



WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB

MAINSHEET

2013/14 WINTER EDITION

Editor: Roy Crookes

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editor's note:

I would like to extend my own warm seasonal greetings to all club members, with this winter edition of *Mainsheet*. As usual we have the regular features: membership renewal and reports of club business, special events and news, epic sea voyages, our nature feature and next year's calendar. We also have the award of trophies and a mystery visitor! But first as is our custom:

Commodores Christmas Message

Looking back on my report this time last year, I'm pleased to see that things are moving forward. WSC has welcomed quite a few new members this year and it's great to see that people are helping out both on and off the water.

The winter series racing is under way; we have a good number of boats out, a higher attendance than some of the summer racing. That said, well done the WOD Association for getting so many boats back out on the water and in every race. There have been quite a few 'WOD submarines' this season but the WOD Chairman informs me that the safety boats have now been equipped with high tech WOD bailing equipment. You'll have to sign up for safety boat duty to find out what it is!

Speaking of safety boats I was very pleased to award the Squires Clock to John and Linda Austin this year.



John and Linda [archive footage!]

They both do safety boat duty when they can, particularly in the winter, and are very active within the lifting group and helping out with House events. They, along with Ken Jordan and Linda Morgan (who were given the clock last year) are always on hand to help on the safety boat and at hard working parties. I am very grateful to them personally and as

Commodore for all the support they have all shown me during my time in office and the award is well deserved.

The Rear Commodore and I recently attended a meeting at Blackwater Sailing Club as we have been asked to take part in the Blackwater & Colne Open Sailing Series (BCOSS - cruisers) and you'll see these events listed on our calendar. There were sixteen flag officers from nine clubs based on the Blackwater and Colne, all with our diaries and in the early stages of planning our club calendars. It was interesting to note that we are all trying to get more people out on the water and to make it not just about racing so that it is more inclusive and fun for everyone. We co-ordinated our diaries to avoid any unnecessary clashing of events, the idea being it would be great to have 40 yachts in a fleet from all clubs attending one big event. There are four weekends planned and further information will be available on our website in the New Year.

This meeting gave me an opportunity to let them know about our own Sail 2014 event that will be happening on the weekend of 28/29 June 2014. The vision of Alan Tyne, you will see more information about this in **Mainsheet** and things have already started happening - the picture board next to the bar is causing much entertainment. Please keep sending your pictures to Alan and watch out for further information about what will be happening on that weekend.

For those of you who've not had chance to get out on the water this season have you considered a sail in the Hunter 19 now owned by the club? Another great idea, this time driven by Steve Hart who's initial plan was to get the cadets sailing something bigger than the *Topaz* dinghies - and what a great cadet section they are! Those that have been out on it love it and were pleased to find that they could stay relatively dry for a change. This boat is

for big kids too so if you want to have a familiarisation sail please speak to Steve Hart, Gary Jobber or Alan Tyne who can arrange this for you. Have we got a name for her yet I wonder?

The Row & Ramble to the Anchor Pub in Rowhedge will take place on 4 January 2014, the idea being that those that want to walk from the Fingringhoe side to the pub are dropped off by those planning to row up (which only takes a few minutes) so if you are able to drop a walker to the other side before you go it would be much appreciated. The pub will put on a special lunch menu for us once again which you can order once you have arrived and we are always well looked after, hope to see you there.

And yes I am organising an Old Time Music Hall in February - so start building those sets and getting your favourite songs out. We do have a pianist and rehearsals will be arranged in the New Year - most likely the night before! More audience participation is required so if you're coming please try and dress up in accordance with the evening - prize for the best Gent and Lady costumes and all proceeds to charity.

There are many people to thank whilst I've been Commodore but I'll forget someone if I try to name you all and then I will be in trouble. So thanks to General Committee, House, Sailing, Bar & Bar volunteers, Lifting Group, all Cadet helpers, Lettings, Race officers and safety boat crews, tractor drivers, chief washer uppers and serial dad dancers and all the people that attend and support the events at WSC, special thanks to my family and friends for guiding me - You're all great and I hope that you continue to support and help this club go from strength to strength.

Finally, may I wish you all a wonderful Christmas - I'll see you for a drink or three no doubt.

Nikki Robinson - Commodore

profile: Ray Hall



before the 'I serve' banner

Unlike so many of us who have discovered Wivenhoe, Ray was born here and joined WSC some 60 years ago! During that time he served the club as Sailing Secretary, Hon. Secretary, Vice-Commodore and Commodore (1992-93), later to become President and Honorary Life Member- '*my proudest ever moment*' he says. Ray made the most of his time in the area (as a heating service engineer) successfully competing afloat, with his long-time companion, Tony Frostick, in the WOD Saphire, collecting numerous trophies. Even during the early years he spent in the RAF, he served in the air-sea rescue maintaining his marine link. Firstly owning cabin cruisers, including *Blue Tango*, used as a some-time starting line with two canons on deck, he acquired the BOD, *Black Shadow* in 1973, which he sailed for 35 years and in 1992, bought the beautiful Nantucket Clipper, *Tambaroo*, well known on the Colne. Aboard this yawl or as crew with others, including his old friend David Petit, on *La Gamba*, Ray visited Belgium, Holland and northern France.

Throughout his sailing life he has taken on voluntary activities for the club, whether steering the hoist for cruiser lifting, serving as officer-of-the-day on race days or crewing the safety boat. Not just on the water but in the clubhouse, for years he has helped others, right from the days with Stan and Paul, with bar supply deliveries and flushing out the beers pipe-work. His influence was felt more widely representing Wivenhoe, when local club sailing secs. met

to decide regatta dates around the tide times, to avoid clashes and to plan race programmes. He was in 1961 a founding member of the *Blackwater and Colne Sailing Preservation Association-BACSPA*.

