



## Season Greetings 2023

### Commodore's Comments

As the year draws to a close it's appropriate, as the new Commodore, to reflect on the year past, and to look forward to the one ahead.

Before I do I wish to thank James for his 7 years as Commodore. Under his leadership KSSC has seen many challenges, including Explorer moving to Levington, galvanic corrosion issues to Ploes, the COVID years and the purchase of Capella. Each of these is a chapter in the club's long history, but James has navigated the club through all of these with unflappable leadership, and a clear sense of purpose. His tenure as Commodore sees him leave on the eve of our Diamond Jubilee year with increasing membership, increasing boat utilisation and a new UK boat, all of which puts the club on a firm footing for the future. We owe him a vote of thanks.

Reflecting on 2023. We started the year with a mandate to replace Explorer, and although we hadn't committed to timescales I personally thought we were looking at a 2 year project. Fortunately we had more members offer loans than planned, and the liquidation of the investments was also better than forecast. Having considered several different boats, and viewing a number of potential purchases events took a positive turn following a chance meeting, and the subsequent purchase of Capella led to another record year for UK boat usage. Not wanting to be outdone Ploes also had another record year. Socially events included the Fitting Out Supper, visits to Sutton Hoo and the Woodbridge Long Shed project, a Capella Open Day, and finally the Laying Up Supper preceded by the AGM. We have also introduced a range of club branded merchandise. As a result, the club is in a healthy and vibrant state.

Looking to the future, with our quality family orientated boats in both UK and Mediterranean waters we have a unique and solid foundation on which to build and develop, and I see the club's future success being driven by a strategy that:

- Recruits new members
- Creates sailing opportunities for all, whatever their level of experience
- Supports and develops those that wish to progress to becoming skippers



- Provides social opportunities for members to interact and meet potential future sailing buddies

Although we aren't (and have no desire to be) an RYA training establishment we have a depth of experience within the club, and we'll be forming a "Club and Member Development Working Group" to look at how we can create opportunities that give those that wish to progress their sailing with confidence building events before attending formal RYA courses to obtain certification at recognised schools.

2024 is our Diamond Jubilee, and details of the planned social events are included in this newsletter. For sailing events bookings for 2024 are open for both boats. I'd encourage all to use the Crewseekers WhatsApp group to build skippers or crew for specific dates. If cruising in company interests you we will share the APSC rally calendar once we receive it, but other events like Pin Mill barge race or Clacton Air Show are popular so don't hesitate to get booking. Details of the proposed Capella summer cruise to the Netherlands have recently been emailed to all members, with a closing date of registering an interest by 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

I'm hoping 2024 will bring exciting and memorable sailing for all members, along with social opportunities, so all that remains is to wish you, and your families a very Merry Christmas, and Happy and Healthy 2024.



Paul



## Capella

What an amazing first season for Capella! After the initial phase of familiarisation sails for club skippers she was fully available to book from the end of April and was in regular use from that point forward. Our heavy usage of any boat will prompt maintenance issues and the need to use the winter period to service/replace/upgrade/clean a multitude of items. Capella's lift out is booked for 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and she will be ashore until 18<sup>th</sup> March. During this period she will have her engine and sail drive professionally serviced and the sails, stackpack, sprayhood and cockpit tent will all be cleaned, repaired and reproofed as necessary by One Sails at Levington. All other maintenance issues will need to be carried out by club members, including a deep clean after all works have been completed before she returns to the water. We will identify specific days for focus upon tasks such as winch servicing or electrical improvements, but even if you have limited skills in these areas there will be plenty of hands needed for anti-fouling or hull polishing, so please do



not hesitate to come forward when the call comes for volunteers in January and February.

There are already 18 days booked for 2024, plus 6 weeks reserved for the summer cruise so, although next summer seems a very distant prospect during these winter days, make sure that you get your bookings reserved soon. For crew wanting to sail there is always the Whats App Crewseeker group to ask for one of the growing number of skippers to step up on a particular date, or to see when skippers are looking for crew. We will also be looking for crew to deliver Capella to Lowestoft (and back) for the Fitting Out Supper in April- plus there will be further news coming about opportunities to develop your skills, whether in boat handling or passage planning, at regular intervals during 2024. A new development for some could be evening social sails for Fish and Chips at Ha'penny pier at Harwich or Coffee and Ice Cream down on the quay at the Ipswich. More news about this will be circulated in The New Year.



Gill

## Ploes

Ploes has had an excellent year with 20 weeks and 2 days booked, an all-time record. Had any October weeks been booked, then we could have exceeded this number of weeks even more - something to aim for next year.

