

TEMPLE BELL

The Newsletter of the Royal Temple Yacht Club

May 2023

Contact the office at info@rtyc.com



COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

What a memorable few weeks we have had! Racers back out on the water, Cruisers sailing up the Thames, visiting yachting folk and events at the clubhouse.

Let's start with the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Well done to the team who decorated the clubhouse and hosted members who wished to view the historic event communally in the club, taking advantage of the big screen TV. I am assured that everyone enjoyed themselves and letters of appreciation have been received in the office.

Our cruisers went to St Katherine's Dock for the week to mark the event in the capital itself; I'm sure RCC Cruising will comment in full later. Suffice to say, it was a splendid experience with new boats in the fleet and new records set. I can assure you that 18 people on my boat at once is a record and proved how floatie my boatie is! All are now safely home preparing for the *Allez to Calais* later in the month.

The clubhouse hosted the launch of the latest edition of the *Ramsgate Recorder*, which we thought might bring a few visitors drifting in over the day to discover our club. To say that we slightly underestimated would be totally wrong as the bar was heaving reminiscent of Ramsgate Week. A huge thank you to VC Karen and the Pool Team, who also happened to be there, and who jumped in to assist the one member of staff on duty, with glass collection, washing up, etc.

Regretfully, I must tell you that our General Manager and long-term employee, Barry Stone, has informed us that sadly he will be leaving us after Ramsgate Week in August. Having sold his house, he is relocating to Lincolnshire to enjoy a change of lifestyle better suited to his family.

He has made it very clear that this is a strictly personal decision and that it has not been influenced by any matter relating to the club, it's officials, members or staff. Barry will be a key member in the replacement process and will ensure that a handover is as complete as possible when the time comes.

The scaffolding remains in place as the roofing work is explored and then completed, more on that as the full picture becomes clear and work progresses.

We welcomed several new members to the RTYC family with more in the pipeline. Let's please all do our part and reach out to any new face you see in the clubhouse to ensure that they feel comfortable and included. The way ahead is to recruit more members and I ask everyone to please keep up the focus on the ongoing membership drive.

Fridays remain busy but do keep an eye on the emails as some regular events may be rescheduled due to clashing sailing events and large functions.

Please remember that the clubhouse is available for booking for events such as Weddings, Wakes, Parties, Meetings, Exhibitions, etc. If you hear of someone who is planning an event please do direct them to the office. Every event brings income to the club and ensures we remain busy and thriving.

Let us all look forward to a busy, sunny, fun-filled sailing summer, see you in the clubhouse.

Martin Morgans

250 CLUB RESULTS

April Draw

£25	Nº 95	Bill Williamson
£50	Nº 50	Ian McDonald
£100	Nº 30	Martin Ross

**The next draw will be on
Sunday 28 May at 3:00pm**

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



Join our WhatsApp Group to keep up to date with forthcoming Club events

The Club remains the place to be on Friday nights and the *bring a friend night* in April gave the opportunity for non-members to come in and enjoy our clubhouse. The quizzes have been successful in bringing teams of members and non-members into the club every two weeks. Stuart Carter as Quizmaster, Terry A his glamorous assistant and Andy K organising the refreshments, all kindly stepped in this month to run the Coronation Quiz, with the change of quizmaster keeping everyone on their toes. The Games Night is not only a chance to have a laugh but a great opportunity for members to catch up with friends and make new acquaintances.

While the **Pool Team** had been practicing and playing friendlies, the new season has started. The first match of the pool league was against the British Legion which we won; we will be hosting them on the return leg next week. If you would like to join the team come along on a **Thursday night** or just pop in and enjoy the busy atmosphere.

Throughout June the club will be extra busy with external functions including a wedding. These external bookings provide a massive boost to the Club's finances whilst also welcoming individuals into our club, creating a further opportunity to increase our membership base. Due to the busy month there will be a temporary break from the quizzes but the club will still be open to enjoy on Friday nights as normal.

This year the **Summer Ball** will take on a different format. **On Saturday 1st July** the club will be hosting a Caribbean-themed party. Remember that first bar you hit after 19 days crossing the Atlantic, the cocktails, music, dancing and the washing line of underwear? The clubhouse will be transforming into that sunny beach bar with welcome cocktails, Caribbean style street food and dancing till late. Naturally the dress code will be Hawaiian shirts and colourful summer dresses. The tickets will soon be on sale via *WebCollect* or the office to book and remember to bring along your friends as everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

If you would like to get involved in planning or assisting with our events please get in contact via the office.

Rachel Morgans

CORONATION DAY AT THE CLUB



A small group of volunteers organized the club's celebration of the Coronation. The bar was duly decorated and a superb buffet spread was laid out with donations from members. Andy K's Victoria Sponge was the talk of the day and Jean's fruit cake laced with Cointreau went down a treat!



