



Yacht Section Annual Report

AGM

11th November 2022



Rear Commodore – John Lake

It seems a strange thing to say, given the challenging and uncertain state of the world but it seems to me that this has been a remarkably “normal” year for the Yacht Section! Maybe even a rather successful one? At least for now, the spectre of Covid is not significantly affecting our activities.

We are now past the end of my second full year as RC Yachts and it has been a great and enjoyable experience. However, I also feel that a 2-year tenure is enough, so I plan to stand down at the next Club AGM.

This is the third year running that this format of Annual Report and (minimal) AGM at a Second Friday Social, has been adopted. We, the “committee”, rather like this method, rather than a more formal AGM – but we count on your support so if you have any views on this (or any YS related topic) please do contact any of the YS Committee.

Since the last YS AGM in October 2021, we have been fortunate to enjoy a full programme of 2nd Fridays; and through the winter months - bi-weekly rambles, monthly Sunday Morning Lectures, 4th Friday Technical Discussion Groups, and the occasional more formal evening such as the Annual Dinner.

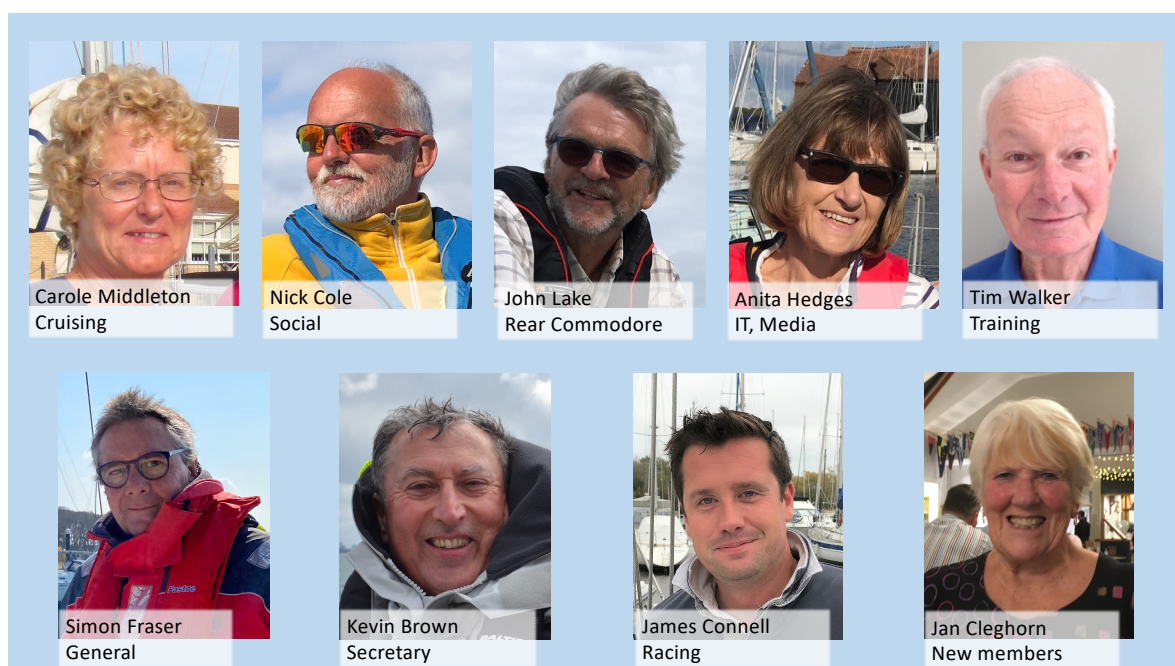


Once the cruising season got going, earlier this year, with the “Long Johns” in March, we kept going with very few weather cancellations until the “Winter Woollies” in October. Even those outlying cruises took place, though the Long Johns presented some challenging conditions; the Winter Woollies could not even justify its name, so it might have to be called “Autumn Tints” next year.

A full cruising programme was planned for the summer (more details in Cruising Secretary Report). It seemed to me that we had a lot of easterlies again this year, but the great majority of our cruises and races went ahead and were very well supported by our members. Thank you, everyone who took part.

