

# COMMODORE'S LETTER



## ROYAL CHANNEL ISLANDS YACHT CLUB (GUERNSEY) LBG

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30 July 2018

Dear Member,



**Friday 27th April 2018. English Braids** presentation on all things rope related in the Clubroom in conjunction with **Marine and General** was absolutely brilliant! It was a very well attended event and just goes to show how little you actually know about these bits of string and what to do with them which are so absolutely vital but for the most part are taken completely for granted. Splicing has always been a bit of a dark art to me. I appreciate that this event had come as something of a surprise, not to say shock, to some of the social members who regularly attended the Clubhouse at that time on a Friday evening and that some may have been a bit 'put-out' but hopefully they went away knowing a little bit more of how to tell the difference between a Monkey's Fist and a Rat's Tail.

**Wednesday May 9th Liberation Day.** For the second year on the trot this is just one of the nicest days in the Club. Thank you very much to the **Guernsey College of Further Education** for supply excellent bean jar and gauche melee. Well done to the hardy souls who ventured in to the Victoria Marina for the cruise in the face of the treat of a French

invasion in the shape of the **Morlaix Yacht Club** visit. Thank you very much to **John Rowe** for initiating and for **Rob Couch** and Vice Commodore **David Raines** for keeping on the rails our relationship with the **Morlaix Yacht Club**. 36 yachts attended the rally. And thank you very much to **David Raines** for meeting with Commodore **Marc Jolou** and attending the reception, I'm sure that was something of a hardship. This was by my calculation the 35th visit to Guernsey by the **Morlaix Yacht Club**.

**Spring Bank Holiday.** It was my first time on the **Le Légué Cruise** over the late spring bank holiday weekend. And it was my good luck that I was taken along by Martin Priest and the Fandangle crew, Martin attended the first ever **Le Légué Cruise** in 1998. It was also the first night in **Le Légué's** new clubroom right on the quay. So it was a weekend of 'trois premiers' as **Christian and Bridgette** translated. 4 boats had made the trip from Guernsey while **Stuart and Sarah Crisp** had attended in their campervan. Le Légué catered for all very well and the moorings, meals and excursions were at no cost to the visitors. We presented them with the framed artwork selected by Vice Commodore **David Raines** which was very well received and immediately given pride of place on their new clubhouse wall. Thanks to **John Frankland** for his write-up, which is now available on the website (click [HERE](#)), together with the photographs kindly supplied by **Stuart Crisp, Johann Etasse & John Frankland**.

**Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June.** The Joint Clubs **Swan Rendezvous** had been an enormous amount of work for the organising committee. I had been honoured to be invited to represent the Club at both the opening ceremony which was addressed by the Lieutenant Governor and the closing lunch where former Commodore **Aden Clark** made the closing speech as retiring treasurer of the organising committee and was thanked for all of his efforts in this regard over the years.

### **Sunday 10th June 2018. The Governor's Cup – We Was Robbed.**

Following on in the great World Cup Football tradition of not bringing anything home Guernsey were well and truly trounced in the Governor's Cup stage in Jersey this year. Or so it would appear. There was controversy aplenty, it sort of goes with the turf and as we motored back to St. Helier the VHF's crackled with talk of protests and rough calculations of the points and the difference it would make to the overall outcome of the regatta were discussed and the knee jerk conclusion was that even if we could be bother to spend a moment longer in Jersey than was absolutely necessary in the protest room it would not change the result. That was until the eagle eyed and keen brained **Ron Wilkes-Green** 'Did the Math'. See below his more detailed study of the outcome. If Kaya's protest had been progressed with and had been successful in race one when 'The Dogs...' tacked in her

water and a second protest been made in race three when this time when the crew of 'The Dogs...' pushed off using their feet to avoid the boat touching one of the race marks then the result would have been oh so different. At the time of the hasty VHF conversation, motoring back to the dock, resulting in the decision to call off the first protest Kaya did not know of the second offence that the 'The Dogs...' had committed, that of hitting the mark, an infringement that, it transpired in the club afterwards, had been witnessed by the Race Officer.

As Ron Wilkes-Green so rightly pointed out that by the time the final machinations had been carried out it was too late to do anything about it but asked the question 'it's up to you if you wish to point this out to Jersey.' Answers on a postcard please.

The modified results assuming both protests had been successful would have meant that Guernsey would have won 31 versus 32!

**Saturday 16th June** saw the annual **The St. Peters Trust** Dielette Race, just like last year it was spinnakers up all the way. Fantastic turnout of 8 boats and a restaurant full to capacity in the evening. Thank you very much to **Martin Priest**, for your continued sponsorship of this event and support of the Club generally.