Ray says of all his voluntary work for the club '*it has been a real labour of love*'.

club sailing news:

Another busy year seems to have flown by, summer arrived a little late but then gave us some good settled weather. Then the recent high winds and record tides will help to make 2013 a memorable year. I've put together some heading below which cover some of the Sailing Committees areas of interest:

old hard shed: door modifications are planned to widen the door and allow easier access for large dinghies such as WODS. This will help ensure that we always have covered working areas for dinghy/tender restoration and maintenance projects.

open day: open day in September was again very popular with around 100 guests being taken for a sail.

canoe racks: the club has ordered canoe and kayak racks for both the old hard and the new club area. These will allow storage for up to 18 vessels and delivery is due in mid-January.

hard working: the autumn hard-working party went very well with a good tidy-up as well as a number of more specific tasks being completed. These included fitting a row of metal hoops to the west of the start hut; this will allow a number of tenders to be stored in an upright position and consequently will free up much needed ground space.

cleaning the hard: since John Bampton retired from his slipway cleaning duties, responsibility for clearing the mud away has been done by volunteers. Unfortunately the numbers coming forward to do this hard work are rather few and it has fallen heavily on Angela Godwin, so more automated alternatives are being considered. Thankfully, the old hard is kept in fine order by John Stewart who does a magnificent job.



it's fun in the sun, with more than one

WOD news: throughout the year the WODs have remained at the center of the clubs dinghy racing activities, with a good turnout for each race.

cruisers winter lay-up: with 30 cruisers now ashore the car park is rather full, with space being a premium, it would be greatly appreciated if unused dinghies, tenders and trailers could be taken off-site for the winter.

club cruiser: the club cruiser has proved popular with around 20 excursions down the river; she will soon be lifted out for the winter, with a team of volunteers undertaking a number of maintenance jobs prior to what will hopefully be a busy season ahead.

Phil Thompson – Vice Commodore

summer season 2013 dinghy race statistics

21 races were held, with an average of 7 starters, maximum 10 starters (3 times) and minimum 3 (only once). 22 different boats entered races, and 13 boats raced 4 times or more.

Nic Blower helmed more races than anyone else (15) and Coretta was the boat entered in most races (15). Rob Maloney helmed the most different boats (4). Bruce Anderson

surge tide - 6th December.

The media enjoyed all the excitement of the big tides, but there was some partial or even plain wrong information given out about the likely effects. Tide Tables usually refer to a

local datum, and these differ from place to place. The national datum is Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN). Brightlingsea uses a datum 2.44m below this, as does Mersea. The Colne Barrier datum is 1.75m below ODN. Harwich is 2.02m below it. So 'local' estimates can all look different.

Just how much difference will a tidal surge in the North Sea make to us? Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) at Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe is 2.56m above ODN. The Environment Agency's website reports Flood Warnings with levels 'Above ODN'. So for 01.15 on 6th December they forecast 3.762m AODN for the 'R.Colne from Brightlingsea to the Barrier', or 1.202m above MHWS.



what a night



there's a point when it's time to move

The clubhouse floor (at 4.6m AODN) was constructed 2m above MHWS, so we should have stayed well clear. In fact the tide came higher than forecast - to the very top of our slipway, and along the path to the big anchor. It has done this before - and at 4.0m AODN was as high as any in recent years. By this time, the tide was spilling over the sea-wall beyond the gate, and the meadows

were filling up. This might briefly slow the rate of rise a little, but if the meadows were full, and the tide rose by another 0.5m, the boat-sheds would begin to flood. However in this case, the ebb had begun and the tide receded. So we got away with it.



over the edge



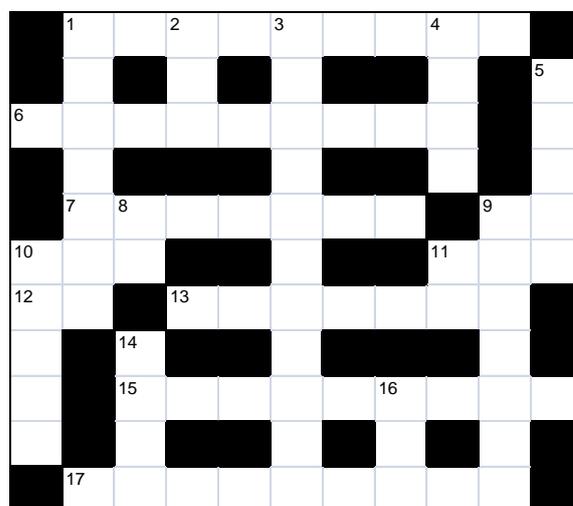
thankfully a not too familiar sight

What caused the surge? Well, Northwest winds around the top of Scotland tend to force volumes of water into the North Sea, funnelling into the narrow gap at Dover. However a strong NW wind helps us in the Colne, because it tends to hold the tide back. So Thursday 5th's midday tide was much **lower than predicted**.

If there were a bigger surge, or repeated surges day after day, or if the strong winds persisted longer around NW Scotland, with weaker winds in the S, and if the meadows were already filled, then the story could be different! And sea level is rising relentlessly in the South by about 5mm a

year due to climate change and geological shifts....but that's another story! Alan Tyne

Mainteaser



clues across:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 | not a port tack | 9 |
| 6 | a welcome refuge | 4,5 |
| 7 | strap but not for boots | 7 |
| 9 | time datum long ago | 1,1 |
| 10 | gets between your teeth | 3 |
| 11 | to acquire something | 3 |
| 12 | hospital ward, initially | 1,1 |
| 13 | festival on the river | 7 |
| 15 | small jib for bad weather | 5,4 |
| 17 | hook for boarding party | 9 |

clues down:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 1 | tie things down aboard | 7 |
| 2 | first in the pack | 3 |
| 3 | day out or slip on deck | 7,4 |
| 4 | cause a sail to tear | 4 |
| 5 | put the mast upright | 5 |
| 8 | techno-crowd | 1,1 |
| 9 | close hauled to windward | 7 |
| 10 | process in groups | 5 |
| 11 | suped-up version | 1,1 |
| 14 | operator may be friendly | 4 |
| 16 | slide on snow or water | 3 |

Wivenhoe Sailing Club

Minutes of 87th Annual General Meeting. Friday 8th March 2013, at the Clubhouse.

