



Roach Sailing Association

www.roachriver.org.uk/rsa/

February 2019 Newsletter

In this issue

Chairman's Report
2019 subs and River Licence
Bosun's Corner
A New Yacht for the President
2018 RSA Accounts

2019 AGM
2018 Race results & 2019 handicaps
Havengore and Potton bridge plus RSPB wallasea project
A new Yacht for Vince
2019 Event Calendar

Chairman's Report

Jon Walmsley

Despite its new chairmanship, the RSA had an active 2018 with all events well attended. Since the last newsletter we have held the Steak and Oysters Afloat, which was very nearly cancelled due to the weather;

acted as ferry to bring us back. It was a pleasant day out, with good company. It was dark by the time we arrived back at Paglesham and I think that we were all glad to get ashore to warm up. I admire the brave souls that still have their boats afloat at this time of year.



The 'Raft' for Steak and Oysters.

and the Laying Up Supper. This was well attended and Ballards Gore continues to be a popular venue. Many thanks to Clem for organising another successful evening.

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of a day trip to Burnham to deliver VERLOCITY, our previous Chairman Mike Green's yacht. SEA JAY



VERLOCITY and SEA JAY off to Burnham

Our next event is on 17th March, when we have a working party at Paglesham, followed by the AGM in the evening. On 7th April we have a DALLY day followed by the Fitting Out Supper on the 26th April at The Castle in Great Wakering. Keep an eye out on the Roach Group for updates on these events.

The RSA committee will retire at the AGM and all will stand for re-election. In the spirit of quitting while I'm ahead and due to pressure from the Race Officer and Secretary, I am standing down as Chairman this year. I nominate Richard Bessey as my successor. Richard has been a long standing officer of the RSA and, in my mind, is an ideal candidate. If anyone wishes to serve on the committee, either as a member or in a dedicated role, then please let me, as secretary, know at least two weeks before the AGM.



On board 'DORIS' Cy Walter's boat after his epic journey



John Martin retires as president meal at the RBYC.

I wish you all a pleasurable and adventurous 2019 sailing season and look forward to catching up with all of you on the water in the warmer weather.

--o0o--

2019 AGM

The 2019 AGM will be again held at the Wakering Yacht Club on Sunday 17th March at 7:30pm.

Current committee:

Mike Green – President 01702 588378

**Jon Walmsley – Chairman, Secretary & Race officer
07836344508**

Richard Bessey - 07773771715

Simon Joel – Treasurer 07721397317

**John Langrick – Bosun, Membership Secretary and
Newsletter Editor - 07740 839410**

Clem Freeman – Second to Race officer 09591274161

Rodney Choppin - 01702 258332

Steve Noble - Second to Race officer 07906864688

2019 Fitting Out Supper

Our fitting out supper this year will be held on **Friday 26th April** at the **Castle pub** at Wakering. The address is:

The Castle Inn
181 Little Wakering Rd
Southend on Sea. Essex SS3 0JW
01702 216521
thecastleinnpub@hotmail.com

Steve Noble has kindly arranged this, Steve may be on his boat in Antigua when we have this event, so Jon Walmsley has agreed to coordinate numbers. Please let Steve/Jon know if you want to attend.

Like the Punch Bowl, the menu is varied and again, simply order what you want when you arrive and settle your own invoice at the end of the evening.

I suggest you consider arriving at any time between 19:00 and 20:00 ordering as soon as you arrive. We look forward to seeing you there.

2019 Subs

2019 subs are now due. These are £10 per year and there is an additional £10 racing subs for those who wish to take part. This covers cup engraving and insurance. Please send your subs to our Treasurer Simon Joel, 28 Chapmans Walk, Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 2XA

Ideally, we would like you to pay by bank transfer. The RSA bank details are
Roach Sailing Association
Sort Code 20-79-73
Acc 80751138

If you do pay by bank transfer, please send an email at the same time to Simon. simon.joel@hotmail.co.uk.

Alternatively by cheque to Simon or cash to any committee member. You can, of course, still pay at the AGM.

Paglesham Facility Fee

If you keep a boat at Paglesham, the RSA encourages using the facilities at Paglesham Boatyard (e.g. car parking, dinghy park etc). The Facility Charge is £240/year. This is included in boatyard or RMHA mooring fees, otherwise please contact Simon Rutter at Maclean Marine for details.

Simon.Rutter
Maclean Marine Ltd
41 Paradise Walk,
London SW3 4JL

or he can be contacted by email at simon.rutter.macleanmarine.co.uk
Use your boat name as reference on payment.

Harbour Dues and Charges for 2019

Payment Rate for river dues and Harbour Dues Plaque to be displayed on the vessel and is visible at all times.

