

STOUR SAILING CLUB MAGAZINE  
*The* **BOWSPRIT**



**BLISS AND SUNSHINE**

**Do you know the Deben Mouth? - By Polly Plowman**

***"It's pitch dark, but the boat is rolling at least 90 degrees ..."***

**Mike Moss Trophy Winner 2023**

# Who is who at the Sailing Club

## **Officers**

Commodore	Colin Garnham
Vice-Commodore (Acting)	Will Langton
Treasurer	James Bolton
Rear Commodore	Caroline Cunningham
Membership Secretary	Liza Hicks
Club Secretary (Acting)	Colin Garnham



## **Other Members of the Management Committee**

Communications Manager and Bowsprit Editor	Alexis Girard
Compound Manager	Will Langton
Moorings Master	Toby Horne
Sailing Secretary	Evie Clemance
Training & Safety Boat Manager	Dave Perrott
Clubhouse Manager	Darren Hicks (Vacant)
Social Secretary	David Waters
IT Administrator and Data Controller	

## **Non Committee Roles**

Rowing Secretary	Caroline Cunningham
Racing Secretary	Evie Clemance
Webmaster	Shirley Hillyard

All management committee members may be contacted through the club's website at <http://www.stoursailingclub.co.uk/contact/>

THE BOWSPRIT is published once a year by the Stour Sailing Club, 10 Quay Street, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1AU.

Telephone: 01206 393 924 or 07874973173 (please be aware that the club is not always manned).

PLEASE SEND US YOUR ARTICLES AND PICTURES, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU AND YOUR ADVENTURES ON THE WATER!!

Contact the editor at [bowspriteditor@gmail.com](mailto:bowspriteditor@gmail.com)





## Commodore's Corner

Ahoy!!!! Where has the year gone! I thought following the last AGM and the taking up of my new appointment that there would have been sufficient time to introduce the new plans and forge ahead with ideas and promotions and events, but it was hit the ground running which seemed then to turn into a sprint rather than a jog in trying to follow at the pace of my predecessor. It didn't take me long to realise the hard work and the dedication that she gave to the auspicious post that she had the honour to uphold and now that honour was passed on down to me. I was lucky to have held the position of Vice Com for a considerable time and this was an experience which helped in the preparation and grooming for the big chair and responsibilities that this now holds.

Hopefully you will all have enjoyed the year under my first reign in office, it's not been easy, but nobody said it would be. I had a string of projects and tasks to accomplish many which have successfully been delivered with the assistance of our volunteers and wouldn't have been possible without them.

Being fortunate to complete my contract on a large rail project in London saw me take a slightly earlier reduction in full term employment and I was a regular nuisance at the club on most days completing something or other which I thought would benefit the club and its members, from revitalising the tables in the bar and the parlour to meeting the members and generally getting to know the audience in a more personal way of what we can do to make the club more acceptable for their needs both on and off the water. I found that while



it's good to chat its more advantageous to listen and that way everyone would come away from the conversation with something.

We have had many achievements and have strengthened and built now some fine alliances with our local communities where we now also have an understanding of their needs and requirements as they do ours as a club. This stretches from the Mermaids swimmers, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford town councils, Manningtree Business Chambers, My blue Pass, The Environment Agency, to name just a few. This is where we as a club allowed usage of some of our assets and facilities to be utilised by the 3rd parties to build and strengthen our relationships which was quickly demonstrated at our annual regatta, where this was funded by sponsors to provide an amazing firework display by Manningtree local business and council which is a first and would normally have to be provided from the club funds.



## Commodore's Corner

This year also saw the first opportunity that we have had since Covid to host the Presidents Cup. Unfortunately, I was not present but again the volunteers came out again in abundance and made it such a successful day. Congratulations to Robin Dutton on being the successful winner and the cup being officially presented by Di Brown. These events are such fun days and they don't just happen. A lot of work goes in to the organising and planning but it's the on the day stuff we are exceptionally proud to have such a strong team of volunteers, from Officers of the day, The bar staff, Help in the kitchen and BBQ's, Coffee and cake days, Sausage nights, Lift in Lift outs, Safety Boats Marquee Erection and dismantling, general maintenance and cleaning, I hope I haven't left anything out but you are all in there and assist to some great team spirits ..... but some are getting tired and we need to attract some new assistants, so if you're interested in coming on board to assist please make contact and I am sure your current talents can be expanded upon to maybe find something even you didn't know that you had, so please don't be shy. If we have more events, we will need more hands and maybe some inspiring new ideas.

For more water-borne activities, I said at the AGM that I would have completed the pontoon installation last year, I did suffer a slight set back as once I had completed attaching the pontoons on the piles it attracted an interest from the local youths who congregated at most times in the summer. This led me to re-view the intended design and now with restricted access via a key coded gate access to the walkway is now only accessible to club members and visitors, however this will be put

to trials within the summer. The current installation is usable for safe access and egress of equipment to vessels, but charges will apply if it is intended for any long term stays and a policy will be drafted and put into operation for the forthcoming season once finalised and approved. We had quite a number of foreign visitors last year and hopefully they will return and continue to have a pleasant stay at the SSC where they were made most welcome to our facilities.

Again, my grateful thanks go to all the remaining committee team and those that assist behind the front line, which without them it wouldn't have been at all possible and I hope I can count on your support again next year.

Let's make next season equally if not better than last year that's my intention and we can all have a blast on and off the water.

I was asked what I wanted to do during my first year as commodore of the club, I answered "to make it the No 1 Sailing Club on the River Stour Estuary". Then what after that! was the reply. I replied "to stay there"!!

