

# **MAINSHEET**

## **ROYAL CHANNEL ISLANDS YACHT CLUB (GUERNSEY)**

September 2011

### **Dates for your Diary**

9 - 11 Sept - Les Écréhous Cruise  
13 Sept - Mora Evening Race  
20 Sept - Club Lunch  
24 Sept - Ballistic Blue Commodore's Pot Race  
24 - 25 Sept - Richard Corcoran Beaucette Cruise  
4 Oct - Club Lunch  
9 Oct - Sunday Lunch  
12 Oct - New Members' Cocktail Party  
18 Oct - Pasta Lunch  
19 Oct - Evening Talk  
22 Oct - Laying Up Supper

### **Commodore's Log**

My apologies for not having sent you a **Mainsheet** for the month of August, but many of the key members of the Club have been away so you are now getting two months for the prize of one!

The "Impi Shield" Race, sponsored by "Oak Trust" and prizes donated by "Boatworks+", took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July; the Rear Commodore (Sail) will be reporting in detail. It suffices for me to say that the whole event was a great success from the start of the race to the end of the reception in the marquee on the Careening Hard Arm.

The following week end saw the start of the "Tour des Ports de la Manche"; what a spectacular sight! 110 sailing boats leaving our shores on their way to Cherbourg.

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July there was a great deal of activity on the water due to the J Cup and on the Saturday we had "Les Dents", another local race sponsored by "Nashcopy", that was well attended. In the evening the prizes were presented in the clubhouse followed by delicious finger food.

The "Cherbourg Race", which was meant to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, had to be postponed to 20<sup>th</sup> August.

On 30<sup>th</sup> July we had the "Round Guernsey" race sponsored by "Nashcopy". Eight boats entered and the start was very slow, but the wind picked up and all the racers had a great time. Once again the presentation was followed by delicious food.

Due to the weather the "Cruise to Écréhous", that should have taken place on 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July, had to be postponed to 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September. However, the "Cruise to St Aubins" took place on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August we had the "Alderney Race" that was won by **Fandangle** skippered by Martin Priest. This was followed by the Evening Race on 11<sup>th</sup> August sponsored by "Boatworks+". 14 boats took part and **White Rabbit** (S Henning) won for the racers and **Busker** (McKerril and Parkin) for the cruisers.

The "Swoffers' Evening Race" held on 16<sup>th</sup> August, sponsored by "Swoffers" saw 12 boats at the start line. Once again **White Rabbit** (S Henning) crossed the line first for the Racers and **Guffin** (A. Bisson) for the Cruisers.

The "Cherbourg Race" that had been postponed from 23<sup>rd</sup> July took place on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Seven boats competed and the race was won by **Dreamtime** skippered by Richard Babbe.

The last evening race of the season took place on 30<sup>th</sup> August sponsored by "Randalls". 12 boats raced: **Moojo** (R Martel) won for the Racers and **Tomahawk** (G Wilson) for the Cruisers.

The "Cruise to Diélette" sponsored by "Clegg Gifford" commenced on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August. It was an excellent weekend; everybody had a great dinner at the "La Phare Hotel" on Saturday with drinks and BBQ in the garden of the "Raz" on Sunday. I should like to thank John Frankland for compiling the Quiz (once again) and a very special thank you to Stuart Crisp, our Rear Commodore, for organising the whole week end.

The Pasta and Curry lunches are still being held on Tuesdays and in the next few months we intend producing other social events that will be of interest to you all - please see [Social Scene](#).

Let us all hope for better weather in the autumn.

Enzo Diacono.

## [Welcome to New Members](#)

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

Sam Haskins and Helen Wain  
David and Carolyn Read and Family  
Julian Winser  
Peter Cornell  
Bob and Norma Thomas

## [Social Scene](#)

20 Sept	Club Lunch
4 Oct	Club Lunch
9 Oct	Sunday Lunch
12 Oct	New Members' Cocktail Party
18 Oct	Pasta Lunch
19 Oct	Evening Talk - 'Three Oceans in Three Years' by David & Angie Jeffs (please see their report below)
22 Oct	Laying Up Supper

Full details of the above events will follow by e-mail or in the next issue of Mainsheet.