1. Apologies for absence were received from, John & Auriol Ashworth, Ken Jordon & Linda Morgan, Ray Meddis, George Brown, Tim Denham & Gill Maloney, Peter & Jaqui Collyer-Smith, Phil Thompson & Naomi Cunliffe, Richard Barnard, Jan Tyne, Brian Morton, Arnold & Margret Handley, Roy & Val Crookes & Jack Reddish.
2. The minutes of the 2012 AGM were noted.

Commodore's Report

"Nestling quietly next to the barrier, Wivenhoe Sailing Club is no longer a secret. We now have neighbours with the Cooks development nearing completion and the footpath is continually busy with walkers and cyclists. Our membership enquiries have increased and we have welcomed more new members this year. Wivenhoe Town Regatta and Open Day were a great success all thanks to the organisation of our volunteer members; we have raised money for various charities this year and, I hope, raised our profile within the town.

Administration of the club is always busy and it's easy to get bogged down in meetings and forget why we're all here – to get out on the water surely? It's important to thank those that give up their time during the week to have these meetings; respond to the various requests from the local community and organisations; arrange the use of the club through lettings; carrying out general maintenance and repairs to the site; check that we are operating within the bounds of regulations and our constitution whilst making sure that there is plenty of entertainment and fun to be had on and off the water.

We are trying to bring the club up to date and have replaced the broken weather station in the lobby with an electronic version. Broadband has been installed this year and a computer is located on the upper deck for all to use, kindly donated by Zac Brightmore. Questions are being asked about setting up an online/electronic payment facility to make life easier – but we still need some help with this!

So finally a thank you to all of the Committees and volunteers who have shown me and the club so much support, we wouldn't be here without you."

Nikki Robinson, Commodore

The Commodore spoke to her written report on the year, thanking members for their support and contributions throughout the year. She also reminded members that continued support was required to run events during the current year. This includes, not only volunteers to run the bar and dinghy races, but also to help staff social events at the Clubhouse.

Hon Treasurer's report on the 2012 accounts.

"The accounts for 2012 show a net loss, after the inclusion of depreciation, of £1163. Two items in particular have increased our costs – the replacement of three night store heaters (Repairs & Renewals) and the new chair lift which is now paid for but requires depreciating in accordance with standard practice.

I am particularly pleased with the bar's contribution to club funds and although the "use of clubhouse" i.e. lettings shows a fall in income, these items are well managed.

Sundries includes Colchester BC fee of £180 for the annual licence, the Performing Rights Society's charge of £372 and we now have a stock of Club burgees (25) which are available to members at £20 each. Please contact me if you want one.

Looking to the future, there are two major items, the cost of which will have to be provided for – these are the re-tarmacing of the parking area and fire-proof varnishing to the upstairs timber ceiling.

It is my opinion that the various committees are running the club on sound lines and I recommend the adoption of the 2012 accounts."

Guy Ward, Hon. Treasurer

The Treasurer spoke to his report and inspected accounts. He thanked Anne Hunter for doing the independent inspection and the various spending committees for making his role easier. He reminded members that the club had to expect considerable expenditure on repairs and renewals, in particular, the car park and the clubhouse ceiling.

There were questions and discussion about the accounts. Several members asked why the bar profit had increased in percentage terms over 2011. The treasurer did not have a complete explanation for this, but bar stocks are now considerably lower and he was confident that the bar was being run very effectively.

The treasurer recommended adoption of the accounts. This was proposed by Ian Hunter and seconded by Peter Cobbold. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. There being only one nomination for each post, the election of officers was taken en bloc. Proposed by Bruce Anderson, seconded by Fred Gibby. The motion was unanimously carried.

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Commodore	Nikki Robinson	Nick Blower	Guy Ward
Vice Commodore	Phil Thompson	Guy Ward	Ted Reddish
Rear Commodore	Gary Jobber	Jan Tyne	Steve Hart
Hon Treasurer	Guy Ward	Nikki Robinson	Gill Strudwick
Hon Secretary	Eric Strudwick	Mick Bloomfield	Dave Peck
Hon Membership Secretary	Midge Hetherington	Myrna Ekeroth	Wendy Jobber

4. There being fewer nominations than allowed, the election of General Committee members was taken en bloc. Proposed by Kevin Hosking, seconded by Andrew Scott. The motion was unanimously carried.

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
1	Bruce Anderson	Nenah Troendle	Albert Scott
2	Ray Meddis	Ray Hall	Gill Strudwick
3	Ewan Alexander	Eric Strudwick	Ray Meddis

5. Mr Brian Sinclair proposed and spoke to the motion.

That the club introduces a system whereby every member who wants access to at least the front part of the clubhouse can get it, simply and easily.

This was seconded by Ted Reddish and unanimously carried.

6. The Secretary put the proposal to amend four clauses of the constitution. He told the meeting that the changes were recommended by the General Committee and explained the context in which the proposals were made

The first Change is to add a clause to allow the General Committee to limit the facilities to which Group Members may use. We don't currently have any Group Members, but if we are to ever use this category, the members of it must be limited in the facilities which they enjoy.

*Rule 4.2.8. Group Membership. The general committee may admit to membership, members of an association with constitution and objects compatible with those of the Club. Group Membership will be for one year only, and may be renewed on application. Group membership permits use of club facilities **as agreed by the General Committee**, subject to the rules and conditions applicable to all other members, but excludes any right to vote at meetings, propose or second applications for membership, or to have any share in the property or assets of the club.*

The second change is to alter the number of other members of the General Committee from 8 - 10 to 4 - 8. This is to make the committee more manageable and is in line with the RYA Model Constitution.

