



# Civil Service Sailing

Volume 48 No 4

September 2011

This is a slimmer edition than usual, which hopefully indicates that even more members are away sailing! Late copy will be added to our online edition. AGM dates are inside, do try and go - most AGMs include discussion of sailing programmes for next year and also provide tea/coffee etc.

This has been a good summer for sailing & I have managed to fit in a couple of offshore trips with CSD & ECYD - CSSA offers some great opportunities. It will be interesting to see CSSC's review when it comes out. Ashore I saw the Rolex Fastnet fleet depart the Solent. Spectacular, yachts for as far as you could see! Only 2 hours in one yacht lost her mast just inside Hurst narrows.



## GOOD COMPETITION IN NATIONAL DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our National Dinghy Championships were hosted by Netley Cliff SC on the weekend of 23rd-24th July, read the report from Vice-Commodore (Dinghies) Eddie Pope. (Page 2)

## CSSC REVIEW TEAM GOES OFFSHORE

Time and resource limitations have prevented the CSSC Review Team from visiting all our clubs and divisions and so just two visits were arranged, one to Littleton SC (LSC) as an example of a dinghy club and, more recently, one to Channel Sailing Division (CSD) and Portsmouth Offshore Group (POG) to cover the offshore side. The Team, with the CSSC Chief Executive, Marian Holmes, spent the night on the CSD yacht (Sea Essay) at its berth in the River Hamble before sailing round to POG in Portsmouth Harbour. Both CSD and POG made good use of the opportunity to brief the Team on a variety of generic and specific offshore-related issues. A surprise awaited them on the return leg. (Page 3)

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## ROLEX FASTNET RACE LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION



Rescue off Ireland - Rambler (100 ft) lost her keel

Records tumbled in the 2011 Rolex Fastnet Race, this year's event living up to its reputation as the most gruelling and tactically challenging of the classic offshore races. The 608 mile course from Cowes, to the Fastnet Rock and back to Plymouth. produced both exciting sailing and scary moments. Read about the experiences of our CSORC members in their report. (Page 10)

## Commodore's Corner

### CSSC CHANGES - OPPORTUNITY OR THREAT?

Before retiring I worked as an internal consultant on organisational and efficiency matters. One of the techniques I used was "SWOT" analysis ("Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats"). It seems to me that this tool is also relevant to the situation CSSA dinghy clubs face as a result of the CSSC eligibility changes.

Being an optimist it is appropriate to think of this as an opportunity rather than a threat. I know that financial issues will be present due to the switch of membership status of some existing club members, but hopefully these will prove to be short-term. The aim must be to reach out as widely as possible to potential new CSSC members in the public sector, friends and family. It will also be vital to keep existing members by ensuring the club remains attractive to them.

Without the input of new blood to our clubs they cannot be a long term success. I travel widely to open events around the country and see a very mixed picture at the clubs. Some are thriving with waiting lists for members, whereas others are losing members every year with less than a handful of new members more than offset by departures. There appears to be no single reason for these outcomes. The RYA offer advice, but critical is an able committee and volunteers at the club.

At my home club in Derbyshire (Ogston SC) there is a great emphasis placed on junior sailing, and this significantly contributed to Derbyshire schools being recently crowned the 2011 county school champions. Juniors have their own training sessions and a separate start in series racing. Fishers Green continues to have an excellent record with its Cadet sailors, and there must be lessons there for the other CSSA dinghy clubs. Another successful initiative launched at Ogston this year has been ladies sailing. Ladies sail separately in Olympic competition and would doubtless like some separate events at other clubs. But lady helms are in a big minority at club level and more need to be encouraged to race there.

I think that the CSSC changes have come at a good time for our dinghy sailing. The numbers of CSSC members attending the Dinghy Championships has been in steady decline, with 2011 being at an all-time low. Hopefully new CSSC recruits and spreading the word about this fantastic event will mean a significant increase for 2012. The position at each individual dinghy club will of course need to be addressed first. Over to you....

**EDDIE POPE, RC(D). AUGUST 2011**

## Obituary to Martyn Full

It is with much regret that I have to report that Martyn Full passed away on the 6th August in the Countess Mountbatten hospice just short of his 74th Birthday.

He eventually lost his brave and dignified battle with pancreatic cancer which he was diagnosed with almost two years ago.

For those who knew him, he will best be remembered for the time he devoted to his role as boatswain / yacht husband on "Precedent" and "Valkyrie of Shamrock" in the late 80's for 10 years or so, of service.

