



THIS MONTH'S DIARY

Saturday 1st March
Extra Help Needed for
Working Party

Saturday 1st March
Sailboat & Windsurf Show
Alexandra Palace, London

Sunday 2nd March
Extra Help Needed for
Working Party

Sunday 2nd March
Roast Lunch (pre-book)

Monday 3rd March
7.30pm in Clubhouse
Club Boats Experience

Wednesdays
1030am-Midday
Informal Get-Together

Wednesday 5th March
7.30pm for 8.00pm
Talk – Model Sailing Yachts

Saturday 15th March
Extra Help Needed for
Working Party

Saturday 15th March
7.30pm for 8.00pm
Z Class Dinner

Sunday 16th March
Extra Help Needed for
Working Party

Saturday 29th March
Summer Dinghy Parking starts

Sunday 30th March
1st Race – Spring Series
X Class 10.30am start

Sunday 30th March
Mothers Day Lunch

FROM THE COMMODORE

Again, a huge amount has been achieved at the Club this month and there have also been many other activities and social events which once more demonstrate just how much potential we are now realising. Well done all those who have taken part, and for those who have not been able to get down to the Club recently there is still plenty of time to make your personal contribution.



New Garden Takes Shape

Photo by Jacqui Gisbourne

Looking further ahead, there are 2 events that I would like the membership to be particularly aware of. First, on Sunday 11 May we shall be holding an Open Day to show our Club to both local people and to those who may be interested in joining as active members. Please keep this day in mind and be ready to help the team in whichever way you can to make this a successful day.

Secondly, on Sunday 18th May we shall be holding our 80th Birthday party as a Sailing Club. Again, I am seeking participation and commitment from the whole membership and in particular I would be delighted to see EVERY BOAT WE HAVE on the water and taking part in the Sail Past.

Details of both of these events will be developed soon, the point is that the days need to be put in your diaries NOW and mother-in-law's threatened visit postponed until June NOW and that shopping trip to Exeter put off NOW and your holiday in Barbados cancelled NOW..... need I say more?!?!!

The daffodils are bursting out of the ground. That means we need to keep pressing ahead with the work on site. I look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Turner

LAST ONE OUT?

As the season draws closer I'd like to remind everyone about security. Not only should you check the Clubhouse and changing room doors but also please keep the main gate locked. If there are only a few cars parked when you leave do not just assume someone else will lock up. Unless you are **absolutely certain** that someone is still on site who will lock up after you please lock the gate as you leave. If someone has left their car here while they are out sailing they should have a key to let themselves out.

Sally Fielding - Vice Commodore

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Nigel and Catherine Sheppard; Rory and Cordelia McFarlane

Liz Grant – Honorary Membership Secretary

EXTERNAL SITE WORK

Work parties are continuing but YOUR HELP IS ESPECIALLY NEEDED! 1ST/2ND AND 15TH/16TH MARCH

Many of you will know just how much hard work has been put in on Sunday mornings this year. We are trying to make the best of use of favourable tides on the weekends of 1st/2nd March and 15th/16th March.

We are intending to work on the Saturday morning as well on those weekends. There is concrete to be mixed and sandbags to fill to plug more of the holes in the retaining wall. So, if you haven't been able to help because of other commitments on a Sunday now is your chance to come along on Saturday morning from about 9.30.

Also, we are hiring a pressure washer to clean off the slipways. To make the most of the cost involved and take advantage of the tide we need to set up a rota to use it all weekend 1st and 2nd March – both morning and afternoon. If you can help with this at any time please contact Barry (785192) and come along suitably clothed.

KEELBOATS LIFT-IN Owners of stored boats are reminded that Lift-in starts on the 16th April, the precise schedule will be posted in the Clubhouse. Please be ready, as the area is needed for other purposes.

To assist in forward planning it is requested that applications for next winter's storage are submitted to M Spicer by 1st March. This is provisional at this stage, do not send money. Allocations will be done on a first come, first served basis. Final confirmation and late applications will be done in July.

