

A P R I L 2 0 2 3

# COLDHAM CHRONICLE

**Goldham Hall Sailing Club Est. 1951**

*'The Heart of Sailing in the Yare Valley'*

**President: Maurice Ward**



## The Coldham Chronicle

### Club Officers

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Coldham Hall Sailing Club

A warm welcome to the April edition of Coldham Chronicle, albeit couple of days delayed so we could bring you a report of the Open Regatta.

CHSC has held regatta's yearly from 1951, the two day Open Regatta being held on the first May Bank Holiday weekend and the Club Regatta held in July (16th, this year). There are records of a Sailing Regatta being held at Coldham Hall going back to at least 1841. A lot of club history can be found on the main website along with photos.

Now that the season has finally got under way this issue brings you coverage of the first race of the season, a report on CHSC's team in the delayed 2022 Ramuz Trophy race held at Beccles Sailing Club, having been postponed from last year. A report on Vice Commodore Gary Corbett's representing the club at the Surlingham Parish Council AGM as well as the usual articles covering committee meetings, Midweek sailing and paddle board section.

This month there is an article covering the racing start sequence aimed primarily at new members who have just started to sail and want to get into Sunday racing but are a bit daunted by the general melee on the start line.

We are also starting to receive ideas and articles submitted for publishing in The Chronicle and thankyou to all that have contributed. Look out for these in future editions. As always though we need pictures, pictures and more pictures. A picture is worth a thousand words they say and a newsletter of nowt, but words is a bit of a boring read. So we'd love to see your pictures. As we want this to be anything but boring.

Don't forget that May sees the club open day, which is for everybody this year, the start of the Try Sailing evenings and the Paddle social evenings. So plenty going on this next month to get you on the water.

Anyway hope you enjoy this edition and we look forwards to seeing you all on the water or at club events.



**Notes from The Committee**

From the CHSC committee meeting of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Treasurer**, most people have now renewed their annual membership renewals. David will be reminding the odd few who haven't yet done so. 4 new member applications submitted and approved by the committee.

**Bosun**, Work parties are now completed and David gave his thanks to all who helped with the work. A considerable amount has been achieved and a number of major repairs undertaken and completed. One or two small jobs still to complete and any volunteers who can assist would be appreciated. Gary and David will look at, and cost, for another canoe rack and an assessment of the best way to proceed with the pot holes in the car park is to be undertaken.

**Race Officer**, first race of the season has been held with 6 boats taking part and it is hoped that numbers will improve along with the weather. Ben and Judith will represent the club in the Ramuz Trophy race at Beccles on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Vice Commodore**, 17 people are already signed up for the Try Sailing course. Gary is now looking for help from Helms to take part. Support is also required for the Open Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. Paddle members are also being invited to attend.

**General**, Security of the clubhouse is being considered as the door number has not changed for many years. Ian will look at and advise members of the new number. Gary attended the Parish Council meeting to establish a closer partnership and to explain and reinforce the reasons behind banning swimming from the club premises. Council are in full support of this action.

**Upcoming Events**

**May**

- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Open day (pm) Push the Boat Out
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Guest Sailor Event N. Ireland
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Oulton Broad team event
- Thursdays 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Try Sailing - Land based theory.

**June**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Thursdays Try Sail - water based.

**July**

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Yare Challenge Cup
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Try Sail – water based.
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Club Cruise – Hardley Mill
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Social BBQ (evening)
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Club Regatta

**September**

- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Open Yare Navigation Race
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Ramuz Inter Club Challenge
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> WOD Invite

**October**

- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Triple B Race
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Commodores Day
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Downriver Series Starts

**December**

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> AGM
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pudding Race

A full list of all racing and social events is on the club website.



Not everybody finds the racing stimulating!  
'Jenny' takes a nap.

## The Racing Start

### Starting a Race, the Sounds, Symbols & Flags explained

For those of you who race regularly this is ‘old hat’ and you can probably move on to the next article, but for those newer members at the cusp of their racing career the start of a race can be a confusing 5 minutes. What with klaxons sounding, flags going up and down and a board full of different colour numbers happening, all whilst dodging other boats trying to get the best position to start, it can be a fraught time. This article aims to remove the confusion leaving you to concentrate on the task of missing everybody else as you try to get to the best place to start from. It might even remind some of the more regular racers as well.



### The Course Board

Hanging from the front of the Start Box is the course board. A long white board with several numbers in different colours hanging on it.



