



Newsletter Spring 2020

Commodore's Comments.

The first splashes of blossom have appeared and the evenings are drawing out which means a new sailing season is in the offing. There is much to look forward to.

This was the opening comments drafted only 3 weeks ago. How much has changed since then! Our lives are on hold, and our club, like most of the country is battered down and in survival mode.

With no flights to Turkey for the foreseeable future any bookings for Ploes will have to wait until that restriction is lifted. We hope we can get some bookings late in the season but that cannot be guaranteed and we will almost certainly fall short of our "break even" target of 10 weeks.

Also in the first draft of this newsletter Cliff had written a proposed summer cruise for Explorer, taking in some of the ports of northern France. Now that's as attainable as the moon! We don't even know when Explorer will be lifted in, the original date of the 3rd April having been cancelled, and no new date set as yet.

Rose, up until a couple of weeks ago, was optimistically organising the Fitting Out Supper and even had the menu finalised but that event has now obviously been cancelled. Given the seriousness of this pandemic such matters seem almost trivial, but one day it will be over and normal club life will begin again. But we have to live with the legacy. Fortunately our reserves are such that we will survive, but our investments have taken a hammering and so when we meet for the AGM we will have to consider how we are going to get the club's finances back to their current state of health. In the meantime I hope you all keep safe and well.



James



Explorer

At the moment Explorer's work and future arrangements are on hold. Fortunately Rolie completed the engine and fuel system work and Arthur did the engine service just before "lock down". The second coat of anti foul was applied earlier so we are ready for lift in as soon as the new date is known. The remaining jobs can be completed when she is afloat.

One thing about keeping Explorer ship-shape is it makes the winter months fly by! It seems like no time since we got to work on her in early November.

As usual my thanks go to the small band of volunteers who attended on weekly Saturday work days. Also to the half dozen or so people who have taken projects home to work on. Hopefully you will have read about our work on the Club WhatsApp group.

We have made some improvements to the stowage in the forepeak in response to comments by members. We've also painted the inside of the food lockers to make them more pleasant.



A big job was dealing with the leaking roof vents, saloon windows, saloon stanchions and port side aft standing rigging. New internal parts for the vents were sourced and fitted and the windows re-sealed. Plates were fibreglassed on the underside of the saloon deck below the stanchions and rigging and the deck fittings re-sealed. Fingers crossed, we now have a dry saloon.

“Skipper’s notes”:

- Take 10 litres of diesel and a can of unleaded so you can top up if you have only done a small amount of motoring / outboard use. This saves spending time at the fuel pontoon at the end of a trip.
- The Committee have agreed the outboard can be left locked to the stern rail between bookings (unless you feel you are in a dodgy area!)
- Don’t let the diesel go below one third full.
- Ian Walker (Club Treasurer) has offered the use of his swinging mooring at Ramsholt Arms, whenever he is not using it himself. This is a valuable offer as it can get busy at Ramsholt. Give Ian a ring if you are planning a trip up the Deben. His contact details are in the 2020 Yearbook due out soon.

Happy sailing (albeit later in the season – hopefully!)

Ian



Explorer Women's Survey

Following anecdotal feedback received at the end of the last season the committee agreed that we should survey recent/ish female users of Explorer, so thanks to all our women sailors who responded to the survey back in December and January - so long ago now! The feedback received is extremely useful and feeds into the wider issues of the club's changing membership and whether Explorer is the right boat for the future for our club.

I shared some of the (anonymised) feedback with the Committee in January. As a result, during the winter working party season some cosmetic changes have been made such as a new shelf and additional hanging hooks in the fore cabin, a re-vamp of the cargo nets to make them more usable, a false floor installed in the starboard locker for kit storage. We also noted that, with some non-family crews, where a female crew member is sailing with a mainly male crew, the fore cabin, and at night the heads, is reserved for the female crew members only - an en-suite arrangement!

Whilst each skipper will need to determine the domestic arrangements for their crew we think this is a good idea and would encourage this arrangement. We also think it's a good idea not to 'over-crew', bearing in mind the accommodation limitations.

Thanks again for all input.

Rose



Ploes

We have been monitoring events for the last month or so, and at the time of writing we are now in lockdown and the year is increasingly uncertain. International Travel is shut down and flights have now ceased between Turkey and England. We have a Covid-19 virus epidemic here in the UK and we are all uncertain as to how this will pan out. At the moment we are hopeful that we may be getting back to normality by the autumn and sailing again but this is optimistic.

Up until two weeks ago we had been looking forward to an excellent year for Ploes, we had 8 weeks of confirmed bookings and we have had several expressions of interest. One week of the 8 booked is the week carried over from last year and with 2 weeks being new members booking Ploes, this was all very good news. We therefore had 7 weeks income expected so far, that is good for early in the year before the main season starts. We are now hopeful of bookings on Ploes in September October occurring, optimistically this could yield us say 8 weeks of income this year.