DINGHY BERTHS It is planned that spaces will be available for take-up on 28th March. Berth allocations will be sent out with the Handbook and posted in the Club.

Plans are in hand for the provision of tie downs and a bow rail.

The sailing programme is now on the Website, you will see that the autumn series goes through to the 26th October. Members may wish to revise their requirement for a winter dinghy berth, summer period ends 21st September.

Barry Grant - Coordinator

SAILABILITY

We have 5 afternoon events planned for this year, dates as follows:

- Saturday 10th May
- Saturday 14th June
- Saturday 26th July
- Saturday 30th August
- Saturday 13th September

You will receive your new Handbook towards the end of March (do support our advertisers)
The Racing Programme and Duties are on the website now
www.ccsc.org.uk

If you are interested in helping (taking people sailing in keelboats or dinghies, driving the rescue boats, or helping at the Clubhouse), please let me know, and note these dates in your diary.

We hope to be able to provide sailing opportunities for a wider range of people with disabilities, and we hope the numbers of people involved will increase steadily over the year.

Hugh de longh deiongh@btinternet.com 01305 251190

FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the social events, enabling us to get closer to our first goal of buying a new dishwasher for the galley. Heart felt thanks from all those who have spent time at the sink since our move.

Mothers Day Lunch

Sunday 30th March Pre-booking is essential for this. £7.95 adults £6.50 children Telephone or e-mail, or speak to me on Sunday mornings at working parties.

Boat Jumble and Table Top Sale

Sunday 27th April 10.30am - £5.00 per table or pitch – doesn't have to be sailing related.

Jane Davies holvalcots@aol.com 01305 852817

FROM THE DUTIES CO-ORDINATOR

Mon Dieux! - it's that time again - the racing cover can be found on the CCSC website but for those who need an extra wake-up call - here comes the first month's schedule of volunteers to get us out sailing (well, racing). **Thank you all in advance for being great about doing this.**

2003	EVENT	OD	AOD	RESCUE	REFRESHMENTS
Sun 30 March	Spring 1/6	Derek Abbott	Roger Thompson	Simon Winterton Sarah Winterton	Rose Abbott Sue Thompson
Sun 6 April	Spring 2/6	John Williams	Andy Gaunt	Luke Gatehouse Adrian Everitt	Liz Grant
Sun 13 April	Spring 3/6	Mike Conroy	Maddy Webb	Mark Slade Thomas Davison	Genia Conroy
Sun 20 April	Spring 4/6	Andy Ledger	Jean Brock	Kim Slowe Martin Cooke	Anne Claburn
Mon 21 April	Easter Monday	Dave Murley	Tim Young	Philip Williams	Joan Wilkins
Wed 23 April	1st Wed 1/7	John Marchment	Andy Criswick Eleanor Baust	John Wade June Clarke	Andrea Clarke Pat Brody
Sun 27 April	Spring 5/6	Kay Mead	Simon Brody	Edward Waldron Claire Cumming	Evelyn Evans
Mon 28 April	1st Mon 1/8	Michael Gill	Nick Rowles Nigel Walker	Paul Baker Ian Jones	Sue Baker
Wed 30 April	1st Wed 2/7	Gavin Poulloin	Nick Orman Gerald Duke	Geoff Willet Martin Davies	Immy Turner Mrs W Davies

LASER LATEST



The Laser Class Social Evening 27 March Venue The Clubhouse 7.30 pm

By popular request, our annual opportunity to show that, despite being single-handers, Laser sailors are, in truth, a very sociable bunch of people

Bring your wife/husband/friend/partner for an evening of conviviality including supper and games

£4.00 per head for supper and a glass of wine

Jointly organised by Mark and Diana. Please reply to:

