

STOUR SAILING CLUB MAGAZINE

The BOWSPRIT

Let it burst!



The Thames 200 - *by Keith Paxman*

"The Houses of Parliament loomed on our left and as we passed it was spot on midday and Big Ben chimed us through with 12 bongs ..."

Mike Moss Trophy Winner 2024

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 (Acting)	Sarah Howlett
Club Secretary	Colin Garnham

Other Members of the Management Committee

Bowsprit Editor	Alexis Girard
Compound Manager	Anthony (Gus) Wilde
Moorings Master	Toby Horne
Sailing Secretary Racing	Ed Evans
Sailing Secretary Cruising	David Lodge
Training &	Dave Perrott
Safety Boat Manager	
Clubhouse Manager	Darren Hicks
Social Secretary	(Vacant)
IT Administrator and SCM	David Waters



Non Committee Roles

Rowing Secretary	Caroline Cunningham
Webmaster	Shirley Hillyard
Coffee & Cake and Charities	Sue Mather & Louise Culley

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.

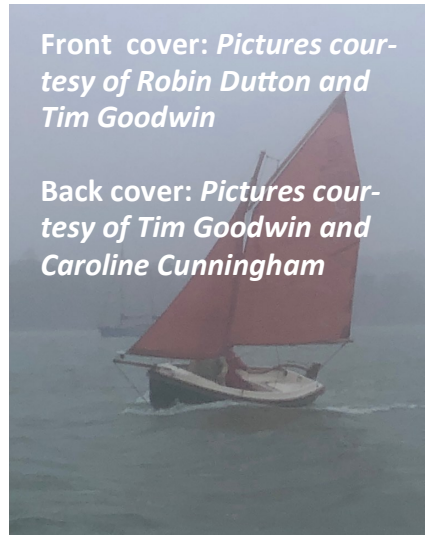
Telephone: 01206 393 924 or 07874973173 (please be aware that the club is not always manned).

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

Front cover: Pictures courtesy of Robin Dutton and Tim Goodwin

Back cover: Pictures courtesy of Tim Goodwin and Caroline Cunningham





Commodore's and Secretary's Corner

It's certainly been a year of ups and downs with lots of fun and plenty of things learnt and experienced. In my opinion the committee has functioned well with an exceptional amount of effort and work with our reduced numbers of members wanting to hold positions with responsibilities, so there was more work for a smaller dedicated team. I would like to thank, in particular all members of the management team for their contributions and efforts as the demands from the club seems to grow. However, for this year we have increased numbers with 2 new additions co-opted to arrange our program of events in our racing and cruising calendars so that's something exciting to look forward to for all.

Our lift in went well with our stalwart team that have the order of vessels etc now down to a fine art and with the assistance with the use of the pontoons the operation is so much smoother safer and faster.

The team have completed some good work throughout the year and our events have been exemplary and enjoyed by members, their guests and visitors alike.

As you are all aware spending time outdoors surrounding by water has an immense benefit from a health and wellbeing perspective. So, getting afloat and time on the water is often very beneficial and satisfying for people with health conditions so that's being increasingly encouraged and supported.

We firstly reinstated the combined visiting club's day; the Shotley/Harwich clubs raced down and enjoyed a super day and were treat-



ed to a magnificent BBQ and the weather couldn't have been finer, to which we will be shortly invited on a return leg where they shall reciprocate the invite. It is always slightly more difficult for us regarding tides and access and egress so usually a good compromise is to let the train take the strain for the small duration. Once again through our achievements our relationships have bonded and strengthened the growth in water sports activities.

Last year the RYA national statistics showed that 10.2 mill people took to the water in some shape or form with many new types of water activities becoming more popular, and in 2023, 40,000 people joined sailing clubs so it just shows the popularity of this growing sport and trend. We like that all sports and activities have been made increasingly aware of the need to encourage opportunities for participation.



Commodore's and Secretary's Corner

These opportunities that we are seeing within Stour Sailing club put more demand on our facilities, however we must maintain that duty to safeguard and protect those taking part and ensure our activities also support the environment. Many of the other clubs within the region have had to review their strategies and now have key priority's and have had to adapt to change societal expectations of behaviours, inclusivity and sustainability.

With increased participation and growth, I am pleased to be able to report that we have had no reportable accidents or injuries that have been brought to my attention. Safety is paramount when on the water whether it is to yourself or to your crew as skipper you have the responsibility to ensure their safety. Any accident is always avoidable so training and practice and familiarity with equipment and conditions should always be considered and implemented whatever. You all have the rights as members and guests to enter the club's domain to enjoy the recreation and facilities, however I feel that you have the responsibility to leave them in the same condition as you entered so, please advise me on anything that in your opinion is dangerous, could be harmful to others or a potential accident hazard.

I can't thank enough the continued support from all the Manningtree businesses and our brewery suppliers who supported our regatta once again; they were all truly amazingly supportive and very generous. This all helped to make the collaborative event so successful and of course we were again the talking focal point of the town for the most phenomenal fire-

works display ever. The local constituents were very complimentary.