*Rule 5.1. General Committee Membership. The management of the Club shall be vested in the General Committee consisting of - President, the Officers and between **four and eight** other Members of the Club.*

The third change is to add a rule which defines a quorum for the General Committee. At present no such clause exists. The RYA Model Constitution suggests that five members should constitute a quorum, but I thought this to be too small. The quorum for our committee will normally be between 7 & 9 depending on the number of other members current at that time.

Rule 5.1.1. A quorum for the General Committee shall be half of the number of members plus one.

(N.B. A couple of other clauses get renumbered - sec)

The fourth change: At present the number of licensed non-club functions held at the club is set in the constitution at 12 per year. It should be noted that this number includes lettings to our own members. The change is to introduce flexibility by giving the General Committee responsibility to set the number.

Rule 10.4 Visitors shall also include (in addition) persons attending functions organised by outside bodies under a hiring agreement with the Club. The number of such functions shall be at the discretion of the General Committee.

There were questions of detail about the first three changes. However, there was considerable discussion about the fourth change. Ray Hall told the meeting, that rule dated back many years to when it was much more difficult to get a bar license for functions. Ian Hunter suggested that rather than give the committee discretion, the number should be increased. The Bar Manager and the Lettings Secretary spoke in favour of the change.

The four changes were put separately to the meeting and all were passed with the required majority.

7. The Treasurer proposed the appointment of Anne Hunter as auditor for the current year. This was unanimously carried.
8. All of the discussion in AOB revolved around making the club more welcoming to members, especially new members. Sue Goldsmith supported by Jane Valentine, suggested a softer and more comfortable decor in lower deck. Gary Jobber suggested a survey of members' wishes and priorities.

Stuart Bannerman circulated his suggestion of a wide ranging review of club members' desires and aspirations and a vision for the future. Stuart volunteered to organise the review and report back to the General Committee. Bruce Anderson spoke in favour of the proposal stating that the review would need to be completed within 9 months in order that proposals could be presented to the 2014 AGM.

The Secretary explained that the Constitution (Rule 6.14) did not allow a formal vote, but the suggestion received the overwhelming support of the meeting.

The Commodore presented John Bampton a pair of engraved crystal wine glasses in recognition of his sterling work in keeping the hard clear for nearly ten years.

The meeting closed at 20:45

These minutes were approved at the General Committee meeting.

Signed.....*Nikki Robinson*....., Commodore, April 3rd 2013

WSC MEMBERSHIP CHARGES & FEES for 2014	FEE/CHARGE	LATE PAYMENT
Joining Fees		
Joining Fee (Family & Single adult) (includes front door key)	£35.00	
Young Adult	£6.00	
Annual Subscription		
Family	£77.00	£87.00
Single Person	£62.00	£72.00
Young Adult (18-25)	£22.50	£27.50
Cadet – Club members	£6.00	
Cadet – Non club members	£21.00	
HARD STANDING		
Canoe or Dinghy up to 3m, both Old Hard and at Clubhouse	£14.00	£20.00
Dinghy up to 3m, Inside pontoons	£22.50	£28.50
Dinghy Storage – Over 3m, both hards (per metre of boat)	£8.50	Add £6 per boat
Cruiser Storage (per metre of boat)		
Cruiser Winter Storage – Ashore	£15.00	
Cruiser Winter Storage – Pontoons	£15.00	
Penalty Fee for cruiser overstaying (per day)	£2.00	
Dinghy trailers not stored under dinghy & Cruiser trailers left on club premises during the summer.	£16.00	£22.00
LIFTING (per metre of boat)		
Haul out and launch	£5.50	
MOORINGS (including one tender, per metre of boat)		
All moorings.	£17.00	Add £17.00 per boat.

AGM 2014

This is the last Mainsheet before the 2014 Annual General Meeting, scheduled for March 7th at 19:30 at the clubhouse. At the AGM, the club accounts are submitted for approval and the General Committee is elected.

The constitution requires that all club officers are elected each year. The Commodore, Vice Commodore and Rear Commodore have all told the General Committee that they will not be standing again in 2014. Other General Committee members serve for two years and, as three were elected in 2013, there will be five vacancies to fill in 2014.

If you wish to contribute to the running of the club, please put in your nomination to stand for election. Nominations forms are available now from the website (under Members/Club Documents) and paper copies will be in the clubhouse foyer in the New Year. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary 21 days before the AGM. All members are eligible to stand for election provided they have been a member for two years. If you have any queries or need clarification, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Eric Strudwick – Hon Secretary

Wivenhoe Sailing Club



Walter Radcliffe Way
Wivenhoe
Essex
CO7 9WS
Tel. 01206 822132

Membership Renewal 2014

Dear Member, December 2013

After careful consideration the General Committee has decided to increase the membership subscriptions for 2014.

Annual membership fees are due on 1st January 2014. Please pay promptly. As an incentive to get your cheque to me as soon as possible, you will receive a discount if your payment reaches me by the end of January. If you decide not to renew, it would be helpful if you could let me know so that I don't bother you with unnecessary reminders.

You will appreciate that it is important to keep records up to date so could you please complete the attached form and return it with your payment. During the year, if you move house or your circumstances change then please let me know as soon as possible. Our constitution requires that we keep a list of the names and addresses of current members in the clubhouse.

What makes WSC special is that it is run by the members for the members, and to keep this up we need everyone to help in whatever way they can. Can I therefore

please ask you that you sign up to help with the bar, in the galley, in the rescue boat, as a race officer, or in any other way that will assist club activities.

Email is by far the cheapest way of communicating with members. If you are happy to receive WSC communications and newsletters by email, please enter your current email address(es) on the form. For family memberships you might find it helpful to let me have email address for both partners to ensure that you know what is going on.