Diana Gill dianamgill@aol.com 01305 775854

or put your name on the list on the board in the Main Clubroom by 24 March

Mark Wildman wildone.3921@virgin.net
01305 771050

The Weymouth Lifeboat Ball

Saturday 5th April 2003
7-30 pm until 1-00am

At The Pavilion Ballroom Weymouth

Dancing to "Hexagon" from 9-30pm

Superior Buffet from 8-30pm Black tie/Lounge suit

Tickets £21.50

The Lifeboat Ball is organised by the Ladies Lifeboat Guild. If you would like to join the Castle Cove SC table or make up your own table (up to 18 people on a table) please contact either:

Rose Abbott Tel. 788994 or Di Ludlow Tel. 813446

WEYMOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre (WOEC) run a range of adventure activities, including canoeing, and as they will be having some use of our site this year, I thought some background on who they are, and what they will be doing would be useful.

WOEC are part of the Education Department of Dorset County Council, and run sailing, canoeing, climbing and other adventure activities, both for schools and adults. We have used WOEC ourselves, e.g. for Cadet and instructor training.

WOEC's main base is at Knightsdale Road, Weymouth. However, they have used the Sandsfoot site for canoe training for a number of years, and they have asked if they could continue to do so, which we have agreed to. It is vital that we generate extra income to cover the extra costs of the new site (mortgage, etc), and, like increasing membership and winter keelboat storage, the income from WOEC is an essential part of this.

WOEC will run canoeing courses from April through to December, with courses on Thursday evenings and Saturday and Sunday mornings, mainly for small groups, and some other canoeing activities some weekdays. They will have the use of the press office and store (the first door downstairs on the right as you go down the steps), access to the changing rooms and showers, and they will be putting up a canoe rack on the hardstanding for their canoes. Canoeing students will come to the site in the WOEC minibus, which should limit pressure on parking. They will not run training when we have big Open Meetings on.

We have worked well with WOEC in the past, and, of the many organisations which wanted to use the site, WOEC is one of the most compatible with our Club. I am sure that WOEC running their canoeing from our site will work well, with common sense and some give and take when needed on both sides.

Hugh de longh (please contact me, 01305 251190, if you have any queries)

Z CLASS NEWS

I was very pleased that so many of you came to the Z Class Supper at the beginning of February and it was particularly good to see so many new members. Thank you to all the "long standing" members who helped to make them so welcome and show them what a friendly lot we are in Castle Cove. We served 74 meals and there were another half dozen or so who came in later on for a drink so with those numbers we even managed to keep the Clubroom warm. I think I managed to speak to everyone during the evening but as a result I failed miserably to publicly thank the helpers on the evening so will put that right now. Firstly a huge thank you to the Davies family, Jane, Peter and Will for preparing and serving the food and for not screaming every time I added another person to the list. Secondly my thanks to Mike Clark for the punch which helped to break the ice and got everyone talking early in the evening and finally thank you to Paul Clarke for running the bar.

A couple of reminders now. To new members my telephone number is 01305 787222 or e mail sara@spinnakerhouse.com so please remember to contact me if you have any problems with your boat or need crew or simply need more information. We often forget that new members don't know what we have been doing for the past 80 years so saying "as usual" or "as last year" isn't very helpful.

To those of you who race – the SIs this year not only state keelboats must fly either a J or K Class flag on a Wednesday but must fly a Z Class flag for all Z Class races as well. No, Simon and I are not on a commission with Bussells but they do have a new supply in stock! This has been introduced so it is clear to the OD that a boat is racing. If you are not flying a flag you will probably not get a result as it will be assumed you are simply out for a sail. I should also draw your attention to the rule regarding change of sail numbers (I don't have the number until the handbook is finalised). Simon will not be so "kind" this year so if you use a different sail and don't let him know before you race you will not get a result at all.

Finally at the time of writing there are still a few places for the Z Class Dinner on 15 March but please let me know now if you would like to come as I am away from 6 March until the day before the Dinner.

Sara Lloyd

Are you RYA Powerboat level 2 qualified and might want to use a Club boat this season? Joe Isaacs (and friends) are running a Club boats experience evening on Monday 3rd March 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. Invaluable information and training to improve skills, safety techniques and to ensure our boats are looked after.