That's all for Now

*Commodore Colin*







## Treasurer's Report - by *Colin Garnham*

It wasn't intended to be that way, but because we were thin on the ground of committee members I had no option to continue on as treasurer until a successor had been found. The thing is I didn't realise that it would take 8 months to get James Bolton to come forward and to take over the purse. The accounts you should all have received copies of, and they have been on display on the notice board since November 22.

My position took the club through some testing times to conclude finally in what I consider a comfortable state during the current situation of crucial financial experiences of substantial price increases against all our commodities which will all have an effect on of our financial statements and forecasts the longer it continues. With inflation at 10.5%, fuel increases at 26.5%, and RPI at 6.75 % let's hope that this is short lived.

We had to introduce special measures, that we did not get run a way bills on our resources of water gas and electricity utilities usage. It wasn't to do with being mean, but being economical and sensible keeping usages tolerable and without being wasteful, we looked into the tariffs and set up contracts to get the best option that we could for our consumption as a small medium enterprise.

Our brewery options were also investigated where alternative options were sought and members now are more comfortable with having a choice of range rather than being tied to the one source of brewer. This allowed us to better buy and premium buy being now exposed to options of offers and adding to the competition.

We have had some large capital items should you have not yet noticed, the gate on the quay has been purchased and installed by C&W

fencing and another pontoon purchased refurbished and currently being installed in situ for this season allowing access to the main run rather than an access walkway. The current one purchased and in offsite storage will be sold.

The shed in the compound also finally collapsed and became unsafe and has now been replaced with a smaller size substantial steel container as like the other container situated in the compound on the right. This gives added security for all our equipment and helps with keeping the insurance premium low and the storer's peace of mind when wanting secure dry storage and keeping the compound in a safe clean state.

All the above has been completed to enable sustainability and longevity that we can continue to provide what we can and what we do for the benefits of the members with the fees that they currently have to pay.

For every pound in we monitor every pound out and make sure that its wanted, needed, its fit for purpose, and is the correct value for money, and will add quality so the life cycle in what we provide is not there just for the short term.

Here's to maintaining a healthy bank balance and ride this heavy storm of high rising costs and I will leave that in the hand of our new Treasurer but rest assured it's still close to my heart and I won't be far behind.

Thanks to everyone who has assisted me in this role during the last 4 years it's been a great challenge and we have accomplished the goals what we set out to do.

Cheers

*Colin G*

## A Big Thank You from My Blue Pass - By Stephen Jones

2022 was another very successful season for My Blue Pass (MBP), thanks in no small part to the steadfast support of the Stour Sailing Club.

MBP provides dinghy sailing introductory sessions and RYA-accredited training courses, as well as kayaking and residential trips on the Blue Mermaid Thames sailing barge to 8–16-year-olds from our local schools. In particular we aim to offer these experiences to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

As well as sharing the simple joy of being on the water, the idea is to provide access for youngsters to the beautiful tidal estuary of the river Stour, to help them to actively engage with the natural environment, so that they can feel part of it, learn more about it, and will in turn wish to protect and preserve it. We believe these experiences are transformative for young people and have a positive social



impact, helping address some of the inequalities within our local community.

I'm really pleased to report that over the course of the 2022 season 112 children joined in with MBP programmes, participating in 187 on-the-water experiences.

All our dinghy sailing instructors, and many of our other supporters, volunteers and trustees are members of the SSC but we could not do what we do without the very generous support of the whole club for which we are very grateful. In particular we would like to thank Colin Garnham and Sarah Howlett (who is now a trustee of the charity) who have supported us

from the outset, Dave Perrot for sterling help with the safety boats, Will Langton for his help in the compound, and Phil Cunningham for lending a hand whenever it's needed, as have many others.

As you may know, we currently rely on the club for the use of the safety boats, clubhouse facilities and safe dinghy storage for our fleet of six Optimists in the compound, all of which is essential for us to be able to maintain our RYA Recognised Training Centre status.

For the 2023 season we hope to acquire four more dinghies with the objective of building our capacity to provide annual introductory

sailing sessions for all five local primary schools as well as a summer season of sail training courses and weekend sailing activities for more advanced students. To achieve this we need to find more locally based dinghy sailing instruc-

tors, which is not that easy. So with that in mind, we would very much like to hear from any club members – qualified as instructors or otherwise – who might be interested in joining our training team.

Most members of the club will have an enormous affection for the river here – even if we wouldn't mind having a bit more water in it occasionally. I can promise that there's nothing like bringing that experience to others, and that's what My Blue Pass is all about. If you would like to get involved or find out about becoming one of our instructors do please contact me at [stephen@mybluepass.org.uk](mailto:stephen@mybluepass.org.uk).

## Do you know the Deben Mouth? - By Polly Plowman

It's a rather lovely August Friday. Manningtree beach is awash with children, the estuary is basking in another hot day, yet there's a comfortable breeze. We row out to Iolanthe, our Cornish Shrimper, hitch the dinghy on the back and set out. What a prospect.

