

MAINSHEET



ROYAL CHANNEL ISLANDS YACHT CLUB (GUERNSEY) LBG

August and September 2012

Dates for your Diary

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Sat 22 Sept | Richard Corcoran Beaucette Cruise and Dinner |
| Tues 2 Oct | Curry Lunch |
| Weds 10 Oct | New Members' and Sponsors' Cocktail Party |
| Sat 20 Oct | 150th Anniversary Dinner |
| Weds 21 Nov | RNLI and CIAS Cocktail Party |

Please check the website for forthcoming Social, Cruising and Sailing events

Commodore's Log

The Summer has flown by but, despite the weather, the Club has been very active. Races have been well attended with exception of the Commodore's Pot for which only 3 boats entered. This was the last race of the season and there was virtually no wind at all. We are very grateful to all the companies which sponsor the races and, of course, all the competitors. There has barely been room to move in the Clubhouse at some of the prizegivings but the atmosphere has been great! Ray Redlinghuys, Rear Commodore (Sail) deserves our thanks for organising the races, as do those who have assisted with starting races and calculating results.

The cruise to St Aubin was, as usual, a great success and enjoyed by all. The hospitality and food at the RCIYC in St Aubin was superb. The Clegg Gifford Diélette cruise had to be postponed by a week due to inclement weather but the wait was well worthwhile. John Frankland set us a challenging nautical quiz and Stuart Crisp, Vice Commodore, organised the event. Stuart reports in more detail in this **Mainsheet**.

We have a number of social events scheduled for the autumn and winter. Invitations to the 150th anniversary dinner have already been sent. I do hope that we will have a good turnout for this special event. Phil and Julie Ball put a lot of effort in keeping our website up to date and our members informed of forthcoming events. Do refer to the website www.rciyc.com as it has much useful information.

With best wishes,

David Mitchison
Commodore
(SY Calypso)

RCIYC 150th Anniversary Sail Past



On Thurs 5th July more than 130 boats took to the water in St Aubin's Bay to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club. Hundreds of people watched from the shore and the Club House was packed. With its elevated position above the breakwater of St Aubin's Harbour, the spectators enjoyed a panoramic view.

Among those observing from the terrace were Jersey's Lieutenant-Governor General Sir John McColl and his wife Lady Gene, and our Commodore David Mitchison and Anne Marie.

Boats assembled at 1900 and included everything from rowing boats, dinghies, motor boats, yachts, lifeboats and even some very brave swimmers! One crew were even sailing in full evening dress!

The weather was perfect, just enough wind and the sun came out just before the sail past started. The three Condor ferries could be seen in the distance off St Helier (more by luck than anything else).

Amongst the boats on the water were two yachts from Guernsey **Magic Legend** (Mike Tai and Julie Payne) and **Meltemi** (Phil and Julie Ball) both boats dressed overall. They were right in the middle of the yachts and enjoyed the spectacle from the water. Two hours later they were back at the clubhouse, this time by land, for a celebratory drink and supper.

Welcome to New Members

We look forward to meeting the following new members who have joined the club. Our congratulations go to:

Mr and Mrs Bob Sadler
Anne Le Cheminant
David and Jennifer Barwell
John Scott

Social Scene

Tues 2 Oct Curry Lunch @ 1230 £11

Weds 10 Oct New Members' and Sponsors' Cocktail Party @ 1830
£10

Bookings: Please sign the list on the Notice board or contact Carolyn.

Sat 20 Oct 150th Anniversary Dinner - Cobo Bay Hotel £28 -
Details have been sent by post and bookings are required by 25 Sept

Do you want to crew or do you need crew?

John Frankland has suggested that it might be useful to have a list of people either wanting to crew or skippers needing crew. John is often asked if he can find a friendly skipper who will take fairly inexperienced crew. To this end, we are happy to display a list in the club. If you would like to be included please send the following details to Carolyn at rciyc@cwsy.net - Name, brief details of experience or crewing opportunities, telephone number and email.

Sailing

A full programme of passage and evening races has continued through the summer in somewhat variable conditions.

Many thanks to all our sponsors:

Heritage Group
St Peter's Trust
Nashcopy
Boatworks+
Oak Trust
Insurance Corporation CI
Swoffers
Randalls
Mora
Ballistic Blue

We look forward to the start of next season's racing in the new year.

Commodore's Pot - 8th September



Three boats entered the Commodore's Pot sponsored by **Ballistic Blue** - **White Rabbit** (Simon Henning), **Kite Runner** (Richard Storey) and **Calypso** (David Mitchison).

In very light south easterly/variable winds the three boats crossed the start line but the tide prevented much headway. **White Rabbit** led from the start but **Calypso** and **Kite Runner** had difficulty reaching the Terres Buoy. After about 90 minutes **Kite Runner** retired and **Calypso** decided to do likewise shortly afterwards. **White Rabbit** made much better progress towards Lower Heads buoy but eventually decided to retire too.