Cadet membership is managed by the Cadet leader, Steve Hart, who should be contacted direct at the same address as above but email:

hartcraft@hotmail.com.uk

Thank you for your co-operation, and good sailing in 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Midge Hetherington

Membership Secretary.

01206 825639

midgehetherington@gmail.com

Membership Subscriptions 2013	Before end of Jan	After February 1st.
Family	£77.00	£87.00
Single Person	£62.00	£72.00
Young Adult (18–25 years)	£22.50	£27.50

WSC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2014

Family name: Title: Forename(s):

Tel:

Email address:

Additional Email address:

I would like my mail addressed as follows:

NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....

Membership: Family Adult

Young Adult

Payment enclosed £

Cheques made payable to Wivenhoe Sailing Club

Please complete and send with payment to;

Midge Hetherington
Brown Oaks

Alresford Road

Wivenhoe CO7 9JX

(or to the Clubhouse)

I would like to volunteer for the following duties;

(Please tick at least one.)

Bar duty: Race Officer: Rescue Boat:

Help in Galley: Gardening: DIY:

Anything else?

(For Race Officer and Rescue Boat please indicate your experience/ qualifications. The club may be able to arrange/ provide training. Please indicate if you would be interested in this.

Training can also be provided for helping behind the bar.)

For family members:-

Partner's name:

Children's names and ages (if under 18 yrs.)

.....

Please complete and send with payment to;

**Midge Hetherington
Brown Oaks
Alresford Road
Wivenhoe CO7 9JX (or to the Clubhouse)**

calendar of events 2014:

		sailing events	<i>HW</i>	<i>Start</i>	
Sat	4	January	14:08	11:00	Row & Ramble to Anchor
Fri	21	March		19:30	Safety Boat Theory
Sat	22	March	15:38	13:00	Safety Boat Practical
Sun	30	March	12:47	11:15	Glozier Fitting Out Race
Sun	13	April	12:03	10:30	Sainty Memorial Cup
Sun	4	May	16:12	14:00	Can Race
Fri	9	May	20:58	19:00	Evening Pursuit 1
Sun	11	May	10:37	09:00	May Mug/Sykes 1/Scaly Capstan
Fri	23	May	20:30	19:00	Evening Pursuit 2
Sat	24	May			WRYO Spring Rally
Sat	24	May			Blackwater & Colne Rally - Shotley
Sun	25	May			Blackwater & Colne Rally - Shotley
Mon	26	May	11:15	09:45	Bank Holiday Cup
Sat	31	May			B'sea Town & CYC Regatta
Sun	1	June	15:16	13:45	Stuart Pawsey Cup / Ladies Race
Fri	6	June	18:57	18:00	Evening Pursuit 3
Sat	7	June	07:45		WSC Cruise to Marconi SC
Sun	8	June			Blackwater & Colne Race 1 - Marconi SC
Sun	15	June	14:35	13:00	May Mug/sykes 2/Halfway Cup
Sat	28	June			Sail 2014 - dinghy regetta
Sun	29	June			Sail 2014
Fri	4	July			Cadet Camp at Mersea until 6/7/14
Sat	5	July			Blackwater & Colne Race 2 - WMYC
Sun	6	July	19:02		East Coast Old Gaffers at WSC
Mon	7	July	20:05	18:45	Evening Pursuit 4
Sun	13	July	13:26	12:30	Upstream Race
Sat	19	July	16:10		Wallet Shield Race - Colne Y C plus
Sat	19	July			Blackwater & Colne Race 3 - Colne YC
Mon	21	July	20:20	19:00	Evening Pursuit 5
Sat	2	August	16:45		Wivenhoe Town Regatta
Sun	3	August	17:15	15:45	May Mug/Sykes 3 / Bostock Cup
Wed	6	August	20:32	19:00	Evening Pursuit 6
Fri	15	August			Ostend Rally
Sat	30	August	15:40	12:30	WSC Open Day
Sun	31	August	16:15	14:45	May Mug/Sykes 4 / Farran Cup
Sat	13	September	15:45		Cadet Regatta
Sun	14	September	16:25	15:00	Haward Cup
Sun	21	September	11:15	09:45	May Mug/Sykes 5/Capriol Capstan
Sun	12	October	15:15	13:00	Rat Race
Sun	26	October	13:15	11:30	Glozier Laying Up Race
Sun	9	November	13:15	11:45	Winter Series 1
Sun	23	November	12:15	11:00	Winter Series 2
Sun	7	December	12:15	11:00	Winter Series 3
Mon	22	December	11:10	09:30	Winter Series 4

		social events	HW	start	
Tue	31	December		20:00	New Years Eve Party & Buffet
Sat	4	January	14:08	11:00	Row & Ramble to Anchor, Rowhedge
Sat	25	January		19:00	Burns Night
Sat	8	February		19:00	Old Time Music Hall
Sun	16	February	13:08	10:00	Nature Walk & Sunday Lunch
Fri	28	February		19:30	General Boat Owners & Lifting Meeting
Fri	7	March		19:30	Supper cooked by Cadets - after AGM
Sat	8	March		18:30	Wallet Ball, Benton Hall -
Sat	29	March	11:01	09:30	Spring Hard Working Party
Sun	30	March		13:00	Fitting Out Lunch
Fri	4	April		19:30	Wiv Gig Fund Raiser
Fri	25	April		19:30	Fish & Chips & Quiz Night
Fri	9	May		19:30	Beer & Curry Night
Sun	18	May		12:30	Sunday Lunch
Sat	28	June			Sail 2014
Sun	29	June			Sail 2014
Sun	6	July	19:02	16:00	Hog Roast / Visit from Old Gaffers Assoc.
Sun	13	July		13:00	Sunday Buffet Lunch
Sat	30	August	15:40	12:30	WSC Open Day BBQ & Refreshments
Fri	10	October		19:30	Fish & Chips & Quiz Night
Sat	25	October		09:30	Autumn Hard Working Party
Sun	26	October		13:00	Laying Up Lunch
Fri	31	October		19:30	Beer & Curry Night
Fri	7	November		20:00	Beer Tasting Evening
Fri	21	November		20:00	RNLI Evening
Sat	22	November		18:30	Annual Dinner & Prizegiving
Sat	6	December		18:30	Cadet Supper & Prizegiving
Sun	14	December		13:00	Children's' Christmas Party
Fri	19	December		20:00	Christmas Gathering & Prize Draw
Sun	21	December		12:00	Mince Pies & Mulled Wine
Wed	31	December		20:00	New Years Eve Party & Buffet

the *Stig* challenge

You may have spotted the well-known 'Top Gear' character '**The Stig**' visiting the club recently.