John and I have a guest, who though a yachtsman himself, is quite happy to be a passenger on this trip, so John and I get the sails up and we're under way. The plan is to take Iolanthe round the coast to the river Deben this afternoon, and fetch up at Felixtowe Ferry, where John and our guest will be picked up by his wife, and where I can spend a few days thereafter footling around on the river. I have a friend who sails from Waldringfield that I plan to meet up with, another friend in Woodbridge I can collect if I get the tides right – and the weather forecasts look very promising. I'm not that happy about sea-sailing on my own and I'm wary of the tricky Deben entrance, which is

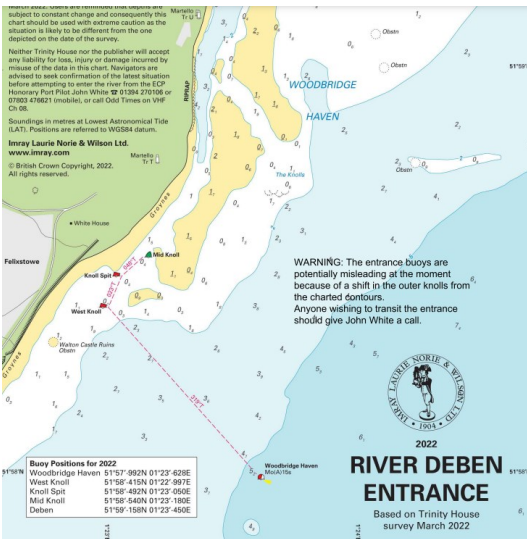


*Relaxed helming, unaware of the eventful night ahead*

why John is with me for this preliminary leg, and he'll come to join me again for the return trip in at the end of my jaunt.

The sail down the Stour is idyllic and we all enjoy it – a beam reach, just what Iolanthe likes best. Sandwiches and fizzy water for lunch. Once beyond Harwich we have to make long and short tacks past Felixtowe against the north-east wind and on the last of the falling tide. Iolanthe dips and dances through the gentle swell and we arrive at Woodbridge safe water buoy as planned, as the tide starts to turn at the end of the day.

As you will know, the Deben mouth is awkward.



## Do you know the Deben Mouth? - By Polly Plowman

The shingle banks offshore are constantly shifting and the contours of the beach do so too, so a local chart is needed which we had accordingly downloaded. Vessels entering the river have to head straight for the beach at first, then guided by strategic buoys turn sharply to starboard heading north-eastwards in the very narrow and shallow 'deep water channel' that hugs the shore. In due course they reach the

river mouth proper, where things open out and there's more room to manoeuvre.

We duly drop our sails out at the safe water buoy and head in under motor, but having turned

the sharp right-hand corner, we find the depths our sounder is registering are diminishing alarmingly – it's far shallower than we had expected: clearly the shingle has shifted a bit since the buoys were placed and this year's chartlet drawn up. Indeed, a scraping noise confirms that we are touching bottom, though the incoming tide is now flowing with us. The engine starts to labour as we drag along: throttling down and juggling the revs allows it to recover for a bit, but the situation isn't a happy one. We still have quite a distance to cover before we'll be out of this narrow, shal-

low throat, so John calls to me to go forward to check the anchor is ready just in case our unreliable engine fails – I'm already on my way there.

A few yards further on and we are into slightly deeper water. The engine struggles again, makes a horrible noise and dies altogether. A few brief attempts to restart it fail – and by that time I've slipped the anchor down over the

bow and made it fast. Hmm. This isn't good.

We take stock. We're safely stationary and afloat in very shallow water, merely yards from the beach, in a narrow channel with a rising tide promising to sweep us



*Iolanthe at anchor in the channel, with in the background the Knolls sand banks.*

inland, with a headwind and no engine. We decide first of all to decant our guest ashore in the dinghy, to be taken home independently. We promptly discover that we probably hadn't needed the dinghy at all – he could have rolled up his trouser legs and waded ashore, there's so little water. But back aboard, we face the fact that dusk is imminent, and that our only motive power is now our sails.



## Do you know the Deben Mouth? - *By Polly Plowman*

In waiting for a bit more water to lift us out of difficulty in this tight channel, we will find ourselves either having to beat our way into the Deben mouth – possible but ill advised as we would have to get out again – or turn round and sail out following the kinked track of the buoys against the increasing incoming tide. We realise we are going to have to wait for full ebbing tide or thereabouts to give us enough water for any such strategy – which will be in the small hours, at night. This was not what we'd planned. Clearly, my trip up the Deben must now be aborted, and the task is at some point to turn tail and return to Manningtree directly.

Well, we have plenty of food and water: I'd been planning for several days aboard, and we've fortunately brought lots of warm clothing. Only one sleeping bag, though, but an extra blanket will do if we wrap up well. So, while the light permits, we cook some sort of supper and then prepare our beds to get some sleep – after all, we'll undoubtedly have an early start. This is not a place we'd have chosen to spend a night at anchor. Let's hope no macho fishing vessel chooses to set out or return before dawn and comes surging round the corner to find us in its path. We switch on the mast-head light, of course, but it's a pretty feeble precaution.

Suddenly, we hear voices hailing us and see dim figures in the dark on the shore alongside. They're only yards away. It's the coastwatch, they say. Are we all right? Well, we reply, we're OK – our engine has failed, so we've got to wait till daylight to sort ourselves out, but we're not in immediate danger. Have we got a radio? they shout. Yes. Then call up the Coast Guard and let them know what's happening so that if

conditions worsen, they know where you are, they say. Thank you! We'll do that. And off they go into the dark again. What a kind thing to do – it's very comforting to know we're being watched over.

So we call up the Humber Coast Guard and they're great. Name of the boat? And position? How many aboard? Any medical needs? Have you got clothing and food and water? Are you in any danger? ... then if anything changes and you need more support, get back to us again. Over and Out. That does feel better. We're not imminently threatened ... though neither of us really like where we are...

