

The winter works mentioned last time are all under way. The clubhouse painting is almost complete; a substantial amount of scrub has been cleared from the north marsh by the dinghy dyke and from the island; The old decking has been removed from the boardwalks, revealing 3 previous incarnations of the visitors' quay, which will be removed before re-decking.



### A View from the Bridge

We would love to have some new faces visit the Bridge and see what goes on. It's not nearly as complicated as some people try to make out and the view is superb. If you are interested, mention it to Robin or Ann Richardson, Robert or Sally Self or Jo in the office or just come up and see Chris, Jeremy or me, one of us is always on duty.

### Training Events

The training committee has decided to arrange its course programme for the year based on demand from members. Sailing School will of course run as usual at Easter and there will be the following early season events: Knots and Splicing for all on 13<sup>th</sup> March, Prototyping for juniors on 27<sup>th</sup> March and Junior Fun morning on 14<sup>th</sup> May. See the white card for more detail.

Enclosed with this newsletter you should find a questionnaire to help them plan the rest of the season, but that covers more general areas as well. Please do complete it and let us know what you would like to do and see at your club. If you have any specific training requests please contact the office as well.

### New Members

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April we will have a special welcome for members who have recently joined. Invitations will be sent out and I hope all new members will think about joining us for the evening. It is a good opportunity to meet and get to know you and I will be very happy to answer any questions about the running of the club.

### Caribbean Cruise

by Jeremy Ives

The Vice Commodore has recently returned from the West Indies sailing a 43 footer from Nelson's Dockyard and English Harbour, Antigua down to the French Antilles. A 42nm journey to Guadeloupe in light air and a check in to French waters at Dehaies was followed by a land excursion to some superb Botanical Gardens.

Further down the west coast is Pigeon Island where a day stop was made for a dive on the Jacques Cousteau marine park. The next port of call was the Capital BasseTerre and a trip into the rain forest to a waterfall of several hundred feet with a swim in the lake at the bottom of the falls.

A short sail from Guadeloupe are the small and pretty Isles des Saintes. The picture book capital of Bourg des Saintes has beautiful traditional Caribbean buildings in an array of colours and the best Lobster you will ever eat!!

On to the deserted island of Petit Terre: a day's sail and some treacherous reefs to manage on the passage in to the anchorage but worth it for the Palm Trees, turquoise water and picnic on the beach in Pacific style surroundings.

On to the Island of Marie Gallant: a stop for more rum in a Hemingway style bar and to sign out at French Customs/Immigration.

Then the 63nm sail in heavy conditions 'home' to English Harbour. A fine reach at 8 knots with two tucks in the main and reefed Genoa! One tack (335 deg magnetic) from the point near St. Francois straight to Nelson's Dockyard.

The trip ended with much hospitality at the Antigua Yacht Club (their food from 'Cloggy's Caterers' is as good as ours from Swifty) and an exchange of Pennants with the Commodore Elizabeth Jordan, the photo of which is to appear in the AYC Magazine.

Returned home to much snow. Not sure where all that came from.....



### Mooring fees correction

The list of mooring fees sent out last month had the rates for Stars and Keelboats on Buoys transposed, the Keelboat fee should be £150, significantly reduced from last year, a realistic alternative to the over-subscribed pens.

## House Matters

Greetings from your House Committee and very best wishes for 2011 to everyone.

This time of the year is very busy for us on the House Committee – we are busy engaging brains about arranging this coming season's events. Of immediate note are the Fitting Out Supper and our own special Mothering Sunday Lunch. You'll find menus and other details for these inside the Social Calendar plus a Booking Form for each event. Non-members are welcome to join you - why not make up a table? Please remember that to organise staff and order enough food, numbers have to be finalised on the Monday prior to the event. The answer? Book early!!

As everyone is aware, our Club means different things to lots of people. By no means does everyone set foot in a boat and the social aspects are most important to many. It's nice to be in a pleasant environment and this, to us, includes having flowers in the Club House. We have a Flower Rota and volunteers are sought by the Commodore's Lady at the beginning of the season. You can volunteer for as many or few sessions as you like! Now – what I must emphasise is that this is not some sort of competition. Everyone really is capable of putting a bunch of tulips into a vase and putting the vase on the pedestal. If you're a bit more ambitious, but unsure, some of us would be delighted to have you shadow us a few times. For more information please get in touch with the office or speak to Linda or me. If you've always had a quiet, lurking wish to be involved with beautifying our Club House but never quite known how to go about it – make that call! (01603 782808)

*We shall look forward to seeing you at the Club this season – let's hope the weather is kind to us all, no matter what you choose to do.*



*Finishing touches being applied to our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival*

Roz Watt

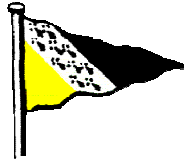


*Ready for the Christmas dinner and young people at Christmas lunch*

# BROADS WORDS

Spring 2011 Newsletter

## Norfolk Broads Yacht Club



I hope you all had a good Christmas and are looking forward to the approaching sailing season. The various Committees continue to be busy planning the sailing and various social events, conscious of the need to keep prices down where possible and offer value for money. Now that the days are beginning to lengthen I'm sure that many thoughts are turning toward the coming season. Are we not fortunate to have a leisure activity that doesn't break the bank? That's not forgetting of course that the boats have to be made ready; we don't need reminding of the associated costs there.

Easter is unusually late this year, which might be a good thing for sailing school. It should mean the participants can look forward to finer weather for the week, although with the vagaries of our weather that is never certain but at least it should be a little warmer (not that I want to suggest our young are all fine weather sailors but it tends to make for a better week all round). It does mean that our keener young sailors will be ready for the Spring Regatta a week later.

You may have noted that midweek sailing starts on 27<sup>th</sup> April, just two days before 'the wedding'. Most of us will have the 29<sup>th</sup> off and a good number will no doubt be glued to the television (Linda is planning to anyway). It may add a celebratory mood to the Spring Regatta and hopefully everyone will be raring to go on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>. You will note in the White Card there is an informal supper to follow the sailing on the Saturday and as has become rather a fixture at this event, we are organising a quiz to finish off the day so I hope a good number of you will come along - the more the merrier.

The first events of the season are fast approaching, as you will see in the white card and in Roz Watt's report on the back page. Naturally we are aware of the general economic gloom and despite ever-rising costs have tried to keep our own prices as low as possible. It would be wonderful to see a good turnout for the Fitting Out Supper and get the season off to a really good start. We are always ready to welcome new members so if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the club please invite them to visit and meet us at any time.

Please note that we will have a new gate code in operation from 1<sup>st</sup> March. A separate notice is enclosed.