

# SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

<p><b>SPOSC AGM 2018</b>  <i>New format AGM to include buffet as a social event.</i>  <i>Your Commodore</i>  <b>Page 1 &amp; 2</b></p>	<p><b>Frostbite 2018</b>  <i>Owen Poplett gives provisional details of the Frostbite Charter</i>  <b>Page 3</b></p>	<p><b>Dinghy AGM</b>  <i>Details of the 2018 Dinghy AGM at the Cricketers Arms Berwick</i>  <b>Page 3</b></p>	<p><b>The 2017 Frostbite</b>  <i>Or Sailing in a Storm, by Graham Castell</i>  <b>Page 4 &amp; 5</b></p>
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## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2017

The 2018 SPOSC AGM will return to the Sussex Yacht Club, Shoreham-by-Sea at 6.30pm on Monday 12th February and will be followed by a buffet.

The Committee have agreed a new format for AGM to try and ensure that attendance is representative of the numbers of club members, and that the AGM should be a social occasion as much as it is a business meeting. In order to make the evening attractive as well as ensuring that business is properly conducted, the following steps have been taken:

1. The official notice of AGM will be sent out in the near future via a further email, with the Commodore's report, Secretaries Report and Treasurer's Report attached.
2. The idea is to keep business to a minimum. Members will have had plenty of time to read the reports prior to the AGM, they will therefore not be read out at the AGM just proposed and seconded. The only business at the AGM will be the election of officers, proposal and seconding of reports previously circulated, voting on any rule changes previously circulated. (Together with the email containing the Notice of AGM, circulation of reports and details of any proposed rule changes, members will be invited to submit any questions by email. The Committee will then respond to all members by email regarding any questions raised, prior to the AGM).
3. Following the much-shortened official business of the AGM there will be a social event, during which the annual awards will be presented and (as a key attraction), the 'launching' of the SPOSC 2018 sailing calendar. This will provide an opportunity to register as crew on the events within the calendar. (Separate arrangements will apply to both Frostbite or UKFSC. Following this AGM and Social meeting, the crew lists will be opened up to others who did not attend).
4. The social event will be in the bar and will include a buffet, which is at no additional cost to members.

*Continued on next page*



### Editorial Note

Please remember that this is your magazine and should reflect your views and experiences for the benefit of other members. If you have any comment, articles or photographs you feel are appropriate for inclusion then please forward them to me, [terryclothier@hotmail.com](mailto:terryclothier@hotmail.com) for publication.

*The opinions expressed in articles within Scuttlebutt are those of the individual only and not necessarily those of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.*



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## AGM 2018 continued;

The committee members ask that you please give due consideration to attending the AGM wherever possible. The emphasis is on making the AGM a social evening giving members a chance to catch up with each other. The reasoning for the changes lay in the falling attendances at the past few AGM's and that the business part of the AGM's had become too long. We therefore wanted to try something new, to make the AGM and the social aspect more inviting to members. We hope that you will feel that these changes are helpful to your club, and that you will support the club in its endeavours.

## Action requested from Members;

- A. Please ensure that you save the date**
- B. (In order to assist in assessing numbers, particularly for the buffet), please RSVP ASAP or at the latest by Friday 26th January, by email to [Owen.Poplett@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Owen.Poplett@sussex.pnn.police.uk) with your intention to attend or otherwise, including the numbers of any guests / prospective new members.**

We look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards,

Kevin Claxton  
SPOSC Secretary (on behalf of the Committee)



### Sussex Yacht Club

*The Sussex Yacht Club was established in 1892 by a group of yachting enthusiasts in order to further the sport of yachting and cruising and is now one of the oldest sailing clubs in the UK. The Club was originally named "The Mosquito Yacht Club" after the one-design yachts favoured by the gentlemen owners (the class itself was named after the blood sucking insects that once swarmed the Southwick canal).*

*The Club is located at;  
85-89, Brighton Road,  
Shoreham-by-Sea. BN43 6RF*



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## From the Commodore - Frostbite 2018

Dear Members,

Frostbite 2018 will run from Monday 9th April 2018 to Friday 13th April 2018. ( Crews starting at the beginning of the week will join the boats during the afternoon / evening of Sunday 8th April 2018 ).

There will be opportunities for members to crew for all or part of the week. The cost will be £25 per night spent on the boat plus £1 per night donation to the RNLI.

The charter will use boats provided by Commodore Yachting based at Gosport. If there are sufficient numbers a Sun Sail F40 may also be chartered to enable some race training to take place and give members the opportunity to sail a race boat including spinnaker sailing. For those who have signed up for the UKFSC this would provide a great opportunity for boat familiarity and race preparation.

If you wish to partake in Frostbite 2018 please reply to me by Sunday 17th December 2017. It would be useful if you could indicate whether you wish to partake in the full week or part of the week.