Come along and get your CBE!

If you are interested give me a ring as we need to know numbers and it is likely the evening will be run again if this Monday doesn't suit.

Ian Green

01305 788793

Email i.greens@virgin.net

Graham and I are hoping to visit Sardinia (probably around the north western corner) and any information on sailing/marinas or any helpful hints on the best places to hire yachts would be gratefully received.

Please contact us either on watkinplumbing@bun.com, snail mail to Woolford House Buckland Newton Dorchester DT2 7DP or good old telephone 01300 345257 for a chin wag.

Thanks.

Gill Watkin

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The team working on the installation of one of the new splendid notice boards were Mike Venning, Eric Barnes and Brian Wilkins. In a lighter moment they decided to put a Time Capsule (sheet of paper) at the back of the board, stating the date and the fact that this gang's combined association with Castle Cove Sailing Club spans more than 170 years.

We have received a donation from Ann Bryers in memory of her father Alec Palmer who with his wife Nora were long time members of our Club. Alec was the official Course Officer for a number of years. That was when we only had three buoys; two somewhere near the start line and one close to Whitehead's pier. The rest of the marks used were the existing Admiralty mooring buoys or the torpedo target rafts. On other mark was used on rare occasions our boats went outside the breakwaters. This was the sewerage outfall buoy off the Stone Pier – sometimes sailing through this area provided most interesting views and aromas!! Fortunately this was a time when capsizes were rare. Good job really as lots of members could not swim – including Alec and his daughter Ann. No Safety Boats. No Lifejackets – in fact only a few had oilskins.

Alec later ran the Ferrybridge Boatyard, where some of our boats were laid up. All work there was handrollic. Block and tackle, levers, wedges, big hammers, a fixed hand turned winch with two gears and the careful use of Spring tides. No wonder that Alec and his motley crew of helpers rushed to enjoy a pint or two at the Ferry Bridge pub when it opened at noon. This pub was also used for some of our Club's social functions. Joan and I both have very special memories of Alec because he took us from the church to our wedding reception in Gay Lady – the boat that was used for Club ferrying.

Brian Wilkins



Alec checks the Castle Cove burgee is flying correctly on Gay Lady

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

Our Club is comprised of a wonderfully diverse range of people who all have at heart a love for sailing and, we hope, the sense of kinship that a small and thriving association can bring. One of the things that everyone agreed upon when discussing the move to Sandsfoot was that the ethos of friendship, contribution and active participation in Club activities should not be lost. At the same time it was recognised that our new home has capacity to extend the membership and, indeed, a 10% increase in membership would help to keep membership fees steady. During the months of September to February there have been about 6% more applications for membership than in previous years so we are moving in the right direction. For both recruitment and good public relations, Jacqui Gisborne is organising an Open Day on May 11th and we, all of us, need to encourage new membership.

This note is to remind members that we can all promote the Club and encourage new members. The following guidelines are designed to help you give advice to your friends and acquaintances, whether existing sailors or aspiring sailors, on joining Castle Cove SC.

Eligibility

- The Club welcomes new members who wish to sail in single-hulled boats whose primary means of propulsion is wind power.
- Inexperienced sailors will be welcomed; complete novices are recommended to take a course with WOEC or other reputable sailing schools before using CCSC facilities.
- Age rules for cadets are given in the Club Handbook.
- As long as at least one member of any family is an active participator in sailing, other family members will be welcome in the Club (subject to normal rules).
- New Club members are encouraged to sail preferred classes (Sigma 33, J24, B14, 29er, Buzz, Wayfarer, Contender, Scorpion, Laser, Topper, Mirror & Optimist)

- At the last AGM it was agreed that the 30-mile domiciliary rule could be viewed as a guide rather than be applied strictly and thus prospective members who live some distance from the Club must demonstrate (as do all members) that they will actively support the Club by doing at least one duty (tea, rescue, OD, AOD etc), help from time to time with duties for Open Meetings and make a contribution to Club maintenance (this may be anything from winter working parties to administration). Those living at a distance with a boat on a mooring must be able to respond quickly if something untoward happens to the boat (e.g., mooring failure).
- Obviously all other Club rules apply.