We get our heads down ... and then up and then down, again and again. The wind is rising and blowing against the tide, and poor old lolanthe is bobbing and ducking, tugging away at her anchor warp, and it's not a restful movement. We lie there doggedly inviting sleep, but it's hard to find. Through the open hatch we see no stars, but a red light on a telecommunications mast on Bawdsey headland appears, traverses the hatchway, is lost and then reappears, swinging back, again and again. As the tide rises, the offshore shingle banks are overwhelmed by the waves and the shelter we realise they've been giving us is now lost. The full incoming swell can reach us and lolanthe starts to roll as well, increasingly strongly. Gradually everything on board that can creak, rattle and frap does so, with maddening persistence. We lie and doze intermittently, and interrogate each noise in imagination. I'm very glad not to be having to do this alone.

It's pitch dark – but the boat is rolling at least 90 degrees and we're having to brace ourselves in the bunks to stop being tipped out.

## Do you know the Deben Mouth? - By Polly Plowman

And I really don't like what the boom is doing: it's being yanked from side to side with every roll, fetching up with a jerk that tugs violently on the mainsheet fitting on the stern traveller, and it's gradually working itself a longer and longer tether, which strains things even more. I've got to quell its clunking noise too – we can't sleep through that.

Going out into the cockpit isn't fun because it's rolling so much, so I do so on all fours, to keep my weight low: I do not fancy being tipped overboard in this. It's pretty easy to tighten up the mainsheet, however, and the tackle behaves much better after that. The anchor seems to be holding nicely too, so it's back to bed

for a bit longer – we can't think of sailing blind. We're not safe exactly, but we're not in danger either. There's no point in worrying about things until they happen, and we'll sort them out when they do.

From time to time we get up and assess the conditions: there is more and more water, but with that a deeper and more uncomfortable

swell. The wind is quite fresh, and we simply cannot see our surroundings – which is crucial if we are not to get beached on some of these unwelcoming shingle banks around us and pounded into matchsticks by the waves. We have to be able to sail, and sail skilfully, to get out of here without the engine. It seems a very long night.



Eventually the darkness seems thinner. It's not light, but it's not so inky black. We can see as well as hear the waves breaking on the shingle alongside, and the clock tells us it's at least an hour after full tide, and there is a glimmer of visibility so we decide to set out. We raise the sails at anchor, and then have a muscle-wrenching effort to lift the anchor itself, which of course is well dug in. But up it comes, and then John sheets everything in and turns Iolanthe on a sixpence as the sails fill, and we at once go romping off through the dusk. We're in the hands of the elements, and must be

ready for whatever transpires.

The wind is very light now so we are moving mostly with the tide, with not much steerage way. Something solid passes us in the water. I shine our torch on it, but it's too far and too dark to see clearly and we're uncertain about it until another looms up in our path.

## Do you know the Deben Mouth? - By Polly Plowman

... oh heavens, it's the second buoy! We passed the first one on the right side by a fluke, now we steer around this one and head out to sea. Minutes pass as we concentrate on keeping the boat moving well and on an even keel – the sound of the waves on the shingle diminishes – the boat is handling the swell happily – we've made it out of the mouth. Ahead of us are the twinkling lights of the ships in the anchorage off shore, and further on the greens and reds of the lit beacons marking the shipping approaches to Felixstowe and Harwich.

Gradually the sky lightens and a really beautiful dawn breaks over us as we make our way back down the coast. At first we are tense, scarcely believing that our eventful night is safely behind us, but daylight and breakfast on the move help to ease things as we realise that we and Iolanthe have passed a test: we now know that she and we can handle things like this.

It's another beautiful day. Harwich is looking its best as we sail past it, the Felixstowe cranes are as impressive as ever ... and then, as we make our way back up the Stour, we find ourselves suddenly surrounded by sails! Well I never - the Old Gaffers are having their rally here this Saturday and are sailing in convoy up to Mistley, and we (gunter-rigged, actually, but never mind) are in their midst, as if we belong. They call to us and wave: yes, what a lovely day for a sail! At Wrabness and at Mistley they all turn back and we press on. There's just about enough water for us, and we pick our way gingerly up to Manningtree, very aware of the need to avoid our home mudbanks on the way. Our mooring is at the top end near the Co-op, and we mustn't miss the buoy: there's no space in the channel to turn round under sail and have another go. But we concentrate, pick it up at first try, and quickly bring down the sails.

We're home.

It takes a long time to make things fast, unpack all the kit and stores, and ferry them ashore again in the dinghy. There's such a lot to put away, and always so much laundry. It seems strange to have an unexpected weekend ashore again when I'd meant to be afloat. And what's more, there's another sailing trip to be planned – without the motor again – to take Iolanthe round to Titchmarsh Marina where the engineer will diagnose our problem and suggest the treatments possible. But that ... is another story.

*Polly Plowman—Iolanthe*





## Our Pledge to Reducing Single Use Plastic - *By Judith Wakeling*

### **Stour Sailing Club continues our commitment to reducing single use plastic**

In October 2021 the Stour Sailing Club signed the pledge to become a Community Ally as part of the Manningtree Plastic Free initiative.

The Plastic Free pledge has 3 main aims which are the focus of our club's action plan:

1. To work to remove at least 3 single-use plastic items from day to day activities.
2. Commit to include our stance on single-use plastic in our communications.
3. Raise awareness and support plastic free initiatives in the community.

It is important to understand that the pledge is not about removing all plastic from our lives. It is about reducing the use of avoidable single-use plastic and changing the system that produces it.

### **Our pledge continues in 2022**

One of the biggest challenges when trying to reduce single-use plastic is when we hold large events. The club has moved to always use compostable cutlery, plates and cups when serving food/drink and reusable polypropylene 'glasses' in the bar for those who want to take their drinks outside. At our very successful events last summer when we provided food and drink for large numbers of club members and visitors; for example, the Regatta and Round 1 of the Harker's Yard Winter se-

ries, we significantly reduced our previous reliance on single-use plastic.

