

# Gravesend Sailing Club

## Newsletter – Easter 2020

### Happy Easter

Firstly I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

### Keeping in touch

We are looking at all sorts of ways that the club can keep in touch with members and members with the club, but we need your help as well. I would like to send out the newsletter every couple of weeks for the next few months and will welcome any contributions you can make especially to the “Things to do while we wait to get sailing again.....” please email [commodore@gravesendsc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@gravesendsc.org.uk)

One of the innovations Training is looking to do is re-introduce “Knowledge and Nosh” where the knowledge is “virtual” using video-conferencing and the nosh is self-catered.

### Keeping Going

Although we are in lockdown there are still things that need to be managed and bills to be paid. Your General Committee are quite actively contingency planning for the future using the resources of the internet to communicate with each other.

### When we are able to start sailing again.....

As I said in the previous newsletter; we would all like to get sailing as soon as possible, but the priority for the General Committee is the health and well-being of our members and all our decisions will be made with that in mind.

Once, we have a date to get sailing we will pick up the published programme from then. If we can we will try and run the missed dates later as this is better than trying to create a new sailing programme.

### Lift In

At this stage we do not know when lift-in will become possible; however, the General Committee will be applying a set of rules to determine when we can proceed:

1. Lifting of enough of the restrictions by Government
2. Withdrawal of Notice to Mariners 6 by the PLA requesting no recreational or leisure use of the river
3. Completion of servicing of the river moorings by the PLA
4. Agreement from the Marina management
5. A suitable tide

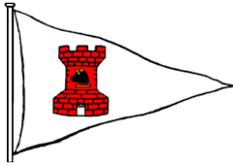
To undertake lift-in safely is quite labour intensive so we will need the restrictions on how people may congregate to be lifted as much as possible. There is no point in launching the boats if we can't sail on the river and equally we need the river moorings to be safe for boats to be put upon. As we launch into the Marina we need agreement from them that they are able to accommodate us and lastly we will need to have a suitably high tide.

### Do you have any good photos?

We are looking to refresh the club brochure so that as soon as we can get the season started we can think about having an Open Day and get recruiting new members. So do you have any good photos we can use? If so, may I suggest that if you do could you select no more than 3 of your best ones and send to [commodore@gravesendsc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@gravesendsc.org.uk); although, we can't guarantee to use them and the only prize is that they may be included.

### Things to do while we wait to get sailing again.....

Richard Twyman has set a passage planning challenge which should keep you all occupied over the Easter Break (see below). Richard hopes that everyone will have a go and is especially keen to hear from our newer members and those who've recently taken up sailing – don't be daunted give it a go.



# Gravesend Sailing Club

## Passage Plan Challenge for all members and their families

All times below are British Summer Time

In July this year we have programmed a Club race and overnight visit including evening meal to the Medway Yacht Club with on the weekend of July – I haven't a clue whether we will actually be able to do it due to the Covid 19 restrictions, but we thought it might be fun to run a little Passage Planning competition open to all members / owners crew of dinghies and cruisers.

### The Challenge:

## Submit a passage plan for the trip

Anyone (individual or a team) can submit a plan, but it must be for a voyage from GSC to MYC and back and within the period between 18:00 on Friday evening 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and return to your compound bay or mooring at GSC by 22:00 on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

It can be fictional - boat, crew, weather, and you can use any resources you wish to, Internet, Satellite Images, experience, Reeds Almanac, Charts Pilot books, me or other Club members, friends etc. etc.

Key points may include but not be limited to

- Times of enough water at GSC and MYC to get to your cruiser or launch / recover your dinghy
- Tide turn time at the Medway river entrance
- Alternatives harbour / anchorage if something changes and means you have to take refuge / seek assistance
- Daylight Hours
- Pilotage notes

The MCA / SOLAS Convention requires all passages to sea to be PLANNED, but for leisure sailors it does not have to be written down, although it is good practice to do so where applicable. The key thing is that a plan taking all relevant factors into account should be considered and made, and it can be very simple from "Looks like a nice day I'll go for a sail off the Club for a couple of hours" to a more detailed affair for a passage to say France - taking into account tidal rates and direction, weather routing, tidal heights, food & water to be carried, crew watch system, etc. etc. etc.

Don't be put off - there is no such thing as a wrong plan - it just needs to have some logic to it and be relevant to the circumstances (and you can make up many of the circumstances).

Have a go just for the fun & thinking exercise.

**Your entry to be submitted by email to Gravesend Sailing Club - [training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk](mailto:training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk) by not later than Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

### Format

Can be email, pdf, word document, or manuscript.

### Prizes

The most entertaining / simple / detailed / appropriate plans will be awarded a prize at the Duck Supper this year. There will be a handicap system applied by the judges in order to encourage newcomers to the art and particularly our newer members.

The judging panel will be Richard Twyman and Cliff Wimpory (unless anyone else wants to do it) and their decision will be final.

**Have Fun & Keep Safe** - breathing might be permitted later in the season!