



East Coast News

Autumn 2022

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. It is with many thanks to John Garside who has come out of retirement to produce this one last newsletter advising members about the AGM and our plans for next year.

So, included are details of importance to the club's future, our Long Trip sailing programme for 2023 and our AGM on Saturday 19 November.

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But first, a quick recap on our programme last summer.

In truth it was a mixed one. We were not able to take Freyja out of UK waters because of issues with Freyja's VAT status now that the UK is not in the EU. It's a complicated story but as you will learn at the AGM progress has been made and we are definitely going abroad next year.

At the beginning of the season after Freyja went back into the water, we saw a number of opportunities for members to join short courses, to gain boat handling experience or skippers able to charter Freyja and sail in local waters.

Outward bound

The long trip started well with a crew led by Richard Maxwell taking Freyja up the east coast all the way to Inverness. Good sailing and an opportunity to explore some of the attractive towns along the coast. Once at Inverness they locked in to the Caledonian Canal which leads all the way through the Great Glen towards Corpach and Loch Linnie, gateway to the Western Isles.

Just one hitch. The canal was closed

The planned work to replace the lock gates at Cullochry had hit snags and were not due to be completed before Thursday 19 May, and perhaps even later. Richard and his crew were able to delay their departure from Ipswich and it was agreed with the follow-on crew to make their best way along the canal and meet up where they could.

Through Loch Ness to Fort Augustus and they were then able to slip through the lock as part of the 'trials'.

On now as far as possible. To Corpach, overlooked by Ben Nevis at the end of the canal. The next crew will have to take Freyja on to Oban where she was based for the summer.

While all the charter slots were not taken up, those that did, reported excellent sailing conditions and in addition to some welcoming, though small marinas, anchorages were to be found aplenty. Sheltered and snug and well documented in the Clyde Sailing Club's Pilot of the area.

And not a midge in sight. Unlike last time we sailed in Scotland.

Homeward bound

Fair sailing is what we all promise ourselves and those whom we know.

This was not to be for John Miller and his crew. The plan was to spend two weeks sailing from Inverness down to Ipswich and visiting places they had not been to before. The storm winds blew and blew; and sensibly, since all of us are there to enjoy our sailing, they sat. First at the Seaport marina at the top of the Caledonian Canal, then moving round to the Inverness marina, ready to put to sea once the weather abated. Along the coast they skipped south, but running out of time they were forced to leave Freyja at Sunderland, just south of Newcastle on the River Tyne.

So, what was dubbed a 'rescue mission', Richard Maxwell put together a crew to bring Freyja home to Ipswich. Did I say 'rescue mission'? Turned out to be that and more.

South of Flamborough Head and off Aldbrough on the Yorkshire coast Freyja is well and truly snagged. At 2.30am. Twenty miles offshore in over 40 metres. Engine is running but Freyja is going nowhere.

It becomes obvious that the crew are going to need assistance.

Takes a while to gain the attention of the Coast Guard who escalate the issue from a Pan-Pan to Mayday, perhaps because of the gas platforms the crew can see in the distance.

There is a Coast Guard helicopter on the way and the Humber RNLi lifeboat at Spurn Head is being launched.

It all ends well; with the full story to come in the New Year's edition of our newsletter.

Pan-pan

The international standard signal for an urgent situation, but which, for the time being, does not pose an immediate danger.

I hate to break it to you but as things stand that is where the club stands.

We have a yacht that has been consistently recognised as a *wonderfully capable offshore cruiser whose reliability is beyond doubt and whose layout and high-quality finish out-performs any comparable yacht at a similar or better price. No wonder Yachting Monthly in their review 'Yachts of the Century' rated the Najad 380 in second place, giving the first place only to the famous Endeavour.*

But our yacht is only half the story.

The success and future of the club depends not only in attracting and retaining members but also in the commitment of all members to supporting the management and the running of the club.

In a nutshell, the existing committee need you. They are not getting any younger and need to pass the baton on to those who will be there after they stand down. As they inevitably will have to.

As Club Captain I am too old now I think and because of the Constitution ineligible to stand again and some of the executive committee will also stand down after many years of service. However, others will remain and even those who are standing down will be there to train and give guidance.

