



For those who were trying to go round buoy 23 at the Medway Regatta this picture shows buoy 31 having a similar wash and brush up.

# 31 1/2 SUMMER 2016

## Welcome to the summer edition of 31½

There has been a real buzz around the club this year with some good racing, work around the grounds and training, and it is looking like a good summer season. There is always plenty to do at the club, as well as the racing, so if you can offer a skill or some time, please contact any member of the committee.

As always thanks to all the contributors who have made this edition another interesting read. The General Committee has agreed that while the spring and summer editions of 31½ will continue in a digital format the autumn edition will be both digital and in hard copy. While October seems a long way off it will soon be time to tie down the covers for a few weeks between the Frostbite series and the Warm Up winter series so, please start sending in those articles for the autumn edition. Have you improved your sailing, tweaked your rig, had a good sailing holiday, enjoyed your class nationals or discovered something new on the river? Whatever it is other members will be interested to read about it.

David Wraight

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## From the Commodore...



At last the summer has arrived, plus the rain!

We have been very fortunate to have good winds on most weekends; although, perhaps a bit gusty at times!

Christine Godber co-ordinated and managed the Medway Regatta, which was a great success. Well done to Christine and the hard working team for preparing the club and running the event.

It is great to see plenty of activity at the club on Saturdays and Sundays. Lots of juniors enjoying themselves on Saturday morning

and Jeremy Drummond is doing well organising adult sailing on Saturday afternoons.

By the time 3½ is published, the new race lights/sound system will be in operation, so it will be very interesting to see the system in action.

Let us hope the winds and rain is kind to us for the rest of the season and I look forward to seeing you at the club.

Martin Vinton

## Race Lights

An introduction to the new race lights/sound system can found on the club Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272743631302/>, on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRudQd9z-Aw> and in the last edition of 31½.

## Minorca

For those looking for a break from the rain Alison Williams and David Fenech are planning to go out to Minorca again in October 2016. So if you are looking for some sun and some sailing its worth getting touch and joining them. A report of the last trip can be seen in the Autumn 2015 edition of 31½.

## Skimmers

Saturday Skimmers is now underway. Sessions run from 9.30am to 1pm with sailors grouped according to ability. There will be a register to sign in so that we know who is attending and who will be the sailor's nominated guardian for the day.

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A mixed fleet of WSC craft passing the Strand on one of our calmer days.

### **Dementia Adventure - Sailing Opportunities**

Dementia Adventure specialises in designing and delivering short breaks and holidays for people living with dementia and their carers to enjoy together, concentrating on what the person can do, rather than what they cannot do. They offer these breaks as an alternative to traditional forms of respite with the intention that both people will have a good time and, working in partnership with the Sea-change Sailing Trust in Maldon, deliver 2 weeks of sailing in the Thames Barge "Reminder" (perfect name) every year. The remaining date for 2016 is 29th August. Up to 4 couples (the person with dementia needs to be accompanied by someone they know well but it need not be their main carer) are taken on board and they are supported by 4 members of the Dementia Adventure team, as well as the skipper and first mate. No previous experience of sailing is necessary as full support is given, but they say the experience is especially beneficial for those who have sailed in the past. The subsidised cost of the 5 day break is £500 per person and includes all food and drinks on board, but extra financial help may be available if this is the only barrier to the person taking part.

Sailing is also available on the South Coast using a Brixham Trawler for those happy to sail further afield.

For further information go to <http://www.dementiaadventure.co.uk/holidays/details/essex-sailing> or contact Lucy Harding (Operations Director), Office: 01245 237548, Mobile: 0773 642 8861

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## 2000 Fleet Report

I'd like to say it great to be back sailing again but what a strange start to the season – the near survival sailing on 10 April 2016 for the Commodores/ Bosun Series, with only 2000 one entry from Paul Rogers and Paul Thorpe (22131).

### Events at the club

The Spring Points Series has finished now with 9 entries... I think...?? Adam and Claire have 8 DNC. I know it was his birthday recently but I'm not sure what happened there! Overall I think we sailed 4 out of 8 races. Please don't remind me of the Spring Points series Race 3 'extreme' roll-tacking to buoy 32 on Sunday 17 April 2016 with my son Rich on the helm, then the wind completely died but at least I didn't fall out of the boat and there was no race in the afternoon!

On Sunday 8 May 2016 the Creeks Race had a 2000 start time of 12.55, high water at 14.42 and the weather was amazing. You definitely needed your sun cream, plus a very large drink after 4 hours of sailing. There were 32 entries overall, with 13<sup>th</sup> place Lesley and Simon (22115), joint 15<sup>th</sup> place Roy and Geoff (21792) and Paul Rogers and Paul Thorpe (22131), 24<sup>th</sup> place Anna and I in Brian Lamb's borrowed 2000 but 6 boats DNF, as I understand there was confusion about a course buoy.

