

R C Y C - Cruiser Fleet

The Shipping News - 2023

In a year of gales, calms, storms, a cold Spring and a sunny Autumn the Cruisers fitted in a busy programme. Please email starswan40@hotmail.com with corrections and additions

Cruises in Company and Trophy Races

31.May

BRIGHTLINGSEA

Coco (Sun Odyssey 33) – David and Justine Page

Nightsong (Southerly 46RS) – Chris and Jackie Goodfellow, Jack Bradley and Rosie

Otra Vez (Beneteau 36.7 First) – Andy & Jude Prestwich

Pericles (Contessa 26) - Jack Page & Ben Thomas

Trinco (Contessa 26) – Peter and Caroline Hooper

Verlette (Verle 790) – Steve and Katherine Barham

Boscolina (Sealine SC35) – Andy and Gina Wood-Hill

Steve's report – Low Water at the Spitway was around noon and Nightsong with her lifting keel was able to work the tide perfectly...with an ENE wind Force 3-5 on the nose motoring into the first of the flood was necessary. **Boscollina** was having a beer ashore while **Trinco** reported a nasty chop in the Spitway and difficulty keeping their chicken and salad on a plate! Good time had by all in Yachtsman Arms.

15.June

CHATHAM and ST. KATHERINES DOCK

A forecast of strong winds and thunderstorms halved the planned number of entries but three boats made the trip.

Otra Vez went from Burnham to Chatham and enjoyed the historic dockyard on Thursday.

Boscollina made straight for St Kats on Thursday with a bumpy passage around the Whittaker. They arrived early for the lock and cruised upstream to Vauxhall Bridge sightseeing.

Katie Lee (Princess 50) – Ian and Janice Keam-George - left their berth in Chatham and went straight to St Kats.

These boats were joined overland by the crews of Verlette, Coco and Pericles in Smiths of Wapping on Sunday.

17. June

BRUNCH AT YOKESFLEET

Coco – David and Justine Page. **Moondance** – Andy and Sue Bache. **Sanderling** – John and Tricia Waterhouse in their shiny new boat. **Verlette** delayed by reassembling heads.

Tamarisk, James Napier and Corinna Gardener, were late to the party. There was a raft up of seals on the mud.

24. June

SWALLOWTAIL RACE

Results

Trinco the Hoopers

Voyager the Sanders

Pericles Jack Page

1.July **HARWICH TROPHY RACE** started from **Sprite** - George Winder. A fast race. Results: **Lucy Lee** Ian and Janice Keam-George. **Coco** David Page, Paul van Damme, Jack Page. In attendance at Shotley Marina and Bristol Arms – **Voyager**, the Sanders and **Capella** (Corvette 34) - Phil and Pauline Shanahan based on Orwell

10.July **CRUISER PONTOON PARTY**

Four boats generously hosted this traditional event on the RCYC pontoon providing drinks, nibbles and the opportunity to look over their boats, to other cruisers and club members.

Moondance (Hunter Channel 27, one of the Hunter range based on the Sonata/Impala hull lines fitted with bilge keels) – Andy and Sue Bache are enjoying their first season in the Club.

Tamarisk (a one-off, bespoke timber sailing cruiser) - James Napier and Corinna Gardner. Visitors included the original family who commissioned the build. James and Corinna continue the full restoration of their ‘pride and joy’.

Pericles – the Contessa 26 is a classic design based on the 1940s folk boat. This is Pericles first season with the RCYC and Jack Page keeps her on a Club mooring.

Sanderling – (Jeanneau Merry Fisher) – John and Patricia Waterhouse. A brand new boat launched this year, Sanderling can be cruised with 2/4 berths and is capable of fast coastal passages.

18.August **YOKESFLEET RALLY - 2**

A picnic with seals is always popular – this Saturday was also quite windy - many boats intended to go but couldn’t make it. Those that did were: **Buttercup** (Corvette 34) – Tim and Sue Howard – lunch’. **Puffin** (Trusty 23) – Richard and Sheena Cosens – were at the venue but had problems with their windlass. **Verlette** made a late start and got as far as Branklet

26.August – 2.September **BURNHAM WEEK**

Entries: CLASS 5. **Trinco** -the Hoopers. **Helms Deep** (Hanse 342) – the Hinkins. **Club 707 Road Runner** – Ian Simons.

CLASS 6. Entries - Winner of Bank Holiday: **Lucy Lee** – Ian and Janice Keam-George **Ningaloo** – Mick Hill + Phil Shanahan, Andy Wood-Hill, Tim Howard.

Winner of Inter-Club Team Trophy: RCYC with **Lucy Lee** and **Ningaloo**

Coco – David Page, Paul van Damme, Jack Page

16.September **WIZARD TROPHY PURSUIT RACE**

Results: **Voyager** Simon Saunders, Hannah Taverner, Jan van der Schans
Trinco Peter and Caroline Hooper
Coco David and Justine Page, retired with technical issues

30.September **EAGLING TROPHY**

Results: **Trinco** Peter, Caroline and brother John Hooper and Maggie the dog
Lucy Lee Ian and Janice Keam-George
Voyager Simon Sanders
Coco David Page, Paul van Damme, Jack Page

28.October **MARCO POLO TROPHY**

Coco only entry in Club All In Race – David and Jack Page, Paul van Damme, Paul Stratton ‘Short tacking on a foul tide meant we got past one other boat – that had run aground!’

October - November **BSC AUTUMN SERIES**

RCYC entries included a **Club 707, Verlette, Lucy Lee, Coco** The 707 was skippered by Nick Milton and Phil Aspinal crewed by ‘Class of ’22’ – all new members. They won both of the races entered.