There may be an opportunity to extend the charter to seven days which would include the weekend of 14th and 15th of April. Please indicate to me if you would be interested in sailing for seven days or part of the week including the weekend.

The week chosen has short tides so there will be many options as to where boats choose to go. Hopefully going in April rather than March will mean more people will have leave available and the weather will be more settled than it was in March for the last couple of years.



## Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club - AGM

The Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club AGM will take place at 7.30pm on Monday the 8th January, 2018 at the Cricketers Arms, Berwick, East Sussex.

<https://www.cricketersberwick.co.uk>

### DRAFT PROVISIONAL CALENDAR 2018

Frostbite	Monday 9th to Friday 13th April, 2018
UKFSC	Monday 7th to Thursday 10th May, 2018
UKFSC Support Boat	Monday 7th to Friday 11th May, 2018
Summer Charter - Passage	Skipper to fix date (June?)
Summer Solent Charter	Skipper to fix date
September Charter - Passage	Skipper to fix date
NCA Regatta 24th - 30th September	Date to be confirmed by Organisers
West Country Charter may be the September Charter or additional Charter if sufficient interest	

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## Frostbite 2017

by Graham Castell

19th to 24th March 2017

The “Frostbite” week 2017 as ever did not really live up to its name in fact it should have been called “The WINDS are US week”

The week commenced in the normal way with everyone meeting up at Commodore Yachts, Gosport during the late afternoon of Sunday 19th March.

We had two crews with a total of just nine of us as one or two had to drop out for various reasons.

Those present and correct, well mostly correct, were Kevin Claxton, Owen Poplett as skipper and two new members John Walker and Steve Fairmaner, who were crewing Elizabeth Star a 38ft Bavaria and on Adelaide Star the 44 footer, we had Dave Cherry (Entertainment Officer) Lee Floyd (Techie), Dusty Miller (Skipper) Graham Castell (for added height) and Rear Admiral Ronald Nevitt. Adelaide Stars crew had all sailed together before but Elizabeth Star were a relatively short handed and inexperienced crew. Sunday evening was spent with taking on supplies from that well known local victualler Tesco's who nowadays can be relied upon to bring the goods right into Gosport Marina – when it immediately became apparent that Dusty had bought plenty of supplies for the forthcoming days, this was followed by initial briefings and supper at the Castle pub.

Monday dawned as Mondays do and it was obvious that the day was going to be interesting – the forecasted winds were fairly strong but not strong enough to deter the intrepid crews who eventually made their way out into the Solent, and head for Cowes, well that was the intention, however after Adelaide Star had put out into the Swashway it became quite apparent that the headwind was such that little progress was

to be made so a collective decision was made to nip back into Portsmouth Harbour where the wind was a little less in yer face. But not by much. Just a “comfortable” 20 knots. After an interesting trip up the Fareham Creek and some exploratory moves to have a closer look at the new fuel pontoons for the soon to be delivered Royal Navy Aircraft carriers it was decided to have another attempt to get to Cowes. Success we made it, and with a very good sail albeit with buffeting head winds, again just the 20 knots and then the sun came out and it was all lovely !!

For those of you who have not been to the Solent lately there have been a few changes. Most obviously just to the south of the Swashway there are three very tall structures painted mostly yellow. These are some kind of Transit markers for the new and delayed aircraft carriers, quite why the vessels which will have the latest technology are in need of transit markers is a mystery – well it is to the writer anyway. There are also three similar transit markers further up in the harbour itself, which like the fuel pontoon are up by Whale Island. There are further changes to the dredged deep water channel approaches from the Nab tower area – ( which itself has been much diminished in height and is a shadow of its former self – bit like most of us ! ) Basically the carriers will be pretty unmanoeuvrable in tight waters so the old dog leg near Spit Sand Fort has been/is being straightened out – and now the channel markers are in different positions, but it is still pretty obvious where to go.

In addition to all this when you get to Cowes the new and very large breakwater has been completed outside the entrance to Cowes – been there for a couple of years now. Many of you will know that this has affected the tidal flow across the entrance to Cowes harbour – much increased flow at certain times, so beware. But the recent development is that the new approach channel from the East has now been

properly dredged for larger yachts and coming from the East it makes for a much easier entrance, making it possible to almost get into the harbour without getting involved with the ferries.

Upon arrival at Cowes it soon became clear that Adelaide Star was on its own. Elizabeth Star had also high tailed it back to Gosport but had remained there – so the two boats had little contact from then on and each did their own thing. So the fleet had been scattered by the storms on Day One !