In the evening there was a buffet in the Clubhouse sponsored by **Ballistic Blue**. Thanks are due to **Ballistic Blue** for their kind support and to Martin Priest for starting the race.

Ray Redelinghuys
Rear Commodore (Sail)
email: [rheino\[at\]impi.gg](mailto:rheino@impi.gg)/mob: 07839 715464

Cruising

Some say that the summer has been c**p and some say not too bad. Whatever your view Sarah and I had the best cruising holiday along the Breton coast for many years. Also two planned RCIYC cruises actually happened - although one was a bit delayed.

St Aubin

It was perfect weather for a cruise, especially if you own a motorboat; flat calm and hot and sunny. It was worth while moving the date from early June to July. What a weekend! The weather was so hot even the normally shy Johann Etasse got his legs out.



Seven boats made it, three of which stayed in St Aubin which was a bit more crowded, mainly with the intrepid French, at this time of the year. Even so it was not without mishap. It was **Strider's** turn to slip off the hardcore at the base of the quay with 18" or more of shapely leg in the St Aubin ooze. There seems to be a theme developing here.



You can also see **Greta** and **Cygonie** sitting pretty in the mud.

The St Aubin Cruise could be called a two centre cruise as the boats that cannot take the ground went as usual to St Helier and the crews spent the Friday evening and Saturday in the steamy fleshpots of the metropolis while those in St Aubin passed their time more sedately, swimming and sunbathing. We all met up at the RCIYC Club House and

had an excellent meal provided by Pavel, the new restaurant manager. There were 21 of us including Sandra Carroll, the Jersey RCIYC Commodore and Chris and Lynne Cook (both ex Jersey Commodores). It was great to see that two 'young people' also came along, Sam (Michael's stand in barman) and a mate. Sam crewed for Steve Drew in his new boat.

St Aubin Harbour is such a lovely setting so if you can take the ground try it out, and it is free! Plus they have electricity. Get a £1 meter card from the little supermarket opposite the Parish Hall.

Three boats, **Calypso**, **Cygonie** and **Strider**, stayed on after the rest of the crowd had returned to Guernsey and revived the Les Minquiers Cruise, although only **Cygonie** and **Strider** made it due to the entrance being too shallow for **Calypso**.



Clegg Gifford Diélette Cruise



We had a lucky escape with the Diélette Cruise because as we all know the Summer Bank Holiday weather was c**p and we had to postpone the cruise for the first time since Paddy Randall and Anne White can remember. However, the following weekend was fine and calm. So nine boats set off, to be fair some were already there, **Persuasion** (for a week) and **Ban Druidh**, with **Strider** arriving last and just in time for a feast of Moules Frits at **L'Escale** restaurant.

During the early hours of Saturday morning, about 0400 I was going to the bloc sanitaire (it's an age thing!) and I saw an otter at the top of the quay next to the bridge. I watched the animal for about 5 minutes or so before it disappeared into the bushes, one of the highlights of the weekend for me.



During Saturday the crews did their own thing, some even swam in the sea! As usual we all met up in the car park outside **La Phare** restaurant for drinks followed by a superb Normand meal of seafood, duck, cheese and tarte de pomme. After the first course we were treated to the usual 'Trou Normand' - a large glass of calvados intended to make room in the stomach for more food - not to make you p****d which it seemed to do!

After the Loyal Toast given by Julie Ball, the prizes were awarded to the winners of the nautical quiz, expertly prepared by John Frankland who was sad not to be able to make the postponed event. John will tell everyone that the quiz was easy! The local crews struggled, and advantage was given to our overseas members by a series of supplementary questions replacing some of the more difficult local ones. The winners were Adrian and Delia Pogson of **Ban Druidh**, Dominic and Paula Clark of **Persuasion**, and Mike and Wendy of **Glayva**. The prizes were given out by Anne Marie Mitchison.



After the end of the meal things started to get a bit blurry and we apparently got to bed around 0400 - no I didn't see the otter then!

Sunday was a slow start for many, especially Ed Duncan who seemed to spend the rest of the day on aptly named **Siesta**.

It was nice to see Diélette virgins Mike Tai and Julie Payne joining the cruise in **Magic Legend**.

Although the numbers were reduced this year due to the fact that it wasn't a Bank Holiday weekend (we normally get at least 40 people and have had 70) it was still a brilliant event thanks to all who attended and to Clegg Gifford for their generous sponsorship.

Now for the future...

Richard Corcoran Beaucette Cruise



It looks narrower than it is - or is it the other way round!

The Richard Corcoran Cruise will take place on the 22 September and is a cruise for all our members, whether they travel by car, taxi, bike, shank's pony or boat. The cruise takes place in honour of Richard, past Vice Commodore of RCIYC, who died on the 20th November 2009, aged 64. Richard loved the sea and during his tenure he worked tirelessly for the club. He will be remembered by all the members who had the privilege to know him.