Lucy Lee won ‘Class 3 non-spinnaker’ and ‘Class 3 overall’ Series Trophies.

C R U I S I N G – and chance meetings

EAST COAST

Capella (Corvette 32) – Phil and Pauline Shanahan and **Boscollina** – Andy and Gina Wood Hill - went to the Clacton airshow which was a great experience.

Avalanche Too (Dehler 34) – Mark and Mandy Wade took their first trip out of the Crouch on this new-to-them boat and crossed tracks with **Boscollina** at Outer Crouch. They cruised up the Orwell with **Helms Deep**.

Voyager spent time in Shotley Marina and cruised from there round the Orwell. They also met **Helms Deep** – Paul and Sally Hinkins – at the Royal Harwich Y.C. Wolverstone

Otra Vez – Andy and Jude Prestwich cruised the Orwell and the Ore where they booked dinner ashore. With a stiff breeze, a ripping tide, only a small ‘flubber’ and no outboard decided to eat aboard – good choice!

Tamarisk – James Napier and Corinna Gardener cruised extensively on the East coast in the rivers of Essex and Suffolk – they managed to get ashore to eat at Orford and watched the Smack Racing in West Mersea.

Many other club members were spotted sailing motoring, sailing and anchoring in the Crouch and Roach. **Sprite** – George Winder – made his annual exploration round Bridgemarsh Island – 1.2 metres under the small motorboat at HW.

SOUTH COAST

Coco – David Page, Paul van Damme and Abby Page sailed via Dover round to Eastbourne and back via Costa del Ramsgate in company with **Pericles** – Jack Page

? (Sigma 362) - Phil Knox and family were caught in big swell off Portsmouth which caused his hip – replaced in December – to dislocate. He sailed into Haslar marina with a popped out hip to be stretchered ashore and later posted: ‘Worse things happen at sea ... oh hang on!’

FOREIGN WATERS

Nightsong – Chris Goodfellow with a rota of crew – left their berth in Fambridge on 3 June and returned on 21 July to complete a planned trip to South Brittany, logging 1.393 n.m.

They kept on the move going: Ramsgate, Eastbourne, Chichester, Lymington, Dartmouth, Plymouth – crossed to Brest to check in, ‘The Bretons are very hospitable to visiting English yachties and we had no problems despite worries with checking in at Brest Port du Chateau. Just an emailed form to the Marina and Customs before arrival and a short walk to the office with boat paperwork.

Once checked in headed south to visit variety of harbours - the Iles de Glenan, Tudy on Ile de Groix, Port La Foret, Port St.Louis in Lorient, Quiberon Bay and into the Morbihan for Ile d'Arz, Vannes, Niol Bay. Out again to Sauzon on Belle Ile then Loctudy and into Concarneau, Douarnanez, Brest to check out and home – Plymouth – Dartmouth – Lymington - W. Wittering – Fambridge. **Highlights** – numerous dolphins, many fancy hydrofoiling French yachts, HMS QEII exercising/firing in Lyme Bay and catching six mackerel quickly to the south of Etev

Trinco – 6.July. Peter and Caroline Hooper left Burnham 0415 intending to sail straight to Den Helder, N.Holland. Motor sailed in light wind to N.Shipwash off Orford. Wallowing around in a left over swell from earlier winds – turned and headed to Lowestoft for a night, Southwold for two before bravely setting out again for Den Helder across busy shipping lanes, avoiding gas rigs. Entered Dutch Royal Naval Marine and very helpful harbourmaster arranged for Border Force to come and stamp passports. Next ports – Wadden Haven on Frisian Island, Texel. 23 miles across shallow banks of Wadden Sea to Harlingen, West coast of Frisland. After locking out headed south through main road dam into the Ijsselmeer to Workum. Entered inland system of Frisland to Sneek to meet Dutch friend, Rob – and Robert and Tracy Coyle on a charter boat with their own scow towed. Then back to Harlingen to check out and took a weather window to cross North Sea before another wet and windy weekend set in. 'Friesland was stunningly beautiful and working the sheltered canal system and inland lakes a joy, passing through all the locks, road and rail bridges that just open for us. The Dutch people were very friendly and incredibly helpful.' Online registration for mooring is easy. An adventurous 17 days.'

Boscollina – Andy and Gina Wood-Hill toured Belgium from Blankenberge to Nieuwpoort. 'Less fuel than going to the Solent and a week in a marina less than a night in St Kats.'

Moon Dancer (Southerly 46RS) – Ollie and Debbie Moon and family to France and the Normandy coast, then via Alderney and Jersey (waiting on a gale) before proceeding to St Malo. In St Helier there was an RCYC meet with –

Corbiere Star (Aquastar 33) - Arthur and Anne Heasley on their new boat based in St.Helier who cruised to Guernsey a couple of times and to Trebeurden, North Brittany – one of the few small harbours on that coast allowed to check in foreign vessels and clear them for customs. Like Nightsong were met with helpful Breton hospitality.

Zampa (X yacht 46..?) Ian McDougall. Left berth in the Hamble May 13th and returned July 24th. St Peter Port/Roscoff/L'Aber Wrach/Camaret/Douarnenez/Benodet/Lorient Town Marina/La Trinite/Lorient, Kernevel/Concarneau/Loctudy/Sainte Evette/L'Aber Wrach/Roscoff/Salcombe/Torquay/Datmouth and Hamble.

There were many Cruiser social events in the Club as well as an active sailing programme – bring on 2024 - Anne