Our Alliances are also continuing and evolving; this year, The Manningtree Mermaids are also continuing to expand in numbers due to the cold open water popularity and we are continuing to work very close with them as they strive forward with their parliamentary campaign to obtain the local bathing rights for our beach and the River Stour.

My Blue Pass has its own report, later in this publication but working collaboratively with a conjoint partnering agreement sets so many opportunities for youngsters to enjoy and be introduced into the sailing and water sports right on our doorsteps. The joining-together on the water approach and these opportunities should only be encouraged and there is nothing so enjoyable than to see on a nice sunny day instructors starting up and trainees going through the sail teaching curriculum. Long may that continue!





STOUR SAILING CLUB

Commodore's and Secretary's Corner

The Manningtree Gay Pride days still is within the club's collaborative works and is combined with the Manningtree Council events held on the waterfrontage and beach, this again was another well supported occasion although the intention to use the marquee on this occasion was not undertaken, but we were there with full cooperation.

Looking to the horizons - So, for me it's been a busy time with not a lot of free time and a pleasure to still hold the offices that I volunteered to serve, my retirement went out of the window, and I was requested to continue in employment for another contract period. I've juggled my roles and responsibilities to the best of my abilities of which the outcomes I trust that most of you see as positive achievements. I have spent time visiting clubs, meeting other commodores, comparing notes and other major organisations such as HASA for which I am now also Stour Representative, IPA and MMO, HHA and Maritime and Coast Guard and familiar with all RYA regional meetings at clubs and centres in the region. I have also enjoyed listening to them on their ideas and many varied successes and challenges, and where they looked for advice and support.

Looking forward to the next year of challenges ahead is going to be very important to me and for the club future. In particular, I would like to be considering the following focus points on around six core outcomes:

Inclusion: An environment where everyone feels welcome and safe

Inspiration: People are inspired to explore and use the water more

Engagement: More people to stay involved in club activities and sailing and boating commitments

Influence: Sharing of experience and communications

Connections: Further collaboration with other local clubs and Businesses.

Sustainability: To ensure we are here for the future and inspiring positive actions

While I/We are doing the above I firmly believe that everyone deserves the opportunity and encouragement to enjoy being out on the water and to do so in a safe environment where everyone can find a place and where they feel that they can belong.

Together on the water then!! So that we can all feel and share the joy, relaxation, and excitement we know that the water and Stour Sailing Club can offer now and with a commitment to the above we will continue for generations to come.

Thank you, That's all for now.

Together we can make a difference

Commodore Colin



Treasurer's Report - by James Bolton

The 2023 Annual Accounts have been displayed on the notice board and show a healthy surplus of £8,792.

Notable expenditure this year has been on completing the pontoons (c£4.5k), rowing gig maintenance (c£3.9k), and safety boat outboard and equipment (c£1.5k). Our electric and gas increased by 88% (c£7.5k), in line with expectations.

On the income side, our bar takings have increased by 30%, so a big 'cheers' to the supporters of the bar and social activities.

We also benefited from sponsorship for the Regatta, and from income from the Harker's Yard event, as well as our membership and rowing subscriptions, compound and mooring fees.

I have been working with David Waters and Sarah Howlett on the new Sailing Club Manager (SCM) system, which we use to collect membership and mooring and compound fees. I would like to thank all members who embraced this new approach and for their tolerance as we

ironed out some initial problems.

This is my first report, having taken on this role in December 2022. I would like to thank Colin Garnham for the initial handover and guidance, Richard Martin for controlling the bar finances, and Carol Shakespeare for auditing the accounts and providing support throughout the year.

Carol Shakespeare has decided to retire as our Auditor after this AGM, and we will be seeking a replacement soon. Thank you to Carol for all her input over many years.

To conclude, it has been a successful year and the Club is in a good financial position.

James Bolton

The Thames 200 – by Keith Paxman

Like so many expeditions the idea of the Thames 200 came over a few drinks in a bar on the lines of how much we have enjoyed longer rows and why not make it something really challenging this year. After a few options were considered, we fixed on a plan to row down the Thames from Reading to Leigh-on-sea, a distance of 200km (122miles in old money) over five days.

We had a crew of Sally, Liz, Maria, Neil and Keith but a boat would be useful. This was resolved after a conversation with Bob Leeds who was delighted to lend us his Clayton Skiff, 'Witchoar'.

Not only would he lend it to us, but he also set about arranging for it to be repainted, anti-fouled and even have some banners made advertising our 'Thames 200'. What a star!

The route was planned, accommodation arranged, and the boat trailed and launched in Reading the weekend before.

We arrived at Reading to find a dismal, wet and chilly start to our adventure. Our planned 'full English' came to nought as we found it was not served in the marina cafe on a Monday morning. After a delayed start whilst we waited for the rain to ease, we set off in the late morning to head down the river.

We soon escaped urban Reading and made our way through the water meadows of the upper Thames. It was the first week of the school holidays and we were expecting to be fighting with paddle boarders, kayakers, motor cruisers and gin palaces for a place in each of the locks we needed to pass through. Surprisingly we found we had the river to ourselves and most of the locks too. A few were manned whilst others we had to operate ourselves.

Witchoar is a fixed seat rowing boat with four oars and a cox so our plan was to row for about an hour and then swap round so that we changed rowing positions and had the occasional rest whilst steering and could see where we were going instead of where we had been.