- **The Arrow Symbol** – the arrow points in the direction the race starts in. You need therefore to be on the other side of the start line prior to the race starting. If any part of your boat is over the line at the start you will get recalled (individual or group) to take the start again.
- **The Number of laps** – first the easy one, next to the word **Rounds** is a white number on a black background. This signifies the number of laps that you need to complete. So, for a number 2 you would need to sail two complete laps to complete the race (obvious really isn't it).



- **The Course** – the next set of numbers are on red or green boards. Reading from left to right these have two meanings one defines the order of the buoys (marks) to sail around and the other defines which side to pass each one.
  - **Course Order** - Number 1 mark is always the furthest buoy downriver (nearest Yarmouth) and the highest number mark (usually 3) is always the furthest buoy upriver (nearest Brooms Boat Yard). Other numbers are the in-between marks.
  - **Passing Marks** – get these wrong and you'll find yourself head on to everybody else.
    - **Red Numbers** – These are **Port** mark buoys which means that when you sail past them they must be on your Port side (left hand side of your boat looking towards the bow).
    - **Green Numbers** – these are **Starboard** mark buoys which means that as you pass these they must be on the Starboard side of the boat (right hand side of the boat looking towards the bow).

### Flag & Sound signals

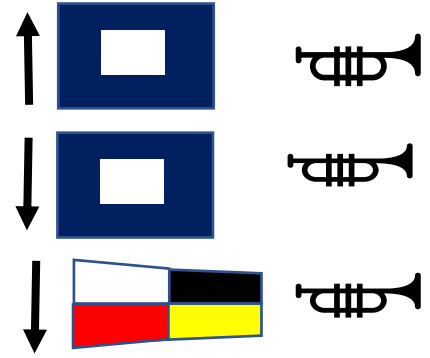
So now you know what the course is and how long the race lasts for, the next thing is what are all the flags and klaxon sounds. CHSC work on a five-minute countdown start sequence. This means that at various points the klaxon will be sounded, and a flag displayed on the Start Box. These are as follows: -

- **5 Minute Warning** - 5 minutes before the race starts the race flag will be hoisted on the start box. This is usually either an Allcomers



pennant or a Class flag. At the same time a long blast will be given on the klaxon. This is the signal that the race is about to start.

- **4 Minute Warning** – with 4 minutes to the start, the box will raise the preparatory flag. This will be the Blue Peter (Blue flag with White central rectangle). At the same time the klaxon will sound.
- **1 Minute Warning** – when there is 1 minute to go the preparatory flag is pulled down and the Klaxon sounded.
- **Start Signal** – 1 minute later the race flag is lowered and the Klaxon sounds. The race has now started. Good Luck.



**Recalls**

Once the race starts there may be further sounds and flags. These are to recall boats that have been judged to be over the start line at the time of the start. If a number of boats are judged to have been over the line, then there may be a general recall to restart the whole race again.

- **Individual Recall** the Officer of the Day will display the flag X (Blue cross on a white background) and make 2 quick sound signals then calling out the sail number of the offending boat. That boat must then return to the pre-start side of the line (in full) before resuming the course. Failure to do so will result in a protest or disqualification.



- **General Recall** the Officer of the Day will display the 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute flag (Blue and yellow triangle) and make 2 quick sound signals. All boats must return to the pre-start side of the line and the countdown start sequence will recommence.



**Other Flags and Signals**

**Shorten Course**

If a race is taking longer than expected or the weather conditions change such that will affect the race elapsed time, then the OOD can shorten the course. This can only be done when the leading boat



has crossed the finish line on a lap that is not the last lap of the race. As soon as the shortened course signal is given the race ends when the leading boat next crosses the finish line in either direction having sailed the course in the correct order and rounding any buoys required to reach the finish line. The signal will be raising of the ‘S’ flag (White flag with Blue central rectangle) and two short sound signals.

**Buoyancy Aids**

When the conditions require it the OOD can insist that all competitors wear appropriate buoyancy aids or life jackets. To ensure everybody is aware the ‘Y’ (red & Yellow diagonal stripes) flag will be flown from the start box and there will be no sound signal. When this flag is flown any person not complying will be disqualified from the race.



Now that we have taken the mystery out of all the flags and noises and you know what all they all mean, you can relax and settle back to concentrate on getting the best possible start to your race and enjoy.

## Rigging Out Supper

### The night before club sailing commenced, 'anchors away'.

The Rigging Out Supper was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. 26 members met at Surlingham Village Hall for a 'tasty' bring a plate and share evening. After quick introductions all enjoyed a great selection of hot and cold mains and sweets provided by members. Followed as always by the inevitable raffle with Alan Sant having 7 of his tickets drawn out, 5 of which he put back into the pot, what are those odds.