Vessel Length

Feet	Metres	Full Dues	*Prompt
8.00 - 15.50	2.44 - 4.73	£38.00	£27.00
15.51 - 21.50	4.74 - 6.55	£53.00	£37.00

21.51 - 26.50	6.56 - 8.07	£66.50	£46.50
26.51 - 32.50	8.08 - 9.90	£70.00	£49.00
32.51 - 38.50	9.91 - 11.73	£81,50	£57.00
38.51 - 49.50	11.74 - 15.08	£94.00	£66.00
49.51 - 59.50	15.09 - 18.12	£104.00	£73.00
59.51 +	18.13+	£132.50	£93.00

Launches, Ribs and Workboats £9.00

You may pay by post, bank transfer or via a phone call to the CHA, 01621 783602. Further details are on the Authority web site.

2018 RSA Racing Results and 2019 Handicaps

Potton Island Trophy

Nine dinghies turned out for the inaugural race of the season. After a slightly delayed start the fleet set off for a green buoy up the river somewhere. A late change of course caught out LITTLE LINDA, but eight boats rounded the mark being led by BLUEBOTTLE and MERGANSER. Behind the leaders a group of four, NANI DRAGON, SARAH EDITH, ELG and MAKEDO jostled for position trading tack for tack.

On the downwind run to the Varlet, NANI DRAGON drew ahead and was well away when she was passed by BLUEBOTTLE and MERGANSER on their way back from Potton bridge. Meanwhile PUGWASH and IANJO were having their own battle against a strengthening tide and light wind.

BLUEBOTTLE finished first, followed by NANI DRAGON with ELG and SARAH EDITH crossing the line together. On handicap, SARAH EDITH has third place, BLUEBOTTLE second and NANI DRAGON wins the Potton Trophy.

Mudcatcher's Cup

Seven Mudcatchers turned out; TAZ, BLUEBOTTLE, SARAH EDITH, ELG, APPLE, PUGWASH II and STELLA MARIE. The course was up and down Paglesham Reach, but the object was to gather as many bottles of beer as possible. These were suspended from balloons and randomly distributed by Lilly and Dave from DALLY.

Three boats heading for the same bottle was a test of nerve and boat handling. BLUEBOTTLE, whose speed is such an advantage in a normal race, was a handicap in this. Neville blamed his approach speed of fifteen knots for his return to the PVT patch empty handed.

Surely APPLE had it in the bag as Steve stood on the jetty downing three bottles of beer, but no! ELG arrived with four but Nigel did have borrow a bottle opener from Steve in order to down them. Some might say that Nigel located the bottles by sense of smell alone.

The crews retreated from the tide to the PVT shelter where they tucked into a well deserved barbeque. HALLOWEEN graced the patch dressed overall.

Many thanks to Dave and Lilly for rescue and balloon distribution duties and John L for bringing the barbeque.

Egret Cup

Ten boats gathered at Paglesham to contest the Egret Cup. Unfortunately, PUGWASH II had gear failure before the start, so Nine boats set off to round Barton Hall Buoy.

BLUEBOTTLE took an early lead and was first to round in the light and fickle North Easterly breeze. The middle of the fleet were in talking distance of each other at the mark with SARAH EDITH, TAZ and MAKEDO at the back. TAZ ran aground at the top of Paglesham Reach and retired.

On the upwind leg the fleet spread out: BLUEBOTTLE finishing first with APPLE Three minutes behind. MERGANSER, ELG, Nanni Dragon, PATCH and MAKEDO finished in that order with a couple of minutes between each boat.

On handicap; NANI DRAGON has third place, ELG second and APPLE wins the Egret Cup!

Paglesham Yacht Race

It was long and short to the corner at the bottom of Paglesham Reach, but when the fleet of Nine boats turned the corner they were straight into the Easterly wind and spring tide.

DALLY marked the turning point of a shortened course, but the slower boats struggled to make headway. STELLA MARIE retired and the Race Officer decided to call DALLY back which ended the race for TAZ and PUGWASH II.

At the front, BLUEBOTTLE finished twenty two minutes ahead of NANI DRAGON who just pipped APPLE. MAKEDO, after a late start, had a close finish with ELG just beating him to the line. SARAH EDITH brought up the rear, fifty minutes behind BLUEBOTTLE.

On handicap, APPLE has third place, NANI DRAGON second and BLUEBOTTLE wins the Paglesham Yacht Race.

Lifeboat Cup

A blustery day reduced the fleet to six boats as some thought the conditions unseemly. The course was around Potton clockwise with three rescue boats in pursuit.

A two minute delay to wait for Dave Pearce to launch his new dinghy EXPRESS; the hooter hoots and he is over! DALLY with Richard, Justine and Lilly are quickly on the scene and EXPRESS soon sets off after the others who have cleared Paglesham Reach by this time.

Long and short up the Yokesfleet was difficult for NANI DRAGON who was using his jib as a flag, rather than a sail, which hampered his progress to windward. Up at the front, MAKEDO with all three sails set was doing well in the beat to Wakering even overhauling BLUEBOTTLE. At the bridge, ELG and APPLE were together, but by the finish ELG was well ahead and catching MAKEDO who was just pipped for line honours by BLUEBOTTLE.