Truth is that unless we can re-build our management team and active supporters the long-term future of the club will, at the very least, remain in doubt.

But it's not just the executive that needs fresh blood, but perhaps even more importantly support for those who look after and maintain Freyja. Over the years the club has been inordinately fortunate in our Yacht Husbands. It is due to them that Freyja remains a seaworthy, beautiful yacht that is a pleasure to sail. A small group of members, a very small group, have done sterling work in supporting our Yacht Husbands. But our Yacht Husband and the few who support him need help.

Almost everyone can do something to help. Our members are likely to have skills in abundance. Some know electrics, others engines. Some are happy to clean and polish.

We are also looking for support for the webmaster to develop the website.

Please let me know at brianbarnes346@gmail.com how you might be able to help.

We really, really need you. Every one of you.

Our AGM

The Place: Littleton Sailing Club, Littleton Lane, Shepperton, Surrey TW17 0NF
easily accessible from the M25, M3 and M4.

The date: Saturday 19 November 2022

The time: from 10.00am with coffee for start at 10.30am

Plans are being made for those who cannot travel to join the meeting on Zoom.
See the club website nearer the date for details and links.

The meeting will start with a short review of last year's programme and our current plans for the start of next year: training opportunities and private charters.

Then, before our formal AGM, an overview of our long trip for 2023.

Happily, we have a skipper who has already offered to start Freyja off to the continent and another to bring her back to Ipswich. The outward trip is likely to go across the North Sea and around the top of Holland and through the Kiel Canal to possibly Rensburg, whilst the return trip in September will start in Rensburg and more than likely travel through Holland and out to the North Sea through Amsterdam or travel south on the canals through Vlissingen.

Then an AGM, including reports from the Club Treasurer and our Yacht Husband.

Importantly we need to formally elect club officers, in particular: Club Captain, Yacht Husband, Yacht Secretary, Crewing Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. We also need someone to take over editing the ECYD magazine.

Nominations and any motions you might like to submit should be with our Club Secretary by Friday 21 October 2022: Chris Robbins, 29 Grangewood, Little Heath, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 1SJ or chrisrobby@gmail.com

I can do no more than stress the need for your help, even just as an ordinary member of the committee. Please think about it.

Immediately after the AGM there will be an informal meeting of those skippers and members interested in our long trip and an opportunity to explore placing an option on a potential slot for next year. It's also the ideal networking opportunity for members looking for a berth to meet and get to know skippers, or of course Skippers looking for crew.

Refreshments and even a light lunch will be available from the excellent café at Littleton.

The Baltic 2023

So, looking towards next year, the ECYD Committee have decided that the summer cruise for 2023 will definitely be to the Baltic (visiting hopefully Denmark, Sweden and Germany, with Holland and Belgium on the way). For those of you who have not sailed in this area, it provides excellent sailing and scenery with Fjords if you are sailing around Frederica or a visit to the islands of Bornholm and Christianso if sailing out of Ystad and a trip to the North Baltic if sailing from Malmo or visiting fishing ports and scenic harbours from Travemunde and Warnemunde and the island of Rugen.

The initial charters from Ipswich through Holland, Germany and the Kiel Canal are agreed as has the return from Rendsburg in September. The two skippers who have agreed to undertake these two charters will be pleased to have members join them as crew. The Crewing Bureau will be placing details on our website. These particular passages are an ideal opportunity to expand their experience on longer passages, night sailing and watches.

What is sailing like in the Baltic?

In a word, or two: usually fantastic. It's no surprise that there are so many sailing clubs in the Baltic. The sailing season is typically from May/June through to September with July and August being the warmest, typically 24°C with weather similar to that of East Anglia with moderate winds and minimal rain.

Getting to Frejia, and back home again by public transport.

The club boats have visited the Baltic many times over the years and experience in the past has shown us some ideal places as handover ports. Regular flights, with local train and bus connections will make getting to and from Frejya relatively easy.

The Proposal.

Detailed below I have shown *possible* handover ports with a number of days for the charter shown, but these can be amended to meet individual requirements providing that either side of the charter can be agreed.