The challenges that remain are firstly, it is essential to reduce single-use plastic when we buy in the food and other supplies. This is not always easy when buying from supermarkets but it is possible by thinking and planning ahead. Secondly, we need to continue to be mindful of how we dispose of our waste. We have bins specifically for plastic and biodegradable waste and signs to encourage people to use the correct bin, however, this still needs further work and is something for everyone to be aware of.

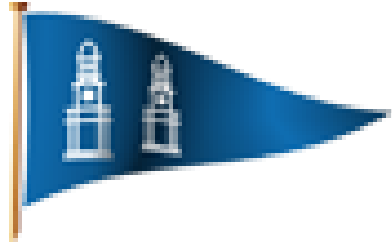
We are most successful at being plastic free when we have coffee and cake in the clubhouse or a cake stall at an event. Cakes are baked at home, brought in a tin and eaten off a compostable plate or club crockery: No plastic in sight = Win! Win! Win!

Thank-you for all of you who have helped the club to reduce single-use plastic. It is one small way that we can contribute to protecting our environment.

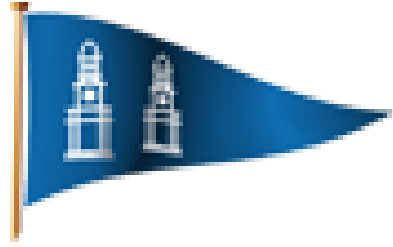
*Judith Wakeling*



# REGATTA 2022



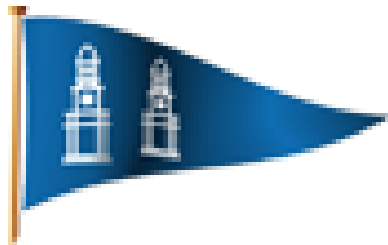
# REGATTA 2022



Pictures courtesy of Bob Leeds

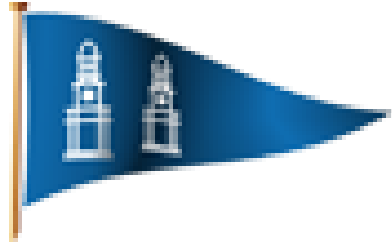


# REGATTA 2022



Pictures courtesy of Bob Leeds

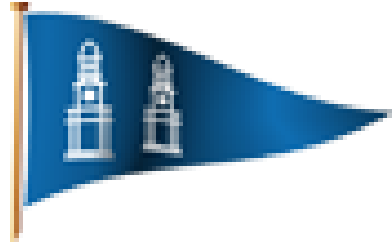
# REGATTA 2022



Pictures courtesy of Terry Woodcock-Dennis and Gary Hopkins and Phil Cunningham



# REGATTA 2022



## Sailing Race Results

### Saturday 16 July 2022 Pursuit Race

1. Hawk – Will Langton/Kelvin Howlett (also first dinghy)
2. Topper – Reuben Manning
3. Muscle – Ian Pavey/Ray Chittock (first Micro)
4. Well Done – Ian Bloomfield/Stef Bloomfield
5. Pathogen – Ed Roberts/Evie Clemence

### Sunday 17 July 2022 Class Race Results

#### Micros

1. Pathogem – Ed Roberts/Edd Harvey
2. Well Done – Ian & Stef Bloomfield
3. Virus – Rheanna Pavey/Julia Jenkins/Holly Pavey

#### Dinghies

1. Topper – Reuben Manning
2. Miracle – Simon Garner
3. Hawk – Will Langton/Stuart Howells

#### Cruisers

1. Hunter Delta – Andrew Lightowler/Dave Lightowler
2. Beneteau – Colin Garnham/Tom West
3. Pegasus – David Warner/Adrian Norris

#### Classics

1. Tideway – Jerry & Margaret Garner
2. Postboat – Tony Power

## Rowing Roundup by Caroline Cunningham - Rear Commodore

After the lockdowns and restrictions of the previous two years 2022 saw a welcome return to full rowing activity restricted only by the tide, light and the weather. Rowing is a very active part of the Club and the Gigs are out on the water rowing and racing all year round both at home and away.

The Club has two Harker's Yard Gigs: William Rose and Hunter both purchased with the aid of Sport England Lottery Funding. William Rose joined the Club in October 2016 and Hunter in March 2020, with impeccable timing, on the day that the first national lock down was announced! The Gigs are built by marine apprentices at the Pioneer Trust's Harker's Yard in Brightlingsea. The first twenty Gigs including William Rose (number 17) were built of cold moulded mahogany ply and subsequent Gigs including Hunter (number 22) are GRP but fitted out with hardwood.

### *Scenes from the water*

We don't let much keep us off the water, and although it is beautiful out on our estuary on a lovely day any time of year we will happily row in the rain and cold when needed.



*New Year's Day 2022*



*One from the shore*



*A soggy November Row*



*A perfect January row*



*And a perfect mince pie row to end 2022*

We aim to have a mixture of short rows, longer rows, race training rows and more social rows and also some longer trips, rowing out on one tide and back on the next.

In July 2023 we took three Gigs including Varuna (borrowed from the Pioneer Trust for the weekend) to Woodbridge for a row down to Felixstowe Ferry and then back up the Deben with the tide.



*SSC Rowers on Deben adventure*

## Rowing Roundup by Caroline Cunningham - Rear Commodore

### Racing

There are opportunities to race all year round. In the summer of 2022 Club rowers took part in races including Round Canvey Island, Brightlingsea to the Hythe, Brightlingsea Gig festival and an exhibition race hosted by Royal Harwich Yacht Club.

