

TEMPLE BELL

The Newsletter of the Royal Temple Yacht Club

January 2024

Contact the office at info@rtyc.com



ACTING COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

Firstly, may I start off with wishing every one of you a Happy New Year!

Sadly, I had to leave the New Year's party early due to a long-standing prior engagement but it was lovely to see so many new and old members there enjoying a fun evening. The feedback I have had since has been encouraging and I feel that our Committee decision to give something back to the members was the right thing to do after a couple of difficult months.

Looking to the New Year we have the AGM to look forward to although we do not yet have the exact dates as we are waiting on the final accounts to be signed off.

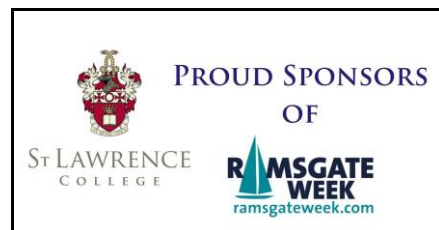
The AGM is your chance to have your say in the running of the Club. If you would like to stand for General Committee then look out for the Nomination Forms which will be on the notice board from 10th January. However, please be aware that if you are on Committee you must be prepared to work as we have to pull together to turn our Club finances around and get us back on an even keel.

With that in mind, I want to take the opportunity to thank Elizabeth Anderson and John Barrett who have worked tirelessly to get control of the Office as well as prepare for the AGM. The Hon Sec role is a challenging role at the best of times and to step in part of the way through the year and after a break of sometime makes it more difficult.

Looking forward, and having listened to many club members, I feel that there has been confusion over our identity as a Club in recent years. We are primarily a "Members Only" Yacht Club, which occasionally allows non-members to use the building for special events. Plans are in place to actively control the entry of non-members which will be done by our staff. If visitors want to come in then their names will be taken down and monitored and after a couple of visits they

will be asked to join up. Obviously, this will not apply during Ramsgate Week, any major sailing regattas, to visiting yachtsmen or any private functions that we have booked.

As a Club member we need your support when asked to help. It would be lovely if we could do 'just the nice things' we want to do but sadly we cannot afford the staff to do the 'not so nice' jobs. Working together strengthens the bonds of the Club and provides a sense of community that we can all enjoy. We have a beautiful Yacht Club with a proud reputation and history, let's enjoy it together.



Ramsgate Week

A very short update, the *Early, Early Bird Discount* opened on 1st December and we have four yachts signed up so far with a first-time visiting yacht joining IRC class from the online Property Construction Yacht Club. With my new role taking far more of my time I'm looking for someone with good social media and marketing skills to assist me. Come find me in the club for a chat!

Karen
Acting Commodore



250 CLUB RESULTS

December Draw

£25	Nº 55	Mrs J Finn
£50	Nº 120	Mr P Moore
£100	Nº 100	Mr A Nicholson

The next draw will be THE BIG DRAW on Sunday 28 January 2024 at 3:00pm
The prizes will be: £1000, £500, £250 plus the normal January draw

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



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

A vertical event schedule for January. At the top, it says 'welcome January' in a cursive font over a background of a bridge at night with lights. Below this are four pink boxes with event details: Friday 12th-7.30pm Social Cruising Fish & Chip Supper; Friday 19th-7.30pm Quiz Night; Saturday 27th-7.30pm Burns Night; and Sunday 28th-3pm Club 250 Draw.

FRIDAY 12th-7.30pm
SOCIAL CRUISING FISH & CHIP SUPPER

FRIDAY 19th-7.30pm
QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 27th-7.30pm
BURNS NIGHT

SUNDAY 28th-3pm
CLUB 250 DRAW

Our Cruising Winter Evening with Fish & Chips

Friday 12th January 7:00pm.

We're holding a Cruising Social Evening in the bar and arranging for "take out" food to be delivered at 7:30pm

Choices are :

Cod & Chips...£10.00

Chicken & Chips...£10.00

Vegetable Burger & Chips...£8.00

The margin of price over cost will be donated to the roof fund.