EXPRESS retired when tacking became difficult not only due to his lack of foresail, but also because he was trawling for mackerel. Many thanks to Steve, Stuart and Gary for towing him home. Anyone want some fishing gear? Speak to Dave.
On Handicap, BLUEBOTTLE has third, MAKEDO second and ELG wins the Lifeboat Cup.

Oyster Cup

Barton Hall Creek and back in these light/no wind conditions? The Race Officer was regretting setting this course when he finished three hours later. For Richard in TRINGA it was a long slow row home. Even the rescue boat got bored waiting for TRINGA and SARAH EDITH and retired!

Up at the front six boats raced back to Paglesham. BLUEBOTTLE finished first in one and a half hours nearly fifteen minutes ahead of MERGANSER who just beat NANI DRAGON to the line. EOLETTE and PATCH had a close race with the Mirror just pipping the Tideway. MAKEDO finished a lonely sixth.

On handicap; PATCH was third, NANI DRAGON second and BLUEBOTTLE wins the Oyster Cup.

Dinghy Bowl

That brings us to the end of the RSA 2018 Dinghy Series, in which 16 boats took part. Here are the final point scores, with BLUEBOTTLE winning the series just two points ahead of NANI DRAGON. Incidentally, both boats entered every single point scoring race.

BLUEBOTTLE	18
NANI DRAGON	16
ELG	9
MAKEDO	8
APPLE	7
SARAH EDITH	6
PATCH	5
MERGANSER	4
PUGWASH II	2.5
CELESTINE II	2
TAZ	1.5
IANJO	1
LITTLE LINDA	0.5
STELLA MARIE	0.5
TRINGA	0.5
EXPRESS	0.5

Cruiser Series

Paglesham Pot

An excellent turnout of 12 boats for the first cruiser race of the season and nine of them even finished!

Both the Shipmans, IMOTHES and SCHERZO, found the mud a bit sticky as did GINGER LEI

A little bit of ebb before the flood saw most of the fleet round Pinto and Greenward with the tide there and back, which was a good thing in the very light and fickle Easterly wind.

AKVAVIT made her way to the front with LUCY and WATERWYTCH chasing and doing well in the conditions. Both EOLE and LOTUS BAVARIA were late starters but finished third and fourth respectively.

At the finish AKVAVIT was first, with LUCY five minutes behind. On Handicap, WATERWYTCH has third place, EOLE second and LUCY wins the Paglesham Pot!

Blue Shoal Trophy

A fleet of six boats gathered for the start of the Blue Shoal Trophy ready to battle the conditions of tide and lack of wind. Five and one minute warnings were given, audible and across VHF but, start time approached, announced on channel 77 and the hooter decided it would run out of puff so Clem shouted instead. All seemed ok though as everyone headed off up the river, well almost.... LOTUS decided it would be a good idea to make a break for Paglesham pool, maybe a shortcut to Horse Shoal. Engine was started so an early retirement, but not the end of the fun. Having a second attempt at crossing the line to follow the fleet the foresail decided to knot itself around the forestay, the crew boldly went to sort things out and while wrestling the sail a hat was lost overboard, Man overboard procedures were put into action and the hat was successfully recovered.

By now the fleet were on their way tacking up the river. AKVAVIT took an early lead followed by SCHERZO, WATERWYTCH and LUCY with INDI to the rear. These positions held until Clem could no longer see the fleet. Eventually everyone still in the race made Horse Shoal and started the return journey. As LOTUS was passing Wade the first of the fleet came into sight, SCHERZO had taken the lead, AKVAVIT followed and then LUCY, WATERWYTCH and eventually INDI.

These positions held across the line. After handicaps were applied SCHERZO wins the Blue Shoal Trophy, then in order LUCY, WATERWYTCH, AKVAVIT and INDI.

Shuttlewood Cup SN

A glorious morning with a very light Easterly wind and a flooding tide dictated a course upriver for twelve yachts.

AMBITION II, freshly back from her travels, made a dynamic turning point as the wind continued to drop.

MARTINIQUE was first around AMBITION II with AKVAVIT, IMOTHES and SCHERZO in pursuit. On the upwind leg the breeze finally came in with MARTINIQUE romping home to the finish fifteen minutes ahead of SCHERZO, IMOTHES and AKVAVIT.

On Handicap, IMOTHES has third place, LUCY second and MARTINIQUE wins the Shuttlewood Cup.

No navigation buoys were harmed in the running of this race.

RNLI Race

Elevenish boats turned out on a beautiful September morning to take the ebb out to the Inner Crouch and the flood back to Paglesham. At least that was the plan.

