

It's Spring – yes really, although it doesn't feel much like it, and the sailing season is with us one again.

Frostbite Race

(or for insurance purposes,

The Frostbite Competitive Cruise!)

After last year's cancellation due to adverse weather it was pleasing to run it in excellent sailing conditions. The wind was a steady NE 3 – 4 and the sea flat after several days of northerly's.

The course this year was a triangle that worked well, providing a downwind leg from off the West Arm to Portobello Buoy, a beat back out to the new red outfall mark in Friars Bay and a tack back to the start line.

Disappointingly it was contested by only 2 boats, **Hunky Dory** crewed by Roger Davis and Graham Eaton, and **Beaumaris** crewed by Maurice Elford and Jim Taylor. **Otter**, skippered by Teresa Scott arrived off the start line but unfortunately abandoned due to engine trouble. Surprising really as this was supposed to be a sailing event!



Beaumaris running downwind to Portobello

This year we applied a new handicapping system – the Portsmouth Yardstick adjustments are no longer supported by RYA for cruising yachts. Instead they have formulated a new system, National Handicap for Cruisers. The adjustments for hundreds of boats are available as an Excel spreadsheet on their website.

Hunky Dory won – elapsed time 2hrs 1 min 57sec. Adjusted 1hr 45mins 29 secs

Beaumaris 2nd, elapsed time 2 hrs 25min 25 sec Adjusted 1hr 56mins 11secs



Hunky Dory outbound

Beaumaris had the last laugh as Hunky Dory grounded on the LW mud trying to get back on to its pontoon!

Membership Matters

We're pleased to welcome back former member Will Rogers. Will has a Mirror Offshore, Tough Boy VI, currently up the river at Lewes.

Club secretary Graham Eaton has joined the brotherhood of the empty wallet having just purchased his first boat, a Dehler DS 42, currently in Dartmouth.

Forthcoming Events

Buddy Sailing Day

This year, to help skippers and buddies plan ahead we have put a couple of dates in the diary. These are in addition to the usual ad hoc invites.

The first of these, subject to the caveat regarding weather, takes place **Saturday 23 April**. Any buddy sailors interested should contact Roger Davis, roger.f.davis@btinternet.com who will allocate them to a skipper.

Richard Mitchell still coordinates the scheme and will take back the reigns when fully recovered from his operation.

Brighton Rally 30 April

For members not doing the Dieppe Dash you might want to consider this event over the May Day weekend **30 April**. It includes a sail from your home port out to a channel mark, CS1 or maybe the new cardinal mark at the E extremity of the Rampion windfarm, and an overnight stay in Brighton for a social. If interested please contact Commodore Maurice Elford.

Eastbourne Rally

Spring Bank Holiday weekend **28 May**.

Stay one or two nights for the usual very successful social weekend. For those interested we aim to hold the Sovereign Tower “competitive cruise” on the Sunday.

Contact Roger Davis to arrange berthing.

Navigation Matters

Work on the Rampion Windfarm ramps up. Four cardinal markers transmitting AIS are now in place. You need to note their positions which you can obtain from Marine Traffic website or NTM. Strict exclusions zones are in place that are rigorously enforced. Regular VHF Securitee broadcasts are made by the guard boat.

Please also regularly check the NTM’s on our website, one of which relates to 2 unexploded 500lb bombs they’ve found. Failure to do so could result in you getting to your destination faster than you’d planned!!

Coastguard Areas and stations

Apparently the major reorganisation is complete. Some stations/areas have disappeared but all the transmitters are retained. Rather bizarrely Solent no longer exists as an entity; it’s moved inland to a new centre that acts as the national coordination centre – however it will still respond as Solent if called. Dover seems to have increased its patch to our neck of the woods. Full information can be found on the RYA website.

Recent Events

Fitting Out Supper

Following the successful change in venue last year to the White Hart Hotel in Lewes, members once again enjoyed an excellent evening of great food and company, in very pleasant surroundings. Feedback once again was very positive. We’d like suggestions from members for a venue for next year’s event i.e. same again or somewhere different.

Skills Forum

The final session of the winter took place at the Lifeboat station. Lee Blacknell, the second coxswain, led a very interesting session focusing on weather and interpretation of synoptic charts. This was followed by a visit to the lifeboat to admire the two new 1500hp marine diesels.

One less pot for us to worry about!



If you look closely you’ll see a pot and marker collected by a recent scrap boat. Didn’t seem to foul his prop!!

Beaulieu Boat Jumble 24 April

This is a good opportunity to buy boat related bits and pieces, and there will also be a team of ‘Ask The Experts’ – Practical Boat Owner, the show sponsor, is teaming up with leading marine industry figures to offer their expertise in a marquee area – there will be hands-on demonstrations and the opportunity to quiz the team on a variety of topics. More information at www.beaulieuboatjumble.co.uk