If you are able to join us and wish to order food please ring the Club Office with your choices by Monday 8th January.

We ask that you bring payment in cash on the evening in order that this can be transferred to the caterers on delivery.

Please let us have your orders as soon as you can as we will need to know numbers and have to pre order food for the evening.

Cruising Committee

Come and celebrate the Scottish Bard's birthday in true Scots style. There will be poetry and laughter and some insight into the reason that this son of a poor lowland farmer has retained true affection from people and nations all over the world.

A menu for a Burns Night event at the Royal Temple Yacht Club. It features a portrait of Robert Burns in a circular frame on the right. The menu includes a starter (Cullen Skink), mains (Haggis or Cumberland Sausage Ring with Neeps & Tatties), and a dessert (Cranachan). The price is £25.00 per person.

ROYAL TEMPLE YACHT CLUB
SATURDAY JANUARY 27TH
AT 7.30PM
£25.00 PER PERSON

STARTER
CULLEN SKINK
A CLASSIC SCOTTISH SOUP WITH A RICH CREAMY FLAVOUR

MAINS
HAGGIS, OR CLASSIC CUMBERLAND SAUSAGE RING
NEEPS & TATTIES

DESSERT
CRANACHAN

NB – Vegetarian option available – please book.

CATERING

We are indebted to Andy and Angie Ketteringham for enabling us to, once again, entertain our RNLI crew at the club and invite them to supper. Andy has stepped in by providing the catering with Angie and his jolly team of helpers.

He also excelled himself with a superb, three course, traditional Christmas dinner for our black-tie event in December. This was an excellent evening, thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended.

Thank you also to John Chater who led the (not terribly tuneful) carol singing and the pianist, Stuart, who accompanied us.



HARBOUR ILLUMINATIONS PRIZEGIVING



Thank you to everyone that braved the weather on Tuesday 19th December for the Illuminations Prize Giving. Hosted by the RTYC, the evening started with a welcome by the Acting Commodore Karen Cox followed by a thank you by Ramsgate RNLi Chairman Eric Burton on behalf of the local RNLi for whom the local businesses raise money. Madam Mayor Pat Moore presented the awards to the following winners before a buffet which was served by Illumination Co-ordinator, Andrew Ketteringham.

BARGES

2nd place *Score* (sadly, not present)
1st place *Corry*

YACHTS

2nd place *Saje*
1st place *Diva*

ARCHES

2nd place *Something Fishy*
(sadly, not present)
1st place *Coco Latino*
(sadly, not present)

MOTORBOAT

2nd place *High Hopes*
1st place *Full Pint* (sadly, not present)

BEST OVERALL

2nd place *Diva*
1st place *RNLB Esme Anderson*

BEST EFFORT

(a new prize for this year)
Mariners Bar

Thank you to everyone who took part in a year where the atrocious weather conditions have delayed the decoration of boats. As always, it turned into a much-appreciated spectacle that has become a Ramsgate Royal Harbour tradition since starting in 2014 with just four boats.



Madam Mayor Pat Moore presenting the trophy to the Ramsgate RNLi Crew



TEMPLE TEASER No 71

Historical Miscellany
FROM STUART CARTER

Solution on page

1. True or False - The first 'Ark Royal' was originally named 'Ark Rayleigh'?
2. What was the name of Christopher Columbus' flagship?
3. What nautical hallmark is stamped on silver objects struck in Birmingham?
4. What was Captain Hook's pirate ship called?
5. 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?
6. Which British Prime Minister did Ian Smith meet on board HMS Tiger 1966, and HMS Fearless in 1968?
7. What type of vessel was the main theme of the film Grey Lady Down?
8. Which nuclear powered submarine passed under the north pole in August 1958?
9. In 1941, which German battleship was crippled by torpedoes from aircraft flying off 'Ark Royal' - Bismarck; Graf Spree; Tirpitz; Scharnhorst?
10. Which two British destroyers were sunk off the Falklands in 1982?