I was particularly pleased that the Cross Channel Race and RC’s Cruise to the Channel Islands could take place at the beginning of June, which gave us the chance to try out the new post-Brexit bureaucracy. And survived! Once again, this year, the West Country was a favoured destination for many of our cruisers – again aided by the “West Country Cruisers 22” WhatsApp group with thanks to John Gosnell.

All the above could not have occurred without the efforts of the Yacht Committee, who all deserve enormous thanks! Other than me, all the present Committee have agreed to carry on for the next year, so I must thank them for that, too...



The YS Committee for the past year has been:

Kevin Brown – Secretary – who keeps our meeting schedule, minutes, and magically makes sense of some of our discussions

Carole Middleton – Cruising Secretary – who has the onerous task of putting together our Cruising Programme and finding cruise leaders. Carole is starting to put next season together already, so if you have enjoyed our cruises in the past and would like to organise one next year, please contact her soon...

James Connell – Racing Secretary – has just finished another season organising the Fun Races. No-one has more sailing events to sort out than James. And nobody does it better! Including some of the best Cruise Reports (see Yacht Posts).

Tim Walker – Training and Technical Secretary – organises the 4th Friday Technical Discussions throughout the winter; is always on hand to deal with technical issues (or knows a man who does know) and champions the Buddying support for newer members embarking on their first cruises-in-company.

Jan Cleghorn – New Member Secretary – Jan has the task of personally contacting all new members to make sure they get all they need from membership of the CYC Yacht Section.

Anita Hedges – Media and IT Secretary – Anita looks after our WhatsApp groups and has done a great job again this year in ensuring that all the Yacht Pages on the website are constantly refreshed and updated. If you want your cruise report posted, or any other help with the CYC website, Anita is the person to contact.

Nick Cole – Social Secretary – who has taken a leading role in organising the Second Fridays; the Winter Lectures and many other more formal events like the Annual Dinner.

Simon Fraser – General Member – who has had a relatively easy time on the committee this year, but who has agreed to take over as Social Secretary next year.

Also, we must not forget non-committee members: **Jane Gosnell** for co-ordinating the **Winter Rambles Programme**; and **Judy Walker** for running the **Yachtie Ladies Group**. Thank you both, for all your support and hard work.

For the whole Club, day-to-day management has now returned to the new Commodore (Simon Benson) ably supported by the Business Sub Committee (BSC) and even more so, by the staff in the Office, bar, and restaurant. They have done a great job in maintaining the smooth functioning of the Club throughout this past year.

CYC remains on a sound financial footing. The total membership of CYC has increased again this year – now at an all-time-high of approximately 1185 “principal” memberships.

As always at this time of year, your Committee has already started the work to organise all the regular Yacht Section events for next year. We are always on the lookout for members who would be ready and willing to help with this – none of this gets done without volunteers! So, if you feel you would like to put something back, please feel free to contact me via yachts@cyc.co.uk or any of the present Committee.

Finally, thank you so much to all the Yacht Section members who take part in our activities and help to make CYC such a friendly and welcoming club. You are the reason we put in all this effort!

Cruising Secretary - Carole Middleton

After a fantastic cruising season, this year's programme has now come to an end. The wind may not always have behaved as we would have liked but only one cruise was cancelled due to weather and many took place in glorious sunshine.

A total of 22 cruises were arranged, with the usual mix of weekends and mid-week over 1 to 5 nights. All were well supported, 16 having a reserve list by the end of March.



Thanks to the efforts of the Cruise Leaders and flexibility of marinas, everyone was accommodated on all but one cruise, Marchwood, which was enjoyed by the crews on 19 boats but some still had to be turned away, such is its popularity.

Cruises were arranged to all the usual Solent destinations, Littlehampton, Southsea and the Channel Islands. Cruise leaders excelled themselves with the range of shore activities offered which included wine tasting, juggling lessons, tender trips up the Arun and the upper reaches of the Hamble, as well as walks, games, quizzes, meals and BBQs. Many of the Solent Yacht Clubs were visited and for the first time in a long time one cruise had lunch at Seaview Yacht Club.