We soon got into a routine and although the skiff is quite heavy when loaded with personal gear and about 50kg of confectionery, we were making good progress. Neil was invariably sitting in bow seat and was recording an account of the row, particularly videoing each bridge as we passed under with a short commentary, usually interrupted by one of the other crew innocently making a remark or a squeal of delight as something was spotted.

Shortly before we embarked on our journey Neil had decided that he was going to seek sponsorship, mainly from his work colleagues and contacts, and as our journey progressed the total increased by the hour. This was starting to get serious as we now had to finish what we had started.



Our first look

We stopped at Sonning for lunch and carried on through the home of rowing at Henley-on-Thames and rowed the course of the recent Henley Royal Regatta. Unchallenged we were

The Thames 200 – by Keith Paxman

first in our class observed only by a few swans and a coot and the empty stands that would have been ringing with cheers only a few days earlier.

Our day finished moored to the riverbank and a comfy bed awaited at the famous Bell Inn at Hurley, tired but not exhausted, after 15 miles of rowing and 5 locks. We were relieved that the first stretch had been successfully completed without mishap and delighted that the day had been spent in good humour, banter and one-liners.



Windsor Castle

We were pleased to find the boat was waiting for us when we returned in the morning after an evening meal followed by a few drinks and a huge breakfast.

It was a lovely day on the river, and we set off in good spirits and more joking, much of which was getting nearer the knuckle as each hour passed.

Again, the river was ours almost alone and one boat-hire owner said it was the quietest summer he had known. This of course speeded our journey through the locks as we passed Marlow, Cliveden (of Christine Keeler and John Profumo fame), Maidenhead and Brunel's iconic brick railway bridge. Maria who had lived locally was pointing out riverbank houses of well-known celebrities, Neil was continuing his recorded commentary and occasionally rowing. He was also the main man when we came to locks, jumping ashore, pulling the boat along, operating the lock gates when it was unmanned and finding the toilets for the rest of us. Where we did meet lockkeepers, they were always happy to see a rowing crew and interested that we were heading so far down the river. And always commenting on how quiet the river was.

The day progressed and we soon had Windsor Castle on our right and Eton College on the left. We found a suitable mooring just a short distance from the town centre and headed off to the accommodation we had booked for the night. We were set up in our three-floor apartment almost opposite the castle and a few paces from the pub where we treated Sally to her first ever Wetherspoon experience. Another 15 miles and 7 locks ticked off today.

The first two days had been quite relaxed, but we were now upping our game with Teddington our target and 25 miles of rowing and 8 locks to navigate.

So, it was an early 6am alarm call and a gourmet breakfast courtesy of Chef Neil. Toasted sourdough under smashed avocado, poached eggs and bacon with a balsamic drizzle washed down with tea or coffee. We were ready to hit the river.

The Thames 200 – by Keith Paxman

We curved around Windsor with the castle appearing at all angles in the early morning sun. We passed Runnymede, site of the signing of the Magna Carta which kicked off a day of random but interesting quiz questions to test the rest of the crew.

One of the most hilarious moments of the trip occurred when just after sending a text to his boss Neil recounted a scatological story involving a blocked toilet using some colourful language. Unknown to him his phone was on dictation and somehow sent the full story to his boss. Just after realising this had happened Neil received a text in response 'Are you on drugs' which became a running joke for the rest of the journey.

The riverbank was becoming more urban as we passed under the M25 and eased our way through Staines, Weybridge, Shepperton and Sunbury and the river was noticeably widening. We were approaching our finish for the day and a little weary we glimpsed Hampton Court and moored just upstream of the mighty Teddington Lock.

Teddington impresses as a riverside village on first visit with a selection of pubs and restaurants and local shops for local people. The Teddington Travelodge less so, it was all that was on offer, so we accepted our fate and spent a moderately comfortable night after a very tasty Italian.

So far so good although we had now used 60% of our time but only achieved 40% of our distance. Thursday was to be a 33-mile day and we needed to time our start to ensure we left Teddington Lock about 90 minutes before high water to allow us to carry the ebb tide down to Greenwich.

The good news though was the latest update informing Neil that he had now had over

£10,000 in sponsorship pledges.

Since the first morning we had no rain and today gave us a nice following breeze as we entered our last lock and into the challenge of the tidal river.

Initially the tide was against us as we rowed past Ham and towards Richmond and it was slow going. We were now on the Great River Race course and Witchoar knew this part of the river well after several years of competing in the GRR with her owner Bob Leeds.

The tide turned and we started to pick up speed down towards London. Not so many years ago this river was a hive of activity with commercial traffic heading to the many wharves and docks, barges heading up the Thames and into the canal system and ferries taking passengers across the river. Rather like our experience upstream we had the river through our capital city virtually to ourselves.

Neil continued to give commentary through the bridges, Sally, Liz and Maria were spotting various locations and we were all laughing at comments and banter as we rowed.

We raced the University Boat Race course in reverse from Mortlake to Putney, and radioed the PLA to inform them we had passed under Wandsworth Bridge and were now under their jurisdiction.