Club advantages

Membership of CCSC brings all those wonderful things we know and love:

- Probably the best waters for racing in the UK
- A comprehensive racing and cruising programme designed for all abilities
- Idyllic scenery for cruising
- A wealth of advice from Club members with extensive experience at global, international, national and local level in every aspect of boat sailing and maintenance
- An active, year round, social calendar with talks and suppers, informal and formal
- And now, of course, a wonderfully accessible site from which to launch/access your boat

Sailing activities

To remind you of the range activities to help you 'sell' the Club, here are the types of events offered:

Cruising in company both locally (a few hours for lunch in a 'local'), to cross Channel

'Long' distance racing (e.g. across the Channel with socialising in France)

'Round the cans' racing; dinghies April – Christmas, keelboats May - September:

Wednesday evenings	The Club's most competitive and busiest evening (all welcome)
Monday evenings	Also well supported and competitive; those new to racing will probably find these series a gentler way of getting started
Friday evenings	Actually run by RDYC and RNSA from CCSC line. Social racing at its best, beer and chips afterwards in the RDYC a pleasant extra
Weekends	A mix of all the above!
Saturday morning Cadets	For children who have completed RYA Levels 1 and 2 Aged from 8 (provided parents are active in the Club). Or 12 – 18 for cadets in their own right
Friday mornings	Ladies (and honorary ladies) Training/sociable sailing for less experienced sailors
Special events	Open Meetings, one-off activities (e.g. Treasure Hunts)

How to apply

Application forms can be downloaded from the website or are available in the Clubhouse together with a leaflet on Club activities. Liz Grant, the Membership Secretary, or any member of the Committee will be please to talk with prospective members. Most applicants come to the Club to look round. It is important we ALWAYS make them feel welcome, answer questions etc. (even if it is 5 minutes after you should have left to get to the start line). Forms have space for proposers, seconders and/or Committee member. Liz's role is to receive the forms, administer the process and deal with requests or queries on membership.

All of us are potential recruiters for our own Club. Your help to spread the word about our Club and its activities will benefit us all.

Bring them in, sign them up!

The Membership Team

CRUISING PROGRAMME 2003**APRIL****SHAKE DOWN CRUISE - LULWORTH**

Sat 12th Depart Weymouth 1400
 Sun 13th Depart Lulworth 1100

EASTER CRUISE TO IOW

Thur 17th Depart Weymouth 0800
 Fri 18th Depart Studland 0800
 Sat 19th Depart Yarmouth 0900
 Sun 20th Depart Bucklers Hard 1000
 Mon 21st Depart Lymington 1200

MUPE BAY BAR B Q

Sat 26th Depart Weymouth 1200
 Sun 27th Depart Mupe 1100

MAY**BANK HOLIDAY WEEK-END BRIXHAM**

Sat 3rd Depart Weymouth 1000 to round Portland Bill 1200

Sun 4th Depart Brixham to sail to Dartmouth

Mon 6th Depart Dartmouth to arrive Portland Bill (1700-1900)

ARNE POINT, POOLE HARBOUR

Sat 10th Depart Weymouth 0800

Sun 12th Depart Poole

SAIL PAST

Sun 18th See Club notice board for further details

Cruise in company for a week to BRITANNY and CHANNEL ISLANDS to celebrate Club's 80th anniversary and/or take part in the Alderney Race. Please see instructions issued by CCSC Race Officer.

