

SOCA Sailing Times

ISSUE 348 JANUARY 2015

www.socasailing.org.uk



Forthcoming Meeting

RYA CURRENT AFFAIRS

Thursday 8th January 2015

SOCA are delighted to invite you to a presentation by the RYA's Gus Lewis, RYA Legal Manager & Stuart Carruthers, RYA Cruising manager on the evening of Thursday 8th January 2015.

This will be the 1st presentation event that SOCA has enjoyed given by two key RYA Officers at the front line of setting the agenda to support the British boating & sailing community. Be ahead of the game by understanding the issues & legislation being formulated. The talk will cover current topics including e-boarders, wind farms, red diesel etc.

**THIS AFFECTS YOU! RIGHT NOW,
RIGHT HERE in 2015!!**

SOCA SUBS 2015

Dear Friends,

A reminder that our 2015 membership subscription is due at the beginning of January. As last year, the amount will be £25.00; this covers all residents at the address we have in our records.

Subscription cheques or cash can be brought to this month's meeting. If you intend to pay in cash please try to bring the right amount. You can also send cheques or pay by direct debit, please contact the SOCA treasurer at the email address below for details.

Do you understand:

- Your legal obligations when using Red Diesel
- The impact to your navigation of wind farms
- Impact to safety following HM Coastguard Restructure
- Light Dues
- Personal Floatation Device – Compulsory or NOT
- What's your view on Boat Registration & Skipper Licencing
- MCZ Latest!

IF THE ANSWER IS NO THEN THIS PRESENTATION IS FOR YOU!

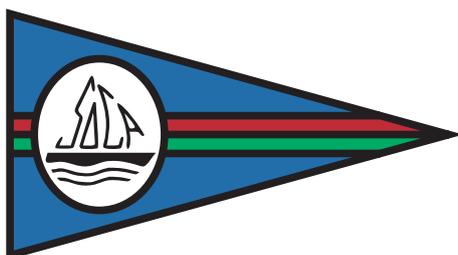
We welcome you all to join this captivating presentation that will enlighten us as to our legal requirements & rights both in the UK & near continent.

We also urge you to provide a big SOCA welcome to Gus & Stewart from the RYA who are kindly giving up their personal time to present to SOCA on matters impacting us all in some way.

Visitors are welcome so please invite guests to visit the club with you.

To those who pay by direct debit/ bank credit/electronic transfer, please check that the correct amount will be transferred to the SOCA account.

Terry Branston
SOCA Treasurer
treasurer@socasailing.org.uk



**MEMBERS: PLEASE SIGN UP TO THE SOCA WEBSITE:
WWW.SOCASAILING.ORG.UK**

COMMODORE'S CHARITY 2014-15 : SAIL4CANCER

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Happy New Year to you all, I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and now that 2015 has started, are looking forward to some excellent sailing over the next 12 months.

As I write this piece, I'm sitting looking out towards the Copeland Islands and the lighthouse at Donaghadee in Northern Ireland; the sun is shining but having put my nose outside, it's a really cold day.

I found the end of 2014 to be busier than ever, with the superb RNLI talk followed closely by the Laying Up supper in November and finally the wonderful photographic competition at the December meeting.

It was fantastic to see all your photos, printed and digital. The quality and quantity were outstanding, well done to all the category winners; I look forward to seeing your winning pictures in next year's calendar.

I'm also very happy to announce that SOCA members bought over £200 worth of RNLI Christmas cards, diaries, pens etc from the Christmas Table run by John Gardener; thank you all very much for your generosity.

Our first meeting of 2015 will be a talk given by two key RYA officers, Gus Lewis and Stuart Carruthers.

They will take us through some of the current topics that the RYA >



> are working on to support everyone involved in the British boating and sailing community.

Join us to learn more about the issues and legislation being formulated, for example Red Diesel and it's continued use, wind farms and their effect on navigation, plus some of the more relevant legal and safety issues effecting those of us who sail the east coast and the near continent.

See you all on Thursday 8th January.

Dee Hilliard, Commodore

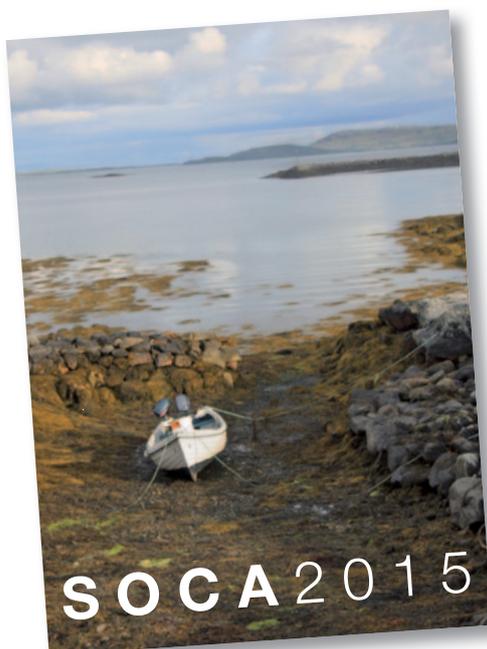
RNLI Christmas Stall 2014 THANKS TO SOCA

A further amount was raised at the December meeting giving a total spend of £284.00! For such a small club this is terrific! Many thanks to the SOCA membership from John and Margot Gardener on behalf of the RNLI.