Light winds hampered the most weedy with little progress made against the light Easterly wind leading to the retirement of GINGER LEI and LOTUS .

The rest of the fleet, led by MARTINIQUE and IMOTHES slowly tacked down Devil's Reach aided by the tide. The two Great Danes ULABELLA and EOLE, were close to each other in Quay Reach but EOLE was ahead by the entrance to the Roach and hot on the heels of IMOTHES.

GRAND TOUR in her first race, kept company with LUCY and was only just beaten over the line by the larger boat. Similarly PAKLJHAWA beat IMOTHES to the line by 20 seconds for second place behind MARTINIQUE.

On handicap, IMOTHES has third place, Grand Tour second and ULABELLA wins the Lifeboat Cup.



ULABELLA, IMOTHES and MARTINIQUE

Whitaker Cup

Mostly gooswinged, nine boats headed down river. MARTINIQUE and AKVAVIT had good starts and led the way. PAKLJHAWA started near the back of the fleet but crept up to second behind MARTINIQUE in Quay Reach.

Strong winds in the Crouch gave the boats a beam reach boost into the Roach where the usual tacking was needed to clear Devil's Elbow. Unfortunately both Goshawk and WATERWYTCH found mud and retired.

LUCY and SCHERZO had a close race with a single handed SCHERZO doing better to windward and pulling a lead which she held until the line.

First across the line was MARTINIQUE with PAKLJHAWA fourteen minutes behind. Third home was AKVAVIT with SCHERZO and LUCY a further five minutes back.

On handicap, LUCY has third place, PAKLJHAWA second and MARTINIQUE wins the Whitaker Cup.

Roach Plate

A bright, if a bit chilly, day for the last race of the season. Eight boats turned out to sail to Holiwell Buoy and back.

SCHERZO made a good start, with LUCY in pursuit, both of them pulling away from the rest of the fleet.

At the buoy ULABELLA was third round with LOTUS BAVARIA hot on her heels. The big boat had to tack before the Roach entrance which allowed ULABELLA to have a good margin at Devil's Elbow.

LOTUS beat VERLOCITY to the buoy, but lost out on the windward leg. VERLOCITY chased Riff Raff all the way to the finish with only a minute between the two boats.

On handicap ULABELLA has third place, SCHERZO second and LUCY wins the Roach Plate.

Len Choppin Cup

10 different cruisers raced this year. LUCY had the most number of wins with three, and was in every point scoring race. whilst MARTINIQUE had two wins.

In terms of the series: MARTINIQUE has third place with 9 points, SCHERZO second with 9.5 and LUCY is well ahead with 17 points. Well done to Nick and crew.

LUCY	17.0
SCHERZO	9.5
MARTINIQUE	9.0
ULABELLA	9.0
PAKLJHAWA	6.0
WATERWYTCH	5.5
IMOTHES	4.5
AKVAVIT	4.0
EOLE	4.0
INDI	4.0
LOTUS	4.0
GRAND TOUR	3.0
JOUET	2.0
VERLOCITY	2.0
LOTUS BAVARIA	2.0
GOSHAWK	1.5
GINGER LEI	1.5
RIFF RAFF	1.5
SEA JAY	0.5

Other Trophies

Don McDowell Trophy

An excellent turnout of Seventeen RSA boats monopolised the pontoon at Fambridge. This may be a record? We had excellent company and good food both in the Pub and in the morning on board. Many thanks to Richard and Justine for hosting breakfast for many of us.

Despite the strong winds, Ten boats raced on Sunday to the Branklet. Most elected to fly their headsails only. Fortune, however, favoured the brave, which in this case was any yacht that put their mainsail up. Only three did; INDI, CORAMANDEL and LUCY. INDI's extra sail area helped her to beat SCHERZO by Fifteen seconds. CORAMANDEL came in third just behind QUINTILLA but LUCY takes line honours and wins the Don McDowell Cup.

Gracilda Cup SN

By midday the North East wind had picked up a little bit and seven boats set off, tacking with the tide to Crow Buoy and back.

IMOTHES with Lilly, SEA JAY with Alice, EOLE with Xiomara, LOTUS with Jessica, WATERWYTCH with Olivia, VERLOCITY with Sharon and PAKLJHAWA with Dawn.

PAKLJHAWA missed the gap between the start buoys and had to turn back to go through again where she joined the back of a melee of yachts all desperately trying to avoid each other in the light and variable wind. Eventually the fleet thinned out. Lilly ably helmed IMOTHES upwind of the rest and a couple of boats found that the river was not as wide or as deep as they had hoped.

WATERWYTCH and VERLOCITY were evenly matched, but WATERWYTCH's surfeit of captains' hats perhaps contributed to her being beaten by one minute at the line by the other boat.

EOLE had a good race, crossing the line third behind IMOTHES.

On handicap, VERLOCITY has third place, IMOTHES second and PAKLJHAWA wins the Gracilda Cup.

