



CONTESSA 32 NEWS LETTER

Christmas 2011



A REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS BY OUR CLASS CAPTAIN

Dear All,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the extended sailing season.

I thought it would be a good idea to take stock and provide you with an update of Association matters. I have a lot to tell you.

In terms of events the highlight was of course the 40th Anniversary which, despite the weather, was a great success. The event was organised by Anthony Burdall who was assisted by a small band of volunteers who all worked hard. I want to thank them again on your behalf.

CRUISING

Following an extremely successful tenure, Anthony Burdall has let me know he now wishes to stand down as Cruising Representative at the next AGM. I would of course like to thank Anthony for all of his hard work and commitment over the last few years. As you will all be aware he has made a significant contribution to the association. This of course means that the Association is urgently searching for a new Cruising Representative to co-ordinate our activities. Anthony not only planned the cruising events he organised, publicised and hosted them! This is of course a daunting amount of work but it doesn't have to be this way, in order to make the role more manageable we already have a number of volunteers to organise events but the committee would like to appoint a member to join the committee and "head-up" and co-ordinate this activity. Please contact me directly if you feel you will be able to help your association.



I would like to mention an event which I hope may be of interest to those members who are more interested in some fast cruising. The reality is that most of us spend the majority of our time sailing our yachts either Single-Handed or more often Double-Handed. The Contessa 32 is of course ideally suited to shorthanded sailing and is one of the reasons many of us bought them in the first place. In June 2012 (17th to 29th) the Royal Torbay Yacht Club is holding the Yachting Monthly Triangle event which is a Double-Handed "Challenge" from Torbay to Kinsale (S. Ireland), Treguier (Brittany) and back to Torquay. There are 2 day stopovers in each location and I am sure a very sociable time, we already have three Contessa's entered and it would be tremendous to have a few more and make a good show!

You can find the details at <http://www.royaltorbayyc.org.uk/triangle/triangle.htm>. You will notice that the majority of entries are cruising boats.

MAGAZINE

You will also be aware that after many years of sterling effort, Ann Jennings is trying to find a willing member to take over responsibility for the magazine as she wishes to reduce her commitments to spend more time with a growing number of grand children. The magazine is the most important association publication and encompasses the members' handbook. In summary the role involves cajoling members and others for articles and reports etc, finding new and liaising with regular advertisers and finally working with a 3rd party

professional to lay-out and publish the magazine. Annie has made a fantastic contribution to the association and once again a simple thank you doesn't seem enough, we will make a suitable gesture of our appreciation in the near future. Typically Annie has of course kindly offered to ensure continuity by providing an extended handover, working with the new editor over a number of editions. Please help us ensure that we can continue with the magazine and contact Annie who will be able to explain what is involved in more detail.

Whilst discussing the magazine, I hope you have all enjoyed the recent trial of an electronic version which the committee agreed to a trial and would welcome any feedback. This initiative provides a number of benefits but namely it reduces Annie's workload as well as printing and distribution costs which of course increase every year. It is nice to keep a hard copy version and the committee is aware of this as a potential objection, however, for those who would like a hard copy it is of course possible to "print you own". Future archiving and access to the archive are simplified by producing a digital magazine, keeps us in step with technology and of course is a greener solution.

RACING

We are in the process of formulating an "OPEN RACING programme" to encompass racing outside of the Solent Series. At the last committee meeting it was agreed that the existing "off-shore representative" would be changed to an "OPEN RACING representative" and we are looking for volunteers! Our 'one design series' is extremely valuable and should be protected, but we are aware that it isn't for everybody and therefore we are trying to offer an alternative programme that will hopefully be of interest to another set of members.



Initial thoughts are that two handed racing should be the core of the programme as there is an increasing interest in this discipline for a number of key reasons. It of course saves on organising crew and importantly our boats are ideally suited to shorthanded sailing. It is envisaged that the programme will consist of mainly short passage event's that will be of more interest to those who like to sail "somewhere" rather than just "round the cans". Current plans also involve a "Regional Racing Championship" which will provide a chance to recognise racing achievements outside the Solent. By "Regions" we include all geography where our members are active including of course Belgium and Nederland. The proposal is that individual owners will submit their racing results from regional events and a points system will identify and recognise our most successful regional racers. We will try and get the definitive programme published as soon as practicable in the meantime if you have any suggestions as always please contact me.

