

# MAINSHEET



## ROYAL CHANNEL ISLANDS YACHT CLUB (GUERNSEY) LBG

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November & December 2013

### Dates for your Diary

Weds 27 Nov	Seaquest Marine Wine Tasting
Wed 04 Dec	Curry Lunch (Tailor made)
Thurs 05 Dec	Mulled wine and mince pies at the Club - Late night shopping
Thurs 12 Dec	Mulled wine and mince pies at the Club - Late night shopping
Thurs 19 Dec	Mulled wine and mince pies at the Club - Late night shopping
Fri 20 Dec	Christmas Party
Tues 24 Dec	Christmas Draw
Weds 1 Jan	Ladies' Day
Sat 11 Jan	Heritage Frostbite Series Race
Sat 25 Jan	Heritage Frostbite Series Race

Please check the website [www.rciyc.com](http://www.rciyc.com) and Notice Board for details of these events.

### Commodore's Log

Dear Member

As we sink into winter and stay inside out of the inclement weather the Club changes gear. We have had two very successful indoor events. The first was a challenging quiz prepared by quiz masters Sue and Roger Edwards. It was won by Busker, closely followed by Dark Horse. Strider's crew had a good time, as usual, but was at the back of the fleet! We had an excellent Laying up Supper, with a full Club house and good food supplied by Andy Taylor of Tailored Catering.

However, there are a few members who have escaped the wintery weather and are going to be doing some serious boating, David Mitchison, Phil Ball, Dino Castro, and John Frankland in Calypso along with Alan Richards and Nick and Carol Renny are about start sailing to St Lucia in the ARC - see below for details. Good Luck.

I know a lot of people were disappointed that we had to postpone the Sea Shanty night, but not to worry we will set a new date in January. We have some musicians who are excited at the prospect of playing at the Club.

The Club is busy on Friday evenings, for the meat draw, and over the Saturday lunchtimes. However, we are not so busy during weekday lunchtimes. I feel it is important that we keep the Club open as often as possible, so if you are in Town during the week, call in, come for lunch, even bring your sandwiches, it would be good to see you.

The Board works hard to manage the finances of the Club and while the income to the Club is reasonably stable our outgoings are increasing. Most of the increases are beyond our control, such as rent, and this year our outgoings have exceeded our income. We have not increased the membership subscriptions for 8 years, so it has become imperative that there is an increase for next year. As we do not have e-mail addresses for a significant number of members I will be sending out a letter to all members in the next few weeks setting out the increase and all the reasons for it.

The Board has been very busy planning for next season and some of those plans are contained in this edition of *Mainsheet*. It is very exciting to see that there are some excellent ideas coming forward, some of which we are not ready to tell you about just yet, but look at the developments in the Heritage Frostbite Series!

As you will be aware the new management of the Harbour Authority have managed to upset boat owners and marine traders with one unilateral action. About three months ago the RCIYC were represented at a meeting with the management from the Harbour Authority and we were assured that they wanted to improve communication. However, removing the hosepipes without consultation or warning did not help to reassure boat users that harbour staff were serious about improving communication. As you will be aware, I have written to both the Harbour Master and the Harbour Director. Sarah McGreevy phoned me to discuss my letter but could not give me any indication that the hosepipes would be put back.

David Norman, of Marine and General, has completed a survey in Yachting and Boating World and from 134 respondents 87% said that they had shared hosepipes in their marinas supplied by the marina.

Still, the discussions will continue and there is a meeting between the harbour staff and boat users and marine traders. The hosepipe issue will be high on the agenda amongst other things.

If you have any other issues that you want us to discuss with the Harbour management please drop me an e-mail.

You may have heard that we have had some problems regarding the annual dinner dance. We were booked to return to the Farmhouse Hotel on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. However, the Farmhouse Hotel is going to be closed due to building work. David Nussbaumer has offered us Cobo Hotel and after couple of meetings and sampling the menu we have decided that this will be the venue for next year. There will be concessions on room prices for that weekend and details will be sent out soon.

Finally, there are a couple of RCIYC members who are going through medical treatment at the moment, Simon Henning and John Le Maitre, I am sure you will join me in wishing them a speedy recovery.