He was always "Mr ever helpful" assisted by living at Woolston and being so close in proximity to the berths on the Hamble and Shamrock Quay respectively.

Always cheerful, reliable and willing to help out in any situation day or night. Indeed "Martyn's Motel" had accommodated many a late weary sailor rest over and his house became a virtual chandlery or lay apart store for CSORC nauticalia. His energy and enthusiasm was boundless,

He had an endearing character and likeable personality. He will be much missed by all his family, friends and sailing colleagues alike. May he rest in peace. KP.

### What's on? Dates for your Diary.

12 November 1400 ECYD year end meet -  
ing & AGM + Laying  
Up Dinner @ Roebuck  
Hotel, Ware, G12 9DR

? November TBA 5KSC AGM. Please check  
online for details, to be  
advised.

26 November 1200 Channel Sailing Division  
AGM @ POG Clubhouse,  
Weevil Lane, Gosport,  
PO12 1AZ

Copy for **Civil Service Sailing** - closing dates are usually 20th of the month *before* the month of publication. Photos welcome for the magazine and general publicity. Copy in MS Word please to: -

[civilservicesailing@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:civilservicesailing@yahoo.co.uk) Thanks!

## CSSC REVIEW TEAM GOES OFFSHORE (Cont'd)

Unbeknown to the Team, CSD had also arranged with Solent Coastguard to carry out a helicopter transfer exercise on the way back to the Hamble. The photographs were taken by a very surprised Team member and show what it looked like from the yacht.



Solent Coastguard helicopter "India Juliet" - just dropping in to demonstrate a high line transfer. Photo CSSC.

### £5 (or more) off at Sainsbury's with CSSC.

Changes to membership categories at CSSC include an offer of a £5 shopping card for every new member you recruit! The opportunities come from :-

**Linked Membership** - where you can nominate 3 adult members of your family or friends to become CSSC members with you.

**Armed Forces membership** - where serving HM Armed Forces can join CSSC, retaining their membership after leaving the forces.

**Other Public Sector staff** - where teachers, and others in the wider public sector can now join. This includes- NHS staff, police officers, firefighters & those working in local government.

All you have to do is download a form from CSSC's website :- [www.cssc.co.uk](http://www.cssc.co.uk). See also pages 4 and 12 of the latest Leisure Scene magazine (Issue 45)

Clubs are currently discussing these changes and any impact there might be on local / current arrangements.

### Civil Service Sailing Association – 54th AGM

Members are reminded that the CSSA's 54th AGM will be held in April 2011. The location will be notified later.

Members may submit motions to be raised at the AGM, proposed and seconded, to the General Secretary in accordance with the CSSA Constitution by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 (John Figgures, 11 Lakeside Close, Perry, Huntingdon, PE28 0DX).

Nominations are invited for office on or general membership of the General Committee, as shown below. In accordance with the CSSA Constitution, nominations must reach the General Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

*Nominations are invited for:*

- Vice-Commodore (#) (1)
- Rear-Commodore (Dinghy) (#) (1)
- Rear-Commodore (Offshore) (#) (1)
- General Secretary (#)
- Hon Treasurer (#)
- Offshore Secretary (#)
- Dinghy Secretary (vacant)
- Membership Secretary (#)
- Public Relations Officer (#)
- Safety Officer (vacant)
- Training Officer (#)
- General Members (6 vacancies)

*Notes:*

1. The Vice-Commodore's period in office will expire in April 2014. The period in office of the Rear-Commodore (O) and Rear-Commodore (D) will expire in April 2013. At the end of their period in office, they will not be eligible for re-election to those posts.
2. Members filling post marked # have indicated their willingness to continue in these roles.
3. The General Committee normally meets four times a year at Littleton Sailing Club, Shepperton. Travelling expenses are paid at CSSC rates.
4. In addition to the officers and members listed above, each Division has a seat on the General Committee, filled by a representative appointed by the Division's Committee.
5. The Chief Executive of the CSSC has an ex-officio seat on the General Committee.

## CSSC & CSSA Dinghy Championships, 23 & 24 July 2011

This year's championships at Netley Cliff SC attracted a total of 23 entries from 6 clubs. Although numbers were down on last year, the competition was very strong including previous champions and the event enjoyed "champagne" conditions with warm winds and sunshine.

