

“Notes from the Bridge”

Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club Newsletter – August 2020



As guidelines have become clearer, we unlocked a little further. I was delighted to see the Juniors have some social pod sailing, blessed with super weather too. Great to see so many able to get back out on the water and thank you to the Junior team for working towards a safe start, albeit belated owing to covid, to the season for them. We also welcomed back Wednesdays, amazing how something I took for granted for over 40 years suddenly becomes a huge milestone for us as a Club this year. Report and pics on YachtsandYachting.com. Thanks to the sailing committee who put in a lot of work behind the scenes to get this up and running.



New Guidance

Whilst lockdown has eased, we need to be mindful that we are still in the middle of a pandemic. We have guidance and amendments to our Sis in place. Please ensure you read them regularly. Updates are dated. If watching our water side events PLEASE remember to socially distance, wash your hands and use hand gel regularly. Please respect others both on the decking and seawall.

Membership

A very warm welcome to the several new members who have joined us over the last month. It is great to have you as part of our club, and I look forward to meeting you all. I hope that you can get as much fun and enjoyment out of the Club facilities as we do. Please make sure you display your car park sticker clearly.

Sailing

As we all know, the iconic East Coast Race week, Burnham Week, has had to be cancelled in order to ensure everyone can remain safe during the pandemic. We are confident as a Club, if current

conditions don't change, that we can offer some club racing over the weekends. Details will be on the website, but we are looking to offer cruiser and river fleet dinghies PY 1244 and below. This ensures Fevas are in, as their new PY was published at 1244. There are special entry forms which must be filled in. The Race Box is covered, BUT we need patrol boat volunteers, pb2 and crew. If you can, please complete the form (on the bottom of the dinghy entry form) as the river fleet will rely on you volunteering to be able to go out racing. Regarding race box, social distancing and family groups are coping well, although I discovered being an octopus would be helpful when doing flag boards for the new class groupings (particularly when the wind is a strong southerly)!

Further sailing news, as Burnham Week is not on, we have decided to run normal Wednesday evening racing, for the Stuart Paul Memorial Race. Please watch out for details, and email Tom if you can help out afloat.

Those out on Wednesday will have noticed Trinity with Simon Mitchell up river, and our thanks to him; it is great having eyes and ears round the corner where the fleets are out of sight.

A little light mathematics for people who race handicap yacht fleets.

If you want to know how much time someone gives you, or you give them, under IRC or decimal handicap, the rule of thumb is each 'dot' is worth 3.6 seconds per hour. If you have a Casio scientific calculator that has either hours, minutes and seconds, or degrees, minutes and seconds do the following quick calculation....

Your IRC – Their IRC =

Then press the degrees, minutes seconds key to convert the decimal to time.

On a modern Casio such as an FX 83 the minutes and seconds per hour owed/given will come up. On an older style, you will need to press second function and the hms key to convert from decimal time to hms.

(If I fail to get a picture, the degrees, minutes and seconds key is ° ‘ “ sort of!).

If you are still awake and up for a bit more maths, you can also work out how long someone has to finish to win etc.

Current winner's corrected time ÷ your IRC = your elapsed time to draw (don't forget to press the DMS key)

Portsmouth Yardstick calculations next time.

Cheetah gets a Rebuild

Past member, Harry Croker, will be remembered by many as a staunch Wednesday night supporter and excellent helm (and golfer!) and sailed his beloved Cheetah (SJ30, GBR8880) until he died. Many members will have sailed with him and against him over the 50 ish years he sailed at Burnham.

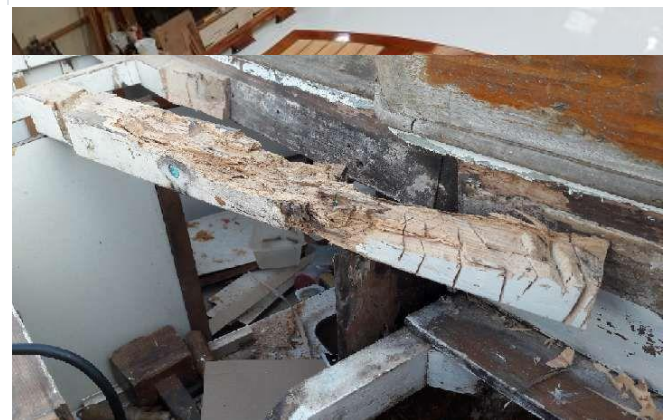
Harry had not always sailed and came down to Burnham and bought a boat from Tucker Brown. That boat was a Stella, and the owner's daughter was dispatched to teach Harry, a car salesman from the East End, to sail. Harry was a natural, as I believe he was at most sports he tried and soon changed his boat. He commissioned Tucker Brown, owned by Past Commodore Sonny Cole, and Past President Bob Cole to build him a Twister (a new design at the time by Kim Holman). His Twister, launched in 67 was wooden, following the successful Twisters, Holman's own Twister of Mersea and Bandit. Built in part by another Burnham Sailing Club past Commodore, Peter Barker,

Harry and his crew amassed a large number of victories and trophies in this boat. He won Round the Island (not the well known BSC race round Bridgemarsh!), and was overall EAORA champion in the late 60s, twice. Harry moved on to have Lynx then his SJ 30 Cheetah, and sadly the Twister Cheetah disappeared.



The Harry Croker Trophy with Cheetah's winning EAORA medals, trophy made by George Prince.

Happily, she was discovered a few years ago, by Ken Layzell, a local classic boat enthusiast and he decided there and then to rescue her as she was in such a sorry state, a picture of neglect.



A labour of love then ensued, and he has restored her carefully, sympathetically and largely on his own, with some help from a few skilled craftsmen.



She has been transformed and now looks stunning in her berth at Burnham Yacht Harbour.



The upholstery done by the same firm who did Roman Abramovitch's, the original 'Cheetah' carvings restored, but yet to be mounted onto the top sides (looking very much like the Jaguar car ornament Harry had the carver model them on! (You can take the car dealer out of London but....)).



Thank you to Ken Layzell for letting us use the pictures from the restoration. A little bit of history, in which so much links to our club lives on.

WANTED articles for the next newsletter. Please email them to me to be included commodore@burnhamsc.co.uk Have you cruised somewhere new, done a refit that others will enjoy reading about? Anything of interest will be fab....then there will be less maths! 😊 😄 😁 😊

Puzzle Corner

You see a boat filled with people. You look again and it hasn't sunk, but now you don't see a single person on the boat. Why?

- 1.What is the right side of a boat called?
- 2.In nautical terms, what is a diamond?
- 3.What is a jib?
- 4.How fast is a knot?
- 5.In nautical terms, what is a kedge?
- 6.What is the left side of a boat called?
- 7.Where is the poop deck?
- 8.In nautical terms, what do you call the kitchen?
- 9.What do you call a bathroom on a boat?
- 10.What do you call the front of a boat?
- 11.What colour is the light on the port side of a boat?

Answers next time