While he was here, Steve Hart lent him a Topaz and he gave a dazzling virtuoso performance of sailing a timed trial around a short course to Alresford Creek and back.

The Stig's time will be posted on the board on January 1st, and he's generously agreed to sponsor anyone who cares to challenge his time - the prize being a *signed photo of the challenger with the Stig, presented on June 29th.*



but which one is it?



who's the new bar manager?

So if you are up to seeing how close to the Stig's time you can get, here're the rules:

- (1) It has to be sailed in a club Topaz with Regular Mainsail, no jib.
- (2) Flying Start at the Club Line, time it yourself and finish on the line, via the designated buoys off Alresford Ck.
- (3) Inform the Stigmeister (Steve Hart) when you will be borrowing the club boat.
- (4) Your individual timed trial can take place whenever suits you - chose your own day/weather/tidal conditions. You can have as many goes as you like. It can be on your own, or with others. (Go on, beat your mates, improve on your personal best....).
- (5) Its a personal decision whether to take part and the responsibility is entirely yours - you can arrange a safety boat if you want.

A further challenge, based on the 'Hunter19' will start in April, with a slightly longer course. Look on the Notice Board in January for the sign-up sheet, and make arrangements if you want to try a 'group challenge' (Topaz or Hunter) on a particular day. (NB I suppose cadets would be Stiglets?)

For details contact Stigmeister Steve on 01206826318 / 07816128932.

and the gig challenge

There were plenty of gig crews out on the water on Saturday morning the other week. Teams from the local towns were pitting themselves in competition with single and mixed crews. It was a spectacle to see and there was an exciting hum around the club grounds.



there goes *what-cha'call it* : (Vanduarda)



Record Reign & *Velocity* exit the barrier

the *Cap Pilar*

There are names of vessels one associates with Wivenhoe that conjure up historic images of romantic or exciting voyages on the high seas in days gone by. Names that come to my mind are *The Lord Nelson*, the *Rosabella* remembered in postal addresses here and, perhaps one that stands out, the enigmatic *Cap Pilar*, which in many ways is linked to the town. There will most likely be others that mean as much to some readers.

The *Cap Pilar*, according to the publication *Round the World with the Cap Pilar*, edited by Martin Knowles in 2011 from letters, articles and reports by members of the crew and other chroniclers, started life in 1911.

A 295 ton three-masted barquentine, the *Cap Pilar*, built as a Newfoundland cod fishing schooner and later used as a French fishing vessel, was purchased lying almost derelict at St Malo in 1935.

She was bought by Adrian Seligman to later sail around the world, starting in 1936 from London and finishing in 1938 in Falmouth after some 35000 miles. He was accompanied by his wife, Jane who gave birth to their daughter, Jessica Jane in New Zealand during the voyage. They were also joined for the voyage by various other crew members, including Jane's brother George, Lars Paersch who had some deep-water sailing experience and John Donnelly, a solicitor from Colchester. Esme Wailes also living near Colchester received letters through the voyage from George and transcribed them to a notebook in which she kept newspaper cuttings of the trip.

The epic voyage took them to Madeira, Rio de Janeiro, Tristan da Cunha, Cape Town, Tasmania, Sydney, Auckland, the Marquesas, Peru, Panama, Jamaica, New York and Halifax before returning home. They went through the Doldrums, across 'the line', through the Panama Canal, they were struck by lightning and they carried the Royal Mail! The *Cap Pilar* was laid-up in Brightlingsea at the outbreak of war and was later towed to Wivenhoe to end her days in gradual decline and eventual destruction!



the *Cap Pilar* in 1929

[google; Round the World with the Cap Pilar]

At the end of this article is a personal memory of son/ namesake of a member of the crew that made such an impact in that epic voyage, John Donnelly, the bosun.

'I heard most of the Cap Pilar stories first-hand, as a child and then later in detail, when I went with my father, John Donnelly, the Boatswain, to the Nottage or other clubs, as the operator of the epidiascope, while he talked of his adventures to a wider audience. I took one of the last pictures of the remains of the ship in the old dry dock with my father looking on at the rotting keel, wondering how his ship had come to this!. I recently found six months of his diaries covering the period from Australia to the South Sea islands, which I have had transcribed to disc and may be able to send to anyone interested.' John T. Donnelly



John Donnelly reflects on the *Cap Pilar*
knot -the original 'knot of birds'

Take a walk along the sea wall to Alresford Creek now and as you approach the creek itself out on the mudflats you will almost certainly see a large flock of medium sized waders packed tightly together feeding and as the tide rises suddenly take to the air! That flock will almost certainly be knot. They pack so closely together on their roosts close to the waters' edge that it is easy to see how they acquired their colloquial name. They winter on our muddy estuary.



knot in winter plumage
(from watercolour by Gill Maloney)

The knot is a rather short-legged, plump little bird, mostly having a rather thick, straight bill the same length as its head but a few have longer and slightly downward curved bills just to confuse us! Note that a plump bird is the sign of a long-distance flier (a powerful engine). When we see them we see them as rather drab grey and white birds seldom on their own but often with thousands of their kind!