Fri 23rd Racers Depart 1910

Sat 24th Cruisers Depart Weymouth 0600

Sun 25th Depart Alderney

Mon 26th Depart St Peter Port

Tue 27th Depart Trebeurden for Brest, Biscay and beyond or return home via

Wed 28th Depart Perros Guirec

Thur 29th Depart St Quay Portrieux

Fri 30th Depart Dahouet

Sat 31st Depart St Helier

Sun 1st Depart St Peter Port for Weymouth

JUNE**CHAPMAN'S POOL AND WORBARROW**

Sat 7th Depart Weymouth 1000 for swim at Chapman's Pool
 Depart for evening Barbeque at Worbarrow

Sun 8th Depart Worbarrow for Weymouth

LYME REGIS

Sat 14th Depart Weymouth 1000 to round Bill at 1200

Sun 15th Depart Lyme Regis to round Bill at 1700-1900

POOLE PASSAGE RACE

Sat 21st **Please see instructions issued by CCSC Race Officer**

LULWORTH

Sat 28th Depart Weymouth 1000

Sun 29th Depart Lulworth 1300

JULY**MUPE BAY FOR CRICKET AND BAR B Q**

Sat 5th Depart Weymouth 1200

Sun 6th Depart Mupe

CHERBOURG PASSAGE RACE

Fri 11th **Please see instructions issued by CCSC Race Officer**

LYMINGTON PASSAGE RACE

Sat 19th **Please see instructions issued by CCSC Race Officer**

WEST BAY

Sat 26th Depart Weymouth 0800 to round Bill at 1000

Sun 27th Depart West Bay to round Bill at 1700-1900

CRUISING PROGRAMME 2003

AUGUST

CHERBOURG

Fri 1st Depart Weymouth 0700

Sun 3rd Depart Cherbourg 0700

RIVER EXE

Fri 8th Depart Weymouth 0600 to round Bill at 0800

Sun 10th Depart Exe to arrive Portland Bill 1400-1600

MUPE

Sat 16th Depart Weymouth 1200

Sun 18th Depart Mupe 1000

Bank Holiday Week-end DARTMOUTH REGATTA

Sat 23rd DARTMOUTH RACE

Please see instructions issued by CCSC Race Officer

WORBARROW Three Fish Race

Sat 30th Depart Weymouth 1000

Winner is first boat ashore cooking three fresh mackerel

Sun 31st Depart Worbarrow 1000 for pub lunch in Lulworth
Depart Lulworth 1600

SEPTEMBER

STUDLAND

Sat 6th Depart Weymouth 1200
Dinghy Race followed by supper at the Bankes Arms Hotel

Sun 7th Depart Studland 0900

CHERBOURG

Fri 12th Depart Weymouth 0600

Sun 15th Depart Cherbourg 0630

If you have any **images of sailing**, we would like to scan these in to hold on file for any kind of club promotion - this could be in display format, web pages, or the printed matter.

Please either leave at the Club for my attention, or e-mail to Roy Griffiths at roy@creativesolutions-uk.com or post to:

4 Birch Way, Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6HZ:
We will ensure their safe return.

Many thanks
Jacqui Gisborne,
Communications Group

DO NOT FORGET YOUR PASSAGE PLAN!

The departure times are only for guidance and are the times I would normally leave given the right conditions.

Some of the cruises are based on boat speed of 5 knots so you may need to alter times of departure to suit your own boat speed.

Tidal information taken from Admiralty charts and atlases.

If you are interested in taking part in any of the events, please enter your name on the form displayed on the cruising section notice board before each cruise. This may encourage others to join in and will give you an opportunity to advertise for crew if needed. Any queries please contact me.

Rupert Fowke rupert@thornprep.freemove.co.uk 01305 785703

CASTLE COVE SAILING CLUB'S 80TH BIRTHDAY BASH - SUNDAY 18TH MAY 03

Plans are now under way to push the boat out and celebrate the 80th birthday of our Club. Members can expect a full and fun packed day, with a host of entertainment; on and off water activities; games and few surprises - that will have you talking about the day for at least another 80 years - so book out the whole day now in your diaries. A full programme of the day's activities will be published in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Club History

We are also looking for any memorabilia relating to the Club you may have or know of someone who has - from photos (roughly date if possible) to short stories or incidents - it may even be the key to the loo from first Club above the beach - all items please to Rose Abbott 01305 788994 derekmabbott@hotmail.com clearly marked with your details.