Our main racing season though is between September and March each year with the highly contested Harker's Yard Gig Association (HYGA) Winter Series. The 2021-22 season was curtailed due to Covid at the end of 2021 and gales at the beginning of 2022. In the end only five of the planned eleven events were able to take place. The season was the first in which we had two Gigs racing, which means twenty four seats to fill for each event to field women's, men's and mixed crews (and Coxes for six races per event, and two people to tow Gigs).

At the end of the season we finished with our best set of results so far for William Rose (7th overall). Hunter finished in 15th overall as we did not quite manage to field a men's crew in every race.

The 2022-23 HYGA Winter Series began with our home event here at Manningtree on 25 September. As always launching 16 or more Gigs, running races for men's, women's and men's crews, and recovering the Gigs at the end is a logistical challenge on our short tidal window, but our wonderful Club volunteers make it look almost easy.



We are one of the few Clubs in the HYGA that has the space on the start line for a mass start event (many events are run time trial style). The racing is extremely competitive with Gigs finishing within seconds of each other across the whole of the start/finish line which sets a real challenge for the race organisers and timekeepers.



*The Stour SC Team at Maldon January 2023*

At the time of writing there are four events remaining in the current winter series and William Rose and Hunter are currently in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> place overall in the league with 19 Gigs racing.

We aim to be competitive and have fun along the way, and we also have many of our race crews in the HYGA '300 Club' (average age of rowers and Cox of 60 and above).

## Rowing Roundup by Caroline Cunningham - Rear Commodore

### Off Water Activity

Our limited tidal window means that we can't get on the water at the same time or even on the same days every week.

However, we also hold a regular weekly 'erg and circuit' session where rowers can get together to work on technique and fitness on an 'Erg' (otherwise known as a Concept 2 indoor rowing machine), and work on core strength and flexibility with a circuit session.

It is also very sociable and great fun. In the summer the sessions are held under the Club Marquee, and in the winter months at Mistley Village Hall.

### Come and Row in 2023



We welcome new rowers at any time of the year, you don't need any prior experience or special equipment, and there are no upper age restrictions.

We take new rowers out as part of a crew with more experienced rowers. And we try to make rowing as easy as possible, with at least two organised 'Open' rows each week all year round when tide and light allow that any rower can book on to online.

You can row to get a bit fitter, for the social and team aspects or just to enjoy our beautiful estuary. However if you are competitive and want to race then there are also plenty of opportunities to do so.

As rowers gain experience there are further opportunities to row as part of 'fixed crew rows' and race crews. Experienced rowers also learn to Cox, and if you just love being on the water and don't want to row we are always keen to hear from Members who have on the water experience and would like to learn to Cox.

Both members and non-members of the Club are welcome to have a go. After six rows (three free, and three paying £3 per row) we ask non-members to join the Club if they wish to continue to row. All rowers make an additional rowing contribution of £3 a row (or an annual payment of £75). This goes towards replacement of equipment (including thole pins and oars), and the maintenance of our beautiful Gigs.

If you would like to try rowing just email [rowing@stoursailingclub.co.uk](mailto:rowing@stoursailingclub.co.uk) and we will send you further information and get you out on the water as soon as we can.

See you on the water!

*Caroline Cunningham – Rear Commodore, Russell Harvey, Keith Paxman, Judy Wakeling*

*Stour Sailing Club – Rowing Sub Committee*



# subeo and Bob Leeds

On 25th September 22 a group of fortunate club members were invited for a very special day and to a remarkable milestone for Bob Leeds.

For those that know Bob his passion for sport including boating is of ultra-importance however his true desires are one below the surface rather than on it. He is a fully qualified and trained BSAC scuba diver and combined with his profession as a Structural Engineer and his connections with the water mysteries and science he has excelled himself in the develop-



ment of the Subeo Gemini 11 Roll out program for a 2-man Submarine. This was to be revealed to the public and friends for the first time.

It was on that sunny Sunday afternoon we were asked to share with Bob this large significant event of completion where the craft was revealed at Foxes Marina Ipswich and we could all celebrate his long lifetime achievement. The boat was there not only for the launch but for a series of weight tests and buoyance controls.

Submarine Bob as he is familiarly known has been developing the design of this now 3rd generation craft since inception Gemini prototype since 2002-2003. The craft in its infancy has not been shy in coming forward on the silver screen, and has been on BBC programs such as Tomorrows World Children's TV Taking presenters under water, it's also been at the Science Museum and more recently on Dragons den. The prototype also



saw itself taking on an international trip as far as Cannes for the French Boat Show in 2001.

For those that were fortunate to attend, and as you can see covered a multitude of age range, and to sit at the controls of such a finely built piece of engineered equipment will appreciate the technology required to build and understand the sciences of this large scale project. It was a great day and enjoyed by a lot of grateful fortunate guests. Should you want to find out more about Bob and the project, and where Subeo is going in the future it's all on the Subeo Web Site. WWW. Subeo.com



If you would prefer to purchase the craft E mail. Enquiries@subeo.com

## Manningtree Mermaid by Helen Whitehead

Sewage in our rivers is national news, and the Manningtree Mermaids are concerned about pollution in the Stour. There are two Combined Sewage Overflows which spill into the water less than a mile from Manningtree Beach. These have only just started to be monitored so we've had no idea what's been released into our water. However we do know that in 2021 a sewer storm overflow upstream in Dedham spilled 66 times for a total of 1248 hours. There's a saying that 'what gets measured gets done' so we are applying for bathing water designation off Manningtree Beach. Should we achieve designation a legal obligation will be placed on the government and polluters to test and improve water quality during the bathing season.