The tide was now running fast and the bridges were being ticked off quickly and soon we were into Central London. The Houses of Parliament loomed on our left and as we passed it was spot on midday and Big Ben chimed us through with 12 bongs. "Wow that's amazing!!" said Liz over Neil's video commentary.

Soon we were swept through London Bridge and an overfall caused by the bridge piers, passing HMS Belfast and right through the

The Thames 200 – by Keith Paxman

central arch of Tower Bridge. Old docks and wharves now sites of high (extremely high) cost flats and apartments were on both sides of the river and soon Greenwich with its classic buildings was on our right. Just a couple more miles now and we kept the ebb tide past the O2 to Greenwich Sailing Club where we had arranged a mooring.

We lugged our kit to the overnight hotel, met some friends and went to a local pub for a meal. Once a hangout for dockers, lightermen, carters and bargemen it is now a 'gastropub' lacking character and characters.

Friday was the last day of our Odyssey. Could we navigate the tide, traffic, weather, 43 miles of rowing and fatigue that would challenge our day. We left a tad later than planned and we had about 1.5 hours of flood tide to stem and then 5 hours of ebb tide to get to Southend Pier before the tide changed again and would make life a bit more difficult.

Back in the day of commercial traffic smaller vessels would 'work the slacks'. This was cheating the tide on the inside of bends. As we came down Woolwich Reach, we crossed the river and cut into the corner on the port side to save time and rowing effort against the tide. There was not a vessel under way to be seen apart from a PLA launch which soon chased us down and respectfully but firmly requesting we keep to the right (starboard) side of the very empty river. 'Of course, but we will just get round this bend first if that's ok'.

The tide turned and was now picking up as we had the QE II bridge in sight, one of our landmarks for the day. This is real industrial riverside and not much that was pretty to be seen. Our first ship passed us on her way out to sea and then it was lunchtime drifting past Gravesend. Another quiz question. 'Which famous



London Skyline

Princess is buried in Gravesend Churchyard?' *

We passed Tilbury Fort, site of the famous speech by Queen Elizabeth I after the Armada and then the new London Gateway Port and into Sea Reach with strict pilotage instructions to keep to the Kent side of the river and away from shipping. Still keeping the ebb tide we were now passed the graffiti covered sea wall of Canvey Island and drew level with our destination of Two Tree Island. Unfortunately, we had to carry on almost to Southend Pier so we could enter Ray Creek as it was now almost low water and the sandbanks of the Chapman Sands were in the way.

Ready to cross over to the north side we played a short but subservient game of chicken with a huge container ship heading upriver. We could have crossed in front with ease as it was just ticking along waiting for the tide. But safe and sure is wisest and saved the PLA getting vexed again as we were still just within their limits.

The Thames 200 – by Keith Paxman

We entered Ray Creek about ¼ mile from Southend Pier and now headed into what had become a strengthening westerly breeze to make our last hour a tough row to the slipway at Two Tree Island. We arrived with just enough water to make it without grounding to be met by Ian Pavey with the boat trailer the other side of a locked gate. A suggestion of a further row around to Leigh-on-sea was met with mutiny but thankfully a couple of phone calls flushed out the contractor who was supposed to be on site. We were soon able to recover the boat and breathe a sigh of relief that a 43-mile day had been completed.

We had achieved our 200 km challenge. Over the course of 5 days, we had laughed till it hurt, had appreciated each other's company and bonded in a way that can only be achieved when things get a little bit tough.

All of it was fun but the serious bit was that Neil singled handed raised over £16,000 for St Mungo's, a charity aimed at helping the homeless – a huge effort and a very worthy cause.

Finally, huge thanks to those who helped us to undertake this trip especially, Bob and Ian.

Will we do it again? – watch this space!

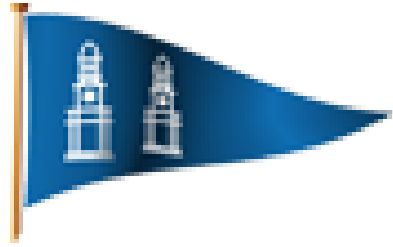
**Quiz answer – Princess Pocahontas*



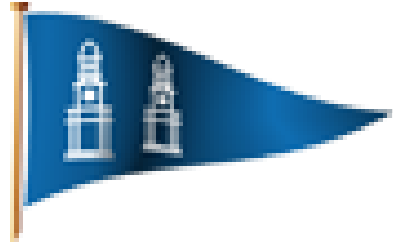
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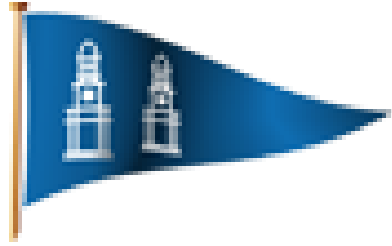
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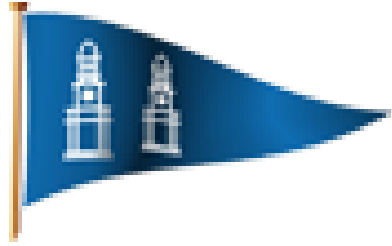