Jane Davies and her Birthday Bunch

CANARIES TO THE CARIBBEAN WITH NEIL AND JOSIE PRINCE ON LUCY ELLEN

Ian Cheke and I flew out to Tenerife on Friday 15th November. Lucy Ellen was almost fully provisioned except for the last minute fresh stuff. We helped Neil to check the rigging and engine and generally get the boat ready. The plan was to leave for Antigua the following Tuesday in company with three other larger yachts. We slipped our berth at 1100 on Tuesday 15th November - there was a fanfare of hooters and horns from friends we had made during our stay. The GPS was indicating 2700 nm to our waypoint off Antigua! This we all found quite daunting and too many Cherbourg crossings to calculate. The first week we sailed due South in search of the trade winds. The winds were generally light but from all directions, this was good as we were able to get our sea legs and establish a routine. It took us almost a week and 800 miles before the butter started to melt and we turned right to head for Antigua. The trade winds were exactly what we all expected, 15 to 20 knots from the East, bright blue skies with puffy clouds and beautiful turquoise sea. There was however a very lumpy cross swell which made life very uncomfortable for us on Lucy Ellen. Despite this, Josie still produced a gourmet meal every night. We had the genoa poled out to port and a small storm gib hanked on to an emergency forestay poled out to starboard. With this sail plan we managed 6kts for most of the time, and if a squall came, and many did, we simply rolled in some genoa to reduce sail. Neil, Ian and I were keeping watches on the helm 2 hours on and 4 off. Josie kept a standing 1000 to 1200 watch in the forenoon which gave us an extra 2 hours off every day. The sail plan and the watch system worked well and we very quickly slipped into the routine. Neil baked lovely fresh bread every other day and even Ian managed to read two books. I taught Josie how to play cribbage and it wasn't long before she was beating me. Every thing stopped at 1800 for sundowners. We saw lots of flying fish and dolphins, but only two other yachts. One particular day we had two 30 foot whales come and play with the boat. They would surf down a wave from astern and then when abreast of the boat would turn upside down and swim under the keel showing their white bellies. They seemed to enjoy this, as they stayed with the boat all afternoon and well into the night. During the night we could identify some of the common stars and constellations, we saw many shooting stars and when the moon was full, the night watches were unforgettable. We caught 4 fish, two got away but two we ate for dinner. The other three larger yachts all had SSB transmitters and reported their position to each other every day. We had receive only and could eargwig their conversations, so we could plot their position, but they didn't know ours. The GPS directed us right to Antigua despite there being 18^o of variation! We arrived at English Harbour at 1400 on Monday 9th December, 20 days after leaving the Canaries. Ian and I flew home on Friday 13th December. Neil and Josie are still cruising the Caribbean; they stayed in Antigua over Christmas and were last heard of from Guadeloupe before heading South toward Grenada. They wish to be remembered to all the Club members and can be contacted by e-mail, their address is: nandjprince@hotmail.com



Neil with fish

Frank Swinton

WEEKLY INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER at CCSC Clubhouse

continuing after successful first meeting
Wednesdays 10.30am-Midday
to raise a little money towards purchase of plants
as well as a social occasion

Rosemary Spicer (01305 782125)

Hypodermic Needles

While clearing the scrub on the site a number of needles were found. In case any more are uncovered a bin has been provided in the Clubhouse. It is a mini yellow plastic flip top container, specifically for disposal of "sharps". This will be collected and replaced regularly.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday
to
Graham Watkin
who is

60

on 9th March
(No retirement yet on the cards for him)

FROM BRISTOL CLIPPER

At the end of January, we had just passed through the Doldrums and were storming along in the northeast trade winds towards Hawaii, in 3rd place.