I have also shown rail links to the handover ports to make it easier for planning. More detail is to be found on our website: www.ecyd.org.uk

It would be useful if we could have some thoughts about where you would want to go and when, although it may well be that we will have to juggle some of the plan to make it fit and be workable.

I welcome some thoughts and any provisional interest, and I would try to honour any bid but confirmation of the charter can really only be made on payment of a deposit taken after the AGM.

Proposed dates for the summer cruise with possible handover ports.

<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Finish Date</u>	<u>Departing port</u>	<u>Handover port</u>	<u>No. days</u>
Monday 1 st May 2023	Thursday 11 th May	Delivery from Ipswich	Rendsburg	10
Thurs 11 th May 2023	Saturday 20 th May	Rendsburg	Travemunde	9
Saturday 20 th May 2023	Monday 29 th May	Travemunde	Travemunde	9
Monday 29 th May 2023	Wednesday 7 th June	Travemunde	Warnemunde	9
Wed 7 th June 2023	Friday 16 th June	Warnemunde	Stralsund	9
Friday 16 th June 2023	Sunday 25 th June	Stralsund	Ystad	9
Sunday 25 th June 2023	Tuesday 4 th July	Ystad	Ystad	9
Tuesday 4 th July 2023	Thursday 13 th July	Ystad	Malmo	9
Thursday 13 th July 2023	Saturday 22 nd July	Malmo	Korsor	9
Saturday 22 nd July 2023	Monday 31 st July	Korsor	Frederica	9
Monday 31 st July 2023	Wed 9 th August	Frederica	Frederica	9
Wed. 9 th August 2023	Friday 18 th August	Frederica	Sonderburg	9
Fri 18 th August 2023	Sunday 27 th August	Sonderburg	Sonderburg	9
Sun 27 th August 2023	Tuesday 5 th Sept	Sonderburg	Rendsburg	9
Tuesday 5 th Sept 2023	Friday 15 th Sept	Rendsburg	Ipswich	10

Note: Kiel Week is from 17th to 25th June 2023 and either side can be a very busy period.

Change overs will be at midday unless previously agreed with the outgoing or incoming skipper. This will help for victualling etc.

Rail Links to Handover Ports

Destination	Train Station	Departing Station	Approximate travel time	Airport
Enkhuizen	Enkhuizen	Amsterdam	1 hr	Amsterdam
Delfzijl	Delfzijl	Groningen	37 mins	Groningen
Delfzijl	Delfzijl	Amsterdam	3hr	Amsterdam
Rendsburg	Rendsburg	Hamburg	1hr 15mins	Hamburg
Frederica	Frederica	Copenhagen	1 hr 46 mins	Copenhagen
Malmo	Malmo	Copenhagen	1 hr	Copenhagen

Ystad	Ystad	Copenhagen	1hr 29 mins	Copenhagen
Travemunde	Travemunde	Hamburg	1hr 20min	Hamburg

Below is a selection of local harbours that are worth a visit – but there are many more.

Handover Ports	Adjacent Ports
Federicia	Middlefart
	Haderslev
	Assens
	Kolding Fjord
	Bogense
	Vejle
	Juelsminde
Malmo	Brondby
	Dragden
	Kastrup
	Flakforten
	Stubbekobing
	Copenhagen
	Helsingborg
	Helsingor
Ystad	Bornholm and Christianso Islands
	Bodden and Grabow lakes
	Stralsund
Travemunde	Wismar
	Lubeck
	Warnemunde

There are plenty of alternatives possible, I have shown a feasible trip starting in the south of the Baltic across the German coastline and then travelling North to cover Sweden and Denmark and then back to Rendsburg for the homeward trip. However, I am sure that at the skipper's meeting after the AGM there will be as many suggestions for alternatives as there are Skippers!

To whet your appetite, I will finish by showing some photos of the Baltic.

With best wishes

Brian Barnes
Captain ECYD

ECYD Website www.ecyd.org.uk



Figure 1: Aeroskobing



Figure 2: Christianso



Figure 3: Allinge on Bornholm



Figure 4: Lohme on Rugen



Figure 4: Entrance to Gudhjem