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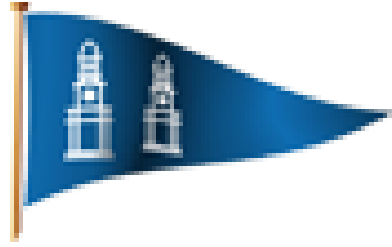


Pictures courtesy of Tim Goodwin

REGATTA 2023



REGATTA 2023



Sailing Race Results

Saturday 5 August 2023 Pursuit Race

1. Hawk 21– Will Langton
2. Micro Virus – Rheanna Pavey
3. Micro Pathogen – Reuben Manning
4. Westerly Pentland - Dolma – Richard Martin
5. Post Boat – Jess – Jackie Power

Sunday 6 August 2023 Class Race Results

Micros

1. Virus – Rheanna & Ray
2. Gemini Cricket – Tim & Jo
3. Pathogen – Reuben & Crew

Dinghies

1. Hawk – Will Langton/Stuart Howells

Cruisers

1. Dolma – Richard Martin & Crew
2. Folk Boat – Robin Dutton
3. Makeda – Jerry & Margaret Garner

Classics

1. Post boat – Tony & Jackie

Juniors

1. Pico – Nicolas
2. Topper – Leo
3. Feva – Grace & TJ
4. Topper – Sebastian

Rowing Round-up 2023 by Caroline Cunningham - Rear Commodore

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.

Many of the Club rowers are active on the water in other ways as well, whether by sail, paddle board, kayak or as mermaids, and rowing continues through the winter months so some sail in the summer and row in the winter – ideal if you just love being on the water.

The Club has two Harker's Yard Gigs: William Rose and Hunter, which were both purchased with the aid of Sport England Lottery Funding. William Rose joined the Club in October 2016 and Hunter in March 2020. 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 fitted out with hardwood.

Scenes from the water



Reflecting on February



The Beacon in April



Lovely on the water in June



August – Regatta!



Beautiful September Sunshine



December 2023 Mince Pie Row to Bradfield Beach

Rowing Round-up 2023 by Caroline Cunningham - Rear Commodore

Racing

Although there are races all year round, the main racing season for rowing is between October and March each year with the hotly contested Harker's Yard Gig Association (HYGA) Winter Series with eleven events hosted by eleven different Clubs around the Essex Coast.



Waiting for the crews

The 2023-24 Winter Series began with our home event here at Manningtree on 01 October. It was the first event of the season with a record twenty Gigs taking part from thirteen Clubs. Launching, 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 with the help of our wonderful Club volunteers we manage it.



Start of the women's race

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.

Taking part in the winter series is a big logistical exercise with two Gigs to be readied for towing, towed to the event, raced, towed back and returned to the compound every time. With three races in every event twenty four rowers for each event are needed to provide the SSC Crews, as well as our very important race Coxes.



The SSC Team at Stone, November 2023

We aim to be competitive, and also to have fun along the way and to enjoy the exercise, the teamwork and the rowing in different locations.

We also have many of our race crews in the HYGA '300 Club' (combined age of the four rowers and Cox of over 300), and are currently leading the 300 Club competition.

Rowing Round-up 2023 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, and in the winter the short days limit opportunities.

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 improve core strength and flexibility with a circuit session. It is also very sociable and great fun.

Come and Row in 2024



We welcome new rowers at any time of the year, although more people think about it when the weather gets warmer!

You don't need any prior experience or special equipment, and there are no upper age restrictions, although as Gig rowing is 'sweep' rowing with each rower having a single oar it is not suitable for those under sixteen.

We take new rowers out as part of a crew with more experienced rowers, often to start with as a 'rowing passenger' to sit in the bow and watch for a while before swapping with a rower to have a go. And we try to make it as easy as possible for people to get out on the water, with at least two organised 'Open' rows each week all year round when tide and light allow. The rows are all in the calendar for months ahead, and rowers can book on to rows online.

You can row to get a bit fitter, for the social and team aspects or just to enjoy our beautiful estuary. Many rowers do not race, and there are many 'social rows' including some longer 'adventure rows'. These have included rows round to Walton Backwaters and to the Orwell and Deben, leaving early on one tide and rowing back on the next.

However for those who have a competitive streak and want the excitement of racing and an incentive to train hard there are also plenty of opportunities to race.

As rowers gain experience there are further opportunities beyond the open rows, including as part of race crews and rows led by individual approved Gig users. Experienced rowers also learn to Cox and take rows out, 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.

Rowing Round-up 2023 by Caroline Cunningham - Rear Commodore

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 also 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.

The old saying 'if you've got a boat you've got a job' holds very true for rowing, and with two Club Gigs there is always a job that needs doing!

The picture on the left is Hunter looking lovely after many, many coats of Vernis on her woodwork in August (a job that will need doing again this summer)

If you would like to try rowing just email rowing@stoursailingclub.co.uk and we will send you further information on how to get involved and get you out on the water as soon as we can.

See you on the water!