Ploes in general has again been very reliable, although sadly we did have issues in June with the diesel tank splitting. Claire spent a very long day doing an excellent job cleaning up from the bilges nearly 100 litres of spilt diesel and organising to get the damaged diesel tank temporarily repaired. At the same time she arranged a quote for a new aluminium tank of superior construction and this was ordered and quickly fitted 4 weeks later. That was in early July but we sailed in late June, gently filling the temporarily repaired tank before the new tank was fitted.

We formed a working group to consider Ploes upgrades and one item debated was the diesel engine. It is 20 years old now and it is starting to use oil, and can smoke, especially when reversing onto a pontoon. We spent £2000 in January repairing a blown head gasket on the existing engine and we also suffered a failed cooling impeller on the engine in June and again in July. We agreed at committee in late October to purchasing a new engine, which has now been ordered

Delivery of the new engine is expected in 3 months, by late February, which will hopefully allow fitting during the lift out and antifouling in Levent's yard ready for Ploes bookings in late March and April.

Additionally, the Chart Plotter on Ploes has also become unreliable, it is about 15 years old and in need of replacement. During the recent Black Friday I spotted an



excellent discounted price and so we have purchased a Raymarine 9S Elements chart plotter, a slightly later version of the plotter on Capella. Both yachts now have plotters that allow you to copy routes and waypoints for our phone or tablet Navionics software, so they are very versatile. We luckily have, following an excellent season enough money to complete these updates.

We have also had a long-standing issue with the bow plastic water tank that has a split in the top, resulting in a water leak if the tank is filled too high. We are currently debating when to repair this and I hope that we can do so during this winter, as we have a good quote. We have delayed this water tank replacement for about 10 years, the supplied Bavaria plastic tanks are brittle plastic and are not very strong.

Long term we will look at replacing Ploes in future years, but after purchasing Capella we need to rebuild our funds and pay back our loan. We are developing a plan and timescale to schedule this Ploes replacement based on historical expenditure. We have completed a forward 10-year plan for Ploes, allowing us more easily to predict and plan our expenditure. The purchase of a new engine and chart plotter, and possibly replacement bow water tank are significant items but financially a replacement for Ploes is at least 8 to 10 years away and therefore we need to invest in her to keep her in good condition for the next few years.



Peter

## **Explorer (Final Words)**

At the AGM it was announced that Explorer had been sold subject to survey. Unfortunately, the survey threw up a number of issues, some that were known about, but the one that surprised us was that the installation of the pilot berth on the port side had adversely affected the structural strength of the shroud supports. It's an alternative design that Jeremy Rogers Ltd undertook to all Contessa 32s provided to the MOD to meet a requirement to have 6 berths. She's sailed for 46 years without issue but the purchaser decided to withdraw.

However, all hasn't been lost and we are now pleased to announce that Explorer's new owners will be long standing members and Explorer enthusiasts Cliff and Kay Pountney. Contracts have been exchanged, deposit paid and completion is set for mid-January. Thank you Cliff and Kay, it's good to see that after so many years in KSSC ownership Explorer is going to such a good home, and we look forward to hearing of future adventures.

Paul



## From the new Explorer owners

We are very pleased to be Explorer's new owners, and having given each other such a special present we don't feel the need to give each other anything else this Christmas!

We'd like to thank the members of KSSC who over the years have taken good care of Explorer and ensured that we can take ownership of a solid, sea-worthy and elegant yacht. Having sailed several thousand miles in her between us we felt no need to request a sea trial! We plan to sort out some structural issues which need attention and give her a re-fit to bring her more up to date, and make her even more comfy and attractive than she is now!

We're thinking about how we'd like to use her, but it will probably be a combination of local East Coast sailing and sailing further afield – UK and beyond - with her being based on the Blackwater. We'll keep you all updated on her re-fit progress, and we're looking forward to sailing Explorer again, and doing so with you our friends from KSSC.

Cliff and Kay

## Treasurer's Update

As presented at the LUS/AGM, the year's accounts to 31 October 2023 show a healthy financial position. From a revenue perspective, club income increased to £63k from £41k last year as result of a very busy year for Ploes and the popularity of Capella in her first year in the club. Including the cost of a new engine in Ploes which will be fitted over the winter in time for next year's season, expenses increased by a similar amount to £52k from £31K. This resulted in a surplus for the year of £11k against £10k last year. In the balance sheet, fixed assets (representing the investment in Capella and an unsold Explorer) increased from £36k to £130k after depreciation. To finance this the club now carries member loans of £30k which will incur costs for the club of £1.2k per year in reduced membership cash income, and investments of £26k have been sold. The club's bank account retained a healthy balance of £28k against £16k last year.

