

TEMPLE BELL

The Newsletter of the Royal Temple Yacht Club

Contact the office at info@rtyc.com

March 2025

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

With the AGM now behind us, I would like to thank Caroline Haycock who is stepping down from Committee, for her support in the past year and also say a huge thank you to Don Gray as he steps down as Rear Commodore Cruising. Don has been so supportive of the Club arranging his Cruiser talks and fish and chip suppers, etc but I'm sure that Mark Andrews will step into his role with Don and the rest of the Cruising Committee around to support him.

In recent years we have struggled to find new people for the Committee, and I realise that many of the long-standing members may have already done their time on Committee in the past. However, this means that more work is falling on fewer people's shoulders, and we are all volunteers. If you feel able to give time to the Club then please come and speak to me, we can always co-opt new Committee members. In particular, we URGENTLY need a Treasurer, Chair of Entertainments, Regalia Coordinator and General Committee members.

On Tuesday 11th March I had the pleasure of being invited to stay at the Little Ship Club on the Thames. I know many of you have enjoyed their hospitality in the past, and in fact we have quite a few members in common. The reason for the invitation was to attend a talk being given by the Vice-Admiral of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, Ian Gilbert. As their support club for the 85th Return Chris and I had been invited along, sadly Chris is away sailing the Pacific so I went on my own.

I've seen Ian talk before, but this talk was different, focusing on real memories of those who were there, whether being rescued from the beaches or crewing the boats. He also explained how different nationalities had different perceptions of Operation Dynamo. The French felt that we had abandoned them to their fate, Dunkirk was the one of the last major towns in France to be liberated. The Germans initially called it a victory but later came to view it as a missed opportunity and a turning point in the war. However, the British Government managed to turn the evacuation around calling it the Miracle of Dunkirk, something to be very proud of, and we still use the phrase Dunkirk Spirit to mean cooperation and determination to work together in a difficult situation.

After a very pleasant meal I was asked to stand and talk to the members about our Club history,

including our connection during the War with Operation Dynamo, as the club was requisitioned by the Navy and became *HMS Fervent*. The naval boat *HMS Fervent*, the last boat to leave Dunkirk is now called *White Marlin* and owned by past ADLS Commodore, David Muir. I, of course, spoke of our part in this year's 85th Return as their support club. Moving forward I hope to welcome more members of the Little Ship to the RTYC and thank Commodore Barrie Martin for his hospitality.

With the clocks going forward on 30th March, Spring will officially be with us and we will start our new sailing season. I hope to see more of you around the Club enjoying our wonderful facilities, our social evenings and the views from the terrace.

Thank you all again for your support,

**Karen
Commodore**

Ian Gilbert ADLS giving his talk



A coffee with a great view of the Thames.

200 CLUB RESULTS

The BIG Draw

£25	Nº 81	Mrs J Dadds
£50	Nº 23	Mrs F Thomson
£50	Nº 22	J Barrett
£100	Nº 44	Ms S Cossell
£500	Nº 71	Mr P Thomas
£1000	Nº121	Mr S Coleman

The next Draw
Sunday 30th March 3pm

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

Pilates

Our Pilates sessions continue to be well supported - Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon



Lifeboats

RNLI.org/safety

ARE YOUR LIFEJACKETS SAFE?

Learn useful tips on how to choose, fit and maintain your lifejacket.

Bring along your lifejacket to a free RNLI Lifejacket clinic

Where: Royal Temple Yacht Club

When: Sunday 23rd March 2025

Contact: 01843 591766



The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

FR

RESPECT THE WATER

SATURDAY 29th MARCH RNLI SUPPER

This year, curry is on the menu from the Ramsgate Tandoori. £40 per person which will pay for yourself and a crew member.