## Cruising

I ended my last contribution to **Mainsheet** with 'If you have not been before you will be amazed!' Regular readers will know I was talking about the planned trip to Les Écréhous but once again the summer of 2011 worked its magic and nobody was amazed!

We decided to move Les Écréhous cruise to the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> September - but at the time of writing the weather looks c\*\*p.

### St Aubin

Eventually! 4 boats set off for Jersey on the postponed St Aubin Cruise over the last weekend of July. Only one boat stayed in St Aubin, **Greta**, the remainder went to St Helier. True to tradition the focus was on St Aubin with a meal at the Boat House on the Friday night. On the Saturday night fourteen people attended a meal at the Royal Channel Island Yacht Club, with a guest appearance from Angie and David Jeffs, fresh from somewhere in the Southern Hemisphere (look out for their talk at the club on 19<sup>th</sup> October).

As the tide dropped in St Aubin on Friday evening **Greta** started to list away from the quay, Johann and his crew gradually slipped off their bunks as **Greta** leaned further and further from the wall.



Over the past year the 360 year old quay has had a face lift and in order to complete this work scaffolding was used placed on hardcore. Unbeknown to Johann the outside leg of **Greta** was in the glorious mud of St Aubin and the other wasn't! It was an uncomfortable night and although **Greta** was a long way off perpendicular as the tide came in she popped right up again. Needless to say **Greta** made a dash for St Helier for the second night.

If you are considering a night in St Aubin, talk to the harbour master before drying out.

Diélette

 **Clegg Gifford**  
Lloyd's Broker



The Diélette Cruise is the highlight of the RCIYC cruising calendar and former Commodore John Frankland wrote the following:

The annual cruise to the Normandy town of Diélette took place over the August Bank Holiday. Organised by the Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club (RCIYC) and sponsored by Clegg Gifford Insurance, fourteen boats sailed the 30 miles or so across to our nearest French neighbours. As usual, all participants were presented with a nautical quiz that had to be started and finished en route - often difficult if the sea is a little choppy. The weather was reasonable however and all boats handed in a completed paper for marking. Two member yachts, sailing from the south coast of England, also joined the fleet - understandably struggling with the local

knowledge required for the competition. Similarly, a London registered yacht that happened to be in Guernsey at the time, joined in and sailed to Diélette with the rest. In all, there were some 40 RCIYC members (including two, plus dog, that had arrived by car from the Dordogne!) that enjoyed a lively weekend in this rather pleasant and friendly French port. The local authorities had provided a free taxi service to the nearby and busy town of Les Pieux and most members took advantage of that in order to visit the street market, stock up on their supplies and generally enjoy the local French culture (none visited the travelling circus that was in town!)

On Saturday evening, Clegg Gifford provided a reception at 'La Phare Hotel' restaurant in Diélette itself, followed by a splendid (several course) dinner complete with local wine and the inevitable Calvados. It was a great atmosphere in which to announce the three prize winners for the competition, with Vice Commodore David Mitchison presenting the awards on behalf of the sponsors:

First place, (an impressive glass rosebowl) - '*Jean-Pierre*' - Jeremy and Jane Smithies

Second place, '*Glavyva*' - Mike and Wendy Pethard

Third place, '*Strider*' - Stuart and Sarah Crisp

A further 'departing' reception and BBQ was held on the Sunday evening in the gardens of the marina with Etienne, the Deputy Harbour Master for Diélette, joining the party together with all Guernsey crews present in the port - members of the club or not. The sun was shining, making it a great evening and indeed, a great weekend altogether, with the opportunity taken to further extend our friendship with this popular and well visited French port.