Stuart Crisp  
MV Strider  
[crispscrisp@aol.com](mailto:crispscrisp@aol.com)

PS We need lots of paperback books for our RNLI bookcase - please drop them into the Club.

### **Welcome to New Members**

We look forward to meeting the following seven new members who have joined the Club. Our congratulations to;

Mr Jan Robyns	Single/Ord
Mr John Fisher	Single/Ord
Mr Darren Vogel & Dr Nichola Lloyd	Joint/Ord
Mr & Mrs David Raines	Joint/Ord
Mr Lindsay McKay	Single/Ord

## **Social Scene**

### **Sequest Marine Tasting - Weds 27 November @ 1700 - 2030**

Sequest Marine would like to invite all members to a wine tasting evening in the shop premises. Mark Harvey the owner of Grape Expectations will be supplying a wide range of wine from his store, which will be on offer for you to make orders if you wish.

Please add your name to the list on the Notice Board or email Carolyn at [rciyc@cwgsy.net](mailto:rciyc@cwgsy.net), or telephone Carolyn on 723154 or Michael on 725500, so that you can be added to the list.

### **Christmas Party - Friday 20 Dec @ 1830**

Details nearer the date

### **Christmas Draw - Tuesday 24 Dec @ 1230**

### **Ladies' Day - Wednesday 1 Jan @ 1130**

## Sills!

We all know how lucky we are to be able to sail in and around the beautiful Channel Islands, the bay of St Malo, and the rugged Normandy coast, and for the most part we leave harbour and return later with nothing more than the warm glow of satisfaction that a days sailing give us all. We are all aware that the area has its challenges, large tides, unforgiving rocks and **SILLS** ! It's the sills that I find the most frustrating. (I am an ex Solent sailor we didn't have to worry about such things!). So the sailing is good, the weather warm, but there is just not enough wind to get to your chosen sill before it runs out of water, so on goes the engine just so you can make the extra half knot that you need to clear the sill and get to the bar before it closes. Even with the engine we don't always quite make it and we have to spend a frustrating few hours waiting for the tide! It seems though that some people just won't admit defeat and carry-on regardless. That's when it usually ends badly and in the case of the yacht pictured that is exactly what happened.



As you can see he didn't get over the sill, but to make matters worse if you look closely you will see the prop out of the water and smoke & steam coming from the exhaust. Not long after I took this photo the engine let out a horrible scream and seized up.

As the tide continued to retreat I thought that it would topple off the sill.



It was difficult to see why it had not toppled completely over until I went up onto the harbour wall



Hitting the sill was bad planning but someone was looking after them, I couldn't believe that it was just resting there, I didn't realise just how wide the sill was. Nothing much happened for a few hours, the crew just sat there in the blazing heat

not daring to move. They wouldn't have known just how wide the sill was ether. I couldn't resist turning on my plotter to see the boat details

AIS Target Info: KUKULCAN			
Position	48°38'.455N 002°01'.652W	COG	000°T
Heading	---°T	SOG	0.0kt
ROT	---°/min	CPA	---nm
MMSI	227513340	TCPA	---h---m---s
Call sign	FN8542	Last	25/07/2013 15:29:29
IMO No	-	Dest	----
Length	43ft	ETA	---/---
Beam	12ft	Status	Not Defined
Draught	---m	Vessel	Sailing
			<b>25/07/2013</b>

Its position was interesting as well.....



Just to make things even more difficult and give the crew something more to worry about the ferry arrived ....



The yacht did re-float safely and no one was injured, the big life boat is just out of picture, the rib was used to attach a tow rope.

As the yacht was re-floating and being kept in place by the life boats so that it didn't slip under the ferry bridge, they and the marina staff closed all access both in and out of the marina. No one seemed to take any notice and one yacht almost came to grief on the harbour wall while trying to avoid the life boat!

The yacht could have returned to the marina with no damage at all (except to the skippers pride) if he had not blown the engine earlier.

If you have not already guessed all this drama happened at the entrance to Bas-Sablons marina (St Malo).

