



Civil Service Offshore Racing Club

CSORC - Affiliated to the Civil Service Sailing Association - Civil Service Sports & Leisure.

CSORC Captains Report for 2025

2025 was a pivotal year for the club. Racing continuing the usual pattern with a mixture of racing charters all of which were very well-supported, while behind the scenes big changes were afoot.

The season started with two events in the Sunsail Race series: we retired from the first weekend, but in the postponed Grand Final from 2024 we finished an excellent 2nd place: congratulations to Bill Taylor and his crew.

There was a longish wait until June for the Round the Island Race where Jason Newell skippered our Fairview charter in very sporting conditions, finishing 3rd out of 23 entries in the ISC cruiser class. Quite a few boats retired or didn't start.

It was then back to Fairview for the IDOR, where Crispin Allard skippered his crew to 8th place; followed by the Taittinger Regatta (10/20), and Cowes Week (5/22).

We wrapped up the season appropriately with the RORC Centenary Race on Zada, Neil O'Leary's First 40.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes the club transitioned from an "unincorporated association" to a company limited by guarantee (CLG). The principal motive was to protect those involved in the club against personal liability. A secondary outcome was that we could now legally own property in our own right.

So it was that after years of search we made an offer on a J/109 lying in Grimsby, and arranged to sail it back to home waters. This was duly completed at the end of August.

On a personal note, this will be my last AGM as Captain of the club. My log book tells me that I first sailed with CSORC in November 1994, on our Dehler 36, Valkyrie. We sold Valkyrie to get into one design racing with Wave Train, a Sigma 38. Circumstances conspired against Wavey, and in 2005 we sold her and drew in our horns to continue racing on chartered yachts while we got our finances back on a sound footing. This was intended to be a short-term state of affairs but here we are now, twenty years later, with our own boat again.

In my time with the club I've edited the newsletter, managed the web site, and run the crew bureau. I started racing, like most, trimming the headsail and sitting on the rail, then moved to foredeck as I learnt the wiles of the spinnaker, and later, in search of a comfortable seat, I retreated to main trimmer, before ending up on the helm as a reward for long service. I loved (nearly) every minute of it.



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Thanks to everybody who worked hard to accomplish the change to CLG, and to getting the boat purchase completed. Particular mentioned to my crewmate on the delivery from Ipswich to the Hamble: Phil Armitage.

For the future the club needs your support and in particular bums on the rail – so get looking and booking (and tell your friends).

Nick Bowles