It was great to hold an in person “Yacht Section 2022” on January 30, after two years of virtual presentations. A large audience were introduced to the cruise and race programme, and heard an update on crew exchange and buddying. An informal session over coffee and cakes gave people the opportunity to discuss their training needs and find out more about cruising and racing.

Planning is now underway for the 2023 programme.

Thank you to all the Cruise Leaders for planning and leading cruises and to everyone for taking part to make a very enjoyable programme.

Race Secretary – James Connell

It has been an absolutely fantastic race season this year. We have had a total of 31 boats join in this year’s race season. Some boats did every race whilst some just one or two. Either way we usually have between 15 and 18 boats for each race which is excellent. The weather has also been kind to us this year, generally dishing up good winds and sunshine. Very sadly we had one race which we did not manage to run on account of the weather, but the others all went ahead as planned.

We started the year with the annual Peter Buttery Plate. 17 boats amassed at the start for a lively morning’s sail to Cowes. A few hours in the wind disappeared leaving the boats floating on the tide being honked at by container ships as they approached Southampton. The following day started well but soon after the start the heavens opened and the wind died. With water soaking into places it shouldn’t, most of the fleet retired leaving just Cool Runnings and Crazy Feeling sailing on to the end.



Our next race was the Cross Channel Cup. 15 boats set off across the Channel on a lovely sunny day. On arrival, we found our own Club Commodore already in the bar having set off at midnight to catch a better wind. The fleet was treated to a wine tasting session in

Cherbourg and a lovely dinner at the marina restaurant. With bilges well stocked with inexpensive reds some boats headed home, whilst others joined John Lake on the onwards cruise to the Channel Islands.

Our mid-summer fixture is the round the island race ... with an overnight stop in Lymington on the way. The outbound leg had lots of wind on the nose, so the boats had a great day of beating down the Solent. Sadly, the wind eased off just as the tide turned foul so some of the slightly slower boats had to finish under engine. The next day it was an early start to catch the tide around the back of the island. The wind had returned but this time it was behind us and with a 2.5knt favourable tide, the boats made a fast run home.

After the summer cruising break we returned to racing with a vengeance as we challenged the Chichester Cruiser Racer Club to our annual dual for the Jim Bramidge Trophy. We had mixed fortunes this year and although one of our boats took the prize for first on handicap, it is the fleet's performance which counts, and we did not get the points to win the trophy back this year.

Our last race was to Lymington and back at the beginning of September. Another fantastic weekend with 15 boats in the fleet. The weekend was won by a new boat into the fleet which is great to see. We will be going back to Yarmouth for 2023 which will be nice having not been there at all this year.

All that remains for me to say is a massive thank you to everyone who has taken part. It has been a real joy putting together the race programme this year and see all the boats out on the water having a good time. I will be adding in another event for 2023 so look out for more details in the new year.

Training and Technical – Tim Walker

Sharing Our Experiences!

The autumn and winter months of 2021/22 saw a return to 'live' Discussion Groups at CYC and the topics covered a range of subjects old and new. It was good to meet 'in person' again and the sessions were well attended, with enthusiastic participation. In addition to subjects covering cruising afar, there were discussions on electronics and knots. These were co-hosted by Yacht Section Members and were well received by the group.

This year will continue with the same format, including topics suggested by new or recently joined members. They will be advertised in Over the Yardarm, On Board and the CYC Website. These will revisit some pre-Covid items such as Cruising Outside the Solent and Going Abroad. The latter will cover the new system recently introduced by HMG and feedback from 2021 cruises.



The Buddy Scheme continues to tick along. There has been a significant increase in YS Members using the Yacht Section Chat WhatsApp to ask for help and advice, in the knowledge that they will receive a good response almost by return! It is also a source of subjects for a future Discussion Group.