Great credit is due to Pete Robins (Vice Commodore) who was our appointed "Championships Coordinator", Iain Mackay (Commodore), and all the NCSC helpers for making this another memorable event for all the right reasons. Planning the event starts in the previous autumn, and there are many action points and issues to address. Many thanks are also due to Fishers Green members. In particular to Dave Beer, who did a fantastic job as Principal Race Officer and to Alan Francis for his efficient and accurate results compilation.

Classes ranged from RS 400 through to Topper, making for interesting sailing and care needed in compiling results.

The camping field at nearby Netley SC was again popular.

Saturday morning's winds were light and unsettled in direction to begin with. But after a short postponement Dave Beer set the fleet off without mishap. A close battle ensued at the front, and on handicap Martin Hughes (Finn – Warsash SC) won. He was followed by Paul & Julie Rayson (Merlin Rocket – Fishers Green SC) then the junior Nick Pepper (Laser – Littleton SC) who had an excellent start. The breeze strengthened and stabilised over lunch, allowing Dave to set one of his bigger courses for the afternoon races.

In the second race Martin Hughes maintained his form to prevail. Paul & Julie were again 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Peter Jones (Blaze – Felpham SC) came 3<sup>rd</sup>. These 3 did not get things all their own way at the front however, because good bursts of speed were also shown by Jon Steward & Nick Yannakayorgas (Merlin Rocket – Fishers Green SC) and Liz & Roger Pescod (Tasar – Littleton SC). In the third race Paul & Julie "rocketed" away to take the win, followed by Martin and Peter, then Jon and Liz tied for 4<sup>th</sup>. So after day one Martin was leading the event.

In the evening we were treated to a tasty hog roast and a talented band at the club, with a lovely sunset on the horizon.

Sunday dawned with less wind, but by the time of the first race it had settled to a decent breeze. Martin Hughes was again in dominant form and won, so was

now clear favourite to take the overall prize. However, Paul & Julie were not far behind on handicap and were followed by Peter. There was a big windshift just after the start of the next race, and Martin was on the wrong side of it. He did not fully recover and came 4<sup>th</sup>, behind Paul & Julie, Peter and Jon & Nick. So things were very close going into the last race, which proved to be packed with incidents. Martin returned after a premature start, and Paul & Julie had to do turns after a rules infringement. It was very close on the water, and the results required careful checking. After a slight delay Paul & Julie were declared winners, which meant they were overall champions. Martin was third in the final race, putting him just 1 point behind Paul & Julie. Peter showed good and consistent form to come 2<sup>nd</sup> in the final race.

Prizes were awarded by CSSA Commodore Alex Allan. In his victory speech Paul praised all associated with the event, and urged participants to "spread the word" at their clubs in an attempt to increase entries next year.

Prize winners			
1 <sup>st</sup> (Seal Cup)	Paul & Julie Rayson	Merlin Rocket	Fishers Green SC
2 <sup>nd</sup> (CSSC Rose Bowl)	Martin Hughes	Finn	Warsash SC
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter Jones	Blaze	Felpham SC
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jon Steward & Nick Yannakayorgos	Merlin Rocket	FGSC
5 <sup>th</sup>	Liz & Roger Pescod	Tasar	Littleton SC
6 <sup>th</sup>	Nick Pepper	Laser	Littleton SC
1st Youth	Nick Pepper	Laser	Littleton SC
1 <sup>st</sup> Biggest Fleet (Enterprise Bowl)		Laser	Littleton SC Nick Pepper
1 <sup>st</sup> Department (Portcullis Trophy)			OFSTED
Team prize (Littleton Bell)			Littleton SC