Thankyou's must be given to Judith for arranging the evening and preparations at the hall.  
A good catch up with mardle prior to the sailing season.

### Surlingham Parish Council AGM. 11<sup>th</sup> April. Gary Corbett

CHSC was invited to attend the Surlingham Parish Council AGM. Gary attended as club representative and provided a club overview, including our facilities improvements within the clubhouse and dinghy park along with the inclusion of paddle members to the club. Emphasising how much we recognise the strong support that we have in the local community.

On behalf of the committee, concerns were highlighted in respect of the hazards of swimming/ diving and jumping into the River Yare at the club. Below is an extract of the report: -

*CHSC do have one area of concern, that is recreational swimming in the River Yare from the club premises. Although there is no Parish Bylaw to stop people swimming in the Yare, we do discourage both members and others, as we recognize that it is a dangerous activity.*

*Members of the public are using the quay heading, jetties and the pontoons to run along, most concerningly climbing the telegraph finger posts to stand on and dive into the water, not knowing what is below the surface and the dangers involved. In addition, there have been instances of people running on the moored boats and diving into the river. This is particularly worrying, especially for the owners, as the boats have hazards on the decks and furthermore damage can occur.*

*In the river there are a number of hidden underwater hazards such as weeds, sunken branches, ropes from anchoring points etc., Additionally there is concern that craft navigating the river or attempting to moor up may not see a swimmer in the water.*

*Is the river water itself clean? Some older boats still have toilet systems which discharge waste directly into the river and the club location is a short distance downstream from the Thorpe Sewage plant which occasionally may discharge effluent into the river. Pollutants from upriver being carried downstream by the wind and regular strong tides.*



Members of the public are reminded that the club premises, slipway, jetties and pontoons are private property for use of club members only and members are reminded that club by-laws and Rules prohibit recreational swimming from club premises. Warning signs are displayed and should be heeded.

The club does not want to spoil anybody's right to have fun, but we have a duty of care to act responsibly towards the safety of everybody and as such the committee has the Parish Councils support in discouraging this hazardous activity. A subject which we will no doubt revisit again and again.

## Club Car Park

The Club bosun is looking into methods to permanently address the number of large potholes in the car park and find a way to 'dress' the car park surface to make it more useable. So, any help or suggestions would be welcome.

Please note that the committee have marked some spaces near to the gate as reserved for the use of less mobile members. Please leave them free for those who require these spaces.




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## Sailing Section

### OOD Duties May

Date	Allcomer Race Series	Cruiser Race	1 <sup>st</sup> Officer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Officer	3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Downriver (2)	RCC (1)	P Parker	E Crowfoot	G Pearson
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Local (3)		J Robertson		A Sant
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Local (4)		R Branscombe	D Branscombe	I Barker
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Downriver (3) Picnic (1)		B Adams	S Lock	C Sant

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## 2023 Back on the Water and Racing

Sunday 9th April, Easter Sunday, a clear bright sunny day with a light but 'biting' wind from the southeast saw the start of the 2023 racing season. Being a bank holiday, the turnout was, as expected, low but 6 boats, 4 Yeomans and 2 wayfarers, jockeyed for position at the line.

10.30 am on the dot and with the customary **5 – 4 – 1 – All clear**, OOD's, Dave & Margaret Woolston, got the first race of the 2023 season underway. The strong incoming tide and light but steady wind initially kept the boats clear of the line until Ben Adams and Judith Robertson in Yeoman 146 'Felspar' found a lift and led the remaining boats across the line. With a simple course of just two marks set, the fleet headed downriver to the first mark. First round the mark Felspar, maintained a lead over Paul Parker and Gill Pearson, sailing Wayfarer 'Club 2' in second place, the rest of the fleet close behind. As they headed back past the club towards the upriver mark and with the wind and tide now behind them Club 2 managed to take advantage of the conditions to catch and overhaul Felspar. By the time these two turned at the second mark they had begun to open a sizeable lead. With the rest of the fleet forced to play catch up Club 2 and Felspar continued to edge further ahead to create a half lap lead as they crossed the line towards the final buoy.





Rounding the buoy for the final time, Club 2 and Felspar were side by side but as they approached the finish line Club 2 had opened a lead of around three boat lengths and despite Ben's best efforts Felspar had to settle for second place to Paul at the line. John Wells and Sandy Watts taking third place in Yeoman 118 @Diamond Lil'

As the fleet moored for tea and biscuits the season was off to a well and truly flying start.