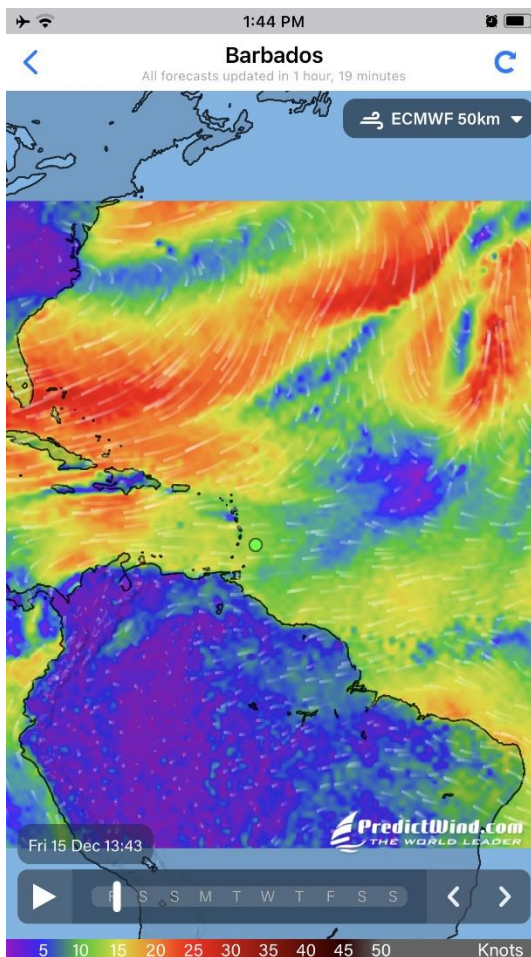
15 DAYS TO CROSS THE TRENCH

In December I completed my 3rd transatlantic crossing the “trench” from Las Palmas to the Caribbean; this time to Barbados 🇧🇧 aboard an 80’ Maxi by Solaris. It was a really fast crossing taking just 15 days and 4 hours to complete 3150 nautical miles and was six days quicker than my previous crossings.

We had really solid winds leaving Las Palmas and they continued for the next 5 days or so as we headed south for the trades. This is not typical and so set us up for a fast crossing regularly hitting 200+ mile days. About 100 miles north of Cape Verde islands the butter melted and we were in the trades, heading west for the Caribbean. But we did have a big wind hole in the last 5 days caused by a significant weather system stretching from Florida a 1000 miles ENE. This brought big Atlantic swells from the north but also created a big and irregular wind hole. This took some expert weather routing from skipper, Alex Alley, and a bit of diesel spinnaker work to get through as the owner wanted to get into Barbados and get the boat prepared for his family arriving for Christmas.



Yours Truly at the helm



Within a few days after our departure the crew of 7 quickly got into the routine of ocean sailing. Watches were a comfortable 4 hours on and 8 off for 6 of us with someone changing every 2 hours. Alex’s girlfriend Claire was the hostess who kept us fed and watered in style. Breakfast was buffet style, lunch at 1:00 and dinner at 7:00. I’ve had to do this before and let me say, this is not easy. It’s physically demanding and when the big 3 to 4 metre waves roll through, nothing stays on a table or work top!!! Clare did all this and to a very high standard.

As is typical, this was a dry crossing but we did have a drop of fizz half way across. Every 15 degrees of latitude we changed the clocks back one hour keeping sunsets to circa 6:00, and these were accompanied by a concert – it made this time of day very special when the full crew would be together to marvel at mother nature and enjoy the music. In the morning we had Pilates and stretching, mid-afternoon backgammon and of course, lots of book reading. You can perhaps now gather that this was a very comfortable crossing complete with hot and cold showers en-suite!!