We're now mid Pacific again, en route from Hawaii to Yokohama, but more of that later. The remaining 1500 miles to Hawaii were a bit of a drag run. Going in a straight line, these boats are incredibly evenly matched. Thus, there was very little change in relative position day by day. However, we had slightly more current on our line, than London Clipper further to the north, and were able to pull in to 2nd place. However, that still left Jersey, some 30 miles ahead, on roughly the same track as us. Every 12 hours, we have a radio sched, when the duty Clipper collects the positions of all the boats to send them to the race office. Sched by sched, there might be a mile or two gain or loss between us and Jersey, but not enough for us to get ahead.

However, as we got closer to Hawaii, the weather became more unsettled and squally and it was possible to make much bigger gains or losses, depending on how much you got caught under squall clouds. One sched, having made our way to 21 miles behind Jersey, we then lost 12 miles on the next sched, before we then had a good couple of scheds and they found the clouds and suddenly we were only 4 miles behind, with only 400 miles to go. A few hours later, we even had them in sight, on our starboard bow, the first Clipper for two weeks.

Jersey and Bristol were on strangely different courses, so we quickly lost sight of each other, but over the next day or so, maintained a distance to go within a mile or two of each other. As we got closer to the Hawaiian islands, the reason for the different courses became apparent as Jersey picked a different route through the islands to us. Initially, this appeared to pay off as the current helped them on their route and we lost the wind, but then the northeast trades recovered, leaving them in the lee of Maui and us with clear wind, allowing us to storm towards the finish. This was visible to web watchers at home, but it wasn't until the radio sched, 3 hours before we finished that we discovered we had turned an 18 mile deficit in to 30 mile lead. We won the race, with Liverpool 2nd and Jersey 3rd, leaving us in 3rd place overall, one point behind London in 2nd.

Our first victory took a while in coming, but was very welcome to my crew and around the fleet. Prizegivings are always more fun when you are the winners. There were two in Hawaii!

We had a great break in Oahu, with some of the crew going off to Maui for a few days. I had a couple of visitors for a few days, my sister-in-law Jane, and a surprise visitor in the form of Dave Caddy, who unexpectedly turned up at the airport. We rented a studio flat the other side of the island and chilled out for a few days.

10 days ago, we set off on the next race to Japan. The route takes us west in the trade winds before heading up to Japan. We are currently in 5th place, as we have chosen to keep further south than most of the other boats in order to get better wind and current. Being further south means that with the same westing, we would have a greater distance to go to Japan. In practise, we are actually slightly further west and the plan is to move back up in front of the rest of the fleet. We'll see in a few days if this tactic has been successful.

Best wishes to all of you back in Blighty as you think about getting boats ready for the new season. Boozeroo will be heading up to the Solent for the summer to compete in the RORC offshore series and the Fastnet race.

Following a week in Japan, we will then be off to Shanghai in China.

Richard Butler

MARCH NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the April 2003 Newsletter will be 23rd March 2003.

I would like to encourage more Club members to take the newsletter by e-mail. The "test run" with the January Newsletter was e-mailed to all those whom I had e-mail addresses for. Although the number of members that have confirmed that they would like the letter by e-mail is growing it only represents a small proportion of the January run. I expect that some of the e-mail addresses were out of date or incorrect and hence may not have been received. If you think you may be amongst these then please let me know.

Some members may not wish their e-mail address to be known so this is concealed by sending out e-mails 'blind'. I know some members are a little hesitant because of download time or are uncertain of being able to read the format. It can be irritating to receive unsolicited e-mails so I will not add you to the e-mail distribution list until you request it. Please be assured that you will not be removed from the postal mailing unless you confirm otherwise. Let me know if you have any questions or would simply like to try it without committing yourself.

If you decide to receive your Newsletter by e-mail you will find that you get much better quality from your own printer (or your screen if you are saving trees) – particularly in the photographs and of course (if you have it) they will be in colour!

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