A full report on the rest of the mornings' races is on the club website.

### The 'Midweekers' - Sailing during the week

Now that most boats have returned to their summer moorings or onto the dinghy park the midweek sailing days can once again resume. Although with the recent April showers and continual changes in weather it's been difficult to get a decent day to get together for a sail. Some of the more determined members have been able to get out in one's or two's for a couple of hours and a break in the weather on Thursday last allowed 3 Yeomans, Mill Chic, Teal and Trio to sail to Cantley with a stop for lunch. The return journey being completed in a fast 54 minutes in lovely conditions, an exhilarating run and a great sail. If you wish to take part in midweek sailing, please contact Judith to be included in the weekly email invites.



## NSBA Ramuz Interclub Championships 2022 (postponed)

Judith Robertson

Driving down the A146 at 8.30am in the mist, no wind on Sunday 16th April and then coming across a diversion because of a burst water main, I was wondering what the day held in store. Ben Adams and myself are to represent CHSC in the Interclub Championships in Norfolk Dinghies, hosted by Beccles ASC. 14 clubs had entered teams.

However, by 10 o'clock the wind was stirring, and the first race started and by the last race about 2.30, the wind was still light but more reliable. Neither Ben nor I are currently dinghy sailors, but wanted to support the event as this years' event is to be held at Coldham in September.

Unfortunately, we were no match for the other crews. The Frostbite SC with Sam Woodcock on the helm and David Yapp as crew won the trophy. This pair are regular visitors to our Open Regatta sailing their own Norfolk dinghies. The trophy was presented by the president of BASC, Janet Forster who had known Len Ramuz, after whom the trophy is named.

I liked the different format that was arranged this year by Ben Falat NSBA Chairman. There were 8 races in total, 7 teams in each race and each team sailed 4 races. The composition of participating teams was determined by the result of the preceding race, so that the last race was composed of the most successful teams from the other races. No teams were knocked out in the process and so all contestants were engaged for the whole event and it was an enjoyable day in the sun and great surroundings.



Judith Robertson

## 2023 Coldham Hall Sailing Club Open Regatta

This year's Regatta took place over the Early May Bank Holiday with a series of races on Saturday afternoon, followed by a full day of racing on Sunday. Officers of the Day, Commodore David Taitt assisted by Gary Corbett set a standard simple two-mark course for the Saturday consisting of a downriver Port (red) mark followed by a run upriver past the start box to a Starboard (green) mark. On the Sunday conditions were such that allowed for a third buoy to be included, all marks being set to Starboard and with the course being the same as previously but with the addition of the number two mark being set close to the south bank pushing the fleet over to round it.

Fortunately, the weather was warm and dry with lots of sunshine and despite the variable wind forecast for Saturday the OOD's and crews were pleasantly surprised as the wind gradually increased in strength during at least part of the afternoon. Sunday saw a good sailing breeze all day with the wind generally from the east blowing upriver.

Saturday saw a mixture of thirteen boats, including five Norfolk's from Norwich Frostbites Sailing Club taking to the water. The first race, a combined allcomers race over three laps in which all boats took part, was followed by the first of the series races. An allcomers race, raced by just two Wayfarers, followed by the six



club boats for the Yeomen's race, followed by five boats from NFSC competing in the first of the Norfolk's races, unfortunately the wind dropped prior to the start reducing this race to just two laps.



At 3pm two River Cruisers, 'Anna' helmed by Diana Branscombe with husband Bob and 'Morning Calm' helmed by Bill Clark and crewed by Ann Clark with guest Janet Morse set off on a downriver course. 'Anna' got off to a good start, but 'Morning Calm' found the shallows, going aground just

past the club house on the north side, (timely warning to all). Anna, taking full advantage of the situation was well out of sight before Bill managed to get back afloat and being unable to catch up in the variable wind meant that 'Anna' finished first followed by 'Morning Calm'.

The final Allcomers race was brought forward with conditions looking favorable to reset to a three-lap course only for the wind to drop once again forcing the OOD to shorten down to just the two laps.

With the wind rapidly decreasing further the crews moored up and having had a good day on the water, headed home to get prepared for the Sunday racing.



Sunday morning meant an early start for the OOD's to get the course set and start box ready, during which they were fortunate to hear the clear call of a Cuckoo, close to the club, a summer visitor safely returned.