We saw dolphins on two occasions, a brief glimpse of a pilot whale, tuna jumping as they hunted and of course flying fish. Flying fish everywhere!!! I was on watch in the early hours. It was pitch black and the sailing great; when we heard shrieking from down below. A flying fish had made its way down a

hatch and landed smack on the chest of a crew in his bunk. It was really dark and he had no idea what happened, so he jumped up and made a lot of noise. Scales everywhere, he jumped into the shower, we changed his bedding and hoovered up yet more scales. He got back into his bunk, we resumed our watch. Meanwhile his cabin mate slept on, unbelievable – in fact he knew nothing about the commotion till breakfast. Very funny for those of us on watch.



And the nights were seriously dark in the last week with a waning moon and dark squalls rolling through. When there is no moon and the squall roll through in the direction of the trade winds the clouds just absorb the sky and stars, it is a strange sight with no moon to light the cloud edges. We did not experience any strong and gusty winds, the most we recorded was just 28 knots – but it did pour down.

We noticed some damage at the top of the mainsail luff, and three crew made an expert “homeward bounder” repair.



This was a great and memorable crossing, where next

Chris Cox

POOL UPDATE

The **Pool Team** have had a very successful first half to their winter season campaign. At the Christmas break the team are sitting top of their division with a healthy 6 win and 1 loss record. Due to the unique league situation with 7 teams in an 8-team set-up, there will be a couple of off weeks coming up which will allow the chasing teams to close the points gap. However, the team remain confident in delivering promotion and a new trophy – as if the Club doesn't have enough trophies already!



SAILING/RACING NEWS

Happy New Year to all. Now starts the 'fun', weather dodging, boat maintenance activities to prepare for the next season. I'm pleased to report that the race marks were retrieved in early December and are safely stored in various locations around the outer harbour – more details available if you want to chat, but suffice to say it's not just in the open sea where they tend to like to get a bit 'free range'.

I'll be stepping down at the next AGM and handing over to Andy Ketteringham, but I won't be totally hands-off next year and intend to support Andy in a number of areas as part of his team. We'll be aiming to build upon the successes of this year and incorporate lessons learned to make racing more fun and competitive. For example, given the growth of cruiser class racing numbers, we will be assessing the feasibility of expanding the number of classes to provide more competitive racing.

A Heartfelt Thanks

Serving you as RCS has not been without its challenges as I learned my around the many facets of the role, and I most certainly couldn't have managed any of it without the hard work of the volunteers who guided me and helped in so many ways. They include Paul Woodard for all matters handicapping and Halsail, David Tomlinson (RW course setting), Stuart Carter (Race Officer), our regular Race Hut Crew of Fiona Rawbone, Steph Martin and Jean Conron and other ad hoc volunteers – Thank You all!

**Piers
RCS**



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE SHIPPING FORECAST



RTYC CRUISERS



CRUISING & EVENTS 2024 ALL WELCOME

Our Cruising Committee are pleased to give details of the Provisional Cruising and Events Planned for 2024.

12th January

2nd Friday Cruising Social & Fish & Chips Night

9th February

2nd Friday Cruising Social

Paul & Norma's Atlantic Talk (Part 1)

Possible Food Option Beforehand tbc

8th March

2nd Friday Cruising Social

Paul & Norma's Atlantic Talk (Part 2)

Possible Food Option Beforehand tbc

Good Friday March 29th to Monday 1st April

Easter Shakedown Cruise to Dover - (George Jackson)

12th April

2nd Friday Cruising Social

Cruising Talk with Possible Food Option Beforehand tbc

Saturday 4th May to 6th May

West Mersea Rally - (Mark Andrews)

10th May

2nd Friday - Cruising Social

Friday 24th to Monday 27th May

Calais Rally - (Jonathan Hague)

14th June

2nd Friday Cruising Social

29th June to 14th July

Normandy Cruise - (Mark Andrews)

12th July

2nd Friday Cruising Social

Saturday 6th / 7th

EAORA Race to Ostend, then on to Breskens and S Holland. Opportunity to accompany and Cruise on to S Holland.