Shore Based Training

The concept of CYC offering shore-based RYA Training to all CYC members was discussed with the CYC Sailing Manager prior to a presentation at the January 2022 What's New in Yachting. YS Members were invited to register subjects that were of interest, and these have now been included in a programme for Winter 2022/23. This has now been published by the CYC Sailing Manager.

Next Year?

Feedback from YS Members is always welcome to develop Training and Technical awareness. Contact training.yachts.cyc@gmail.com or Yacht Section Chat WhatsApp.

Social Secretary – Nick Cole

Following the previous year's online presentations, we returned to normality with an excellent series of Winter Lectures:

- Sailing into the Electrical Age
- Open Borders
- Selsey RNLI
- Seals in Chichester
- Duncan Wells

All were very well attended with positive feedback and many staying on to indulge in the excellent Sunday carvery.

Other social activities, including the Second Fridays, were back to normal and well attended as usual, giving existing and new members the opportunity to catch up and exchange stories of all the trips near and far.

Some changes have been introduced with the hatch service no longer available, the removal of the trestle tables and orders being taken at the tables. The new ordering process took time to settle down, however I believe it is now working well.



The Annual Dinner was a great success with a full house. Entertainment was provided by the excellent John Gleadall and his guitar, even managing to get a good number onto the dance floor. Some impressive moves being shown off!

For the coming year we already have an excellent range of subjects organised for the Sunday Lectures, stay tuned!

New Members – Jan Cleghorn

Well, I thought the surge in the number of new members last year was huge, however 2021/2022 has seen yet another big increase in membership.

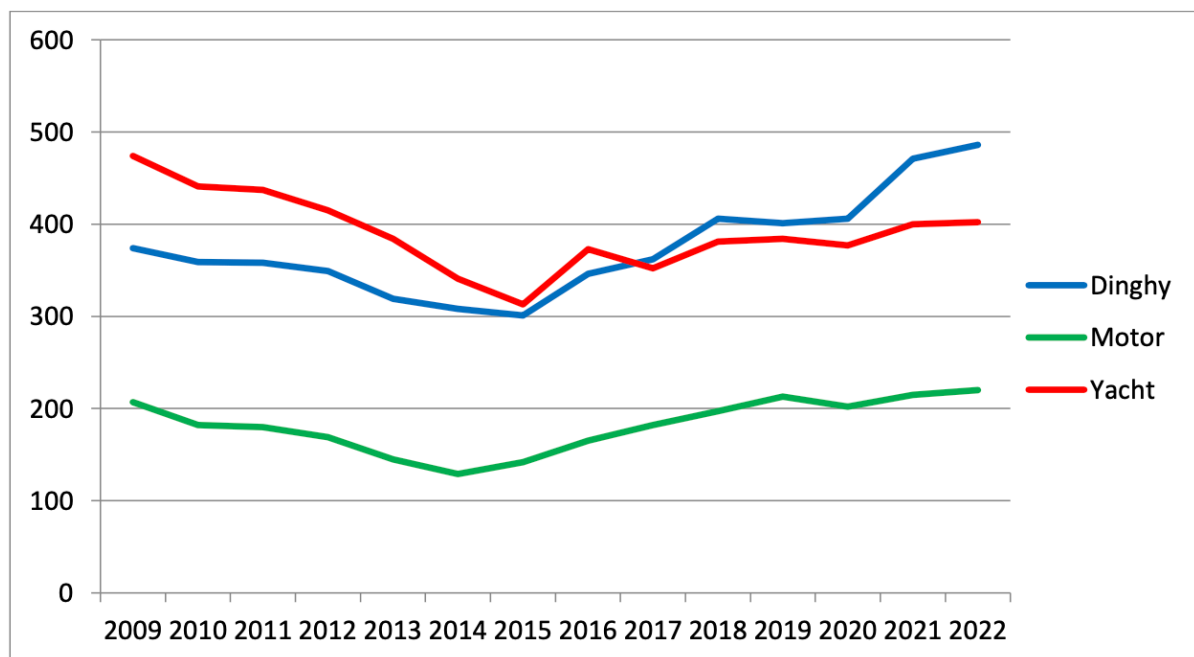
As of today we have 523 members. 301 Yacht Section “only” members and over 200 “joint” members with other sections expressing an interest in Yachts (Yacht/Motor 19, Yacht/Dinghy 144, Motor/Yacht/Dinghy 60).