Late last year Ploes had been winterised and in the autumn she has had work to repair leaks into the saloon from around the stanchions and shrouds to make her watertight. She has also had a small leak repaired in her diesel tank and has had small sections of her cockpit teak seats and floor repaired. We have also purchased a new life raft, the old one was over 15 years old and needed more expensive annual services rather than the normal 3 yearly service

The new mainsail has not yet been delivered, we delayed paying the deposit of 60% until November and the new financial year, not knowing that this year would be difficult. We have now paid the remainder and the sail is ready to be fitted, the sail has a 2 year guarantee from the date of fitting.



Ploes has had other minor improvements late last year, new brighter LED ceiling lamps are a major improvement. I still have a battle with reliability of the black water tank gauge, the replacement works perfectly at home but was unreliable in Fethiye last year. I will look at this again when I visit Fethiye hopefully later this year, I have also purchased a second sender and gauge to give a backup reading.

I had also ordered a GPS Wi-Fi repeater for Ploes, this is useful to give better GPS information for anyone with chart plotters on their tablet, we have found that a tablet is very useful and is something that I have used happily last year. I use it linked to my mobile phone but a repeater will give a better signal if the phone data connection is poor. I have also ordered the same Wi-Fi repeater for Explorer, Explorer's previous unit was damaged by water leaks last year.

Overall if we do not have any income from booking this will be an expensive year for the club and will eat into our savings, we need 10 weeks of bookings normally to break even, our club like many all around the country is hopeful about getting back to normal soon.



Peter



Membership

Annual Subs

Thanks to all those who have renewed, as requested, before the end of February. We still have a few gaps and so I will be doing some chasing in the next few weeks. The year book will be sent to the printer early April so there is not much time left to renew and get your name on the list of members. Of course that does not stop people from paying later in the year but their names may not appear in the year book.

The changes to the constitution and rules agreed at the AGM in November 2019 have been incorporated in the year book along with other changes. Most people have stipulated what personal details they wish to be published so the list of members will look a bit different in future. It will be printed in April and mailed out to members shortly afterwards.

Recruitment

We have had new members join since the New Year:

Welcome to Michael Belas and Charlie Smallwood.

Fitting Out Supper I am afraid the Fitting Out Supper arranged for 2 May has been cancelled.



Rose



Media

Website

The website has been working well, we have a traffic counter on the website and I observed increased traffic at the time of the recent Christmas Newsletter. The traffic count is low but the website is an ideal place for people to find out about the club, I also find the website invaluable for finding information quickly about the club.

We are now also using and advertising the simpler web address of <https://kssc.uk>, it is easier for us to type in and Google should easily find us. This web address then redirects on to our main old and longer address of <https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/>. The website has nested photo albums on the menu bar, this involved a slight extra cost last year but has allowed me to structure the Photo Albums and has made finding the new and recent photo albums much more logical.

I am updating the photos as I receive them for our Website plus also on Facebook, What's App, Instagram and Twitter, all new photos and any old ones are gratefully received. I have summarised all the old newsletters, this is in a new document located on the Website Newsletter page. On the Club History page I have also started adding more historical information; I am also still chasing to find out more about the history of Explorer, finding out more about her very interesting past.

I have also put all of the Social media addresses on our website, this is on the "Contact Us" page, it is an easy place for us to find all these addresses.

<https://kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/contact-us>

What's App.

The What's App Group has 24 members now and has proved very successful for organising work on Explorer, it is the easiest way for us to all communicate on an informal basis. Its only short coming is that any new members do not see the previous posts but then that can be a good thing.

Facebook

The Facebook group has 21 members, I copy to it the posts from the website and photos from the What's App Group. On Facebook you can see the history of the club and it is useful for any potential members who can see the history of what we do. The Facebook Group is set up as a private group, this makes administration more secure and has better privacy, there are also public Facebook accounts that allow people to find us and out private group.

Instagram and Twitter

We have functioning accounts on both of these, I have not seen any useful posts from others yet but they are setup and ready for the future. We have 3 followers on Twitter and we have made 33 tweets, on Instagram we have 52 followers and we have made 38 posts. (I suspect many of these 52 Instagram followers are from the RYA Cruising Club conference that James and Arthur attended).

<https://www.instagram.com/kessinglandseasailingclub/>

I am posting information on all of these sites in the hope that new potential members will respond, we will have a library of information for anyone that wishes to follow us. I have created a simpler Instagram account called kssc14, this then shows people our main (original) Instagram, the aim of this is to make it easy us to find us on Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/kssc14/>

The Twitter address is kssc17, it is a simple address and in the future these social media accounts will be useful to us. These addresses unfortunately are all slightly different, this is because many existing addresses are already taken and I have had to take addresses that are still available. <https://twitter.com/kssc17>

In summary the new simpler media addresses hopefully will make it easier for us to navigate all these social media sites, modernising our contact with the outside world and hopefully attracting new members.



Peter