So the next time you're not sure .....**DON'T !!**

Stay safe,  
**Adrian & Delia Pogson**  
*Ban Druidh*

## Atlantic Rally for Cruisers 2013 - The Journey So Far



### Leg 1 (St Peter Port to Povia de Varzim, Portugal)



*Departing Guernsey*

David Mitchison's *Calypso*, a Hallberg Rassy 39, left Guernsey on Monday 24th June with crew Phil Ball & John Frankland bound for Povia de Varzim in Portugal.

The initial intention was to head direct for La Coruna but after a distinctly uncomfortable start we diverted to Roscoff. After a brief stop we moved on to L'aber Wrac'h via the Malouine Passage.

On Wednesday 26th June we set off across Biscay for La Coruna but half way across we got a weather forecast indicating a 7/8 at Cape Finisterre and diverted to Ribadeo as a result arriving on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. After an excellent meal ashore and having been entertained by the local fair we set off the next day for La Coruna. The wind was still blowing but thankfully in the same direction as we wanted to go!



*Lunch at the Monte Real Club de Yates de Bayona. It's a hard life!*

After a couple of days rest we departed La Coruna for Camarinas on Tuesday 2nd July and moved on to Bayona the following day where we moored stern to on lazy lines at the *Monte Real Club de Yates de Bayona's* own marina. The facilities were excellent and the Club house, where we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch, is based inside a fort (<http://www.mrcyb.es/club/instalaciones>). Perhaps RCIYC ought to move into a certain Castle!

On Friday 5th July we left Bayona, and Spain, for Viano do Castelo in Portugal where we spent 2 very warm days and nights before moving on to Povo de Varzim the end of Leg 1 and 684.1nm from home.

Phil & John flew home on 10th July with David following on the 17th.

### **Leg 2 (Povo de Varzim to Lisbon)**

David & Anne Marie flew out on Thursday 1st August and took *Calypso* to Douro Marina the following Saturday. Phil & Val Blows joined them on the Monday and set sail the following day for Avela and then on subsequent days to Figuera do Foz, Nazaré, Peniche arriving at Cascais on Saturday 10th August where we met up with Alan Richards' *Far Fetched*.

After 2 nights in Cascais we moved on to Oeiras Marina in Lisbon the end of Leg 2 and now 877.7nm from home.

### **Leg 3 (Lisbon to Las Palmas, Gran Canaria)**

David, Phil & John rejoined *Calypso* on Wednesday 28th August and we set sail for Porto Santo, a small Island off Madeira, on the Friday. We arrived at 17:15 (BST) on Monday 2 September after an uneventful 465nm.

Porto Santo Marina is about a 30 minute stroll outside the main town of Vila Baleira where Christopher Columbus once lived.

After 3 nights we left on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September for a day sail to Quinta do Lorde, Madeira. The Marina facilities were excellent and are part of a large resort hotel complex. The only drawback is it is rather isolated. An hour and 20 minutes into Funchal on the local bus. Funchal Marina was not an option with only 6 berths available for visitors and boats waiting.



*Arriving Las Palmas*

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September we departed for Las Palmas and had our first decent sail of the whole trip but even that faded away during the second night and we found ourselves motor sailing towards Las Palmas where we arrived at 13:00 (BST) with Anne Marie waiting on the reception pontoon.

### The ARC (Las Palmas - St Lucia)



We are due to depart on Sunday 24 November.

If you want to follow us we will be maintaining a blog both before the start of the ARC and during (technology permitting!) the actual crossing which can be viewed via the

World Cruising Club website. If you go to <http://www.worldcruising.com/arc/event.aspx> and then enter *Calypso* in 'Search Boat Logs' you should find our latest blog.

We will also be fitted with a 'Yellowbrick' which will enable you to follow us across the Atlantic. To follow us once the ARC starts go to <http://www.worldcruising.com/arc/event.aspx> and then click on 'Fleet Tracker' which will take you to a chart. If you then click on any boat you will get a list of all boats which will include *Calypso*. If you then click on the star to the left of the boat name it will add *Calypso* to 'My Favourites' and ease finding us next time.