The Aeron Lewis Sambucca cup is the challenge cup and this year. This is the cup awarded to a member and his boat that faced a personal challenge and summarised it for the newsletter. This year it is again for a member who generally sails single handed, a challenge enough, but as you will have read in the newsletter, his bleeding diesel engine gave an additional challenge, Aleck Poole in CORRINE.

The Seamanship Cup This cup is presenter to the boat and crew who has shown excellent and outstanding seamanship throughout the year. This year we read an article on just one of his single handed cruises, a truly epic adventure. This year the cup goes to John Apps in RAVEN.

The Editors Cup This is my chance to select the most appropriate article, published in the years newsletters. The choice this year is for a pair of members who have consistently contributed articles to the newsletter, articles that all members have enjoyed for years. So I am delighted to present the editor's cup to Richard and Justine and AMBITION II.

The Rodney is an award given for fitting out and launch mishaps. It was at the last Pyefleet weekend, which had been diverted to Burnham marina because of forecasted very high winds. Ironically it was Zane, Nick Turners son who noticed it. Perhaps we should have noticed it too as LUCY entered the marina at dusk.

Ever since Nick had owned LUCY and perhaps as Nick is from the Southern Hemisphere, he had not noticed that his bi-colour navigation light on the bow was upside down. So for this Nick and LUCY are awarded quite rightly, the Rodney

The Bosun's Bell I am sure that many of us made some silly mistakes throughout the year, but most are fortunate that there is no one around to witness it. Like me trying to pick up my mooring earlier this year in very strong wind over tide. All par for the course I guess.

But earlier this year, Shaun invited our Chairman Jonathan for a cruise in BRIAR ROSE. Now that was just asking for it! Upon leaving a very busy marina, Shaun noticed he was a fender missing. They turned about and went back to the marina on a fender hunt. There were boats festooned with fenders and fenders used as pick up bouys too. But which belonged to BRIAR ROSE? Back to where they were moored and some fenders on the French boat that they had laid against the previous night looked very suspicious, but after circling the marina and starting an international incident, Shaun noticed that the previous night he had fitted a fender on the other side of BRIAR ROSE. It was there all the time.

So in honour of the Greek fender tragedy/mystery, Shaun and BRIAR ROSE wins the Bosun's bell!

Handicaps for 2019

Cruiser	2019 Handicap
MARTINIQUE	1267
AKVAVIT	1395
LOTUS BAVARIA	1500
SCHERZO	1614
PAKLJHAWA	1614
IMOTHES	1680
LUCY	1680
EOLE	1710
ULABELLA	1745
JOUET	1800
GOSHAWK	1800
WATERWYTCH	1835
INDI	1850
LOTUS	1850
GINGER LEI	1850
VERLOCITY	1918

Dinghy 2019 Handicap

MERGANSER	1600
BLUEBOTTLE	1632
APPLE	1690
EOLETTE	1700
MAKEDO	1750
ELG	1796
TRINGA	1800
IANJO	1816
STELLA MARIE	1820
NANI DRAGON	1824
PATCH	1874
PUGWASH II	1975
LITTLE LINDA	2000
SARAH EDITH	2041

Bosun's Corner

John Langrick

Sutton Wharf

We plan a work party on Dally for the 7th April. Basically she needs a wash down and antifoul, I will also service her engine. Any spare antifoul would be appreciated!

I have booked launch dates as follows:

April 17-19, April 22-24, May 1 – 3, May 8-9. Note Mon 6th is a bank holiday and the yard will be closed for launches and the slipway is booked for 7th.

Of course you can arrange to launch yourself at any time, but if we can coordinate launch dates, it helps the yard and also with car logistics.

Paglesham

We plan a yard tidy on Sunday 17th March. This will be the shed and dinghy park. Please ensure there is no gear in the shed other than oars, rowlocks, outboard wellies and one fuel can. There may also be dinghy spars and sails in the rafters, but please try and keep the shed tidy.

The light fitting in the rear part of the shed needs replacement if anyone wants to volunteer.

Another reminder, there are no rubbish bins at the Paglesham yard, so please take all your rubbish of site.

We have more members dinghies this year so please note one dinghy and one sailing dinghy per member and can sailing dinghies please be stored to the rear of the storage area.

Barbecue on Saltings Sat 20th July

This is a fun day on which we have the Mudcatchers Cup, a fun dinghy race, followed by a barbecue on the saltings at the PVT patch. This is an excellent opportunity to socialise, so bring partners, children and grandchildren so we can all meet and enjoy the food company and river. Bring your own food, drinks and nibbles. A barbecue will be provided.

Cruises

Our cruise for 2019 will start on Saturday 29th June. As usual, we start at Pyefleet Creek for those who can only get away for the weekend, We then follow wind and tide for the rest of the week.



Shaun and BRIAR ROSE, cruising Greece, last year with Jonathan and Graham. More cruising planned for 2019.