Whilst the assembled audience watched the proceedings on the big screen, Barry worked tirelessly to keep everyone "hydrated" and served the bubbly to toast our newly crowned King. It was suggested that partakers of the buffet may like to make donations to our RNLI and, very generously, the amount slightly over £110 was collected. Karen and Davena will present it to the RNLI this week.





TEMPLE TEASER No 68
The King's Navee
(apologies to Gilbert & Sullivan)
FROM STUART CARTER
Solution on page 8

1. What is the motto of the Royal Navy?
2. What is the Royal Navy's oldest ship still in service?
3. What is the Royal Navy's largest ship?
4. What took place on 21 October 1805?
5. Who is the current First Sea Lord of the Royal Navy?
6. Who is the current Second Sea Lord (Chief of Naval Staff) of the Royal Navy?
7. How many ships does the Royal Navy have?
8. How many aircraft does the Royal Navy have?
9. How many personnel does the Royal Navy have?
10. What is the Royal Navy's role in the United Nations?



Please send any contributions for compilation into the next issue or comments, etc to Sue Foster at sueandtommyfoster@gmail.com

FROM OUR VICE COMMODORE

The Coronation weekend was always going to be a special occasion as England is at its best when Pomp and Ceremony are called for.



Chris and I were lucky enough to be invited to spend the Friday night and the Coronation Day onboard Dunkirk Little Ship *Brown Owl* with club members Kevin and Jill. Kevin is the Commodore of the Dunkirk Little Ships Assoc. and with 32 boats moored in the outer basin of St Katherine's Dock London it was a sight to be treasured.



All of the boats were dressed in bunting, although none compared to the talented Jill's homemade bunting! The men were resplendent in their blazers while the sound of Vera Lynn singing 'We'll Meet Again' and the chink of champagne glasses filled the air. The public were invited to come onto the pontoons on the Friday and talk to the owners about their boats, exchange stories of loved ones who'd been rescued, or died, and the atmosphere was emotional. We felt privileged to be invited to join this dedicated group of boat owners who pour so much love and money into the restoration of the boats so their stories can continue to be told.



Watching the Coronation Service on the pontoon under a canvas provided by the St Kats team, toasting the new King with the DLSA whilst the cannon fired from the Tower of London next door is a memory that I will hold with me forever and could not be marred by the typically British persistent rain!

One special memory was when a very large gentleman, think Henry VIII size, turned up wearing a magnificent coat. I asked him what the story was about it and he said that it was worn by Charlton Heston in the 1977 film, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and he had bought it from the production company; he then put the coat on me. It weighed a ton but at least I felt like I was dressed in my own coronation robes for the occasion!



Kevin also announced that when the Little Ships Fleet returns to Dunkirk in 2025 they would like the Royal Temple Yacht Club to be their support fleet, which is a great honour for the club. We need to start planning!

Karen
Vice Commodore & Ramsgate Week Chair

A DATE FOR THE DIARY



SAILING/RACING + NEWS

A bit of a mixed bag to report on as I have been wearing a few hats over the last couple of months.

Racing

I am pleased to say that after a shocking spell of weather that delayed the launch of a good portion of our fleet we have started racing for 2023. At the time of writing three races have been completed with the first abandoned due to lack of boats, (which was academic as the conditions turned out to be rather 'nautical' on that day!).

Unfortunately, we were only able to deploy three race marks, as the sinker and chain which are assumed to have sunk on location after the ITA mark broke away, could not be located by the dive team. The lead diver has indicated that he will take another look using sonar when he is next in the area, so hopefully all is not lost.

We will shortly be hosting the Royal North Sea Yacht Club from Oostende when they race to us on Ascension Day (Thursday May 18th). On Friday 19th, we will be organising a short-ish, round the cans race which is also in the RTYC Race Calendar as the first of the combined Summer/Offshore series, and as such will count towards the Club Championship. I look forward to greeting our visitors and I hope that many of you will be able to support the weekend's events both on and off the water.

Bar Floor Issue

Following receipt of an engineer's report which concluded the bar floor was not sufficiently robust to allow for 'crowd dancing' to live music, I have been working to develop solutions that will meet our needs in both the short and longer term. The initial proposal involves propping the floor for events, such as Ramsgate Week, until such time as we can pay for a permanent solution which will involve a strengthening beam fitted under the floor.

I recently held a successful meeting with the Structural Engineer who prepared the initial report where he indicated broad agreement with our proposed path forward. The final fix will not come cheap, with my initial budget estimate in the region of £10,000 and it will involve the *Hold Bar* being off limits for a few weeks, so a good deal of further planning is required before we commit to the work. There is a robust business case for performing the work, as it will provide the ability to host lucrative functions as well as giving us the maximum flexibility in marketing the Club as a venue for events.