Details of the event and the menu have been circulated by email but if you have any queries please contact me by e-mail crispscrisp@aol.com.



And finally.....

If you have been cruising this year don't forget that the RCIYC presents a trophy for the best cruising log of the year. The award will be presented at the Annual Dinner Dance. If you have a log to enter please contact Carolyn.

Stuart Crisp

Vice Commodore

e-mail: [crispscrisp\[at\]aol.com](mailto:crispscrisp[at]aol.com)

Round The Island Race - (Isle of Wight that is!)

It seemed like a good idea at the time - a bit of a jolly across to the Isle of Wight, race around the island, meet up with friends in that island and return to Guernsey - just a long weekend. It turned out to be much more of an adventure than at first thought, especially with the unpredictable summer weather that we are having.

Altair was one of five Starlight 35's entered for this, the biggest yacht race in the world, and we were determined to get round and finish despite all the warnings about shallows, hidden rocks and strange tides. Apart from myself, the crew consisted of Johann Etasse, Dino Castro, Peter de Carteret (Shadow) and Graham Wood who lives in the IoW and who was to join us for the race there.

We sailed just before midnight with little wind and much fog but all seemed well (radar and AIS coming into play as we crossed the shipping lines in the poor visibility) and we spotted the Needles at about 1300 on the Wednesday afternoon nicely getting a fair tide in the Solent as planned. We had booked a berth at the Folly Inn way up the river Medina - a place I have visited several times before. The Folly Inn itself is great for food and drink (no John Smiths though) and famous for 'dancing on the tables!' The downside was that we were moored on a pontoon in the river, and the facilities ashore were basic to say the least!

Graham joined us on Thursday morning and, not being over-sure of the start line position, we set off for a practice sail in the Cowes area. Brilliant sailing in sunshine and F4 winds enabled us to fly the Spinny, gybe and generally dash about and around the Bramble Bank. Mention of the word spinnaker to my crew usually results in their complete disappearance from the cockpit and to a cowering position down below. This time however, they did a great job and all decided that we were ready for anything.



L-R: Dino - Graham - John F - Peter



Approaching the start

The morning of the race brought rain and a strong south westerly wind. With 1647 entries, the Island Sailing Club had divided the fleet into groups, based on handicaps and identified by coloured flags - we were 'dayglow green' - with starts every 10 minutes. Altair was in a group of 42 yachts due to start at 0830. The organisation of the start was impeccable with a count down on the VHF for each group. The actual start was chaotic with dayglow green, blue, white and other classes all well mixed at the line (which was impossible to see). Somehow we got away - a good start in fact - and began the tacking process that took us towards the Needles, some 12 miles away. The Solent was amass with yachts of every class, and by and large, all behaving in the correct way as the boats crossed first on Starboard, then on Port as we progressed with a strong tide in our favour. There was one almighty collision close to us just after the start - much shouting, then the crash! Two retirements already from our class and we noted that we were catching and overtaking boats that had started before us - the whites and the blues. Big traffic jam in the narrows at Hurst Point but again we managed to slide through always looking for space and clean air. At the Needles the wind was gusting to 30 knots and more but we were able to bear away being careful to avoid the wreck close in.