The bathing season runs from 15 May to 30 September and during this period the Environment Agency must test designated bathing waters on a regular basis for E.coli and intestinal enterococci-bacteria harmful to human health and indicators of the presence of untreated sewage. (We know that previous samples taken in Manningtree recorded an E. coli count



of 1000cfu per 100 millilitres with an acceptable number being less than 500cfu per 100 millilitres). After the first year of testing, the results are aggregated to award a water quality classification ranging from Excellent to Poor, and in the following years the results are published as and when the water is tested. Having this information, should it show unsafe levels of bacteria, will shine a spotlight on polluters to force them to clean up their act.

We have established a campaign group, SWiM: Safe Water in Manningtree, to bring fellow water users together to work on our application. We will need a lot of help and we're looking for volunteers: the application process is a large undertaking including counts of water users, public consultations, mapping of local facilities and drumming up the support of landowners, local authorities and other key stakeholders.

## Manningtree Mermaid by Helen Whitehead

We've already got the support of Bernard Jenkins MP, Manningtree Town Council, Mistley Parish Council, Tendring Council and the Crown Estates, amongst others. We swimmers love the camaraderie of our group as much as the swimming itself, and we enjoy chatting with Sailing Club members as we plunge in and our shared community. The Sailing Club also offered invaluable support when we organised an anti-sewage pollution protest in April last year. So many different groups of people love and enjoy the Stour and a healthy river benefits us all- together we are stronger and have the best chance of achieving our goal. So many different groups of people love and enjoy the Stour and a healthy river benefits us all- together we are stronger and have the best chance of achieving our goal.

Want to help? We need as many people as possible to complete our water user survey, just scan the code below.

You can also follow the link to sign up for updates on the campaign and to volunteer to assist with the application process- we have tasks big and small!

Follow us social media: Instagram, Twitter and Facebook



## Sailing by Evie Clemance - Sailing Secretary

Stour Sailing Club is looking forward to another year of active racing and cruising for its members following on from a fantastic year in 2022 including weekend racing, the town regatta, micro worlds, and inaugural President's race. I took over from Will Harvey as Sailing and Cruising Secretary in late 2022, after his great efforts and success of planning last year.

The calendar has changed slightly from previous years for the upcoming 2023 season. We are diverting from the regular Sunday racing, to put more emphasis on the larger events of the year such as the Town Regatta, President's Race, and a new Spring Regatta. There will be races throughout the year which will count towards an overall 2023 series. We will also be carrying on from the success of last year's weekend cruises, with several already in the calendar including a Shakedown cruise the weekend after lift in. Please check the 2023 Sailing Programme to join in the fun



Date	Hight Tide at Mistley	First Start	Racing	Cruises	My-BluePass Using SSC
Tues 18 April	11:47		LIFT IN	LIFT IN	
Weds 19 April	12:33		LIFT IN	LIFT IN	
Fri 21 April	13:56			Shake Down Cruise - Shotley	
Sat 22 April	14:34			Shake Down Cruise - Ipswich	
Sun 23 April	15:10			Shake Down Cruise Return	
Sat 6 May			Coronation Weekend		
Sun 7 May			Coronation Weekend		
Mon 8 May			Coronation Weekend		
Sat 13 May			Haven Combined Series		
Tues 16 May					Schools
Wed 17 May					Schools
Thurs 18 May					Schools
Fri 19 May	12:53			Mersea Cruise	Schools
Sat 20 May	13:33	11:45	Spring Regatta Day 1	Mersea Cruise	Possible Race
Sun 21 May	14:10	12:20	Spring Regatta Day 2	Mersea Cruise	Possible Race
27 May			Haven Cork Sands Race		

# Sailing by Evie Clemance - Sailing Secretary



Date	Hight Tide at Mistley	First Start	Racing	Cruises	My-BluePass Using SSC
3 June			Haven Combined Series		Onboard
Sun 4 June	13:06		TBC - Harwich Town Sailing Club Lunch		Onboard
Sat 10 June	17:58	16:30	Casual Saturday race		
Thu 15 June					Schools
Fri 16 June					Schools
Sun 17 June	12:33	11:00	2023 Series Race		
Sat 24 June	16:45	15:30	Casual Saturday race		
Sun 2 July					Onboard
Mon 3 July					Schools
Tues 4 July					Schools
Wed 5 July					Schools
Sat 8 July			Felixstowe Regatta		
Sun 9 July			Felixstowe Regatta		
Fri 14 July	10:28		Beer Festival		
Sat 15 July	11:27		Beer Festival		
Sun 16 July	12:16		Beer Festival		
Mon 17 July					Schools
Tues 18 July					Schools
Wed 19 July					Schools
Sat 22 July			Haven Combined Series		
Tues 1 August					RYA Training
Wed 2 August					RYA Training
Thurs 3 August					RYA Training
Fri 4 August					RYA Training
Sat 5 August	15:45		REGATTA DAY 1		Possible Race
Sun 6 August	16:29		REGATTA DAY 2		Possible Race
Mon 7 August					RYA Training
Tues 8 August					RYA Training



# Sailing by Evie Clemance - Sailing Secretary



Date	Hight Tide at Mistley	First Start	Racing	Cruises	MyBluePass Using SSC
Sat 12 August	10:00	09:45	21 Mile Race		
Wed 16 August					RYA Training
Thurs 17 August					RYA Training
Fri 18 August	14:19			Walton Cruise	RYA Training
Sat 19 August	14:49			Walton Cruise	Onboard
Sun 20 August	14:19			Back from Walton	Onboard
Mon 21 August					RYA Training
Tues 22 August					RYA Training
Wed 23 August					RYA Training
Sat 2 September			Haven Combined Series		
Sun 3 September	15:20	14:00	President's race		
Sat 9 September			Haven Combined Roughs Tower Race		
Sat 16 September			Haven Combined Series		
Fri 29 September	12:45			Curry Cruise - Ipswich	
Sat 30 September	13:29		Haven Combined Series	Curry Cruise – Ipswich	
Sun 1 October	14:12			Curry Cruise - Ipswich	
Sat 14 October	12:46		Micro Worlds Day 1		
Sun 15 October	13:18		Micro Worlds Day 2		