Caroline

Caroline Cunningham – Rear Commodore



Photographic Competition

Overall winner Best shot of all

Alan Tuttlebury with his swans in Category 1



Cat 1 Wildlife and Animals

1st Alan Tuttlebury

2nd Albert Edwards

3rd Alan Tuttlebury

Cat 2 Boats and Watercrafts and Reflections

1st Peter Smith

2nd Kevin Mistlebrooke

3rd Albert Edwards

Cat 3 Sports and Actions

1st Joint Albert Edwards

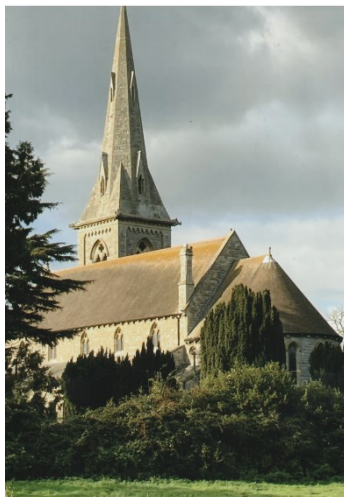
1st Joint Alan Tuttlebury

Cat 4 Local Scenes

1st Albert Edwards

2nd Kevin Mistlebrooke

3rd Kevin Mistlebrooke





Club & Sailing Calendar *by Ed Evans - Sailing Secretary*

Day	Date	HW	Start	Racing	Cruising in company	MyBluePass @ SSC
Fri	26 April	14:30	-	-	Shakedown cruise - Ipswich via Suffolk Yacht Harbour	-
Sat	27 April	15:06	TBC	Micro Spring Regatta		-
Sun	28 April	15:42	TBC			-
Thu	2 May	19:20	18:30	Evening Series race 1	-	-
Fri	10 May	14:34	-	-	Ferryboat Inn - N Fambridge via Titchmarsh and Burnham	School
Sat	11 May	15:15	10:45	Haven Combined Clubs Series race 1		RYA Onboard
Sun	12 May	15:55	-	-		-
Mon	13 May	16:36	-	-		-
Thu	16 May	19:25	18:30	Evening Series race 2	-	-
Sun	19 May	10:16	09:00	Weekend Series - May race	-	-
Wed - Thu	22-23 May	-	-	-	-	School
Fri	24 May	13:32	07:00	Haven Offshore race 1 - Oostende	-	
Sat	25 May	14:10	-	-	-	RYA Onboard
Thu	31 May	19:05	18:00	Evening Series race 3	-	-
Sat	1 June	07:55	10:45	Felixstowe Regatta - Haven Combined Clubs Series race 2	-	-
Sun	2 June	09:05	10:45	Felixstowe Regatta - Haven Combined Clubs Series race 3	-	-
Wed - Fri	5-7 June	-	-	-	-	RYA
Sat	8 June	14:16	-	-	Raft Up - Hamford Water	
Sun	9 June	14:56	13:30	Weekend Series - June race		



Club & Sailing Calendar *by Ed Evans*

Day	Date	HW	Start	Racing	Cruising in company	MyBluePass @ SSC
Sat	15 June	07:23	09:00	21 Mile Race	-	-
Sun	16 June	20:37	19:00	Evening Series race 4	-	-
Thu - Fri	20-21 June	-	-	-	-	School
Sat	22 June	13:13	09:00	Haven Offshore race 2 - Cork Sands	-	RYA Onboard
Sun	23 June	13:57	-	-	-	
Sat	29 June	06:28	10:45	Haven Combined Clubs Series race 4	-	-
Mon	1 July	20:53	19:00	Evening Series race 5	-	-
Wed - Fri	3-5 July	-	-	-	-	School
Sat	6 July	13:21	-	-	-	RYA Onboard
Sun	7 July	14:03	12:30	Weekend Series - July race	-	
Sat	13 July	05:30	09:00	Haven Offshore race 2 - Burnham	-	-
Mon	15 July	19:30	-	-	Blackwater cruise - Heybridge Basin via Bradwell	-
Tue	16 July	20:43	19:00	Evening Series race 6		-
Wed	17 July	21:47	-	-		-
Thu - Fri	18-19 July	-	-	-	-	School
Sat	20 July	12:09	10:45	Haven Combined Clubs Series	-	-
Tue	30 July	20:26	19:00	Evening Series race 7	-	-
Fri	2 August	11:33	-	-	Titchmarsh cruise	RYA
Sat	3 August	12:24	-	-		
Sun	4 August	13:09	11:30	Weekend Series - August race		
Mon - Fri	5-9 August	-	-	-		



Club & Sailing Calendar *by Ed Evans*

Day	Date	HW	Start	Racing	Cruising in company	MyBluePass @ SSC
Sat	11 August	16:23	TBC	Manningtree Regatta	-	-
Sun	12 August	16:55	TBC		-	-
Wed	14 August	19:28	18:30	Evening Series race 8	-	-
Sat	17 August	10:51	09:00	Haven Offshore race 2 - Lowestoft	-	RYA
Sun - Sat	18-24 August	-	-	-	-	
Tue	28 August	20:04	19:00	Evening Series race 9	-	-
Sat	31 August	11:18	10:45	Haven Combined Clubs Series race 6	-	RYA Onboard
Sun	1 September	12:08	-	-	-	
Sun	8 September	15:52	14:15	President's Cup / Weekend Series - September race	-	-
Sat	14 September	09:10	10:45	Haven Combined Clubs Series race 7	-	-
Sat	21 September	15:13	13:00	Essex vs Suffolk Micro Championships	-	-
Sat	28 September	09:48	10:45	Haven Combined Clubs Series race 8	-	-
Wed	9 October	16:37	-	-	Midweek cruise - Ipswich via Suffolk Yacht Harbour	-
Thu	10 October	17:22	-	-		-
Sat	19 October	14:05	TBC	Micro Worlds	-	-
Sun	20 October	14:48	TBC		-	-

My Blue Pass reaches 5-year Waypoint by Stephen Jones



My Blue Pass (MBP), the youth water sports charity led and run by SSC members have reached a significant waypoint – five years of committed service since launching in 2019.