A rival Starlight

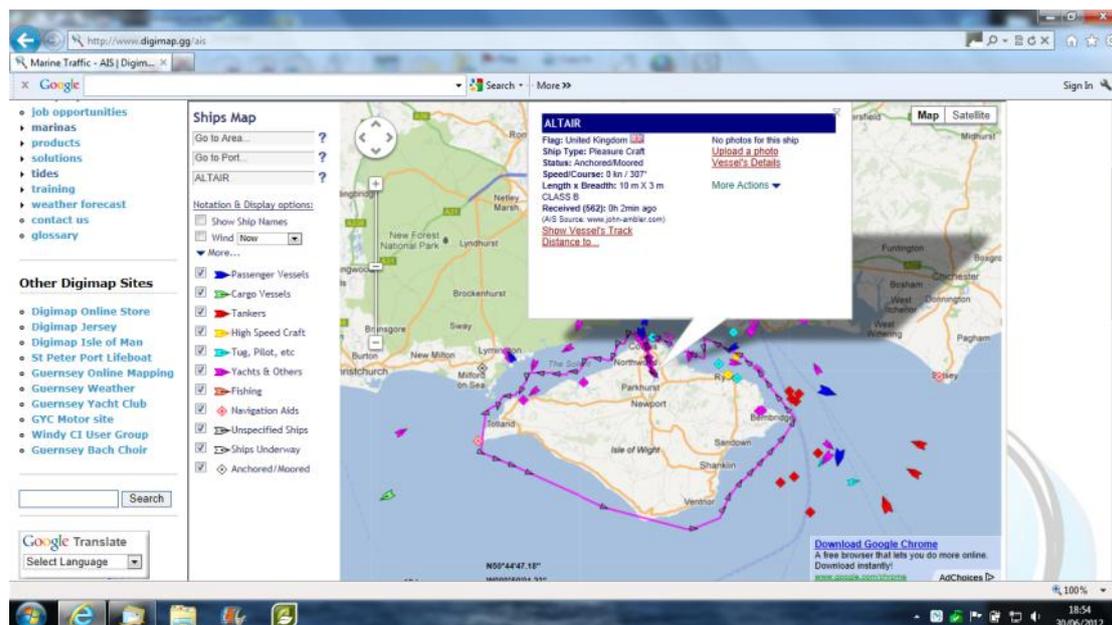


Concentration and watching the gybe

Along the SW coast we were sailing fast with a big sea and against the tide. We shook out the one reef we had in and opted to sail directly towards St Catherine's rather than head inshore into Freshwater bay where the tide was slightly less. Again it kept us in clean air and Altair was not impeded by any other yachts, going well against a lovely background of white cliffs and yellow sands. Big seas at St Catherine's Point became a bit dodgy as we gradually turned further downwind, eventually goose-winging, rolling and trying not to get tangled with others - some seemed barely in control. One large yacht was in our way when we were to gybe but a few tweaks and a little sliding down the waves did the trick - we were hitting 8 knots and more when surfing.

The first Mayday was heard here - man overboard. The helicopter came to the rescue but the casualty was picked up by another boat. Another call from a boat ahead, reporting a head injury due to an accidental gybe. The helicopter lifted this casualty who I understand was badly hurt. It did not stop there, two lifeboats located boats in trouble (not easy in a huge fleet of yachts) - everything from an eye injury to a dismasting. We were pleased to reach Bembridge Ledge buoy and turn into more sheltered waters.

From Bembridge towards the two Forts off Portsmouth, now on a reach and mixing it with a large old Gaffer, the crew of which were spread about the deck as if on a Sunday cruise. Finally, still under full sail and with the wind gusting over 30 knots we tacked for the finish past Ryde Bay. We had to finish over the northern of two lines and this we did, showing our identification letters on the dodger as instructed. Time was 1714 - 8hrs and 44 minutes to complete the 50 odd miles. We were 9th in our group of 42 and 197th overall in the ISC handicap group of 820.



Altair's AIS track courtesy of Digimap



Folly at Night



It's true - they do!

Back at the Folly, we had a meal and a few beers to celebrate our finishing the race. I can vouch for the fact that there was much dancing on the tables!

We weren't able to be at the presentation since we thought we might return to Guernsey on the Sunday night. The wind increased however from the SW making it an almost impossible trip. With two reefs in then, we tacked our way towards the Needles in very rough conditions and entered Lymington - very wet and very pleased to find a berth in the Haven.

We had to return to Guernsey by air for some to get to work - but even then, we flew into thick fog at Guernsey and had to return to Southampton! Three in a room (all we could get) was a laugh but slightly uncomfortable!

John Frankland, Altair

RCIYC Regalia



Cufflinks £15.00



Ladies Brooch £6.50



Sweat Shirt £31.50



Polo Shirt £25.00

Also Cap Badges, Blazer Buttons, Bow Ties (Made-up & Self Tie), Cumberbunds, Club Ties, Burgees & Ensigns, Rugby Shirts, Sweaters etc. are available from the Club.

'Mainsheet'

Contributions from members are very welcome so please share your sailing experiences and exploits with us.

Julie Ball

Rear Commodore

Please contact me via Club email rciyc[at]cwgsy.net or telephone 723154.

Club Opening Hours

| | High Season 1 May - 14 Sept | Low Season 15 Sept - 30 April |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Weekdays - Lunch | 1030 - 1400 | 1130 - 1400 |
| Weekdays - Evening | 1800 - 2200 | CLOSED |
| Fridays - Lunch | 1030 - 1400 | 1130 - 1400 |
| Fridays - Evening | 1800 - 2200 | 1800 - 2200 |
| Saturdays - Lunch | 1030 - 1430 | 1130 - 1430 |
| Saturdays - Evening | 1800 - 2200 | CLOSED |
| Sundays - Lunch | 1200 - 1400 | CLOSED |
| Sundays - Evening | 1800 - 2200 | CLOSED |

Any changes to these hours will be advised by email and updated on the website and Club Notices

Club Contact Details

Secretary: Carolyn Clark

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Steward: Mike Blaney

Tel: (01481) 725500

Website: www.rciyc.com

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Channel-Islands-Yacht-Club-Guernsey-LBG/110840218982984>

We can also be found on Twitter - search for "@RCIYC"

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