SOCA 2015 Calendar PLEASE COLLECT

There are a few SOCA 2015 calendars still awaiting collection, these will be available for collection at the January meeting.

Thank you to everyone who placed an order, when all monies are in we should have a profit of over £100 for the Commodores charity.



Log of Wabbit GBR4604

TEDDINGTON TO CALAIS SWIM 2013

...continued

The Last Last Leg

By 7:00 am Andy's swim rate had almost reduced to a speed which would result in him never making it. The crew and myself shouted encouragement and tried our hardest to get Andy to swim faster so as to warm up his tired muscles and change his attitude in the water so as to reduce the drag of his body.

At the next food stop we informed Andy that at his present swim rate he would be out here for at least twenty four hours. Andy's neck was aching but his answer was the same: "let's keep going for a bit longer". A special mix of food was given to him and the swim continued for a time. I was just on board for the ride and the final decision to stop or go on must lie with Andy.

He soldiered on but realized he had to face facts; If he continued, he could do permanent damage to his spine. After swimming for 7 hours and 20 minutes and covering nearly 11 miles, Andy decided discretion was the better part of valour and made the bitterly hard decision to put his health first and returned to the boat.

The boat was stopped and manoeuvred as close as possible so as to get the poor chap in board. We all assisted in this task as there was no lift and a ladder to climb with weary limbs and the full weight of his body to lift out of the water. Once on board Andy was quickly taken into the warmth of the boat cabin where we stripped him off and dried him. The uncontrolled shivering started and the 'nurse' started rubbing Andy with warm towels to warm him up, we dressed him and put him to bed for a sleep and warm up.

Meanwhile the skipper had increased speed and set course for Calais. I'm sure many of you are aware that Andy and I are both members of Welwyn 41 Club the old boys side of the Round Table which is an international organisation. Welwyn has ties to the French 41 at Chantilly and they had organised a welcome committee at Calais



along with Calais 41 club.

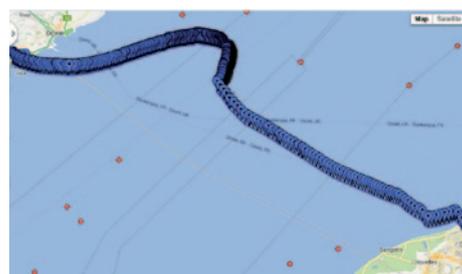
During the final part of the journey Suva lost a belt off one of her engines and the speed slowed quite a bit due to dragging a non-turning prop. The trip into port was interesting chasing the cross channel ferries to the harbour entrance and keeping a weather eye out for the harbour patrol. They came over to us on entering the port to tell us to lower our 'A' flag which was done rapidly and they then left us alone. Passing the shore defences I spotted Tanya and Lieva waving at us. Our speed dropped as we neared the floating pontoon outside the harbour, the lock doors are open so the water was rushing out of the yacht harbour, over the sill.

Waiting for us were Tanya and Lieva with sandwiches and a drink, they were soon joined by members of the French 41 club, in fact the president of the French 41 club and a number of Calais 41 members and Chantilly too.

After much photo taking and hand shaking we thanked the Suva crew for their assistance as they left for the shops in search of a motor shop to purchase a belt for the engine.

We were then taken to a hotel where rooms had been arranged for us, after a quick drink I was ready for bed having now been awake for over thirty hours.

After a few hours sleep I was ready for some food and so were all the others. We had a walk around Calais town, a place





that every body should try as its really come on in the last few years.

Our french hosts treated us to beer and then a delicious meal of mussels, with copious amounts of wine.

Trying to assist in paying the bill at the end of the meal, I was informed that my money was no good here. Our French friends not only paid for our hotel rooms, beer, dinner and wine they also contributed to the Channel swim charities. They are always so generous and we love them like brothers.

After another well earned sleep we thanked our French hosts and left for our free trip back to blighty on the P&O ferry.

Wearing our Teddington to Calais shirts and following a ships announcement a number of passengers talked to us and donated money to the swim.

On arrival at Dover we drove around to Samphire beach to show the ladies where Andy had started his swim from, not so many hours before. There is a cafe in the car park where we rattled the tins again and were surprised to get a number of people generously giving money.

It was now time to go home and start getting back to normal life.

Over a year later Andy is still raising money for the swim with a current total of over £60,000. The autograph book is waiting to be auctioned off along with many other donated lots up for offers. So why not go to the Teddington to Calais site and make a bid or give a donation to the swim charities. I'm sure the Herts MS Therapy Centre and the Herts Air Ambulance would be very grateful for any donations.

www.teddingtoncalais2012.org.uk

Photo Competition & CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The annual photo competition was once again of a very high standard and well organised by Terry Branston. The winning photos from the evening will be considered for the 2016 SOCA calendar along with some of the other competition entries. Thanks to all who helped with the event and to Dee for supplying nibbles.