So to conclude, the club has made a major investment in the form of the Capella purchase in 2023 and the purchase has been managed in a financially prudent manner. However, the club now has a requirement to repay member loans in 5 years' time as well as building necessary reserves to replace our yachts when this is required. Since the year end, Explorer is now contracted to be sold and a deposit paid into the club's bank account which will bolster the bank account; but the management committee will have to make sure that yacht usage and expenses are



adequately managed and aligned to ensure that the club can prudently repay member loans and fund future yacht investments.

## Membership and Social

### Affiliations

Our affiliation with *The Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club* continues. In addition to providing us with an excellent venue for our annual events – the Fitting Out Supper, the Laying Up Supper and the AGM (see Social Events article for details of 2024 dates) - this also allows all members to use the facilities of the RN&SYC Club House, including accommodation, for a maximum of 5 visits per year, per member. This excludes the FOS & LUS but includes other social events that may be organised by KSSC to take place at the Club House. KSSC members using the RN&SYC Club House will be asked to sign a log to show their attendance. Thanks go to Jeremy Ives, the RNSYC Commodore for his support in continuing this arrangement between our clubs.

We are also now affiliated to the RYA (since August 2023). This allows our Club, via the Committee to access legal, regulatory, racing and sport development advice, and gives the opportunity to participate in networking opportunities throughout the year. We will advertise relevant events as they arise.

Our 'friendship' with *Adastral Park Sailing Club* continues and we continue to link with them on events such as cross club sailing opportunities and the opportunity to participate in their social functions both on the water and ashore.

### Membership Subs

A reminder that your annual subs are due on 1 January:

- Family Sailing Membership £300
- Individual Sailing membership £200

I will send out a renewal notice shortly.

### Membership

This year we recruited 11 new memberships, bringing our total number of memberships at the year end to a very healthy 81!



## Condolences

We are very sorry to hear of the recent passing of Jean Shackleton. Jean was an active member of our club for many years, and she and Bob sailed their own Contessa 32 (Dawn Walk) from Lowestoft. Bob continues to be a member of our club and our sympathies are with him at this very sad time.



Rose

## Social Events for 2024

After our very successful LUS in November it is clear that our members love to get together for a social event, as well as when sailing. We have several events planned for the winter and I am always keen to hear from members who have an idea for something that they feel will be of interest to our members. So a reminder of what is already planned for 2024

**25<sup>th</sup> January**-Talk at RHYC “Cruising to Antarctica on a 1915 Dutch Herring Drifter” by Andy Beharrell

Optional lunch available- 4 spaces available. Cost -Talk £7 Talk and Lunch £12

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** -Trip to Radio Caroline and a meal at The Company Shed, West Mersea (This trip is fully booked)

**21<sup>st</sup> March** – Talk at RHYC “East Coast Shipwrecks” by historian and walking guide Robert Smith

Optional lunch will be available costs as above 4 spaces available

**13<sup>th</sup> April** – Fitting Out Supper at RNSYC with a visit to Lowestoft for Capella.

**14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June**- A weekend on board a Norfolk Wherry - contact Ian Winters for details

**20<sup>th</sup> July** Open Day for Capella at SYH followed by a meal at Haven Ports Lightship for KSSC members and guests. (Details to follow in The New Year but “SAVE THE DATE”

**9<sup>th</sup> November** – Laying Up Supper at RNSYC, Lowestoft



There will be further news about 60th celebration events as well as social/maintenance days in The New Year. Any suggestions of other event opportunities or how to make maintenance days more fun are always welcome!

Please do let me know if you require further details or wish to book a space on the talks at RHYC by emailing- [geegee2000@yahoo.com](mailto:geegee2000@yahoo.com) or send a whats app.

Gill

## Club Merchandise



Those of you present at the LUS in November were given a preview of some items of club merchandise that had been ordered as a trial. For those of you who missed it I have provided some photos of our lovely committee models below.

The embroidery company have a huge and bewildering catalogue available on their website but have produced a streamlined version for KSSC which should make the whole process much easier.

Follow this link for our custom catalogue: <https://www.zoomcats.com/flyer/kssc>

I am happy to co-ordinate any orders as with orders of 10 or more items we would attract 10% discount. Please do think carefully about sizing when ordering as each item is ordered and embroidered by Emblazonry individually and therefore cannot be returned.





Any enquiries/orders please email [geegee2000@yahoo.com](mailto:geegee2000@yahoo.com) If there is something you would like but is not in this mini catalogue then please let me know.



Gill