9th August

2nd Friday Cruising Social

11th to 16th August

Ramsgate Week

18th August to 1st September

Cruise to Holland. - (Jonathan Hague)

13th September

2nd Friday Cruising Social

Wednesday 4th to 11th September

Cruise to St Katherine Docks - (Don Gray)

11th October

2nd Friday Cruising Social

8th November

2nd Friday Cruising Social

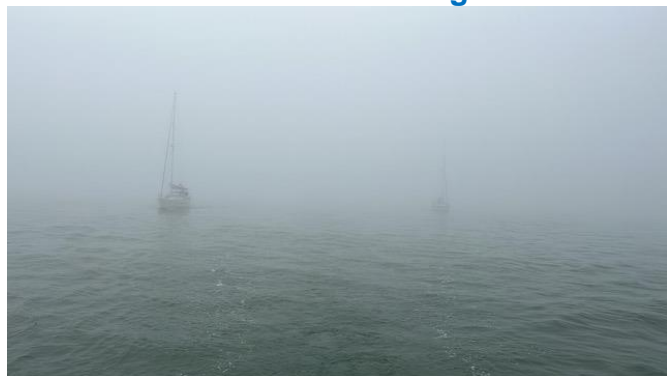
13th December

2nd Friday Cruising Social

Cruising Committee

Alan Lucas, Anne Peers, George Jackson, Jonathan Hague, Mark Andrews, Nigel Collingwood, Don Gray - RCC.

A Reminder of a Great Year of Cruising 2023



Misty Cruise to Dover



East Coast



A Flying Start – Ramsgate Week



Waiting for the wind...



The beautiful town of Goes, Holland Cruise



Rafted at Zierikzee



Dutch BBQ



Blown Away – on the way home

Don Gray RCC

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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.

Westgate & Birchington Golf Club

The end of the Templars' Golf Society year in November saw 10 members and their partners pass a very pleasant evening at the annual dinner and AGM held this year at the Creta restaurant in Broadstairs High Street. The food was plentiful, the wine flowed freely, the business of the evening was dealt with swiftly - the cost of subscriptions was fixed, the winner of the annual eclectic competition was announced and Robin Curtis was confirmed as captain for another year - so that the assembled company had plenty of time to enjoy each other's company and the occasion was a fitting end to a successful season. A number of extremely bad jokes were told but Don Cross was banned from telling his so everyone did actually remember the punchline of their story.

Unfortunately, a very poor weather forecast and a ban on trolleys and buggies at the Westgate course following an extended period of heavy rain meant that numbers were depleted for the first outing of the new Templars' golfing year. However, 6 intrepid stalwarts braved the threat of heavy rain, high winds and very heavy conditions under foot to take to the course in their Christmas jumpers for the annual festive competition. Despite the conditions some good golf was played and scoring was very creditable. It was a close-run thing with Simon Molony the winner by a single point.

New members are always welcome to join us and anyone wishing to join us for the first meeting of 2024 on 17th January is invited to contact Robin Curtis on 01843 602332.

Happy Golfing
Robin Curtis
Captain

Kent
Decking Supplies

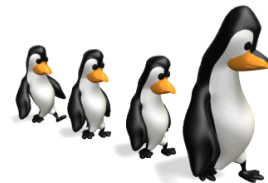
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THE WALKING GROUP



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

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

The very inclement weather recently has put off the walkers.
Please watch your *WhatsApp* for notifications of future walks.

TEMPLE TEASER SOLUTION

From page 2

1. TRUE
2. THE SANTA MARIA
3. AN ANCHOR
4. THE JOLLY ROGER
5. THE DARDANELLES
6. HAROLD WILSON
7. SUBMARINE
8. USS NAUTILUS
9. BISMARCK
10. HMS SHEFFIELD & HMS COVENTRY