Sunday 30th March Mothers' Day

We will be serving Coffee and Cake in the Bar

Friday 4th April Racers' Social Evening

All members welcome for this fun event

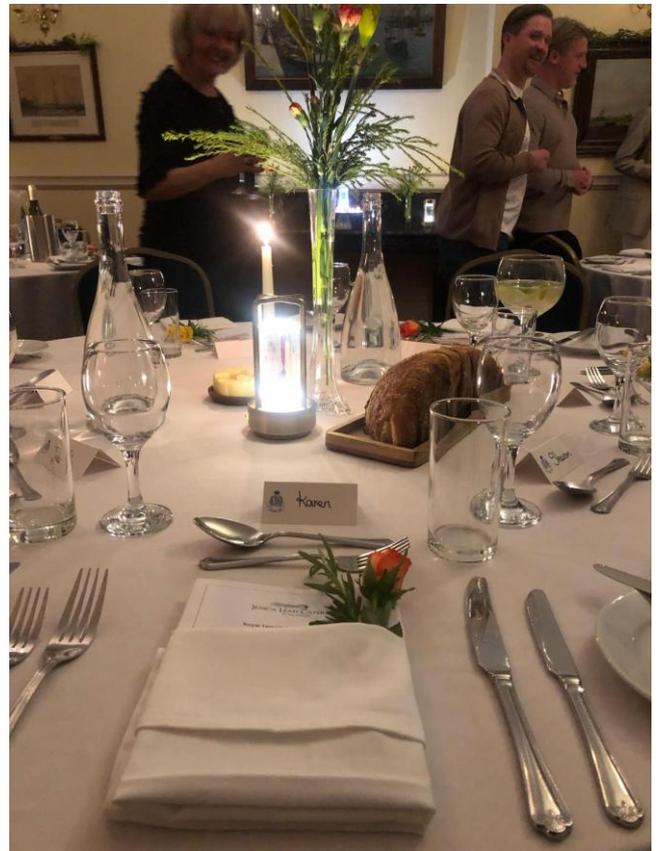
Saturday 12th April
Clive Nicholls
Birthday & Retirement Party
Steve Huckle will be playing in the Bar

DINING CLUB

The first Dining Club dinner took place on Saturday and all feedback so far has been very favourable.

A full report will be issued next time along with details of the next dinner.

Just to whet your appetite, here are some photos.



NEW HOUSE OFFICER UPDATE

We have a new House Office, James Alexander, who is keen to get to work in the club:

I would like to introduce myself as I've recently taken on the role as Honorary House Officer to RTYC and many of you may not yet know me.

My name is James Alexander and I have sailed since an early age, mainly in the Solent and Thames Estuary, where I sailed Oppies before moving onto Albacores and Fireballs. In the 90's with my father, I competed in the Warsash Spring series as well as various RORC races, still on RDF and Decca charts.

Later in the 90s I became youth leadership leader at Hampton Pier Yacht Club, along with a period of stay on *TS Triumph* as a Petty Officer instructor. I've had huge experiences with the SCC which allowed me to sail on the old square rigger *TS Royalist*, *HMS illustrious* and *Carrier Ark Royal* but only for short stays!

I became bosun to Hampton Pier YC and did four years maintaining marks and rescue boats, where I also served on the social committee for three years with voluntary kitchen duties. I left HPYC in early 2000 due to marriage commitments leaving a big break in my sailing.

In 2013 my father and I picked up *Good Feeling* in Harveen, Holland and sailed her back to Warsash. This reignited my sailing passion and the thirst for knowledge meant I completed my Day Skipper then Yachtmaster Offshore in 2015.

I gave up sailing with my father for a while and entered for the Fastnet Race in 2017 and its entire campaign; luckily enough for us the skipper was Oliver Heer, the Swiss German sailor who had a fine command for sailing and racing. He went on to join Alex Thomson Racing onboard the IMOCA *Hugo Boss* in 2018, before competing in his own boat, *Oliver Heer Ocean Racing* and most recently took part in the Vendee Globe Race. We won sail training boat of the year in 2017 with *Lancelot 2* and Logic Sailing.

I recovered and awaited the next campaign but this time entered with Galahad of Cowes, a skipper owned boat but this was a totally different kettle of fish, and was my last Fastnet!

We bought my father's *Feeling* back to Ramsgate in 2019 and joined the RTYC and so the journey continues. These days I crew on racing yacht *Assassin*.