Tuesday arrived with more high winds forecast, but suffice to say that Adelaide Star did get out again ( truly intrepid crew by now ) and made it's way up in to the comparative shelter of Southampton Water to view the big ships – both, cruisers and what used to be called the merchant shipping but now of course are all large container vessels and large doesn't quite cover it. The cruise vessel seemed huge but then it was realised that there was an even larger vessel beyond it – a quick check on Auntie Google showed that the ship, Majestic Maersk, was in fact the world's largest container ship (when built) at 399 meters long with a beam of 58 metres !! It has an unbelievable container capacity of 18,270 containers, each one is HGV sized of course. It was quite amazing and that alone made the week unforgettable. We then returned back down Soton Water, tacking all the way – a great sail, down to the Hamble and up to Swanwick where its true to say that if nothing else the toilets are fantastic. Warm floors and Classic FM. The night passed in thankfully sheltered waters but Wednesday the wind returned with a forecast of 25 to 30 knots !!! And we had to get back to Gosport for a crew change !! So owing to some astute weather calculations it was reckoned that there was going to be a gap in the winds and so we made a run for it.

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Motoring down the Hamble seemed surprisingly simple and then out into the North Channel – then No Visibility! So the ancient art of buoy hopping came into play.. Fortunately many years ago when Ron and Graham were a bit bored we actually did a grand circumnavigation of the Brambles and kept a schematic plan which came in quite handy that morning. Then the rather eerie mist lifted, the winds came back and a good sail was enjoyed.

Arriving at Gosport the mood changed a little, when we met up with Owens crew on Elizabeth Star. A combination of factors meant that the decision was made that Elizabeth Star's week would end there, mostly because the weather was simply not going to improve for the foreseeable. We said farewell to the crew and to Lee and said Hi to Alan Haffenden who was with us for the rest of the week. So Adelaide Star set off once more – this time to Lymington – well that was the intention, but the usual combination of tide and of course the continuing high winds meant that was unachievable so it was back to Swanwick. Why Swanwick ?? Shh ,whisper it softly but Swanwick is another Premier Marina – same as Gosport and each boat attracts a certain number of Free Nights until they are all used up, so it was free berthing there. That night, the celebrated facilities were once again well patronised however owing to general fatigue among the senior members of the crew – no names etc but check the crew manifest, only three crew made their way to the local pub. Dusty, Alan and Graham (oops).

Now we all know that the Jolly Sailor is the pub to be seen in and don't they just know it – the prices there are pretty steep, and last year we went to

the Navigator just over the road – but it was a bit like the old Dubliners song. The pub with no beer, so this year we supported the Old Ship Inn – out of Swanwick turn right and 400 yards – well worth a visit – good beer and lovely old characteristic pub. Then the hard bit came – we left the pub and suddenly it really was Frostbite. The cars were covered in a hard white coating – ice ! And it wasn't even closing time yet. So we slid back to the marina and settled down to some good stories and tricks from the entertainments officer – Dave. Now if you haven't sailed with Dave you've really missed a treat. He is full of stories and magic stuff – enough to keep you amused for hours !! He's not just a roving fender you know.

Thursday, and you have got the picture by now... Yep – more winds and how... Once again our destination was Cowes and we actually got there. Suitably reefed of course we flew over to the Island – so quickly that we thought we really ought to go and do it all again – so this time headed for the Beaulieu River - The morning was truly exhilarating sailing – the way it should be and it all felt perfectly safe and under control, followed by the beautiful peaceful river – quick lunch on the move and back out again into the Solent for Cowes. Well ! Anticipating the worst we had put all the sails away before we motored out into the, what's the word? Maelstrom ? Yes that about covers it. We believe the highest wind that we recorded that afternoon was 38 knots. Not just the wind but we had blinding rain full on the nose – Nevertheless the very very intrepid crew had little option but to continue and we finally made it to Cowes – just as the rain cleared away but not the wind... which continued to rock us all to sleep

throughout that night – but did that bother us – Oh no, having eaten on board most nights – it was time for a C U R R Y !! what a feast we had. Then of course we had to sample the Cowes night life at the Anchor pub and I quote,

***“The Anchor is one of the Isle of Wight's premier live music venues showcasing a vast array of musical talent from some of the island's most talented individuals.”***

I think that about covers it.



Well I reckon we must have got in -- ooo as late as 11 o'clock,, that's pm of course not the next morning you understand.

And Friday back to Gosport of course for the hand back – a totally undamaged boat or crew

despite the raging non stop winds of the week and what was ultimately a week that had offered some excellent if challenging sailing, in conditions that we would probably not have gone out in normally, but as ever the crew rose to the occasion and mutually supported each other which is probably what it is all about.

Roll on next Frostbite.

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## What do You Want from Your Club

Dear Members,

During the year your committee has been thinking of ways to encourage members to participate in more events and develop their skills. To do this we need to know what the membership want.

To help with this, please complete the survey which is accessible by clicking on the link below.

The survey is very short and takes less than two minutes to complete. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C78C82M>

I hope to have the results analysed in time for the AGM so please complete as soon as possible.

Owen Poplett