1 Club Events: Tanya Warren



2 Seascapes: Liz Arnold



3 Artistic: Dave Arnold



4 Boats: George Whitchurch

A big thank you also goes to all members who donated raffle prizes and bought tickets helping us achieve a fantastic sum of over £80 for the commodores charity. Along with the profits from the calendars and other donations we will have a healthy cheque to present to Sail4Cancer when they visit in April. We will inform you of the full totals of SOCA's charity fund raising at the AGM.



5 Weather & Sunsets: Paul Bragg



6 Sailing Holiday: Dave Arnold



7 Digital: Stewart Warren

ARTICLES, PHOTOS AND SNIPPETS FOR SOCA TIMES WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED



AUNTY'S COLUMN

News, hints, tips and oddities from the web and our reporters



rnli.org

LIFEBOAT LAUNCH ALERTS

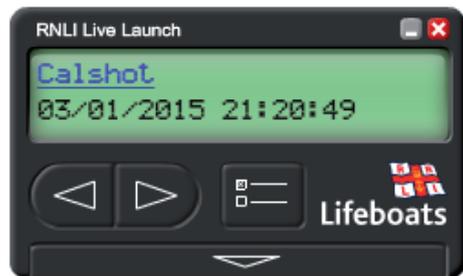
<http://rnli.org/aboutus/lifeboatsandstations/Pages/Lifeboat-launch-alerts.aspx>

Would you like to know when your local RNLI lifeboat goes out on a shout?

Keep in touch wherever you are by signing up for lifeboat launch SMS alerts. Or, if you download the Desktop Pager, you can keep up with RNLI crews while working at your computer.

Select the stations you wish to follow and when the crew gets the call, you will too.

- Keep informed of the latest launches
- Choose to monitor all stations or selected stations



The call: RNLI lifeboats joined the massive multi-agency rescue of the cargo ship grounded on the Bramble Bank.

www.greatwar.co.uk

JANUARY 1915

1st: H.M.S. "Formidable" sunk by German submarine in the English Channel.

19th: First airship raid on England.

24th: Action of the Dogger Bank. German cruiser "Blücher" sunk.

29th: Walney Island battery (Barrow-in-Furness) shelled by German submarine (first operation of German submarines in the Irish Sea).

30th: British Admiralty warn British merchant vessels to fly neutral or no ensigns in vicinity of British Isles.

gcaptain.com

SALVAGE BY TEAMWORK

A salvage operation with a difference as Volvo Ocean Racing yacht, Vestas Wind is recovered onto a Maersk container vessel. Read more at: gcaptain.com/salvors-detail-recovery-team-vestas-wind/



Log in to the SOCA website for the latest events information

SOCA DIARY

JANUARY MEETING: Thurs 8

Stuart Carruthers, RYA Cruising Manager and Gus Lewis, RYA Legal Manager tell us how the RYA is representing our interests on a range of issues
page 1

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thurs 12

CRUISING THE BALTIC: Ever popular speaker, Paul Bragg, returns to present some stunning photos of his summer 2014 cruise

MARCH MEETING: Thurs 12

COMMODORES REPORT AND AGM

APRIL MEETING: Thurs 9

SAIL4CANCER: Visitors from SOCA Commodore's Charity 2014-15 will explain how our donation will help

APRIL EVENT: 17th or 24th TBA

FITTING OUT DINNER date and venue TBA, watch this space

MAY MEETING: Thurs 14

ANNELIEKE VISITS THE SOMME: Alex Nicholas and Andrew Davidson recount their 2014 sailing adventures

JUNE MEETING: Thurs 11

GUEST SPEAKER:

We are in discussion for a guest speaker to visit SOCA. TBA

JULY MEETING: Thurs 9

SOCIAL & FUN QUIZ:

Join a team of SOCA members for a fun quiz and social event.

SAILING

EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY RALLY 1-4 MAY 2015

A shake down cruise is being planned for the May Day bank holiday weekend. Please talk the committee if you wish to take part as skipper or crew. Ideas for destinations are welcome.

SOCA - Where & When?

WHERE Stevenage CIU (Please use the front entrance and ring the intercom).

LOCATION 31 High Street, Old Stevenage, Herts SG1 3AU – next to the Standing Order

WHEN The second Thursday of every month. **TIME** 7.45pm doors open.

IDEAS OR VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS FOR SOCA CLUB TALKS WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE CLUB AND COMMITTEE

THE COPY DEADLINE

For the next SOCA Sailing Times is **25th January** please send photos and general contributions to: news@socasailing.org.uk

Any comments made by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Association, who can not be held responsible for them. The Editor reserves the right to shorten and edit contributions where necessary.