CSSA / CSSC Dinghy Championships 2011 - Results																
Rank	Class	Sail No	Helm Name	Crew	Club	Youth?	CSSC	PY	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total	Nett
1st	Merlin	3715	Paul Rayson	Julie Ray-	Fishers			1006	(2.0)	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	9.0	7.0
2nd	Finn	567	Martin Hughes		Warsash		802064	1060	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	(4.0)	3.0	12.0	8.0
3rd	Blaze	782	Peter Jones		Felpham			1046	(5.0)	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	18.0	13.0
4th	Merlin	3644	Jon Steward	Nick Yan-	Fishers			1006	(8.0)	4.0	4.5	6.0	3.0	5.0	30.5	22.5
5th	Tasar	2638	Elizabeth Pescod	Roger	Littleton			1023	(13.0)	5.0	4.5	5.0	5.0	4.0	36.5	23.5
6th	Laser	167994	Nick Pepper		Littleton	Yes		1082	3.0	(9.0)	8.0	4.0	9.0	6.0	39.0	30.0
7th	Solo	3735	Ed Pepper		Littleton			1153	4.0	7.0	7.0	(10.0)	6.0	10.0	44.0	34.0
8th	Comet	804	Edwin Pope		Littleton		EXP0129	1179	6.0	6.0	(12.0)	8.0	10.0	7.0	49.0	37.0
9th	Laser Ra-	52435	Laura Glover		Littleton			1106	9.0	(10.0)	6.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	47.0	37.0
10th	Phantom	1350	Ken Daniels		Fishers		1114260	1030	7.0	(11.0)	11.0	9.0	8.0	9.0	55.0	44.0
11th	Kestrel	1618	Richard Randall	Penelope	Netley			1040	10.5	8.0	9.0	12.0	18.0	(24.0 DNC)	81.5	57.5
12th	Laser	167844	David Glover		Littleton		302009	1082	12.0	12.0	14.0	11.0	13.0	(24.0 DNC)	86.0	62.0
13th	Wineglass	508	Brian Conroy	Alan Ap-	Fishers		440756	1083	10.5	14.0	(24.0)	16.0	11.0	12.0	87.5	63.5
14th	Laser	138062	Peter Walcroft		Netley			1082	(18.0)	15.0	10.0	15.0	16.0	13.0	87.0	69.0
15th	Laser Ra-	164828	Jonathan Beer		Fishers	Yes		1106	15.0	20.0	(24.0)	14.0	12.0	14.0	99.0	75.0
16th	Laser 4.7	86810	Harry Steward		Fishers	Yes		1175	17.0	13.0	(24.0)	13.0	14.0	24.0 DNC	105.0	81.0
17th	Wayfarer	9786	Jim Briggs	Jackie	Fishers			1101	16.0	17.0	16.0	17.0	17.0	(24.0 DNF)	107.0	83.0
18th	RS 400	1247	Jonathan Smith	Nigel	MOD		5011098	949	22.0	16.0	13.0	(24.0)	24.0 DNC	11.0	110.0	86.0
19th	Laser	75356	Richard Dodman		Littleton			1082	14.0	19.0	15.0	19.0	19.0	(24.0 DNC)	110.0	86.0
20th	Fireball	14873	Lynda Beck	Stuart	Netley		TBA	980	20.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	15.0	(24.0 DNC)	113.0	89.0
21st	Topper	17384	Ann McHale		Littleton			1297	21.0	21.0	17.0	(24.0)	20.0	24.0 DNC	127.0	103.0
22nd	Wanderer	593	Thomas Baker	Jonathan	Netley		4101228	1140	19.0	22.0	19.0	(24.0)	21.0	24.0 DNF	129.0	105.0
23rd	RS 200	1326	Martin Vinson	Heidi	Littleton			1057	(24.0)	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0 DNC	24.0 DNC	144.0	120.0

Sea Essay Programme 2011					
From		To		Type	Skipper
18.00	1 September	18.00	4 September	Charter	L Castillo
	5 September		6 September	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	
18.00	6 September	18.00	9 September	Charter (I Curtis)	
18.00	9 September	18.00	12 September	Boat Handling Course	D Hartland
	13 September		16 September	Group Day Sails - Contact Idris Curtis	
18.00	16 September	18.00	18 September	Sea Time	
	19 September			Maintenance	
18.00	19 September	18.00	23 September	Charter	D Haward
18.00	23 September	18.00	28 September	RYA CC/DS Practical Course	N Shearman
	29 September		30 September	Day Sails - Contact Colin Smith	
18.00	30 September	18.00	7 October	YM Prep Course/RYA Exams	R Bone
18.00	7 October	18.00	9 October	Sea Time	
	10 October		12 October	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	
18.00	12 October	18.00	16 October	Charter	R Stephens
	17 October		21 October	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	
18.00	21 October	18.00	23 October	Charter	G Carstensen
	24 October			Maintenance	
18.00	24 October	18.00	27 October	Boat Handling Course	R Bone
18.00	28 October	18.00	30 October	Charter (to be confirmed)	L Tait
	1 November		4 November	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	
18.00	4 November	18.00	6 November	Sea Time	
	7 November		20 November	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	
	21 November			Maintenance	
	22 November		2 December	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	
18.00	2 December	18.00	4 December	Charter	D Hartland
	5 December		11 December	<b>AVAILABLE</b>	
	12 December		27 Jan 2012	Winter Maintenance	
<b>12.00</b>	<b>26 Nov 2011</b>			<b>CSD AGM at POG</b>	

All Skippers intending to take the boat out will be required to attend a one day familiarisation before they do so. These sessions are run by the Yacht Husband team.