N.B. This is the sailing programme only, and is not the full itinerary of events and gatherings of the club for the year. Keep an eye on your emails, the website, and social media for the club's events. Cancellations and postponements can happen so make sure that the Membership Secretary has your Email and Contact details up to date on your portal so you ensure you receive any notifications or changes that may occur.

## From the Compound *by Will Langton - Compound Manager*

**After two difficult seasons due to the pandemic it was good to get back to near normal for the 2022 season. As usual, demand for space in the compound was high but we have been able to satisfy most members storage requests.**

Each year we try to make a little progress. For a few years demand for kayak storage has exceeded capacity. Based on a kayak storage rack I saw in St Ives, we have built a rack for twelve kayaks which has been very well received. It is portable so can be moved to the East compound for winter storage.

The old wooden storage shed by the road gate was in a very poor state. With a lot of input from Colin this has been replaced with a modified shipping container which Colin has fitted out with shelving and electrics. This will provide a very secure long term storage facility.



In the last edition of The Bowsprit I announced that I would be standing down from the position of compound manager in March 2023. I was hoping that a member would come forward to work alongside me last year and then take over. Unfortunately this hasn't happened so we move forward into the 2023 season with the position vacant. If you are interested

in the role please contact Colin and I will support you in any way I can.

Just one final request this year:

Please mark all property stored in the compound, tenders, dinghies, kayaks or items in the oar shed with your membership number. This will be very necessary for the new compound

manager.

I would like to thank all compound users over the seven years of my role for their cooperation.

*Will Langton*

## Mooring Updates

by Toby Horne - Moorings Manager



I've been a sailing club member for 11 years and I have now spent just over 1 of those as Moorings Master.

We've had a few boats break their mooring and a few close to sinking this year. Thankfully we have a good family community here so these are spotted and rectified quickly. But we won't always be so lucky, please please please check the condition of your mooring tackle at least twice a year.

It's amazing how quickly even a new sturdy chain can wear through. I've seen 10mm chains wearing out in 12 months so it's essential you make regular checks. Usually it's just a few links that wear so the tackle needs thorough inspection end to end. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email.

Please attach or paint onto your mooring buoy your mooring number so they can be easily identified.

I've got all the moorings pinned to a digital map on Google Earth with most of them allocated a what-3-words tag, please drop me an email if you'd like access to view it or if you have forgotten your mooring number.

There are plenty of mooring spots available so please do encourage your friends and family to get their boats out on the water.

I look forward to meeting members old and new again this year.

*Toby Horne*

## ***HARD TIMES by Sid Smith***

The High Pressure Hose on the hard,  
Aye, The High Pressure Hose on the hard,  
We were never notified, the operator terrified  
For the High Pressure Hose on the hard.

First it was flaccid,  
Then suddenly quite twice the size!  
Heck, it could have struck us Cobra wise,  
That high pressure hose on the hard.

The “Peter Duck “in the dock was as steady as a rock,  
Aground on the sludder and the slime. There for T. L. C.  
We could sadly see this was no auspicious time  
For the High Pressure Hose on the hard!

Now when the hard is pristine clean,  
A sight that’s seldom ever seen,  
The tide will come again and leave the silt  
With no compunction, empathy or guilt.

So if you’re shoreward rowing,  
Not seeing where you’re going,  
Remember and beware with every thought and care  
The High Pressure Hose on the hard!

## ***PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS***



**Kevin Misselbrook**  
winner of 2 categories: Night and Reflections.



**Albert Edwards**  
successful and overall winner of 4 categories : Landscape, Pets, Boats, Black & White .

## ***THE SEA by Margaret Garner***

The sea is just water, full of salt.  
Today it is just flat and grey and greasy,  
The waves are long and shallows and flow smoothly like oil.  
In sunshine the same waves sparkle,  
The sea a perfect mirror reflecting the clear blue sky.  
Then the wind comes, gently at first.  
Ripples form, they disappear and come again in a different place.  
A soft breeze picks up waves  
that roll to a steady tune, like green barley in a field.  
With more wind come shorter, steeper waves  
which push aggressively on their way,  
bouncing aside all obstacles in their path.  
White horses race as the wavetops break  
and the sound of the wind changes.  
A slow scream starts and the surface is whisked away  
In streams of mist, hurting like icy sleet.  
Then the tide changes.  
The wind howls. The swell gathers strength.  
The waves rise up and fight for their freedom  
across a wild and furious sea.  
But the sea is just water, full of salt.

## **Obituaries**

*We regret the passing away of fellow member of the club*

### **Pete Derham**





THE EDITORS PAGE

*Dear Readers,*

*A huge thank you to those who have contributed to this edition of the Bowsprit:*

Bob Leeds

Caroline and Phil Cunningham

Colin Garnham

Evie Clemance

Gary Hopkins

Judy Wakeling

Margaret Garner

Polly Ploughman

Russel Harvey

Sid Smith

Stephen Jones

Ted Brightly

Terry Woodcock-Dennis

Toby Horne

Will Langton

*Fair winds to all this spring!*

*Alexis*



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