There is, incidentally, a 'Yellowbrick' App available for those of you with an Iphone/Ipad: <http://www.yellowbrick-tracking.com/?p=1682>.

**David Mitchison**  
**SY Calypso**

P.S. *Calypso* is not alone. Other RCIYC members taking part are Alan Richards on his Dufour 40 '*Far Fetched*' and Nick & Carol Renny who are crewing on '*Jambo*' a Najad 390.

## **Sailing**

Although there has been no racing during October and November we have been busy behind the scenes working on the programme for next year. We have been having a very positive dialogue with the Guernsey Yacht Club to ensure that none of our races will take place at the same time as theirs so as to allow as many yachts as possible to have the chance to take part.

The Heritage Frostbite Series will be starting on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and there are a number of new and exciting initiatives which will accompany this series:

1. On the day of the first race of the Heritage Frostbite Series on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 there will be a skippers briefing held in the RCIYC clubhouse at 11.30. Complementary bacon rolls will be served. At this briefing the exact details of the days racing and the series as a whole will be communicated and goody bags will be given out.
2. The sponsor had notices that communicating the course details via the VHF radio had in certain cases caused, if not confusion, a certain amount of irritation. It is proposed for this series that the courses be displayed on a new demountable

course board similar to the course boards of old above the Lifeboat Slipway.

3. There will be a separate dedicated website set up with links from the RCIYC website specifically to cover the Heritage Frostbite Series 2014. Details, race results and reports will be uploaded on to this site during the weekend that the racing takes place.
4. It is proposed that a photoboat be on the water during very race of the series and these photos will be added to the dedicated website.
5. We are proposing to issue all the racing boats with a backstay pennant at the above skippers meeting. The series leader in each class will be issued with a different coloured backstay pennant as the series progresses making it clear in the manner of the Tour de France's yellow jersey who is in the lead.
6. We are also working on a performance related handicapping system, which will be subservient to, but run in parallel with the normal IHS/IRC ratings

The entry forms and Notice of Race documentation are now available in both yacht clubs and on the Heritage and RCIYC websites and we would encourage you to fill these in and return them to the RCIYC as soon as possible so that your intention to race can be logged and you will be included on the series email list for updates. If you have any queries or require any additional information regarding this series please do not hesitate to contact me at [racerciyc@cwgsy.net](mailto:racerciyc@cwgsy.net) or on my mobile 07781 136 441.

David Aslett  
Rear Commodore (Sail)

## **Cruising**

The Cruising Committee has been putting the long dark evenings to good use and produced the following provisional programme for 2014.

Easter - 18 - 21 April - Mystery Cruise - weather dependant



We don't know where we are going but we will go somewhere!

May Bank Holiday - 03-05 May - Alderney - Milk-O-Punch Sunday

Spring Bank Holiday - 23-26 May - Cruise to Le Légué - ANL (to be confirmed)



14 - 15 June - Sark weekend - including theory and practical pilotage around Sark with an overnight stay and a meal ashore.

July - a family event

17 - 20 July - St Aubin Cruise - trip to our sister Island with a meal at the RCIYC Jersey

July - 3 week cruise to the Scilly Isles - Wow! Dates to be confirmed

August Bank Holiday 23 - 25 The New Sponsor's Diélette Rally

20 September - Richard Corcoran Cruise to Beaucette Marina

Finally, we will be introducing Guerrilla Cruising - surprise cruises when the weather does not expect them!



.....more information later.

Get those boats ready!

Stuart Crisp  
Commodore

### **'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](mailto:rciyc[at]cwgsy.net) or telephone 723154.

### **Club Opening Hours**

	<b>High Season</b>	<b>Low Season</b>
	<b>6 May - 8 Sept</b>	<b>9 Sept - 4 April</b>
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

Tel: (01481) 723154

Email: rciyc@cwgsy.net

**Steward:** Mike Blaney

Tel: (01481) 725500

**Website:** [www.rciyc.com](http://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"

**Registered Office:** 57 Lower Pollet, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1WL

**Company Number:** 48365

### **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of RCIYC.