RYA Training Courses - David Hartland, [training@channelsailing.co.uk](mailto:training@channelsailing.co.uk)

Courses and Examination by External Examiner for Certificate of Competence are available. Please let me know your requirements for Competent Crew, Day Skipper, Yachtmaster (Coastal & Offshore) Boat handling and Radar. Invitations for scheduled courses are sent out to Candidates in strict application order.

Channel Sailing Division - Sailing Contacts 2011		CSD Web Site: <a href="http://www.channelsailing.org">www.channelsailing.org</a>	
Type	Contact:	Tel:	E-mail:
Approved Skipper Charters & Group Day Sails	Idris Curtis	023 8045 3715	idriscurtis@ntlworld.com
Sea Time Berths	Andy Smith CSD Crew Bureau Secretary	079 6677 2881	csdseatime@yahoo.co.uk
Training Courses	David Hartland	01483 280072	training@channelsailing.co.uk
Days Sails (Individuals)	Colin Smith	01329 667859	csddaysails@btinternet.com
Skipper Familiarisation	David Haward	01483 233359	davidhaward@btinternet.com

### Raymarine Plotter Course

CSD have been running a one day Raymarine Plotter course specifically designed to suit the set-up on Sea Essay so that the understanding of Approved Skippers in the operation and intricacies of this equipment is improved. The course has been repeated 4 times and received a number of favourable comments from members.

The course has been conducted in Raymarine's demonstration room at their headquarters which provides a number of plotters to accommodate up to 10 students a course. Raymarine are about to move their HQ near Port Solent to another building in Segensworth, next to Junction 9 of the M27 and, as result the facilities for another course will not be ready until September 2011. This is a one day course suitable for holders of an RYA Coastal Skipper's Certificate or persons with a competent knowledge of coastal navigation. It starts at 09.30 and finishes at 17.00 with a short break for lunch. The cost would be £25.00.

Colin Smith, CSD Secretary, in consultation with Brian Dunton, the course provider, and with the agreement of Raymarine, has decided to trawl the CSSA membership to determine the level of interest if further courses were arranged.

To register your interest and for further information drop an email to Colin Smith on :-

[csddaysails@btinternet.com](mailto:csddaysails@btinternet.com)



**CHANNEL SAILING DIVISION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011**  
will be held at the  
**Portsmouth Offshore Group Clubhouse**  
**Weevil Lane, Gosport, PO12 1AZ**  
on **Saturday 26 November starting at 1200**

Nominations for the Committee should be made, preferably by email, to the Secretary, Colin Smith, [colinsmith40@btinternet.com](mailto:colinsmith40@btinternet.com) by no later than 30 October.

The Captain and Committee invite all members to a Buffet afterwards.

A draft sailing programme for 2012, including the summer cruise, will be available and members are invited to email their charter requirements to Idris Curtis, [idris.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto:idris.curtis@ntlworld.com), no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

### East Coast Yacht Division - ECYD

#### Freyja is exploring then Baltic...and everyone is having a great time

In just a few week's time Freyja will start on her way home after absolutely fantastic time for her crews in the Baltic; sailing in Danish, Swedish and German waters. The weather has been very kind, on the whole and the 'blues' of sailing in Scotland last summer well and truly banished.

The excellent blog on the ECYD website is well worth the read, full of tips for us to remember when we no doubt return in a few years time.

Read all and follow Freyja on the Summer Trip Blog at [www.ecyd.org.uk](http://www.ecyd.org.uk)

#### Now for next year?

The club's AGM on Saturday 12 November at The Roebuck Hotel in Ware, is where the decision as to where to go next summer will be taken. All CSSA members are welcome. We have been pleased to see an increasing number of members from other divisions sail on board Freyja.

The meeting starts just after lunch with a review of the year, a discussion of options for next year followed by the AGM and the 2011 Laying-up Dinner.

The guest speaker this year will be the Harwich Harbour Master, in whose waters we sail.

Tickets for the supper are available from the club's secretary Chris Robbins at [chrisrobbins@rya-online.net](mailto:chrisrobbins@rya-online.net). A choice of menu is offered, but members will need to advise their preferences to Chris by Friday 14 October 2010

#### Najad....the future

Just a few short weeks ago came the unwelcome news that Najad had decided to put itself in the hands of an administrator. Right now the demand for expensive yachts is almost non-existent and in spite of a massive injection of new funding from a British venture-capital fund the order book for new boats is too thin to cover significant overheads.