Please join us in your boat or and if you would just like to crew, you would be very welcome as we always have lots of spare berths.

You can contact members via the Roach Group or any committee member.

Further weekend cruises will be on 25th May and 7th September. These are always weather dependent, but I personally fancy Kent again if the weather serves

RSA member is new bridge keeper

For many years, John Walter operated the Potton Bridge., hence his name 'John the Bridge' and latterly 'John TXB'. Since the retirement of the lady bridge keeper at the Havengore, Andree, from 2nd January 2019 RSA member Brian Shanton has been employed as permanent bridge keeper by QinetiQ!

Brian looks forward to opening the bridge in the future to welcome you through. You can contact him on 'Shoe Bridge', CH 72 or landline.

Local updates on the Havengore and Potton Island bridges and the RSPB Wallasea Island Project

Ken Wickham.

Havengore and Potton Bridges, the story so far



We who have shallow draft craft all know of the problems of access through the MOD ranges at Shoeburyness from the Roach to the Thames. Closed at Dusk till Dawn, closed at the last minute due to operational problems. Failures of the bridges to operate usually electro mechanical issues, but have been known to be staff orientated. Northern Range boundaries encroaching into the Crouch, meaning the patrol boats chasing us out. Long term periods of closure of the Havengore Creek.

Well there is some light at the end of the tunnel, after 3 years of head banging the door we have been granted an audience with the heads of QinetiQ the MOD preferred Operational Agents.

In November 2018 a group of those who are directly affected by the constant and enduring closures of the past 4 months met in the Westminster Office of Mark Francois MP with two QinetiQ senior staff :-

Graeme Morrison – Director Operations Maritime, Land and Weapons
William Tew – Director of Government Relations and Public Policy at QinetiQ

Those attending the meeting from the local marine concerns:-
Mike Sharp – Chairman, Shoeburyness Watermans Association representing the sailing concerns of the north Thames around Southend
Steve Adams – Manager Wakering Boatyard Wakering
Nigel Greest – Manager Sutton Wharf Boatyard Rochford
Ken Wickham – Chair of the RAFCC – CAYF
This meeting was very productive, QinetiQ went away with a list of proposals requiring further work and costings. They admitted the bridges were not "preventatively maintained" and were of poor design and in need of constant maintenance. Mark Francois has agreed to push any joint agreements, including changes to the 1935 Byelaws through Parliament for the group and ask from the MOD further costs for some of the capital recommendations.

A further group of meetings is to be held every 3 months to resolve the issues raised the first being Feb 27th at Shoeburyness HQ. Further meetings set at 6 months will follow to follow up any communications and site issues.

A further update will be issued after the meeting of the 27th Feb meeting.



This project as far as the RSPB is concerned is coming to its early final stages of construction. Clem Freeman and I have on behalf of the Roach and Crouch sailing concerns attended most of the 20 meetings held for the "Stake Holders" over the past 8 years. The project was first muted in 2009 as an area to be returned to its natural beauty as first found some 400 years ago, a marsh and wetland area and thus become one of Europe's largest bird sanctuaries.

With Crossrail Project money RSPB came up with a proposed plan of 6 breaches of the island sea walls and by absorbing some of the potential millions of tonnes of spoil from the London tunnelling project proposed to alter the island structure. One of the four proposals stated was "to help with the protection of the surrounding sea wall defences and slow alterations to the river profiles" which was raised in a report by consultants to the Environmental Agency, Halcrow 2006.

The report raised the issues that time possibly would effect the waterways around the island in the Crouch and Roach so it was deemed that continued survey work was to be part of the project. New buoyage systems were also laid for the incoming vessels bring the spoil around the Whitaker from London.

This year with only 3 breaches completed, we will see the early removal of the redundant unloading platform barges in the Crouch, the pulling of the piles along the North bank of the island and the removal of the landside conveyors and possibly in the near future some of the Crouch navigation buoys may have to be removed.

Crouch Harbour Authority have been asked by RSPB to agree the removal the requirements of surveys from the original agreement. At this time they are in discussions and possibly will not grant such removal. They also will lose vast amounts of revenue due to the premature closing of the project which does not help the finances of the CHA in the future.

New Yacht for the President

Mike Green

Son Stewart, Sharon and I decided that after 12 years of ownership of the 9 metre yacht "VERLOCITY" we would like to have a larger boat. So after looking round several locations on the East coast we made an offer on a Beneteau Oceanis 350 based in Shotley marina. She appeared to be in good condition externally but not really what we wanted internally as she was the charter version with 2 aft double cabins and a very small toilet/shower compartment. So, after a bit of a rethink and prior to survey, we decided not to go ahead with the purchase much to the owner's disappointment.

We also viewed a very nice 33ft Scandinavian built boat ashore in Levington marina but on enquiry found that someone else had put an offer in that had been accepted & the owner would not, quite rightly, contemplate any further higher offers, so that was out.