The South Kent Race on 15 May 2016 had 17 entries across all fleets and there were 3 entries from 2000 Fleet. Finishing in just over 3 ½ hours; highest placed were Roy and Geoff (21792) in 12<sup>th</sup> place, Lesley and Simon (22115) in 13<sup>th</sup> place and Nina and Bernard in 15<sup>th</sup> place (21405).

Next up the Three Race Regatta held Sunday 5 June 2016 was good fun with a good cross over course set by the Race Office and a mixed fleet of 21 entries including five entries for 2000's. Overall results were a closely fought battle with 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Colin and Lauren (22258), 6<sup>th</sup> place Paul Rogers and Paul Thorpe (22131), 11<sup>th</sup> place Nina and Bernard (21405), 12<sup>th</sup> place Lesley and Simon (22115) and 16<sup>th</sup> place to me and Christine Godber (2229).

The Early Summer Points Series started on Sunday 29 May 2016 which has been split into a morning and afternoon series for all fleets as a trial, apart from 2000 Fleet as we agreed at our AGM on 16 January 2016.

I've been busy updating the clubs though 2000 Class Association and I expect we will have several visitors to our premier sailing event Medway Regatta on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.

### Events coming up in the 2000 Class Association

It's been great fun to have Steve Cockerill and his wife Sarah, from Rooster Sailing, joining the 2000 Fleet racing. Steve has a good blog update on <https://www.roostersailing.com/blog/new-2000-shake-sort/>

The first update for the Nationals at Castle Cove on 13 -19 August 2016 has also been posted, sponsored by Rooster Sailing. We have 6 boats from WSC entering the event so far. Interesting to read in NoR that they are allowing one day entries as well as an extra briefing for all first time National sailors on Saturday.

The Crewsaver Millennium Series continues with a total of 8 events planned across the UK. There is a special offer – get 5<sup>th</sup> event entry for free! Overall results so far after 2 events, I'm currently in 16<sup>th</sup> place with Andy/Anna in 28<sup>th</sup> Place. I will be going to MS3 Snettisham Beach 24/25 June 2016 and



possibly Andy/ Anna. There are a number of boats planning to go to MS4 at Lee-on-Solent on 16/17 July 2016 as a warm up for the Nationals. The Welsh Championships at Cardiff Bay on 30/31 July 2016. MS5 Grafham Water SC on 10/11 September 2016, MS6 Thorney Island on 17/18 September 2016, MS7 Carsington Water SC on 1/ 2 October 2016 and MS8 at Rutland SC on 15/16 October 2016.

The full list of events can be found on the club WSC notice board, the WSC website or the 2000 Class Association website [www.2000class.org](http://www.2000class.org)

I would like to invite all sailors to come along and join in with the fun sailing and with the racing - maybe try out a 2000 as we are always looking for crew/ helms plus there's the club 2000 available for hire. Please contact me if I can help anyone and I will continue to send out my email ramblings every couple of weeks to the fleet to update everyone!! I hope some of our newly trained RYA Level 1 and Level 2 sailors will join us for a sail.

Please note I've changed my email to [Sheridan.rachel@icloud.com](mailto:Sheridan.rachel@icloud.com) if you want to contact me or by phone 07730 575211

I look forward to a good season racing in 2016.



Happy Sailing  
Rachel Sheridan  
2000 2229

## H. M. Customs Cruiser Vigilant



In previous editions of 33½ I have given the history of the John H Amos paddle tug and the Portal Narvick (formerly HMS Narvick) moored just down river of the Fishing Village estate on St Mary's Island and Millennium Sculpture but has anyone noticed the ship in front. Now reduced to little more than a Hull the H.M. Customs cruiser Vigilant is the last remaining ship to have taken part in the Spithead Review of 1911.

Built in 1909 as a steam powered vessel with limited sail the vessel was sold out of active service in 1920 and passed through

several hands before being taken over by the Medway Maritime Trust and moving from Faversham to her current berth. She is perhaps most famous for not only attending the Spithead Review (a celebration of the coronation of King George V) but for breaking the published Admiralty order that after 8 o'clock on the morning of the review "no vessels, other than those flying the White Ensign were allowed to approach or enter the lines of warships". Sir Laurence Guillemard, Chairman of Customs and Excise informed the Admiralty that Vigilant would proceed down the lines, stating that the Department held a charter from King Charles II which gave it greater powers than the Navy in home waters. At the appropriate time Vigilant, flying the Customs flags, and in spite of heated objections, sailed down the lines of battleships and anchored at their head.

Further details of Vigilant can be found at <http://www.medwaymaritimetrust.org.uk/vigilant/index.html>

David Wraight