Business Improvement Plan

At the request of the Committee I have been leading efforts, with the assistance of Terry Adams and Chris Cox, to develop a 10-year plan, aimed at putting the Club on a truly sound financial footing. If successful, it will open up opportunities for Club development which have until now, been off limits due to financial constraints. In support of an over-arching vision, the plan analyses our current situation, assesses the potential opportunities for growth in each area of the business, then presents goals, strategies and actions to get us there.

The final draft of the plan is due for review at the forthcoming General Committee meeting and so it is too early to go into details here, but suffice to say the plan is evolutionary, not revolutionary, in its' approach and focusses on developing the currently under-utilised areas of the business. More details will be shared once the plan is approved for implementation.

**Piers
RCS**





Is it you?

One of our veteran members is intrigued to know if he has now become the longest serving member with unbroken membership. He joined the Club as a Cadet member on 1 January 1960 – some 63 years ago!

Is there any current member who joined before then?

Do let Sue Foster know if you did!

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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.

The Golfers have promised to bring us up to date with their matches and hopefully we can publish results and news next month.

With the better weather, they should be having some exciting play.

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PROUD SPONSORS OF **RAMSGATE WEEK**

POOL

Our Pool Team's first match of the new season resulted in a narrow victory over The British Legion.

RTYC CRUISERS



Please remember to join us for our regular,
SOCIAL EVENINGS
ALL WELCOME

Our Coronation Cruise to St Katherine's Dock was a great success with 10 boats in the RTYC Fleet: *Remi 2*, *Calico*, *Blown Away*, *Bamboo*, *Elizabeth*, *Pintail*, *Good Feeling* and new additions *Fox out the Box* and *Happy*.



Bamboo

Calico



Remi 2

Club member Kevin Finn was there with his Dunkirk Little Ship *Brown Owl*. Kevin is also Commodore of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships. Our Cruise coincided with the SKD annual visit of Dunkirk Little Ships. St Katherine's Central Dock was absolutely full with 35 fully dressed ADLS boats. On behalf of RTYC I would like to thank Kevin and Jill for their tremendous hospitality.



RTYC members enjoyed the ADLS pontoon reception party and guided tours of many Dunkirk boats. Kevin also invited everyone onboard his wonderful Dunkirk Ship *Brown Owl*.



David Parrish arranged a Fleet welcome dinner at the Ping Pong restaurant in SKD on the Thursday before Coronation day.



Jonathan Hague arranged a lunch for 24 at the Little Ship Club near Waterloo Bridge on the Friday and on Saturday *Blown Away's* crew were fortunate to be invited onboard *Happy* to view the Coronation on their large, pop-up TV.





An overloaded *Pintail* in the rain

The fleet started to head for home from Sunday after Coronation Day, *Blown Away* together with *Fox out the Box* and *Happy* departed the lock at 6.45am Wednesday for Ramsgate. The seas were calm, we had sunshine nearly all the way and we arrived 10 hours later with suntans.

Our next Cruise is the **Allez Calais** on 27th and 28th May. There is quite a lot of Club interest in this event and I hope that the fleet may even exceed last year's numbers.

**Don Gray
RCC**

Spectra is in the Caribbean en route to Canada via Bermuda.

Don't forget to catch up with Paul & Norma's adventures on their blog:



<http://blog.mailasail.com/spectra>

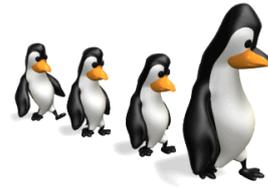


TEMPLE TEASER SOLUTION

From page 3

1. "Per mare, per terras" ("By sea, by land")
2. HMS Victory
3. HMS Elizabeth
4. The Battle of Trafalgar
5. Admiral Sir Tony Radakin
6. Admiral Sir Ben Key
7. 70
8. 850
9. 35,000
10. To uphold international law and order, and to promote human rights

THE WALKING GROUP



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

Details of the next walk on 15 June will be posted on the RTYC Walking Group *WhatsApp* so please contact Davena if you wish to be included.

The May walkers met in the carpark of the George & Dragon at Fordwich. We had a walk through the picture-perfect village (or England's smallest town as it is designated), with Lindy describing points of interest in the various old buildings and the church, before we crossed the railway line into the beautiful bluebell woods.



A light lunch was enjoyed in the garden at the George & Dragon.

Continued from last month's issue

For the benefit of our new members who may not be aware of the long, illustrious history of The Royal Temple Yacht Club, and as a reminder to all, we are re-printing for your enjoyment some articles written by our late, much missed, Archivist and former Commodore, DENYS TWEDDELL

THESE ARTICLES COMMENCED WHEN THE RTYC MOVED FROM LONDON, WHERE THE CLUB WAS STARTED AT THE TEMPLE STEPS ON THE THAMES, TO RAMSGATE

COUP DE FRANCE RACE continued

The Second Heat

The day saw a strong wind blowing and the course was set in Cannes Bay with the first leg East to West rounding the first buoy to port, round a buoy off La Bocca then a beat to windward to the third mark off Ile Sainte Marguerite.