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

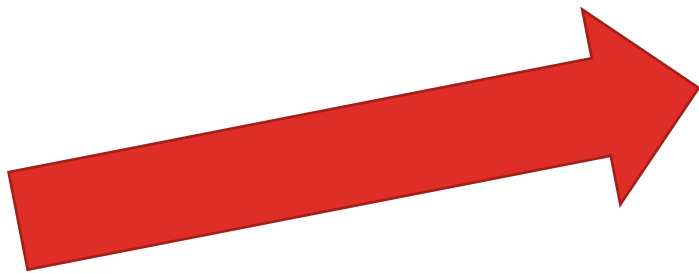
THESE ARTICLES COMMENCED WHEN THE RTYC MOVED FROM LONDON, WHERE THE CLUB WAS STARTED AT THE TEMPLE STEPS ON THE THAMES, TO RAMSGATE

RTYC IN WARTIME 1914-18

The Club facilities in both London and Ramsgate continued to function during World War 1. At the Ramsgate Club House revenue was earned from Bar-sales of wine and cigars and from room rent, billiards and cards. Sailing activities were curtailed and money that would have been given to the Regatta fund was directed to the Redemption of Debentures.

Annual General Meetings continue to be held in February at the Hotel Cecil but in 1915 the formal Annual Dinner which usually followed was replaced by a Reunion of Friends with tickets at 5 shillings and the code was Morning dress.

Members and their boats were playing active roles *The Yachtsman* in its issue of June 24, 1915, outlined the Royal Temple's War-time contribution.



The Yachtsman June 24 1915.

THE CLUBS AND THE SERVICES

ROYAL TEMPLE YACHT CLUB

The Royal Temple Yacht Club are happy in having a commodore of whom they are justly proud, and he is showing an energy in helping his country in its hour of need which would do credit to any man half his age. Despite his seventy-nine years Earl Brassey decided at the commencement of the war to fit out the famous old auxiliary Sunbeam for the purpose of carrying Red Cross stores to France, and she made the voyage across the Channel weekly for several months. Feeling that he needed a holiday the genial senior flag officer of the Royal Temple decided on a voyage to South Africa, and now on his return he has decided to again fit out Sunbeam for a voyage under the Red Cross flag to the Dardanelles.

Earl Brassey, who is a captain in the Royal Naval Reserve, has also been busy in recruiting for the Royal Naval Division during the past few weeks and he hopes to leave Cowes on Sunbeam in the course of the next few days. It is interesting to note that Earl Brassey is the holder of a certificate as master of his own yacht. This interesting document is numbered 01 and dates back to Sept. 2nd, 1873. Altogether, Sunbeam has been navigated by her owner over 300,000 miles in the course of his interesting career as a yachtsman—a fine record. I believe he will have the assistance of Captain John Carter, of the King's cutter *Britannia*, on this trip. Capt. Carter has previously served on the Sunbeam.

An ex-flag officer of the club, Mr. Norman Craig, K.C., M.P., is also doing good work as a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, which has claimed the services of a fair number of well-known members of the club. Amongst these are Mr. J. A. Dawes, M.P., who was somewhat severely injured in an explosion in the Orkney Islands some little time ago; Dr. Morton Smart, who is a commander in the Motor Boat Section and whose interesting letter from the front appeared in a recent issue of *THE YACHTSMAN*; Lieut. Harry Vandervell, an ex-honorary secretary of the club, who is in command of H.M. yacht Major somewhere on the East Coast; Lieut. T. A. Straker (vice-commodore of the Alexandra Yacht Club), now happily recovered from injuries sustained whilst serving on H.M. yacht Kiwi; Lieut. Commander Ian Hamilton Benn, M.P.; Lieut. J. M. McEwen, who was for some time serving on a trawler engaged in mine sweeping operations in the North Sea; Lieut. E. A. Pearce, the well-known yacht agent and broker, who is in charge of H.M. yacht Kiwi, lent to the Admiralty by Mr. Henry Griffith, another well-known member of the club; Lieut. Wilfred Stewart Miall Green, who had been acting as adjutant at the Crystal Palace for some time before receiving his commission; Lieut. H. T. Holloway, so well-known in connection with the racing of the 15-metre class; and Lieut. S. Graham, who, I believe, has had some exciting experiences in Belgium.