One good bit of news for those who had ordered yachts is that the decision was put off until all the boats on order had been delivered. Will Najad re-appear? Probably, but definitely in a new guise. The 380 is far too good a boat to just disappear forever.

### East Coast Yacht Division (ECYD)

#### AGM & Laying Up Dinner

Saturday 12th November

At The Roebuck Hotel,

Ware, Herts.

SG12 9DR

All CSSA members are welcome

The meeting starts just after lunch with a review of the year, a discussion of options for next year followed by the AGM and the 2011 Laying-up Dinner.

The guest speaker this year will be the Harwich Harbour Master, in whose waters we sail.

Motions and nominations for the AGM should be sent to the Secretary, ECYD

Tickets for the supper are available from the club's secretary Chris Robbins at [chrisrobbins@rya-online.net](mailto:chrisrobbins@rya-online.net). A choice of menu is offered, but members will need to advise their preferences to Chris by Friday 14 October 2010

The programme for the day :-

14:30	Tea and coffee on arrival.
14:45	Resume of 2011 and plans for 2012.
16:00	Tea break
16:20	Long trip 2012 follow up.
16:40	A presentation from a member of the Har-
Har-	wich Harbour Authority
17:25	Photographic competition result
17:30	AGM
19:00	Assemble for Laying Up Supper which starts at 19:30

### 5KSC - Five Kingdoms Sailing Club

<b>Spring Weekends,</b> Sep & Oct	Taster sails/skills honing	Liverpool	✓
<b>Neap Weekends,</b> Sep & Oct	Cruise Anglesey/IOM	Liverpool	✓
Sundays, Nov & Dec	Racing with LYC	Liverpool	✓

The sailing programme continues into autumn. Contact the Crew Bureau @ [crew\\_bureau@5KSC.org.uk](mailto:crew_bureau@5KSC.org.uk) or see [www.5KSC.com](http://www.5KSC.com) More in Civil Service Sailing online.

## Sharing the adventure? Crossing the Atlantic with the ARC

Would you agree that sailing is an adventure - the scope and extent of which varies with the individual? An afternoon on the lake in a dinghy can be as adventurous to a young sailor as crossing the Channel for the first time might be to a cruising sailor.

As an editor I am always on the look out for the tale of someone's sailing adventures, so I was particularly pleased when Peter Chapman recently copied me in to an e-mail about the "ARC". The Atlantic Rally for Cruisers. Yes I'd heard of the ARC and knew that it was often used as a means of crossing the Atlantic, in company and in greater safety than would be the case for a single yacht. For some it marks the beginning of a round-the-world trip and over the years some CSSA sailors had taken part with that longer voyage in mind.

What I wasn't aware of until I got Peter's mail was that we have a CSSA member joining in this years ARC.

Ken Knowles is an ECYD member who will be skippering his own yacht "Indaba", a 35 foot Starlight. At that size Indaba will be one of the smaller vessels in the fleet. Ken, a former work colleague of Peter's, is totally blind. He is an experienced skipper, having taken his crew a good many times across the North Sea, and has represented GB in an international blind-sailing race series.

My purpose in writing is to invite you to share in the adventure of Ken and his crew aboard Indaba by following his "blog". The "blog", a live on-line diary must be one of the great inventions of this age of technology. As you might have seen in the recent CSORC entry to the Fastnet Race, a blog enables us to keep in touch, to add our support and share in the adventure. And perhaps extend our own knowledge of sailing as a result.

Ken's blog for the ARC can be found at :-

[www.worldcruising.com/arc/dailylogs.aspx](http://www.worldcruising.com/arc/dailylogs.aspx)

Select the yacht "Indaba". You can also track the ARC yachts on :-

[www.worldcruising.com/arc/viewer.aspx](http://www.worldcruising.com/arc/viewer.aspx)

" I plan to start a blog, hopefully this weekend before our departure, so that anyone who's interested can follow our progress, and even look at some pictures that we intend to take along the way. "

Ken Knowles.

For Ken and his crew(s) the adventure has already started. Leaving in July and with one crew change already at Porto in Portugal, (Alex, Chris & Charlie left, Noreen, Jenness, Anne & Jeff joined); Indaba is already a good way south. She has made a good passage to Madeira and is now sailing on to Las Palmas, Gran Canaria from where the ARC will depart in November.