The revised course would show how the boats performed when sailing close-hauled, that is hard into the wind, and also when running before the wind.

Sails were hoisted in a good ENE breeze, which rushed in through the Gulf Juan. Both boats reefed their mainsails.

As the first leg was down-wind, *Gloria* hoisted a jib-headed topsail; she carried this all day. *L'Estere!* delayed until the race was half over before she followed suit and according to reports it proved of doubtful use to her in coming to windward.

L'Estere! crossed the starting line with *Gloria* ten seconds behind.

Gloria made a bold manoeuvre which paid off. Her Skipper gybed all standing near the lee mark and cutting inside for the inside turn took the weather berth when close hauled against the wind. Gybing can be a dangerous manoeuvre; it involves wearing ship that is taking the stern through the wind, which causes the boom to shoot across. To carry it off safely needs a competent crew and good control.

At the end of the first round *Gloria* had an eight-minute lead.

The boats were very well matched; down-wind *L'Estere!* was overall faster, but on beating to windward, *Gloria* stood up much better in the strong wind.

No matter what *L'Estere!* did, she could not overhaul her rival although she did manage to reduce the lead a little.

At the finish, with the wind moderating, *Gloria* crossed the line about one and a half minutes ahead to the resounding cheers of her rival. On corrected times the official result was:

Gloria 3 hours 40 minutes 42 seconds

L'Estere! 3 hours 42 minutes 53 seconds

By Wednesday each boat had won a heat; the next race would be the decider. Interest ran high.

The Final Heat

Saturday 12th March turned out to be a fine day with a light easterly breeze. The race started at 11.30 over a triangular course of eight miles to be rounded three times.

The New York Herald in the 13th March edition gave a descriptive near blow-by-blow account of the heat. With 24 miles before them the rivals came up to the starting gun, jockeying for position. *Gloria* came up on the starboard tack and with right of way forced the defender to put about. Both sailed down to the line at which, as the gun fired *Gloria* tacked crossing ahead of *L'Estere!*

Both boats were carrying big jackyarder sails. The first leg was a broad reach and at the first mark *Gloria* was ahead. She gybed deliberately, threw off sheets and prepared her spinnaker; *L'Estere!* followed about ten seconds later and caught up with her.

Under the pressure of sail *Gloria's* main halyard, which holds up the sail, gave way. Repairs were carried out efficiently but *L'Estere!* was through and by the time the second mark was reached she had a twenty-two second lead.

On rounding the mark *Gloria* held to starboard *L'Estere!* responded and kept the weather.

Gloria went about, *L'Estere!* did the same

It was nip and tuck all the way; then misfortune struck *L'Estere!* Her bobstay parted. She pointed up; her jib trailed in the water and to add to her misfortunes the wind gusted strongly.

Gloria swept through, *L'Estere!* continued under foresail; she took in her club topsail and ran up a jib. But the luff – the leading edge – did not set well.

Gloria too took in her topsail. At the third mark *Gloria* led by over a minute and a half. Sailing for the first mark again *Gloria* made the most of the reach and set a jib-headed topsail.

She gybed round the mark seventy-six seconds ahead. *L'Estere!* had reduced the lead slightly.

Now came a run, each set spinnakers to starboard. *Gloria* rounded the mark thirty-five seconds ahead. Dropping spinnakers, they faced a dead beat on the port tack.

L'Estere! tacked first. The wind was strengthening and the sea was now rough. *Gloria* held her topsail firmly and kept up wind of her rival. *L'Estere!* put in two tacks but *Gloria* was still there leading up-wind of her.

Times at the end of the second round were *Gloria* 2 hours 3 mins 35 secs, *L'Estere!* 2 hours 4 mins 56 secs – The lead had lengthened again.

Exciting stuff.

The third and last circuit of the triangular course was hard fought, with gybes, spinnaker runs and beats into the strong wind.

Gloria held the lead all the way but *L'Estere!* fought to the last. *Gloria* came about on the line clear of *L'Estere!*

The recorded times were:

Gloria 3 hours 06 minutes 36 seconds

L'Estere! 3 hours 07 minutes 40 seconds

Thus *Gloria*, representing the Royal Temple Yacht Club and Great Britain, had won the coveted French Cup – the Coupe de France.

The Daily Graphic made the point that “...the success of the British yacht in the contests for the Coupe de France is a feather in the cap of the owner, the designer and the builders of Gloria and a matter of congratulation also to those who prefer the wholesome type of boat to the racing machine...”

More to follow next month