Other distinguished members of the Royal Temple who occupy high positions in the various branches of the services include General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C. (in command of the military operations in the Dardanelles); Major General Sir T. Fraser, K.C.B., C.M.G.; Admiral Sir Richard Poore, Bart., K.C.B., C.V.O.; and the Duke of Leeds, who is a commander in the Royal Naval Reserve, and has been engaged in the mine sweeping operations in the North Sea. Sir Thomas Lipton, too, is another member who has done good work since the commencement of the war, having twice taken out Red Cross missions to Serbia on his steam yacht *Erin*.

The club is not quite so strongly represented on the military side as in the senior branch of the service, but quite a number of well-known members are serving in various capacities. These include Lieut.-Colonel R. L. Birkin, D.S.O.; Lieut. S. G. L. Bradley (owner of the crack 15-metre yacht *Pamela*), serving with the Queen's Westminsters; Lieut.-Colonel C. Probyn, J.P., D.L. L.C.C.; Major S. P. Layborn; Major R. T. Denne; Capt. P. C. M. Ash (also of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club) and Capt. H. J. Cobb (vice-commodore of the Medway Yacht Club).

Meanwhile at home, the new rear-commodore (Mr. J. W. Cook) ably assisted by hon. sec. Wilks and the new Ramsgate hon. sec. (Mr. Fredk. Dammers) is doing his best to keep the flag of the old club flying until the boys come marching home again.

After the 1916 AGM, a dinner was held at the Hotel Cecil -- this again was Morning Dress and a Ticket price of 5 shillings; the souvenir programme included these verses

ENGLAND EXPECTS

They cared no more for Racing
They forgot their Summer Cruise
They only thought of Duty
When they heard the warlike news,
So the boats hurried off to their mud berths,
On the Itchen, Crouch and Colne,

And only the oldest stagers
Were left to sail alone.,
Refrain
Keep the Burgee flying
For pals the foe denying.
'Gainst a strong wind and tide.
And far from home,
There's a fair wind coming,
And when they've done the Huns in,
We'll dip the Flag with lusty cheers,
When the boys come home.
Refrain

It was good-bye Lassie darling
Farewell my Leila dear,
And Pamela my beauty
I'll come back soon, never fear,
And thou, oh stately Sunbeam,
With a name already famed
Shall work in the cause of Mercy
By shelt'ring sick and maimed,
Refrain
Donned in khaki or blue, they left us,
Our good pals Harry Van.
Venables and Bradley,
Pills, Wattie and Gus Lang,
And Byrne now wears a cravat
Of a sombre khaki hue,
And the last of the band to say Good-bye
Was that sportsman, dear old Lou.
Refrain

Sadly, it was announced at the next AGM that Byrne had been killed in action.

This 1916 AGM was to be the last function held at the Hotel Cecil. The next year it was requisitioned by the Government and the Club was now without a London Headquarters; agreement was reached with the Savoy Hotel to receive mail and the Secretary operated from there.

1917 was a momentous year in a number of ways. On the positive side contributions to the Redemption Fund had reached the stage where all the Debentures were paid off and the Club property, furniture and fixtures – lock stock and barrel- were now owned by the Members.

In Ramsgate, the Club House twice suffered damage during Zeppelin air-raids causing a lull in services offered until the damage could be repaired. At the time the comment was made that many expressions of thanks had been received from Naval and Military Officers, some unfortunately wounded, for the hospitality which the Club had extended to them during their stay in Ramsgate. It was felt that these acknowledgments would be welcome to the Members who, by their adhesion and cooperation, had helped the Club to render useful service in wartime. Members of Royal Navy and Auxiliary Forces presented a silver salver weighing 60 ounces to the Club in appreciation of the services so freely given. – Regrettably, it was

one of the fourteen trophies stolen during the break-in in April 1988.

Came the Armistice, the Club once more took to the water. The Club House played a more active role in administration matters and Ramsgate Regatta was reintroduced.

Annual General Meetings were held at the Savoy and this continued until 1940.

In the next issue – Ramsgate Week Continues