I'm pleased to report that during 2023, 173 individual children were given at least one sailing experience by MBP, a total of 258 sailing sessions were provided, and 22 children achieved RYA dinghy sailing course certificates. With the generous support of the RYA and funding from Trinity House we acquired an additional three RS Terra and two RS Feva dinghies enabling us to continue to provide more advanced sailing training and skills development for our older members, some of whom have been sailing with us since 2019.

An additional and unexpected highlight for 2023, thanks to the kind support of Steven Rose, was an invitation to exhibit at the Tendring Show where we were thrilled and honoured to be awarded first prize and the Ford Cup for Best Charity Stand.

Looking ahead to 2024's season, I'm pleased to announce that we have a new partner/provider for our kayaking activities and are aiming to increase opportunities for young people to participate in 'taster' kayaking experiences or to develop existing skills.

We will also be extending training provision and the range of on the water activities for our older and more experienced members under our 'Team MBP' banner. The aim is to maintain engagement and interest, to encourage participation and to support them in racing if they are interested, and we are hopeful some will ultimately graduate to becoming MBP instructors in the future.

The Stour Sailing Club has always been at the heart of the ability of our organisation to achieve and deliver, generously making the use of safety boats available to us, as well as clubhouse facilities when we need them and allocating secure storage space for our boats in the compound. Without this support we would simply not be able to operate our RYA Recognised Sail Training Centre.

We are extremely proud that some of our most experienced young sailors competed in the SSC 2023 Summer Regatta. Despite some very challenging conditions, they demonstrated both determination and fortitude, and their considerable open water sailing skills acquired under the guidance of our instructor team. As reported in the Commodores Blog two of those young people who first started sailing with us at the age of 10 have since signed up to become Junior Club Members!

On behalf of MBP I wish to express my sincere thanks for the kind support and encouragement we receive from the SSC Commodore, Committee, members and the wider community (not least the editor of Bowsprit, too!). It would be amiss of me not to mention that we are always looking for new volunteers to assist in our work in particular those with the skills and experience to become members of our dinghy instructor team. For more email me at stephen@mybluepass.org.uk.

Stephen Jones is a trustee of My Blue Pass and a member of the SSC. Visit mybluepass.org.uk to find out more.

Manningtree Mermaids *by Helen Whitehead*

What a year it's been for the Manningtree Mermaids! Back in February 2023 we launched our campaign group, Safe Water in Manningtree (SWiM), to apply for Bathing Water Designation at Manningtree Beach. If successful, it will mean that the Environment Agency will test our water on a weekly basis throughout the bathing season for E.coli and enterococci. Should unsafe levels of this bacteria be found, which are harmful to human health and indicative of sewage pollution, the polluter will be identified and legally obliged to clean up their act.

The application process was challenging and involved a huge amount of effort from a huge amount of people. We had to carry out water user counts to demonstrate how popular the Beach is, promote and undertake a survey to prove we have public support for designation and obtain letters of support from various key stakeholders. To do this we had armies of volunteers counting water users; presenting to the county, town and parish councils and other community associations; giving assemblies at primary schools; holding stalls at the Saturday market and all local events;

media cam-
cles; giving press
ing 5,000 cam-
the best part of
ing a Beach Pic-
music, games
where we man-
300 people in
including our
The application,
es of it, was
ber and at the
were informed
through to the



process, a public consultation held by DEFRA. So we had another push to get as many people as possible to complete the consultation for Manningtree Beach and again received so many messages of support from our wonderful community. The consultation closed on 10 March and at the time of writing we're awaiting the final decision.

Although the process has been hard and sometimes stressful work, it has been so rewarding and overwhelming having the community genuinely come together to support us. And one of our biggest supporters has been Colin and the Stour Sailing Club- whether lending us the use of the marquee and equipment for our events, providing advice on how to safely share the Stour with the sailors, putting up the much loved changing hooks, providing a notice board to display safety information and the water temperature or drumming up support for our campaign, it's all been hugely appreciated and we'd like to say a very big THANK YOU!

We now have many merfolk who have become sailors and vice versa, and Team Mermaid hopes to come back to the regatta this summer and claim the ladies Mud Tug of War trophy for the third year running!!

running a social
paign; writing arti-
interviews; deliver-
paign leaflets; and,
the process, throw-
nic party of live
aged to get nearly
and on the water,
M.P.!

all 70 detailed pag-
submitted in Octo-
end of February we
that we'd gone
final stage of the

From the Compound by Anthony Wilde - Compound Manager

You may recall that for the last few years, Will was searching for a replacement to take on the role of Compound Manager. Those were some well-worn shoes someone had to fill. I approached both Will and Colin, and since they couldn't find anyone suitable, they accepted my offer. As of April 1, 2023, I have taken on this responsibility.