I'm a pretty approachable type chap and open to ideas and opinions, so with the need to reduce costs **I'm hoping to organise a couple of work parties to carry out minor repairs around the Club and would appreciate members' support.**

See you around the Club,

James Alexander
Hon House Officer

...and on the subject of Volunteers

The lovely spring planting on the Terrace was very kindly carried out by Club member Michael Charman. Thank-you Michael, your efforts are very much appreciated

and to reiterate Karen's plea we **URGENTLY** need a Treasurer, Chair of Entertainments, Regalia Coordinator and more General Committee members



TEMPLE TEASER No 77

Nautical Trivia

Solution on page 8

1. What was the name of Christopher Columbus' flagship?
2. During the Spanish Armada of 1588, who was in command of 'Ark Royal'.....*Martin Frobisher; John Hawkins; Charles Howard?*
3. What nautical hallmark is stamped on silver objects struck in Birmingham?
4. In 1608 the then ruling Monarch renamed Ark Royal, what name was she given.....*Elizabeth Royal; Anne Royal; Mary Royal?*
5. What was Captain Hook's pirate ship called?
6. The second 'Ark Royal' was commissioned in 1914. Where did her aircraft first see action in World War I.....*Battle of the Falklands; The Dardanelles; Battle of Jutland?*
7. Which British Prime Minister did Ian Smith meet on board HMS Tiger 1966, and HMS fearless in 1968?
8. In 1920, the 'Ark Royal' took RAF aircraft to help end the 'Mad Mullah's Revolt'. In which country was this revolt.....*Ethiopia; British Somaliland; Sudan?*
9. What type of vessel was the main theme of the film *Grey Lady Down*?
10. In 1934 the 'Ark Royal' was renamed 'Pegasus', why was this? *She joined the Pegasus Class of Fighter Catapult Ships; A new 'Ark Royal' had been commissioned.*



20th to 25th July 2025

CLUB RACING NEWS

Friday the 7th March was the first Racing Social Night. A curry was served by Andy K and this was followed by some Bar Games commencing with a requirement to tie a bowline and then throw it over a cleat 12 feet away. Martin Law started the proceedings with, what was described as, "a lucky throw" hitting it on the first attempt. In many cases it was the bowline that caused the biggest problem (maybe we need a knot-tying competition next time?)

Assassin was well represented with Alex and Peter Jackson having several attempts to beat the time Martin set.



We then moved on to Kite Packing. Not only were we required to pack the kite, it also had to come out without any twists. Judith Jackson put in a good time to kick it off, with several attempts being made by various members it came down to Andy K and Alex J. Alex

had the slightly faster time but a debatable twist on the launch was settled with a draw.

The next social evening is on the Friday 4th April. There will be RC Racing with the DF95s in the harbour before so come along and watch from the Balcony we are expecting approximately ten competitors.

The First Race of the **Spring Series 2025** is on Sunday 6th April. Please make sure those boats racing all have paper work in order, IRC Certificates, Safety Checklist, Completed Club Entry Forms.

I'm looking forward to a great new season

Andy Ketteringham - RCS



DIARY DATE

The cruising section of **North Sea Yacht Club** in Dunkirk are coming over on the weekend **7th - 9th June**

It would be great if any cruisers are around to welcome them.

It should be a busy weekend as the Yacht Club Boulonnais are here as part of the Link Cup race too.



LA ROUTE DU SCOTCH



Chers Marins,

J'ai une bonne nouvelle pour les amateurs de Scotch, Gin et Cheddar.
Du 7 au 9 juin, une escadre commandée par David (dit « le garde côte ») appareillera de la Cité Corsaire afin de rappeler aux enfants de Benjamin Hornigold qui sont les vrais marins.

Sur place, vous pourrez profiter d'un port et d'une ville fort agréable, les tunnels de **Ramsgate** et l'église du marin pourront sûrement en intéresser plus d'un.



À l'issue d'un pot de cohésion et d'une auberge espagnole et après une nuit qui portera conseil, certains choisiront de rentrer avec « le garde de côte » en Flandre, alors que d'autres chercheront peut-être à s'encanailler dans l'Est End en s'appoyant à **Saint Catherine** à quelques pas de **White Chappel** et au pied du **Tower Bridge**.



Peu importe votre choix, pour faire partie de la sortie il vous faudra montrer patte blanche et remplir les documents administratifs que les autorités de l'UK exigent, ainsi **qu'un passeport en règle avec visa.**

Pour toutes informations vous pouvez contacter « le garde côte » au 06/51/54/80/53.

PS: Nos amis à quatre pattes resteront à qui et nos bateaux seront armés en semi-hauturier à minima





DUNKIRK 85th COMMEMORATIVE RETURN 17th – 26th MAY 2025

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

Following the cancellation of the 80th Anniversary Commemorative return to Dunkirk due to the pandemic, we are delighted to report The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships has given us the honour of being their support club for the 85th Commemorative Return to Dunkirk, and we're working hard to make this unforgettable for both the ADLS and our club.