New Members since 1 October 2021: -

Yacht 32, Yacht/Motor 4, Yacht/Dinghy 30, Motor/Yacht/Dinghy 24.

Having had brilliant summer weather, cruises have been well attended as have the 2nd Friday socials, apart from the lovely weekends when members have taken to their boats. These socials have been a great opportunity for new and existing members to get together and chat over various boating experiences.

Membership trends per section (as of 24/09/22)



Our Winter Yachtie Ladies group was also very successful, existing members passing on their experience, giving tips and encouragement to the not so confident. They will be meeting up again this Winter.

Communications – Anita Hedges

The WhatsApp Groups continue to be an important means of communication between members of the Section. The three main groups used by the Yacht Section are:

- Yachting Matters – for exchanging information; keeping others informed when out sailing; arranging pop-up cruises and requesting/offering technical advice.
- Yachting Chat – an informal forum for light-hearted banter. Also, the main place for posting pictures of sunrises this year and visiting birdlife! Please also think about posting your photos on Yogile (via the CYC Website) or sending them to Anita Hedges media.yachts.cyc@gmail.com for uploading. That is the only way they become eligible for our annual Photo Competition.
- Crew Exchange – for skippers and potential crew to link up. This year, I have had the impression that it has proved to be a very useful facility for some members. They are the ones who have also gone out of their way to make it to 2nd Fridays and other social functions, to become known to the cruising fraternity.

Of course, there are also our newsletter emails: **“On Board”** issued each week by the office to provide a comprehensive view of Club events for the next few weeks and **“Over the Yardarm”**, specifically for the Yacht Section members, which is issued once or twice a month if there is specific yachting news to impart.

Finally on communication, the CYC Website is a great resource for finding out about all the Club activities, booking Cruises and Rambles, using the reference information in Yacht Documents, and reading about the Cruises you attended (or maybe missed) in Yacht Posts.



Rambles - Jane Gosnell

I am pleased to report that after the restrictions due to Covid over the 2020/2021 ramble season, we had a very successful programme during last winter.

In total there were 11 rambles which ran between mid-October and the end of March, a record number. All were very well attended and enjoyed by members from all sections of the club. The average walk length was about 5.5 miles with between 20 and 30 participants.

Thanks to the individual leaders there was a great variety of walks to suit all, both up on the Downs and on flatter terrain around the harbour, all rounded off with a tasty pub or club lunch.

The weather was mostly kind apart from some unseasonal snow in November. As it was a drier winter, mud did not feature as much as in some years!

The walk programme depends on the leaders and I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the following people who lead walks;

- David and Gill Roberts
- Kerry Jackson
- John and Pat Purslow
- Philip and Sue Brown
- Peter and Sarah O' Donnell
- Jan Cleghorn
- Nick and Anne Cole
- Helen Jupp and Gina Hamlyn
- David and Janice Thomas
- Roland Saam

The current walk season is underway with a full programme so here's hoping for some sunny winter days to enjoy the lovely and varied scenery in the Chichester area in good company.

Yachtie Ladies – Judy Walker

After lockdowns and numerous Zoom meetings Yachtie Ladies resumed their “live” meetings last autumn with several new members joining the group.

We had sessions on:

- **Practical First Aid at Sea** – taken by Hazel Wright, one of our members
- **Useful knots and mooring techniques** taken by John Barfoot and Kerry Jackson
- **A full day bespoke session on Basics of Navigation** from Duncan Wells. This was designed by Duncan for us – we had some 26 members attending including some from the Motors.

We have a programme planned for this winter which includes a demonstration of Safety equipment including a life raft and a session on practical radio technique from the RNLI.

There are some 50 ladies on the email list, and we normally get around 20 for our meetings.

If you are interested to join this group, please contact newmembers.yachts.cyc@gmail.com