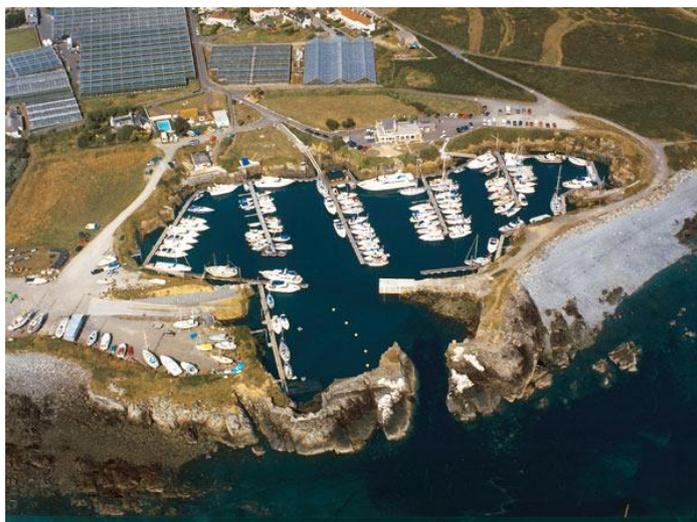
The proud owners of a new rose bowl

I would like to thank Clegg Gifford for its continued sponsorship of this popular event.

Here are a few more photos:



## The Richard Corcoran Beaucette Cruise



The GYC have had their last cruise of the year but we are made of hardier stuff! The Richard Corcoran Cruise will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> September with a briefing at 1800 the preceding Thursday at the club house.

This is the only cruise in the cruising calendar where sailors, motorboaters and non boaters can all take part - how inclusive can we get? The boats will be cruising up to Beaucette marina during the afternoon and a meal is booked at the Marina Restaurant 1930 - 2000, 3courses with coffee, £25 per head. There will be a list on the notice board as per usual and I will send round an e-mail later with the menu.

This cruise takes place in honour of Richard, past Vice Commodore of RCIYC, who died on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



Finally...

If you have been cruising this year don't forget that the RCIYC has the **Merryl Lyle Cruising Trophy** that will be presented for the best cruising log of the year. The award will be presented at the Annual Dinner Dance (28<sup>th</sup> January 2012). If you have a log to enter please contact Carolyn.

Stuart Crisp  
Rear Commodore (Cruising)  
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## **Sailing**

It is hard to believe that we have only two races left for the season. Looking back at my report at the start of the season, filled optimism, it is difficult not to feel a little bit cheated by an indifferent season weather wise. There is of course the promise of an Indian summer, but as a gale is blowing whilst writing this report, I suspect the "Indian" part of the summer may be akin to their cricket team and their disappointing display!

All cynicism aside, it has been a great year for the RCIYC's racing events. All races had a sponsor this year and I am grateful for the calibre of sponsors that have stepped up to the mark.

## The Nashcopy Passage Race Series



Saturday, 3 September, saw the conclusion of this series. When I suggested the changes at the beginning of the year, which included the change of the declaration format and post race functions on the day of each race, it was met with criticism from various fronts. Fortunately, Sam and Clive Le Tissier, of Nashcopy, saw the merits and agreed to sponsor the series.

One of the main objectives was to nurture the sense of camaraderie amongst participating crews and members - this was helped along with spot prizes handed out by Clive and Sam after each event!

We had varied conditions over the summer, which ranged from boats being becalmed in the Round Herm and Sark race, to squally force 7 conditions around Les Dents. Even the Round Guernsey Race saw it's share with very light conditions but a tenacious fleet ensured a result. This race was followed by the now infamous crews night out at 'La Nautique', where the arrangements were made by Sam and the wine also sponsored. Party games livened up the evening and gave livers a beating!

The overall series was won by **Moojo** (R Martell) followed by **White Rabbit** (Henning/ Collins) and **Fandangle** (M Priest)

At the final prize giving Nashcopy confirmed their willingness to sponsor the series again next year, and I am sure my appreciation is echoed by the membership and I look forward to greater numbers participating in future.



### St Peters Trust Cherbourg Race



**ST PETERS  
TRUST**

After being left in the lurch at very short notice last year, which saw record low number of boats participate, there was a risk of this event dying out.

Fortunately, one of those participants was Martin Priest ( yacht **Fandangle** and **D'Elite**), of St Peters Trust. Martin agreed to sponsor the race to help and revive the event.