I hope that the transition, at least, appeared seamless. On this note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the fantastic support and time Will has provided over the past year to myself and for the seven years that held the post.

Additionally, some of you may be pleased to know that Will will continue to handle arrangements for winter storage, lift-in/out, and the marquee.

We are committed to making improvements whenever possible. The wooden storage shed will now be a distant memory, and the kayak racking has been well received. This year, we are reviewing

areas of standing water within the compound. Any suggestions from members for further improvements will be welcomed.

As usual, there is significant demand for space to accommodate boats, tenders, dinghies, kayaks, and canoes of various sizes. We have done our best to meet these demands. However, given that

space is at a premium, I kindly request that we all be mindful not to take up more space than necessary. If you are an occasional user, please also consider if you need to keep your craft in the compound.

And now, the yearly reminder: Please ensure that all boats are placed on launching trolleys and that these trolleys are well maintained.

Additionally, remember to mark all property and items stored in the compound and storage shed with your membership number.

I extend my thanks to all compound users and look forward to another successful year ahead!

Anthony "Gus" Wilde



Mooring Updates

by *Toby Horne - Moorings Manager*



It can be very hard to spot the weak link, as the editor of this very magazine found out to his detriment, a single pair of links worn far beyond the others, and before he knew it his boat was miles away washed up on the Suffolk shore. Luckily he could sail the boat back and with help from Commodore Colin and Phil Martin was towed back with no serious damage caused. Had that been summer and the moorings more populated it could easily have crashed into other boats and been a more costly error. It can happen to anyone so get out there at low tide and check those moorings, they are all pretty easy to walk to if you stay in the channel!

A whole new set of mooring tackle (assuming your sinker is still well buried) including a new buoy is under £100 from E.Y.E Marine in Levington, and with the chain or multi-plait (which seems to last much longer than chain) being the main area for issue, replacement generally costs less than half that.

All those paying mooring fees this year, as they do every year, do so under the agreement that by paying their fees thereby agree to have £2m liability insurance for their boat. I will be contacting members to check this and record their insurance details. Anyone without the relevant paperwork to hand will forfeit their mooring allocation.

I've still 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, if you have forgotten your mooring number, or if you would like any advise on your moorings.

When you are at your mooring next, please do take the time to put your mooring letter and number on it.

Finally it's great to see the pontoon being used by members and visitors alike, it really is a wonderful asset to the club. Please familiarise yourselves with the rules surrounding it, but as you will note they are just to ensure fair usage so please enjoy the pontoon with courtesy.

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

ANCHOR SWALLOWED? by Sidney George Smith

I now spend my time on the shore,
Not as I did, once before.
I attend to the chores, not without flaw,
I now live my life on the shore.

My sailboat is now sold, for sure.
I hear where she lies now, at moor.
Deep frosts come and go, the wild winds do blow,
Like me she should be ashore.

I watch where the winds do stand,
Although I live by the land,
And the lea where the dove cot should stand.
Yes, I now live my life by the land.

I go to the woods I love,
As the wind drives the cloud above.
In the lea of the trees, I think of the seas,
That I ploughed under sail with my dove.

Now, all you young things along shore,
With your paddle boards, sleek but unsure,
Hoist sail if you can, on scow or on pram,
Set them fore, set them aft, you will score.

I hope you will fare, with caution and care,
Bylanding these shores of the East,
A westerly breeze will keep you at ease,
To fair haven, still waters, and peace.

THE SAILOR by Margaret Garner

We sail around here in sheltered waters
Where land is always near.
But sometimes things are sent to haunt us,
Nerves give way to rising fear.

To run aground is a common occurrence
On the shores of this muddy coast.
Its guiding light gives no assurance
When sat next to the Stutton Post.

As we drift along on a gentle wind
Holding sandwich and cup of tea.
I clearly forgot to look behind
At the ship bearing down on me.

At anchor now, 'neath a blazing hot sun
A swim seems an excellent choice.
But to get back aboard is no such fun
"Help" - there's no-one to hear my voice.

It seems to me we'd be far better sailing
Far out on the deep blue sea.
No fish buoys to miss when the light's fading
Instead there's a wind farm or three.

Some folks are scared to go far up the Stour
And turn back when they reach Wrabness.
The locals are left to swim, row or moor
And make mistakes they'll never confess

Obituaries

We regret the passing away of fellow club members:

David Rose 1949-2023

Elaine (Ellie) Martin 1941-2023

Joyce Power 1932-2024

Alfred George Overy –2024

THE EDITORS PAGE

Dear Readers,

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

Anthony "Gus" Wilde
Caroline Cunningham
Colin Garnham
Ed Evans
Helen Whitehead
Hitomi Kumai
James Bolton

Keith Paxman
Margaret Garner
Robin Dutton
Sid Smith
Stephen Jones
Tim Goodwin
Toby Horne

Fair winds to all this spring!

Alexis



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