Stewart & Sharon then viewed several yachts in the Hamble & Exmouth areas and very much liked the looks of the Feeling 10.90 & 10.40 range of fin keel yachts. In particular a Feeling 10.90 based afloat on the Hamble called "GOOD FEELING". Although I did not view the boat I did see quite a good selection of photographs so we again made an offer "subject to survey" & she was hauled out and our local surveyor looked her over.

His report was damning in that he stated she was in a dangerous condition and unfit for sea. I should explain here that the owner had 2 yachts and had used this one as an accommodation vessel for the crews of his other larger racing yacht. The owner was as shocked as we were and not surprised when we pulled out of the purchase. It was clear that he would have to spend a lot of money on her to bring her back to a seaworthy condition and fit for sale.

The Feeling 10.40 yacht they saw in Exmouth which they liked was a bit higher than our/their budget and the owner would not negotiate on price, so again we were disappointed. We then saw there was a 10.40 for sale in Dover marina so we all went down to look her over & were joined by her owner and his sales agent so there were 5 of us aboard, which demonstrated there was at least a reasonable amount of room! We liked what we saw so made an offer which was accepted and asked the owner to have her hauled out, which he did at his cost. We then arranged a survey which reported a few problems but nothing too serious apart from some minor blistering on the hull abaft the keel, this resulted in a further negotiations and a further price reduction. I had already received some prices from a Dover based repairer to carry out the remedial work which were within the price reduction negotiated so we were happy to proceed with the purchase.

It is our intention to leave "PAS DE CHAT" ashore in Dover marina until early April & then sail her back to Paglesham and our mooring. Hopefully, we should be able to give some of the faster yachts some competition in the racing!



By the way, "PAS de CHAT" translates as "Dances like a Cat".

VERLOCITY is now ashore at Burnham Marina awaiting a buyer, she would make a good, safe, well equipped boat for a newcomer to sailing. We will miss her.

Mystical

Steve Noble

MYSTICAL was left in the hands of Fred Marine at Pointe-a-Pitre Guadeloupe. I asked the engineer to rebuild the engine, check the alternator and see to a leaking stern gland. Fred gave me a list of parts wanted for the rebuild as they were not available on the island. I decided to fly out with the parts and stay in MYSTICAL while the rebuild was going on.



MYSTICAL 39' Nicholson ketch

The first delay was caused by the injector pump needing replacing. As anyone who has dealt with boatyards and engineers will say, allow twice as long as quoted, so I canceled my return flight. The engine was rebuilt even with weekends and national holidays slowing things up. The engine was bench tested and ran like new. Next problem was fitting it back in the boat. The cockpit floor had been fixed down with a USA sealant called 3m, used to stick things that you will not take apart again. It was a case of stripping the engine down and putting it back together in the engine bay or cutting the cockpit floor out. We cut the floor out. I hope I have not got to lift the engine out again as I epoxied the cockpit floor back.



Graham admires MYSTICAL on his JST cruise.

I asked the marina office about leaving MYSTICAL until February but I was told no as the Route de Ruam race was using the marina. I booked a flight from Antigua to get back for the laying up supper, this was leaving Friday evening arriving Saturday noon.

The engineers took forever to connect the engine up, even with me saying that I had to get back to Antigua by the 15th. MYSTICAL was launched on the Wednesday afternoon.

A trip across to the fuel berth revealed no water feed to the engine, part of the exhaust coming adrift, filling the boat with smoke! And the alternator not working. Back to the travel hoist to be lifted out. The seacock that had been fitted 3 years before had rusted solid.

Repairs done next morning except for the alternator working I sailed for Deshaies with food and sleep. (Incidentally Deshaies is where 'Death in Paradise' is filmed (ed). I left to do the 42 miles across to Antigua at 3am. There was a small craft warning with winds 25 to 30 kts and 3 mt swells. I arrived at Jolly Harbour at 2pm with flat batteries, a leaking stern gland, tangled headsail and very wet.



Repairs undertaken about where the 'u' is on Guadeloupe.

The afternoon was a mad dash to clear customs [always fun on Antigua], sort out the marina office, [they were great] get the boat lifted out, pack and tidy as much as possible, shower and food and get to the airport by 7 pm. I even had time to buy rum, just...

A new Yacht for Vince

Vince Lowen

DESTAYE was getting a bit small for the family and last year I decided it was time to sell her. I bought PEPPERMINT, a 31' Dolphin in September at Fambridge with a positive survey which listed the items that needed attention.



PEPPERMINT, or as Ava calls her, Peppa Pig!

I left her at Fambridge this winter and by now, the work is almost complete with the assistance of member Paul Williams. This included replacing both the deep sea seal and cutlass bearing. I also will replace the GPS. The water tanks and piping all had to be replaced and renewed plus all new taps and fittings. Laura and can now stand up at the cooker!