The Royal Harbour will soon be bustling with around 150 visiting boats, including over 70 Dunkirk Little Ships, 60 supporter boats, and a fleet of escort vessels. It's an incredible line-up that even features the historic *Medway Queen*. The key date to remember (weather permitting) is Wednesday 21st May when the fleet departs the harbour at 6:00 AM. But there's plenty happening before then! We're hosting a range of events to ensure everyone, from our club members to visitors, gets involved:

- Daily skipper registrations.
- Skippers briefings.
- A drinks reception for Escort Fleet captains and crew.
- Live 1940s music.
- Delicious offerings like tea, cake, and hot meals.
- Contingency plans in case weather keeps the fleet in port.

Our community is backing this event in full force! The Ramsgate Tunnels are organizing additional events, the Granville Theatre is planning a "Dunkirk Film Festival," and Harbour Parade will come alive with music and a market over the weekend. Highlights include:

- Sunday: A military parade to St. George's Church, for an 11:00 service with the Big Sing Community Choir, and later a "Boat Opera" near the tug *Cervia*.
- Tuesday: The Royal Marines marching band will perform and mark the unveiling of a refurbished Dunkirk memorial, along with a VIP inspection of the Little Ships.

The fleet's Grand Return is scheduled for Monday 26th May (weather permitting) in the afternoon. Expect a spectacular welcome, complete with Standards, the Queen's Regiment of Drums, a piper, an RTYC cannon, and a Colours ceremony. We'll wrap up with a well-deserved drink back at the club.

It's shaping up to be an unforgettable chapter in our club's history. I hope to see you there!

Chris Cox
RTYC Dunkirk 2025 Events Coordinator



RTYC CRUISERS



2nd Friday Monthly Cruising Social

ALL WELCOME

Don't forget to come along and enjoy a social evening with the Cruisers

2025 Cruising Plans

April

Early Weekend Cruise to Queenborough

Saturday 5th April return Sunday 6th April.

Jonathan Hague

Easter Cruise to Dover

Friday 18th April to Monday 21st April.

George Jackson

May

West Mersea Rally

Saturday 3rd May to Bank Holiday Monday 5th May

Jonathan Hague

Dunkirk 85th Anniversary Cruisers Accompanying ADLS Fleet

Ramsgate to Dunkirk 21st May - Dunkirk to Ramsgate 26th May

Cross Channel Ascension day race Ostend to Ramsgate

Cruise to Ostende Wednesday 28th May

Cruise or race back to Ramsgate Thursday 29th May

Allez a Calais - Dinner at the Cercle Amical Maritime

Friday 30th May to Sunday 1st June

Jonathan Hague

June

Cross Channel Link Cup Race

Cruise to Boulogne Saturday 7th June - Cruise or race to Ramsgate Sunday 8th June

Medway Cruise - to Queenborough and Chatham Marina

Friday 13th June to Monday 16th June

Josh Lidstone

July

East Coast Cruise

Saturday 5th July to Sunday 13th July

Mark Andrews

Ramsgate week. Sunday 20th July to Friday 25th July

August

Weekend Cruise Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd August (Destination TBA)

Dutch Cruise

Saturday 16th August to Sunday 31st August

September

Cruise to St Katherine Docks for the ADLS Rally

Wednesday 3rd September to Tuesday 9th September

Don Gray

Weekend Cruise Saturday 27th to Sunday 28th September

(Destination TBA)

