of you as possible either afloat or at the Club during the year, and wish you all a very enjoyable sailing season.

David Williams
Commodore

WELCOME !

Welcome to new members who have joined HCC since our last newsletter:

Peter Aviss, Paul and Sandra Claxton, Nigel Davidson (now on a Round-Britain cruise), William and Peggy Gore, Dominique Grattidge, Mark and Deborah Hine, Jeff Kiddle, Andrew McKay, Michael Phipps, Michael Riches, Peter Smith (re-joining), Peter Rhodes, Robert and Sue Scrivens, Gill Turnidge, John Waters (re-joining), Michael and Patricia Walker.

Several of these are boat-owners from the head of the creek - welcome aboard, everyone.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 3rd-10th MAY** St. Kat's Cruise
24th-26th MAY Ramsgate Weekend
6th-8th JUNE Swale Regatta
25th OCT Laying-Up Supper
26th-31st OCT Chatham Bus-Pass Break
15th NOV Bangers-and-Mash Supper
DEC 6th AGM and Christmas Party
DEC 21st Drinks and Nibbles at the Bar

Watch the club notice board and the website for changes and additions to the events list. See www.hollowshoreecc.co.uk

EAST SWALE FAIRY LIGHTS

As we've mentioned before, Trinity House are using the buoys in the East Swale to trial new



LED lighting systems. More changes have been made during the winter - many new buoys have been installed, providing a pathway marked by pairs of buoys, each pair flashing together, and the lights are synchronised to give the effect of leading you in! I can't wait to see

it....here are the changes:

The Pollard Spit buoy's light has changed from Q.R. to Fl.R.5s. The Pollard Spit and the Whitstable Street (also Fl.R.5s) are now included in the lighting trials. Extra buoys have also been introduced as follows –

Swale 1 SHB Fl.G.5s at 51°24'.068N 001°00'.690E
Swale 2 PHB Fl.R.5s at 51°23'.840N 001°00'.860E
Swale 4 PHB Fl.R.5s at 51°23'.680N 001°00'.185E
Swale 5 SHB Fl.G.5s at 51°23'.530N 000°59'.125E
Swale 6 PHB Fl.R.5s at 51°23'.340N 000°59'.360E
Swale 7 SHB Fl.G.5s at 51°22'.183N 000°57'.236E
Swale 8 PHB Fl.R.5s at 51°22'.100N 000°57'.400E
S. Oaze PHB Fl.R.5s at 51°21'.341N 000°56'.014E

Each pair of buoys flashing together, pairs flashing sequentially from seaward.

Trinity House would like to hear your views on this trial; they invite comments and feedback via their website, www.trinityhouse.co.uk.

TROPHY WINNERS 2007

Lucent Pot (best log) – Lorraine Breaker.

Pysche Trophy (most ports and anchorages) – Jim Gray (23 ports, in *Pepperbox*).

Hollowshore Cup (most miles logged) – Rod Akhurst (1223 miles in *Saxon*)

Viking Cup (Member of the Year) – Mike Torode.

Jack Allen Cup (Race to Ramsgate) – no award, no entries!

Madge Barker Cup (best HCC boat in Swale Regatta not winning any other cup in the event) - John and Jennifer Elliott.

Mary Legg Trophy (best bilge-keeler in Swale Regatta) – Peter Fisher (QYC).

Ron Lintott Trophy (first Channel crossing as skipper) – Maurice Sundin.



You can read the Best Log on the club website.

Our thanks again to Adrian Munnings for kindly updating the trophy record boards, which we hope will

soon be displayed in the clubhouse.

RAMSGATE 24TH – 26TH MAY

Watch the notice board for details of this weekend.

The plan for Sunday 25th is for a 'Pontoon Party' which will be based at Brian's boat, *Oyster*, followed by a carvery (probably) lunch in the Royal Temple YC at 3pm. It is essential to sign up in advance at HCC for this lunch, and totally essential to turn up having signed up!

Getting to Ramsgate by sea the day before is another matter. There is a minor problem in that HW Sheerness on Saturday is at 1600, making for a late arrival at Ramsgate for those in the mud in the creek. An alternative is to leave at 0400 and take the day to get there. We also have to somehow cope with taking times for the Jack Allen Cup.

Quite how this will happen is still being discussed! Watch the notice board and the website.

TO ANTIFOUL OR NOT?

- by *Winston Waller*.

For eight years I dutifully antifouled *Fylliki* every Spring before crane-in and by late summer her bottom was covered in barnacles. I took to grounding her in July on Horse Sand and scraping the hull off. One year, soon after drying out, a wild thunderstorm blew up. Bolts of lightning hit the sea a couple of hundred yards from the Horse

and left me, quite literally between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea. Should I sit out the storm on board *Fyliki*, beneath her 30ft aluminium lightning conductor, or wander away from her across the sands and become the tallest object in my own vicinity? I did what any red blooded Englishman would do – I climbed back on board and went below for a cup of tea. Since then I have dried her out on the beach at Colne Point – a nice sloping sandy beach with space to run away and hide if it thunders.



In the early years I used eroding antifouling but more recently I have been using the hard variety. Neither has proved effective against the Oare Creek barnacles and eventually it occurred to me that perhaps I was wasting time and money. In 2006, I left a large square patch on one of my keels untreated so that I could compare the fouling on treated areas with the fouling on the untreated area. At the end of the season it was impossible to discern the location of the untreated patch, the hull was uniformly horrid.