Mark Oliver has done a fabulous job with next year's Solent Series racing programme following feedback from the members survey. There was a majority of members who wanted to see the inclusion of some short passage racing so we have included a passage race weekend to Poole from the Central Solent and I hope that as many of you as possible are able to join in whether you be two handed or fully crewed.

In an effort to reduce costs and provide more variety we will be joining a number of existing Regattas such as the Tattinger Regatta 27th-29th July 2012 hosted by the Royal Solent Yacht Club (Yarmouth). As you will have guessed the sponsor's product will flow freely in an effort to get us all hooked! This is especially true on the Friday which is a non-racing day and offers us the opportunity to socialise and drink champagne on the lawns of this fabulous club. There will also be an opportunity to "Sail the Wight" without the crowds on Saturday 2nd June during the Diamond Jubilee Regatta.

In 2012, our National Championships will be held in conjunction with the Contessa 26's at Lymington Town Sailing Club where our Vice Captain Rob Milledge is Director of Racing. This is a very exciting prospect and

once again I hope that as many of you as possible will come to compete or support and socialise. In 2012 we aim to make the Nationals a truly National event, to this end we would like to encourage crews from all regions to enter and we will make Contessa 32's available for the Regatta, so please contact me if you would like to enter a crack team from your region and I will personally make arrangements to find you the fastest boat I can! I would especially like to see teams entered from Scotland, Belgium and Nederland. We could then of course rightly call it the Contessa 32 World Championships (or at least European).

To get things started I will here and now offer my boat "Carolina" for the first regional crew to contact me, I will deliver the boat and stay on board to supply tea and cake! If there are any other owners who would like to host a regional crew please contact me.

LIBS

We will once again be attending the London International Boat Show (LIBS) in January as part of the Association stands. Keith Feltham and Ann Jennings have kindly volunteered to make this happen and I know they are urgently looking for volunteers to staff the stand on each day and "evangelise", so please contact them directly if you would like to help. It is an interesting and enjoyable day spent talking to like minded people; please do help if you can. This year we have secured a stand in the main hall, so you will be right in the middle of the action!



CO32 STUFF

Liz Wisdich (Scottish Representative) is once again organising the Scottish Mid Winter Meal and she will release details shortly. Liz has kindly invited me to attend and say a few words about the Contessa entries in the Azores and Back 2011 (AZAB), I am very much looking forward to the event. Liz and colleagues have designed and produced a Contessa 32 Calendar (£15) which looks fabulous, please contact Liz and place your order for Christmas.

Whilst on ideal Christmas presents, Mark Jennings (son of Annie) is a professional film maker and over the last couple of years has been making a 60 minute documentary DVD about the Contessa 32 including interviewing David Sadler in New Zealand and of course Jeremy Rogers closer to home. The DVD costs £18.99 plus £1.95 PP UK and £4.50 for overseas PP. Please contact Mark Jennings on +44 (0) 1403 738238 or email: office@chillipepperto.plus.com. The DVD can also be ordered at the Boat Show on the Contessa 32 stand.

FORMAL MATTERS

The AGM and Prize Giving will be held jointly again on Saturday 18th February at the Royal Thames Yacht Club (London). Last year's event worked extremely well as a formal meeting and a social event. This year's AGM will be held in the morning and will be followed by a lunch and prize giving, providing the opportunity for longer socialising in the afternoon/evening, shopping, theatre or if you are so inclined getting home earlier.

We need nominations for Vice and Class Captains. The term is two years and my tenure ends in February 2013 (AGM), the normal process is that a Vice Captain (we can have more than one) becomes Class Captain but Robin Milledge is fully committed with his current responsibilities and although willing to stay on as a Vice Captain and contribute to the committee, he can't unfortunately take on Captaincy. We therefore need to elect another Vice Captain for 2012, with a view to this person becoming Class Captain for 2013 and 2014. Please send nominations to Guy Darby (Class Secretary).

SO, IN SUMMARY "YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU"....

In the end our association is only as good as the effort that our members put in. To take us in to the next 40 years we need:

- *Volunteers for Cruising Representative, Open Racing Representative and Magazine Editor.*
- *Volunteers to organise cruising events particularly in regions outside of the Solent.*
- *Nominations for a 2012 Vice Captain (to become Class Captain in 2013)*
- *Regional teams to enter the 2012 National Championships (boats will be supplied)*
- *Volunteers for the London Boat Show in January*
- *Entries and support for the events organised*

Thank you for your attention and please don't hesitate to contact me with any thoughts or feedback you may have, either directly or via the forum on the website if you would like to share your thoughts with all.

Best Regards

Richard Clark
Class Captain