

## **ECYD - Yacht Secretary Report November 2023**

Last season opened with some sea trials, followed by the month of April being devoted to courses, such as Boat handling, Taster sails and Radar. These were provided by the usual volunteer skippers – Brian Barnes, Mary Reed and Richard Maxwell.

Unfortunately, take up was very poor and many of the courses had to be cancelled.

The yacht secretary then had a challenge trying to put together the Long Trip into the Baltic, so that skippers had handover ports that were easy to travel to and that there were no gaps, enabling it to remain a revue generating venture.

There started off with some misunderstandings about the price to be paid for the delivery trip and the return trip, with both skippers feeling that there should be a price reduction since their trips would not be “holidays” and it was essential that Freyja be delivered to a certain port on a certain date, no matter what the weather. After some discussion an agreement was reached.

All went well, eventually, with skippers indicating which 9 day “leg” of the trip that they would be interested in. Unusually this year, three weeks of Sea Time were included where new people could come and sail with experienced skippers. There was unfortunately another misunderstanding between a new Sea Time skipper and the club Captain regarding the number of crew that one could safely sail with, and the lack of a mate. This could not be resolved and the Captain had to take over the Sea Time slot.

One skipper had to give up their charter slot as they couldn’t find enough crew. After much advertising on our web site and Facebook to find another skipper and crew to charter, we were unsuccessful. This was then taken as a “hotel” booking by a club member.

Later in the season another skipper was unfortunately taken very ill and had to drop out, which meant that Freyja did have 9 days, unused in Malmo. Luckily the skippers for the previous and subsequent charters had agreed a handover at the town marina, which was fully staffed by students who spoke excellent English. This proved fortuitous as the departing skipper left Freyja well locked up and with the canopy up in case the next skipper and crew arrived in the pouring rain. However, this meant that the air circulation was limited and after a day or so there was a very loud alarm going off on the boat. The yacht husband was able to talk to the harbour master by phone: the harbour master went on board and ventilated the boat.

The autumn has seen very little interest in sailing on Freyja, despite the price reduction. There were only two short charters booked.

To summarise, there were 11 slots on the Long Trip, and 8 skippers chartered Freyja, some twice. Only slot of 9 days was unfilled.

The new Committee will hopefully have more success next season and Freyja will continue to serve the ECYD as an excellent boat.

Mary Reed  
Yacht Secretary 2023