Indaba is due in Las Palmas around the end of August. Here are some more details about the ARC: -

" If all goes well, INDABA will set off on Tuesday, 5 July, making for Las Palmas, Grand Canaria, by the end of August, where she'll stay until the start of the ARC on Sunday 20 November. "

### ARC - the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers

This annual transatlantic rally starting each November in **Las Palmas de Gran Canaria**, has now become the most popular way to cross the Atlantic. The largest transocean sailing event in the world, every year the ARC brings together over 200 yachts from all over the world. The Caribbean destination is **Rodney Bay in Saint Lucia**, one of the most beautiful islands in the Lesser Antilles. The 2700 nautical mile passage on the NE trade wind route takes on average between 14 and 21 days.

Conceived as a friendly race for cruising yachts to make the Atlantic crossing both safer and more enjoyable, participating yachts must carry a range of safety equipment including a liferaft, EPIRB and VHF radio. Daily radio nets contribute further to the safety of participants. The presence of experienced sailors is another incentive for those with little offshore experience.

The ARC has a special flavour, which successfully combines racers with cruisers, old with young, and provides entertainment for all. A wide ranging programme of entertainment takes place both before the start and after the finish. The ARC enjoys the enthusiastic support of the Tourist Authorities at ports of departure and arrival!

The ARC is open to cruising monohulls with a length of 8.23-25.91m (27 to 85ft) and cruising catamarans from 8.23 - 18.29m (27 to 60 ft) LOA. Yachts outside these sizes may be permitted to join in the Open Division.

The competitive side of the event will be catered for by the Racing Division, rated under the IRC Handicap System, run under the auspices of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC). The World Cruising handicap is used (P 12)

## CSORC – The Rolex Fastnet Race



CSORC's entry "Blue Juice", a First 40.7

### 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011

The ten CSORC Fastnet crew arrived at Ocean Village on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> to prepare Blue Juice, our First 40.7, for the big race ahead. Food was loaded and stored, tracks and blocks lubricated, sails checked, lines counted and stowed, and all the myriad of safety items checked and double-checked.

A quick dash over to Cowes on the Red Jet for the race briefing then a return to Southampton for a last supper in the Royal Southampton YC and an early night. The forecast was for moderate southwesterlies occasionally veering, but on Monday night and Tuesday a low was



*"We started cautiously"*

due to track through the Celtic and Irish Seas to give us a bit of a dusting, depending on our rate of progress down channel.

Before the start we had to take the boat through a gate with storm jib and trysail hoisted. This accomplished, we

waited for our start at 12.10.

We started cautiously – there's no need to take risks with over 600 miles to go. We had one reef in and the number 3 headsail. The tide was ebbing down the western Solent with the strongest on the island side, but with



*We were up there with the rock stars and big boats*

cleaner wind and more space we stuck to the middle – tacking into a SWly. At Hurst the impressive Tonnerre de Breskens, a previous Fastnet winner, went sliding past a boat length to windward. We were up there with the rock stars and big boats, at least briefly.

We stuck with the number 3 as it was very lumpy in the wind against tide, and very busy. The smaller headsail gave us pointing and manoeuvrability and kept the boat flat and fast.

We soon settled down to a beat taking us offshore and down Channel. We shook out the reef as the 20 knots we had experienced eased to a moderate 3 to 4 and stayed that way overnight, occasionally veering then backing. By Monday afternoon we were off Mounts Bay and making reasonable progress. The wind got up slightly as we rounded the Runnel Stone off Lands End so we stuck a reef in, anticipating strong winds later, and lay off on port tack.

I was off watch when I heard the second reef go in. It was getting quite bumpy and I was trying to get some sleep before my 2 til 6 stint. When I came on deck Trevor was at the wheel, legs well braced against the cockpit, and it was grey, drizzly, windy and very bumpy. The wind was well over 20 knots and had been up to 28 but as we were on a beam reach it was more comfortable than it might have been. The waves were big but well-spaced. Jonathan had witnessed a garfish that came into the cockpit with one of the breaking waves, which is a first in my experience.

In the conditions it fell to the more experienced to take the helm and after two hours I was starting to flag, but little by little the wind was dropping and Emily did a brilliant job for the rest of the watch, keeping Blue Juice on course and still creaming along. As conditions eased we hardened up ten degrees to get us back to the rhumb line to the rock. We had been making eight to ten knots for a long while and were really eating up the miles.

Lying on his bunk, Trevor was surprised to see daylight through a gap between the mast and the coach roof. Investigation revealed that three bolts had sheered and a collar which locates the mast had popped out. It was a worrying moment and we quickly took the main down and improvised a couple of extra “shrouds” using the main halyard and topping lift.