We freed and greased both toilet seacocks so now we have a decent loo too. The mast had to be taken down on the 14th Jan to replace the VHF aerial and wiring. I am on the home stretch now putting things back in the cabin now.

When she goes into the water hopefully in April I will keep her at Fambridge as it will be easier for Laura and Ava to get aboard. In the first few weeks I'll zigzag in the river to get use to her and practice handling her. I will need practice going into marinas, which I already have plenty to choose from.

Laura, Ava and I look forward to welcoming RSA members on board

ROACH SAILING ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st December 2018

2017	Income	2018	
£		£	£
780.00	Annual Subscriptions	480.00	
300.00	Race Subs	110.00	
150.00	Back subs	20.00	
0.00	Profit on Sale of Burgees and clothing	5.52	
549.00	Donations/ jumble profit and sale of workboat	224.11	
0.10	Bank Interest	1.08	
270.00	Excess Inc/(Deficit) for dinner (including flowers)	0.00	
1750.00	gifted assets		
3799.10			840.71
	Expenditure		
125.00	RYA Subscription	125.00	
	CAYFE Subscription		
40.00	Printing, Stationary & Postage	10.00	
84.68	Cup Insurance	90.86	
170.00	Cup Engraving	170.00	
	Crouch Harbour Authority Disks (inc Dally disk)		
0.00	AGM meeting costs		
990.00	workboat and engine purchase		
965.00	Workboat repairs and upkeep (inc mooring)	589.22	
	disabled sailing sponsorship		
25.00	Paglesham/Rochford shed and river costs	9.59	
0.00	Depreciation on stock of flags and burgees		
95.00	Committee member retirement gift		
2644.68			994.67
	Excess of Expenditure over Income		153.96
1154.42	Excess of Income over Expenditure		
	<u>Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017</u>		
	Assets		
1360.21	Balance at Bank 31st December		1231.47
688.32	Stock of Flags and Burgees		663.84
3705.74	workboat, dinghy, outboard and shed		3705.00
5754.27			5600.31
	Reconciliation of Assets 2018		
2349.85	As at 1st January		5754.27
2250.00	Adjustment for new assets		
1154.42	Surplus Income/Excess Expenditure		153.96
5754.27			5600.31



Simon P Joel, Honorary Treasurer

2019 Event Calendar

Races start at 10:00, except where other times are given below, or on the day by Race Officer.

On the Saturday evening before racing on the Sunday, many will stay aboard overnight and if you wish to join in evening festivities, please contact the Roach Group.

If you would like to crew with one of the boats racing, again, contact the Roach Group.

Sun 17th Mar Work party and litter Pick - Pag 10:00 HW 08:40
Sun 17th Mar AGM 19:30
Sun 7th Apr Work party - Dally 10:00
Fri 26th Apr Fitting Out Supper, The Castle Wakering 19:30
Sun 12th May Paglesham Pot (Cruiser series) 10:00 HW 06:37
Sun 19th May Potton Trophy (Dinghy series) 12:00 HW 13:45
25-27th May Cruise weekend HW 05:27
Sun 2nd June Blue Shoal Trophy (Cruiser series) 10:00 HW 12:43
Sun 9th June Egret Cup (Dinghy series) 10:00 HW 05:34 LW 11:33
Sun 16th June Shuttlewood Cup (Cruiser series) 10:00 HW 12:45
Sat 22nd June Dinner afloat in Quay Reach 18:00 HW 04:25 LW 10:09
Sun 23rd June Whitaker Cup (Cruiser series) 10:00 HW 05:04 LW 10:45
W/c Sat 29th June East Coast cruise starting at Pyefleet HW 10:29
Sun 7th July Gracilda Cup (Ladies race) 12:00 LW 10:40
Sat 20th July Mudcatchers Cup (Dinghy series) 13:00 HW 15:39
Sat 20th July BBQ on the saltings after race
Sun 21st July Paglesham Yacht Race (Dinghy Series) 13:00 HW 16:12
Sat 17th Aug Fambridge Dinner 19:00 LW 06:16 HW 02:29 LW 08:34
Sun 18th Aug Don McDowell Cup (Fun race) 10:00 HW 03:03 LW 09:03
Sun 1st Sep Lifeboat Cup (Cruiser series) 10:00 HW 14:50
7th - 8th Sep Cruise weekend LW 13:09
Sun 15th Sep Lifeboat Cup (Dinghy series) 12:00 HW 14:07
Sun 22nd Sep Roach Plate (Cruiser series) 11:00 LW 12:01 HW 05:56
Sun 29th Sep Oyster Cup (Dinghy series) 12:00 HW 13:42
Sun 13th Oct Steak & Oysters Afloat 12:00 HW 13:15
Sat 16th Nov Laying Up Supper at Ballards Gore Golf Club 19:30