Jonathan Hague

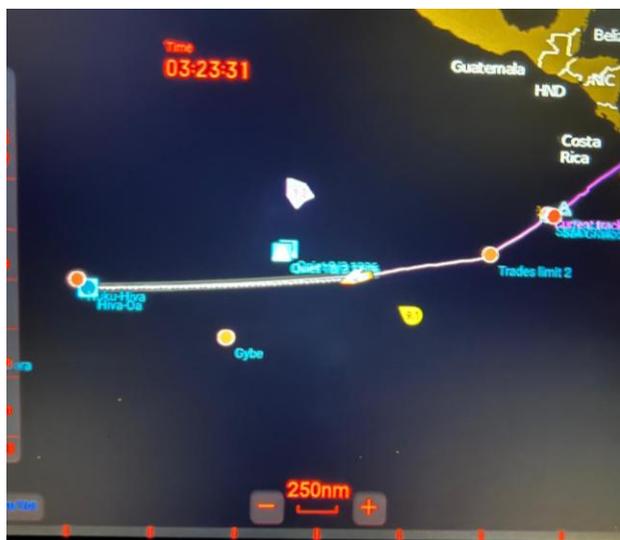


Please send any contributions for compilation into the next issue or comm

CHRIS COX IS CURRENTLY SAILING THE PACIFIC ON THE WORLD ARC



Chasing Rainbows

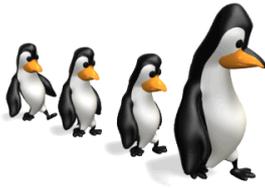


There should be some interesting stories on his return

We are always happy to welcome new Sponsors



THE WALKING GROUP



Email Davena with your phone number at davenagreen42@gmail.com to be added to the group *WhatsApp*

The Walking Group will start up again soon after the holidays when we can enjoy the Spring Weather. Davena will be in touch with the next date – keep a watch on *WhatsApp* for further information.

In the meantime, if any Walker wishes to organise a walk, please notify via the *WhatsApp* group.

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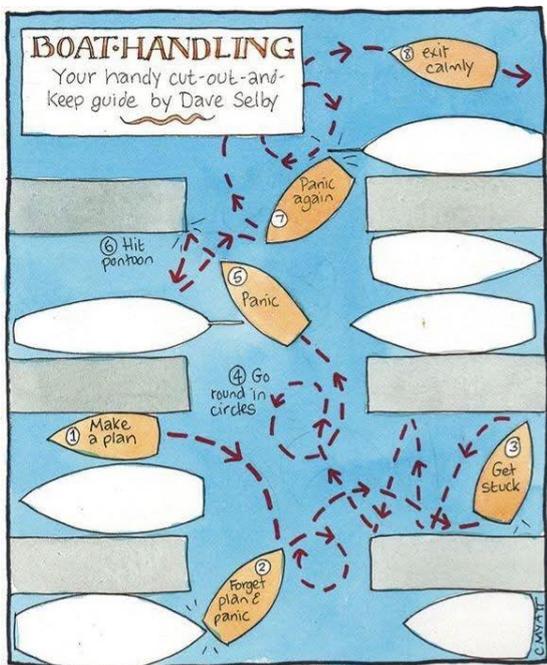
SAILING CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

10 MILITARY ROAD, RAMSGATE

WWW.RIGAMARINE.CO.UK

TEMPLE TEASER SOLUTION From page 4

1. Santa Maria
2. Charles Howard
3. An Anchor
4. Anne Royal
5. Jolly Roger
6. The Dardanelles
7. Harold Wilson
8. British Somaliland
9. Submarine
10. A new Ark Royal had been commissioned.



TEMPLARS GOLF SOCIETY



The Templars Golf Society was started about 20 years ago for members and friends of the Royal Temple Yacht Club in Ramsgate. Our net is cast even wider now and anyone who would appreciate a friendly, sociable round of golf is very welcome. We play off IG handicaps with monthly adjustments at the Captain's discretion!! Those who don't have a registered handicap will be allocated something suitable.

TEMPLARS GOLF SOCIETY AT WESTGATE GOLF CLUB 19TH FEBRUARY 2025

Eight Templars teed off in chilly overcast weather on Wednesday morning. At least the course had dried out after the January competition; players were able to use trolleys and buggies again. Howard Wilton powered off with a good score on the first nine holes and followed that up on the back nine to prove the overall winner. He won the coveted longest drive on the 9th and was presented with the cake as well as his winner's voucher

Scoring was generally good but Don Cross lamented his tally that day having had such a good competition the month before. However, Don still beat Captain Sam!

There was no winner of 'nearest the pin' as not one player hit the green on the 13th!

An enjoyable day's golf particularly as the weather improved throughout the day.

The Templars Golf Society meets at Westgate Golf Club on the 3rd Wednesday every month for a social round of golf, tee off at 10.45.

Our subscription of £75 (pro-rata from when you join) gives you small cash prizes and lunch with any year end surplus subsidising the prize giving dinner. RTYC members and friends are welcome to join us. Generous handicaps will be given to newcomers.

S.A.M.
24.2.25