*Tied up, dried out, Cornish breakfast*

We couldn't risk continuing to sail so, although only 80 miles from the Fastnet and in a smooth sea and light wind, after consideration we decided to retire and turn round and motor back.

We motored into the night, finally making Penzance Wednesday morning. Once tied up we were able to get everything dried out, give the boat a thorough check over and re-fuel, but not before enjoying a full Cornish breakfast on solid ground. We were all very grateful to get a rest, and stayed the night in Penzance before leaving on the early morning tide for Plymouth and the race finish.

It was a disappointing end to a race that had been going well up to the point of retiring, and we'd got through the worst weather we were likely to face - but that is sailing and there is another Rolex Fastnet race in 2013! CSORC treasurer Richard Palmer was also competing in the Fastnet this year, two-handed in his J/109 Jangada



*Banque Populaire leads French domination of many of the classes*

Too, but he also had to retire due to electrical problems. And we weren't the only ones with problems as there were dismastings and in the highest profile case the 100 foot American monohull Rambler 100 lost her keel and



*Dawn at the Fastnet Rock*

turned turtle shortly after rounding the rock. All her crew were safely recovered.

On the plus side the 140 foot French trimaran Banque Populaire finished the 608 mile course in 1 day 8 hours 48 minutes and 46 seconds. We saw her coming back as we approached Lands End. That's not ocean racing, it's practically day-sailing.

CSORC Race Programme 2011					
September	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Poole JOG	Richard Palmer	£100
	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cherbourg JOG	Trevor Drew	£160
October	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sunsail Race Series #7	Nick Bowles	£160
	Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunsail Race Series #8	Phil Armitage	£160
Contact the CSORC Crew Bureau on <a href="mailto:csorc@madasafish.com">csorc@madasafish.com</a> to book.					

Thanks to the CSORC crew: Trevor Drew (skipper), Phil Armitage, Dave Balding, Dan Groves, Andy Lapsley, Jonathan Law, Emily Shrosbree, Alan Voysey, Mike Yogarajah, and myself Nick Bowles. It has been a tough season with strong winds in all our qualifying races and everybody has learnt a lot and vowed to come back for more.!

Nick Bowles

You can read more about our race on the CSORC blog (<http://csorc.blogspot.com/>) and more about CSORC, the Fastnet campaign, and links to the race tracker, on the CSORC website <http://www.csorc.org/>.

The full Rolex Fastnet results can be found on <http://fastnet.rorc.org/results/results-2011/results-2011.html>.



Hurst narrows "Eutourism" is dismayed

#### ARC - CONTINUED

(from P9) to calculate results in the cruising classes, in which motoring is permitted.

A full programme of social activities, safety seminars and demonstrations will be organised by World Cruising Club in Las Palmas prior to the start, and after the finish in St. Lucia.

#### Maritime & Coastguard Agency - proposals for modernisation - 2nd Consultation

RYA reports that 8 months after consulting on proposals to modernise the Coastguard, the agency has announced revised plans. The plans have been scaled back to some extent with now 10 of the current 18 24-hour centres remaining.

Concerns over potential loss of expertise and local knowledge were raised in some 1800 responses in the first consultation period. The updated proposals include a national network of Coastguard stations comprising one Maritime Operations Centre situated at Southampton / Portsmouth area. A back up facility would be at the Dover site, still providing 24 hour cover. Eight sub-centres, again with 24 hour cover are proposed at Falmouth, Milford Haven, Holyhead, Belfast, Shetland, Stornoway, Aberdeen and Humber.

There will now be a 2nd consultation in which RYA and other representative bodies will respond. But individuals

and organisations such as ours can also take part. The methods of response include e-mail, with a form that can be found on the dft/mca Website. The consultation closes at 5:00 pm on 6th October. We have a voice, so you can submit your own (or your club's) views - by that date. The revised proposals in detail and information on how to respond in the 2nd consultation can be found online: -

[www.dft.gov.uk/?/consultations/currentconsultations](http://www.dft.gov.uk/?/consultations/currentconsultations).

Or more simply Google / search for : - "HM Coastguard proposals for modernisation 2011."



The end of a good day's sailing! My thanks to Colin Smith and his crew for some excellent sailing (& cuisine par excellence!) aboard Sea Essay in July. La Trinité to Concarneau - everything (except this year's weather) comes highly recommended! David R. (Ed)

#### CSSA is affiliated to the Civil Service Sports Council

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