Based on the results of my antifouling experiment I decided not to bother with any new antifouling in 2007, I just cleaned up the hull and craned her in. In July 2007 I dried her out on Horse Sand and she had a good crop on barnacles, but no more than usual. However, although the number and size of barnacles were the same as in previous years, there was a major difference. When I tried to scrape them off they didn't want to budge. Normally they can be swept away using a small wooden scraper. This year I had to work very hard to get them to let go of the hull. So my conclusion is that while antifouling does not prevent a build-up of barnacles, it does make them much easier to remove. This year I *will* antifoul.

OUR NEW CLUBHOUSE

David has already said quite a bit about the new clubhouse, but here are some more comments to get your thoughts going, perhaps.

In moving from our quaint old shed to a smart, permanent building close to civilisation, we've also had to battle with the world of 'Building Regs', 'Food Hygiene', 'Bar Licences', 'Fire Certificates', and so on, all the regulatory stuff that keeps a lot of people in work these days! We complied at Hollowshore as far as we had to, but now beside a main road we are a lot more visible and, probably, more likely to be visited by those whose job it is to ensure that the rest of us stick to the rules.

The club's kitchen is a case in point, where its construction has had to be up to scratch as a commercial kitchen, with design details that keep the Inspector happy. And it's going to have to be kept that way! The same will apply to the Bar. While we have managed without a 'social committee' up to now, perhaps the time is coming when something like that is going to become necessary.

The new building represents a fresh start in many ways – we may have lost a great view, but we don't have to worry about the tide coming through the floor too often (we hope!) and what's more we now have an excellent facility that could be of use to other groups or societies – what might you think of the place being let out occasionally, for instance? It could be a handy extra source of income – our overheads are a lot higher now, and the extra money would help.

We have the same name, the same smashing crowd of members (plus many new welcome additions), but our new location is so utterly different from the old one that it really is a new beginning for the club.

Here endeth the Lesson!

DREDGING , ANYBODY?

We all have a good old moan about Medway Ports' annual so-called 'conservancy charge' from time to time. Generally most of us feel that there's little or nothing to show for our money – only a few pennies short of 50 quid this year! The Medway Yachting Association badgered them for a while for a detailed explanation of where the money goes, and how much is involved. Recently they did come up with an answer (you can read it on the MYA website) but it is so vague that it's worthless.

We did learn the other day, however, that part of Faversham Creek was dredged last year, and apparently Medway Ports paid for part or all of the work. It seems that the basis on which this was done would equally apply to Oare Creek, parts of which are plainly silting up with alarming speed. Some investigation is going on to see if something could be done – I for one would be happy paying my £50 if I knew it would be spent on shifting some mud and extending my sailing time!

NEW CREEK CABLES

Most of you will know that a new electricity sub-station is being built on the marsh near Graveney, and some new pylons are already to be seen there. The sub-station will receive power from the vast London Array windfarm, to be built out in the estuary north of Margate. As part of the preparations for this, the high-voltage cables that cross Faversham Creek below Hollowshore are being replaced this summer, the work being due to start in June.

We have been assured that there will be no effect on the creek in the way of closures, as the new cables are being installed by taking them from pylon to pylon suspended from the existing cabling.

In following years, cables from the windfarm will be brought into the East Swale from seaward, before being taken south across the shallows, and through the sea wall to the substation. Again, there is currently no hint of closing the area, but remembering that the developers of the Kentish Flats windfarm originally wanted to completely close the E-W passage between the windfarm and the shore for their cable laying (until they were firmly told that they couldn't!) we shall have to watch this space.

NAKED ADVERTISING (1)

If you happen to own a copy of *East Coast Pilot*, or even if you don't, and you have access to the internet, you might be interested in a new service offered by the authors.

They run a website – www.eastcoastpilot.com – where updates to the book are published, together with news items about local issues of interest, Notices to Mariners for instance. The updates and News items are all sifted beforehand, so that they are only published if relevant. We don't, for instance, want to know if the depth somewhere has reduced from 30m to 28m!

To save readers remembering to look at the website regularly to see what's new, you can sign up (via the website's home page) to receive an email notification when a change is added. Simply done, and well worthwhile. And it's free.

NAKED ADVERTISING (2)

Member Gavin Atkin (the one with the squeeze-box) had a new book published recently. It's called *Ultrasimple Boat Building*, and in it (according to Amazon) "renowned designer Gavin Atkin shows you how to create elegant, seaworthy plywood boats with a minimum of time, experience, and expense. Using clearly written and illustrated step-by-step instructions, Atkin

explains the basics of stitch-and-glue construction, tools, materials, shop safety, and more, as he helps you choose and build the simple boat of your dreams."

What more can we say? Reasonably priced, and rave reviews on Amazon too. Well done Gavin!

JACK DALY'S EPIC STARTS SOON!

Another member is off soon on a round-Britain trip. Unlike Nigel Davidson, however, Jack Daly will only be 16 years old when he sets off in June, single-handed in his Coribee *Padiwak*.



Jack will be raising money for the Sailability centre at Westbere. Wish him well, and if you'd like to help you can contact him via the Secretary.

THE 100 CLUB

Support for the first HCC 100 Club has been extremely positive with 75 members participating. Within the next month numbers are expected to go beyond 80 owing to a steady intake of new club members wishing to join.

A new bar is now being built by a dedicated team of club members, using a £780 donation from our 100 Club.

Please come and join us at the next draw on Sunday 18th of May - the usual monthly draw date has been changed because of the Bank Holiday and the club's visit to Ramsgate.

- Eric Spratling.

Thank you so much to all contributors!
As usual, this newsletter is available in full colour at www.hollowshoreecc.co.uk.

Hollowshore News

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