Martin kindly agreed to postpone this race in favour of the Inter Island yacht race that was in turn postponed by the GYC.

Very light conditions were forecast for Saturday, 20 August, and the fleet of 7 boats set off with the instruction to take their times at Grand Amfroque and Cap de la Hague. The light winds became lighter, and for a time, non-existent. **Dreamtime** (R Babbe) reached Grand Amfroque first followed by **X-Celerator** (Ozard/ Morris). I have to single out **Busker** (Parkin/ Mckerril) for their tenacity. They held on for 4 hours to sail the 3 nautical miles to Amfroque!

Some boats retired and diverted to Diélette to avoid adverse tide in the Race. These crews joined the post race party by taxi. In the new tradition set, spot prizes were handed out to a jovial fleet and only praise have been uttered for the sponsor and the new life that they have breathed into this event. I understand that St Peters Trust have also indicated that they will continue sponsoring this event which, I am sure, will grow in years to come!

### The Oak Trust Impi Shield

The RCIYC's only marquee event, sponsored by Oak Trust (Guernsey) Limited, was held on 2 July 2011. Very light conditions met a fleet of 11 boats. The course was shortened at the pre race briefing, to exclude Des Ormes Mark, and boats were instructed to leave L'Etac to Starboard and also to take their times at Grand Amfroque and Blanchard East Cardinal.

A light force 2 North Easterly enabled all the boats to move, just, and it was a hard and technical beat up to the first mark. Fortunately the breeze steadily increased, enabling all boats to carry close hauled spinnakers from Amfroque to Lower Heads. This was to be one of those champagne sailing days in glorious sunshine.

All 11 boats finished the course. A late protest involving **Haven Gem** (J Squires) and **Javelin** on the start line was withdrawn.

The wind died down in the late afternoon, and as guests and crews arrived at the marquee on the Careening hard, surrounded by a high tide, they were met by the wonderful aromas of the hog roast and a welcome

glass of complementary wine handed out by Michelle of Oak Trust. It is balmy summer evenings like these that I dream of over winter!

After welcoming words from Mark Chasey, chairman of Oak Trust, guests enjoyed a fantastic hog roast and Michael Blaney made sure that thirsty pallets were quenched on demand.

**Moojo** (R Martell) won the Oak Shield for Racing boats and **Haven Gem** won the Impi Shield for Cruisers.

This year we finally managed to obtain a licence for a disco and the night was filled by laughter and music concluding a successful day.

Oak Trust confirmed that they will be sponsoring the event again next year and arrangements are already in swing for next year's function!

### Finally....

I shall soon write to skippers and members to arrange a meeting in October at the Clubhouse to get their feedback of the season and to hear of suggestions to improve the events on our racing calendar.

See you on the water.....

Ray Redelinghys  
Rear Commodore (Sail)  
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## Guernsey success in Barbados Regatta

RCIYC members David and Angie Jeffs left Guernsey in September 2008 aboard their Hallberg Rassey 43 'HURAH' to cruise "three oceans in three years". They are now in the Caribbean having already completed the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean circuits.

David explained:

"After some serious passage making, - it was twenty eight days at sea from Argentina to Cape Town, and forty two days non stop from Cape Town to Fremantle WA, we fancied something a bit more light hearted and social, so we entered the 30th Bequia Easter Regatta sponsored jointly by Heineken and Mount Gay Rum, so there was no shortage of post race refreshments.

"HURAH" is by no means a racing boat, but to our surprise and delight, we were placed about 8th of 14 entries in the cruiser class, whilst Angie achieved a third in the singlehanded "Round Bequia" Race.

Encouraged by this success, we decided to enter the Mount Gay Barbados Regatta a couple of weeks later, where we were third overall in the Cruiser B Division, but achieved a convincing first in the longer race on the final day.



We are now really caught up in the local racing scene, and will probably return to Barbados for the Mount Gay two handed "Round Barbados" Race in January.

For any RCIYC boats which are over here in the Caribbean, I can really recommend entering some of the local regattas. They are quite competitive and great fun. You also get to meet the locals and there is always a plentiful supply of beer and rum after the racing, depending on the sponsors."