The day included two Cruiser races (10am & 2pm). 'Anna' again crewed by Diana & Bob Branscombe with 'Morning Calm' crewed by Bill Clark and Jeni Barnacle. Both boats got off to a good start this time, Bill learning from the mistakes of the previous day, and they both disappeared downriver together, reporting a close sail in both races. 'Anna' finishing ahead of 'Morning Calm' on both occasions.





After the first Combined Allcomers Race, a series of Class races five minutes apart closely followed each other. The two Wayfarers again chose to compete the Allcomers series together, followed by the six club Yeomans then the five Norfolk's. In total 13 individual races on Sunday kept the OOD's on their toes.

All in all, a lovely sailing weekend was enjoyed by all those who competed as well as the spectators on the bank at the club and at the pub. There were no protests declared although a couple infringements were dealt with by turns on the water.

Finally, A vote of thanks was given to the Officers for marshalling the races and all helpers involved in the clubhouse with teas and delicious cakes provided, and running this club event. Most importantly our thanks go to Penny Joy from NFSC for taking entries, along with calculations and awards of each race sweepstakes and to Sue Grief for assisting in the Start Box on Sunday.

**Coldham Hall Open Regatta 2023, Trophy Winners.**

Merlin Challenge Cup		Anna	Diana Branscombe
E J Redding Challenge Trophy	Cruiser	B20 Kelpie	Sam Woodcock
Peter Daynes Trophy	Combine Allcomers	Y143 Kingfisher	Dave Greenacre
Jack Points Trophy	Local Boats	Y146 Felspar	Crispin Lambert
Yacht Trophy	CHSC Combined Allcomers Series	W9531 Club 1	Paul Parker
Youngman Bowl	Yeoman Series	Y146 Felspar	Ben Adams
Silver Challenge Cup	Norfolk OD Series	B20 Kelpie	Olivier Archer
Wayfarer Trophy	Wayfarer Series	W9531 Club 1	Paul Parker
Silver Challenge Trophy	Combined Allcomers Mixed keelboats & Centreboards	Y146 Felspar	Crispin Lambert
Harry Last Memorial Trophy	Fastest corrected time Races 6a,b,c	Y20 Kelpie	Olivier Archer



## Canoe and Paddle Board Section

Gary Corbett

### Paddling at Coldham Hall Sailing Club,

With the weather warming up, it's time to get our craft(s) back on the water for a paddle, welcome to all our existing and new paddle members. I have been able to get out in a friends Kayak on a couple occasions, typically round the Broad and a trip up-river to the Ferry for lunch and back, using the tides to our advantage.

Although there were no responses following our March Chronicle invite for volunteers to support paddlers, we understand many go it alone, we still have time. We will be recommencing the open paddle Tuesdays on 16<sup>th</sup> May, leaving the club at 6pm for a couple of hours for anyone to join our friendly group in an evening's paddle together. There's no need to book, just come along. All are welcome, kayak, canoe and SUP's, in our mixed group and there's no agenda.

The Club Open Day is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May from 1.30pm. This event is not just for sailing members but for everybody as we want to include anyone who fancies an afternoon's paddle, a chance to meet fellow members and visitors to the club. There will be an opportunity for paddlers to try sailing and for sailors to try paddling or canoeing.



The Club Officers and committee members will be attending and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Bring a bite to eat or a picnic and enjoy a bit of chill time, network with other paddlers and sailors. The safety boat will be on the water.

Paddling is good for the soul, time to connect with nature, release some endorphins, a great body exercise, practice some Mindfulness whilst sharing a social experience. Why not give it a try, importantly take care of yourselves.

### Notice to all Club members (Sailing, Paddling & Canoeing).

#### Mooring on the Neighbours property.

As many will know we have new neighbour's at the club now that at the bungalow has been purchased. Whilst in the past we have enjoyed the occasional use of the neighbour quay heading during events we **DO NOT** at present have any agreement with the new owners to continue to do so. Therefore, unless in an extreme emergency please do not moor your watercraft on the neighbour's quay heading.

#### Mooring at the Coldham Hall Tavern

Mooring on the quay heading in front of the Coldham Hall Tavern is for the use of customers when purchasing refreshments. Please ensure that CHSC members' boats are not moored there between races during Sunday morning local racing.

All members are invited to submit articles, photographs, comments, items for sale or anything they feel suitable to be considered for publication. Email to Gary Corbett [corbett01@btconnect.com](mailto:corbett01@btconnect.com) or Dave Durrant [davidkdurrant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidkdurrant@yahoo.co.uk) The editors reserve the right to delay publication or amend/reformat/correct submissions as deemed appropriate.