To see this little wader (23cm – 25cm) in its colourful summer plumage you would have to visit the high Arctic tundra of N. Canada and Greenland. The sexes are alike having then an orange-red underside, buff upperparts strongly patterned with chestnut and yellow patches, finished off with black and white markings on their biggest feathers. Their legs are dark green-grey. There they spread themselves out! Having bred they migrate southwards in autumn, the adult birds leaving first. Iceland is a staging-post where they rest and refuel for two or three weeks. They then set off for Western Europe larger estuaries where they moult and rest before dispersing to the estuaries on which they will overwinter.

Local history records record 'large numbers along the N. Essex coast since 1777 (on the estate of Col. Shutz which was around Clacton-on-Sea) from August until spring'. Apparently they used to be shot by wildfowlers and sold for 4 shillings a dozen! In recent years overfishing of cockles in The Wash and Dutch Waddensee may have caused the steady increase in the knot numbers here as it is a small bivalve mollux found in cockle beds that is the knots' principal food although a change to tiny snails occurs as winter progresses.

The species is most spectacular as the tide rises as it forces the birds closer and closer together. The mudflats cover eventually forcing them to rise and fly in a tight formation to search for a suitable roosting site until the tide turns. When they are tightly packed together, just prior to taking to the air, it does look as if they are trying to hold back the tide, hence their scientific name *Calidris canutus*. Look out for the much smaller Dunlin that can be found mixed in amongst them especially on migration. There is a smaller Russian population, *Calidris islandica* that passes south of us to winter in south west Africa!

Tim Denham

***Dates for Your new 2014 Diary* - 28/29 June -**

"Sail 14" - WSC Celebrates 90 years of sailing

Since the last 'Mainsheet, plans have begun to move off the 'back of the envelope', and now look like:

- **Saturday 28th June - 'Float Your Boat Day' (HW 1350)** - fun social sailing for every club boat around a straightforward course near Whitehouse Beach. Join in at any time for the 'follow my leader', or start at 11.45 prompt for a short race. Dinghies, cruisers, canoes, gigs in self-organised groups. Anchored cruisers provide a base and floating picnic. Muster at 1310 for start of Grand Parade of Sail back to the clubhouse. Photo-opportunities, followed by tea ashore, film show. **Stupendous buffet supper** 19.00-ish, followed by music and dancing.
- **Sunday 29th June - 'Race, Taste and Roast Day' (HW 1420)** A day of racing for cruisers and dinghies. Cruiser start 10.30 - to arrive WSC at HW. Dinghy starts from 12.30. *For those who do not race*, opportunities for 'taster' sessions, 'boat-swaps', or viewing visiting yachts based at the club pontoons. Short up-river cruises. Hog Roast from 1300 onwards.. Grand Finale - Tea, Cake and Prizes at 1500, Celebratory Address by the Commodore.

Shore-based activities including bar, refreshments, childrens activities and displays in the clubhouse all day for those not sailing, and in case of inclement weather. **Invitations** to all members will be sent out in the spring.

For more details contact Alan Tyne 01206822001.



winter series, you can't be serious!



shore-based activity? Caption invited?



and a surprise result in the election of Commodore!

club-house activities

Well here we are again, rapidly approaching Christmas and the end of another busy year for the House Committee team. With lots more still to come, here's a brief round-up of events so far and what's to come before I finish my term as Rear Commodore.

Back in September we held a *fish and chips* quiz evening hosted by Carole Newman. Once again this proved very popular, with quite a diverse range of questions it also included a photo round prepared by Louise Woods, featuring some of our club members in a range of poses in their earlier years.

Chris Osborne Jones held a RYA Racing Rules evening this was well attended and Peter Fitt, who was there on behalf of the RYA found himself bombarded with all sorts of questions. It just remains to be seen how much of the information has sunk in! The *beer and curry* evening saw a variety of curries on offer, prepared by various club members. Phil Moakes prepared a superb beef vindaloo; several brave souls went back for seconds.

The Italian night was a fundraiser for a replacement mainsail for the hunter 19 and I just wanted to say thank you to all those who cooked a dish and attended the event.

The hard-working party was well supported and saw numerous tasks carried out in and around the clubhouse so thank you to all club members who took part.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the bonfire as it was far too windy to have a fire however Kerry kindly cooked and served the hotdogs as planned.

The Beer and Wine tasting proved successful with a variety of ales on offer from Sticklegs and Mighty Oak brewery as well as some of the new wines that Peter is now offering.

The Annual Dinner was held 23rd November, Bespoke Caterers providing the food for 77 members and the Commodore, Colne Yacht Club, Graham Chasney and his wife Frances. Music was provided by Brightlingsea band The Vipers - a great evening all round!



Phil sings 'oh come all ye faithful' .. (or is it 'what's this in my glass'?)



Graham and Frances - top table guests



where shall we put these?



a small cup for a regular winner!

Here's a roundup of events still to come over the next couple of months or so:

on 7th December we have the Cadet Supper & Prize-giving. The children's Christmas Party takes place Sunday 15th December, starting at 1pm - cost £3.00 per child - this will include a children's entertainer, as well as food and a party bag not to mention a visit from Father Christmas. [For those of you wishing to attend, could you please provide a gift, with your child's name on it – thank you?]

The Christmas Gathering and prize draw will be held December 20th. The New Years Eve party will have a fancy-dress theme of the 1920's, with a DIY disco and buffet - look

forward to seeing you all there. The Row and Ramble to The Anchor pub at Rowhedge will take place 4th January, starting 11.30h.



I did it my way!

That's about it for now, except to say thank you to my house team, for all the hard work they have put in over the last couple of years, including Jane Valentine for doing a superb job with our lettings.

Thank you to WSC members for having me as their Rear Commodore for the last 2 years [nearly] it's been a great time and I hope you've all enjoyed the events as much as we have? Special thanks to Wendy for her help and support.

Have a wonderful Christmas break!