**Saturday 23rd June.** **Fionola O'Neil** did a superb job in organising, with **Oak Trust**, the IMPI Race and all of the festivities which go along with that. The relocation of the marquee was a real comedy sketch worthy of a Laurel and Hardy film when no parking cones were put in the wrong place. But every cloud has a silver lining and frankly it was a much better spot with none of the dodgy tarmac/cobbles and puddles at the end of the Round Top that we had last year. A great event with 10 yachts taking part and thanks to **Julia Schaefer** for making all of that side of things happen so smoothly and brilliant write up in the Guernsey Press. Thanks also to the members of the Club who supported the event in the evening. Congratulations to **Black Jack** for taking the win under some challenging downwind circumstances jibing along the back of Herm and having an unusually good view of Belvoir Bay.

**Saturday 30th June & Saturday 7th July** saw the first two races in the **MUG** Navigational Race Series being Les Dents and the Round Herm Race respectively. I am not even going to try to compete with the Rear Commodore Sail **Julia Schaefer**'s excellent report in the Guernsey Evening Press (which I'm sure you've all read) but suffice to say well done to **White Rabbit** and **Sun of a Gun** and **Glory Days**, well We Was Robbed. But I suppose in some ways it was poetic justice for some frankly cavalier helming at Anfre, apologies to

**Simon Henning** again.

**Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th July.** The Inaugural Commodore's Invitational Regatta held in J70s and hosted by the **Royal Yacht Squadron**. **Simon Henning, Mark Huntley, Julian Hunt** and I did our very best at representing the Club at this regatta and were magnificently hosted By **Bob Milner** and his next door neighbour **Ruth**. A no-wind postponement on the first day saw the rib come round the string of tethered boats requesting that the 'senior flag officer present' be taken to the committee boat for a drink. After quite some considerable persuasion they finally rather sceptically accepted that I was the Commodore and not any of the others (all of whom obviously look much more the part). Anyway wine and a collection of 9 Commodore's on the committee boat 'generated enough hot air' as the race officer later pointed out to get the thermal breeze going and the rest of the regatta was sailed in typically fickle Solent conditions in Osbourne Bay. Unfortunately our results were a bit like the curates egg. We got off to a flying start with a brilliant port tack dipper by our skipper seeing us reach the first mark first in the first place. We managed to hold on to post a third. After that it was a little hit and miss (with a couple of hits which we will not commit to paper, or pixel) and although we were again robbed in the last race where we again finished third only to discover the race had been abandoned due to lack of breeze even though we had been given a shortened course and then a finishing signal. Anyway, to cut a long story short we ended up 7th out of 9 boats but we will take consolation in the fact that 6 of the boats were owned by the **Royal Yacht Squadron** and 3 were owned by the **Royal Thames Yacht Club**. We are not going to cast aspersions but the top 6 places were occupied by **Royal Yacht Squadron** boats and the bottom 3 by **Royal Thames Yacht Club**. Draw your own conclusions. So in fact we were the first of the **Royal Thames** boats. We hope that this doesn't prejudice our chances of being re-selected next year, **David Raines?**

We have now formalised our agreement with the **Royal London Yacht Club** and formally accepted their invitation for reciprocal membership arrangements. **Simon Henning** and I took the opportunity to visit during this regatta visit and would encourage any members who are in Cowes to take advantage of their spectacular clubhouse and hospitality. The **Royal London Yacht Club** will be visiting our Club on Friday 17th August and it would be great to see as many members as possible in the Clubhouse to welcome them on that evening.

Coming soon.....

## Diélette Cruise - Weekend of Saturday 25 August



The annual visit to Diélette with dinner at Le Bouche à Oreille on Saturday night (awaiting confirmation).

If you would like to join in please register your interest just as soon as you can - click [HERE](#).

Further details inc. the Menu & cost will be advised to registered members as soon as they are available

## UBS Jersey Regatta - 14 to 16 September



This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Royal Channel Islands YC, St Helier YC and St Catherine's SC combined clubs' Regatta, a real milestone in the life of this great event that has run, without a break, since its inception in 1999.

UBS AG Jersey, the leading provider of wealth management solutions in the Channel Islands, is in the sponsor's seat for the sixth year running and this special year. Their

enthusiasm and outstanding support is a key element in the continuing popularity and success of this 'flagship' event.

Please click [HERE](#) for the Notice of Race, Entry Form etc.

## Regalia



Please click [HERE](#) to view the full range and for details of how to order.

Samples of the Regalia are on display in the Club.

## Dates for your Diary



'Last Night of the Proms' Rally in Victoria Marina - Saturday 8 September

**"Smiles" from Down Under (and elsewhere)**



Yesterday I had my annual Medicare wellness check. The nurse said that at my age I should have a bar in the shower. So I took her advice.



**David Aslett**  
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