Gary Jobber - Rear Commodore

now it's tradition: (of 3 yrs anyway)
the festive season ghost story - or not?



from *the scream* by Edward Munch

This may be a little too close for comfort for those intrepid mariners who like to stay in the local waters? Something to reflect upon when next they sail the Colne, late in the day and moor up in Pyefleet Creek for the night, to be just that little bit more intrepid!

'Some say as at's true, an'ers 'em as say at' not - but I reckon at got a be more an just a legend!' explained Jeremiah, as he drew on his electronic cigarette and rested back in his arm chair, in front of the night storage radiator. The two new club members stared open eyed in anticipation, of his Wivenhoe yarn.

'After all wasn't 'at Elijah Rebow down Salcott, as told Mehala that same story 'bout Grim's Hoe?¹ Anybody as go down the Strood when the moon is full an' go near Barrow Hill hear one hell of a racket! There's a 'uge shoutin' an' screamin', fightin' an' clashin o' blades.'

Jeremiah proceeded to tell the newcomers about the time when the Viking raiders occupied Mersea and what happened across the Colne to St Osyth. Osyth, daughter of Frithwald (the first Christian Anglo-Saxon king) and Wilburger (daughter of the King of Mercia), was associated with miracles². Edith, King Alfred's sister sent her to Warwickshire where she was supposedly drowned but 'restored to life'. Osyth was betrothed to Sighere, King of Essex but, having made a vow of virginity, escaped to a nunnery. Sighere, realising her life vocation, gave her the manor of Cice (St. Osyth's Priory) and there, in Nun's Wood, she set up the nunnery.

In 653, the Danes led by two brothers, Ingmar and Hubba invaded and killed Osyth severing her head². The legend reads that Osyth took her head in her hands and walked to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, striking the closed door with her hand before falling down dead. A healing spring emerged (apparently still visible in Nun's Wood) after which miracles were associated with this and her tomb.

The Danes had spent the winter on Mersea. Their leaders, twins, sailed to St. Osyth, where they killed Osyth but brought her beautiful sister back with them. They both fell in love with her and jealous of the other, ended up fighting with swords to win her favour – but both perished.



Their fellow invaders drew their ship to a hill above the Strood, put in the girl, between the brothers and buried them, while she was still alive – but that wasn't the end of it.

[¹Mahala, Sabine Baring-Gould (1880); ²Essex Ghosts and Legends, Pamela Brooks (2010); google.]

Jeremiah sat forward and whispered:

'In the words of Elijah¹: 'When a new moon appear flesh grow on their bones, the wounds close, blood flow and breath come in their lungs. When 'at moon full they rise and fall on one another an' on the Hoe you can hear 'em fightin' below in the barrow. But as 'at moon wane 'at grow quiet as armour fall to bits an' flesh drop off again. Blood pour out the slashed veins an' 'at go quiet. When their aint no moon at all, the girl is heard moanin' an' crying till the next new moon appear an' she stop – for then, the brothers are stirring. This go on an' on till one triumph an' win the fight - an' the girl!'

But neither ever will 'cos they too evenly balanced an'determined.'

He finished, standing to go to the bar, accepting another pint of lager:

'Some say as 'at were the Reverend Baring-Gould 'iself as made up the whole story, but you'll not catch me over-nighting in Pyefleet, no I'd sooner go round the 'Orn!' **Anon**

club news-flash

**The sailing year in photos –
(right up to June 28th 2014)**

We've had 120 pictures so far - a brilliant response.

You can see a small sample on the new picture-board in the Club room. Summer sailing is a favourite subject, with lots of colourful snaps (and scores of majestic sunsets!) Now winter draws on, as they say, but don't pack the cameras away!

We need your pictures of 'What sailing means to me', including the winter and spring months too.

Please keep sending the pictures to

alan@oaklawn.co.uk or

[http://www.flickr.com/groups/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/wivenhoesailing/)

[wivenhoesailing/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/wivenhoesailing/)

They will all feature in the display and slide show, and some will make it on to the club calendar.

Alan Tyne

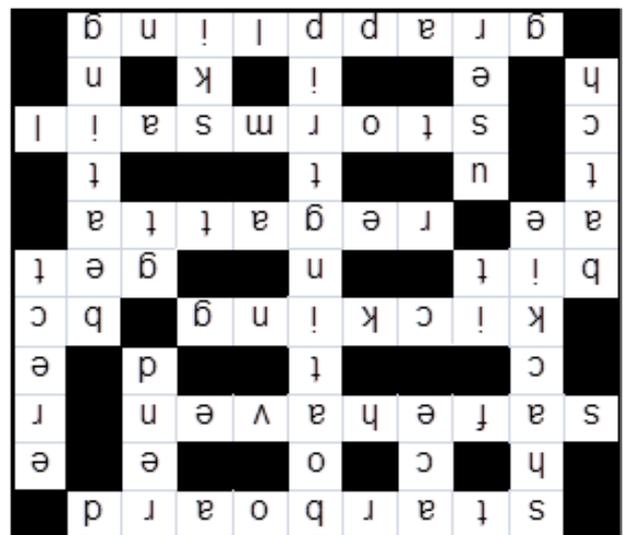


ahoy there!.....need a tow?



club officers do get out

solution to *Mainteaser*



navigating for beginners

Chris does it again!

Having told us all to get knotted, Mr Mullins is now offering to show us how to find our way around the local waterways. Again this will take place in the clubhouse – easy enough so far then – on Sunday mornings, the last Sunday of the month, for the first three months of the new year, 2014.

Can you make it? Can you find it?

If not, call Mr M!

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WSC: MAINSHEET

Member Address

stop press:

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- Fri, Mch 7, 19.30h: Supper cooked by Cadets - after AGM
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- Sat, Mch 29, 09.30h: Spring hard-working party
- Sun, Mch 30, 11.15h: Glozier fitting-out race & lunch

Next mainsheet: April 2014



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