

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

# COLDHAM CHRONICLE

**Goldham Hall Sailing Club Est. 1951**

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

**President: Gary Corbett**



## Club Officers

**Commodore:** David Taitt  
[david.taitt@gmail.com](mailto:david.taitt@gmail.com)

**Vice - Commodore:** Vacant

**Rear Commodore:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Emma Crowfoot  
[ejcrowfoot@gmail.com](mailto:ejcrowfoot@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** David Woolston  
[woolston546@btinternet.com](mailto:woolston546@btinternet.com)

**Race Officer:** Ben Adams  
[tobenadams6@gmail.com](mailto:tobenadams6@gmail.com)

**Social Secretary:** Amanda Blezard

**Bosun:** David Taitt  
[david.taitt@gmail.com](mailto:david.taitt@gmail.com)



[www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk](http://www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk)



Coldham Hall Sailing Club



Yare Navigation Race



CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race

## The Coldham Chronicle

For me January seemed to go on and on, now into February to start with it seemed an extension of January, the early part of the month was just dull and miserable although we fared better than others, fortunately now the nights are pulling out and at last it's warming up, except for the easterly's, where has the month gone?

As we move into March if you haven't already started, a lot of work will be planned in getting your craft and you ready to get on the water, on maintenance we have an experience from John Wells who was lucky after a shroud on his Yeoman broke whilst finishing the Christmas Pudding Race and its repair, when shrouds break it can bend the mast ending in a costly problem.

At the beginning of the month you will have received your membership renewal forms, we value your membership and want you to make full use of our club facilities both on and off the water, as a reminder if your renewal has slipped to the 'to do' list, can we ask you to return it to our treasurer as soon as you can, we have a lot of essential outings early in the season.

A reminder that Broads Tolls will soon be popping into you inbox, also don't forget the important parts, Insurance and maybe a Paddle UK Licence.

The annual CHSC/ NFSC quiz has taken place and the winners are.....

We have an interesting photograph from Sam Dunning of a small motor cruiser and looking for the owner, Tree Clearing from our own 'Arboriculturalist' Bill Clark, volunteering opportunities and much more.

Oh, look the suns come out, better go and get on with boat prep. Enjoy this issue.



## Notes from The Committee

held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February by Teams

**Commodore** David Taitt opened the meeting and welcomed everybody.

**Hon. Secretary-Emma Crowfoot.** Received information from the Excelsior Trust looking for volunteers along with passages on Excelsior in 2025. Information from the Inland Waterways Association which we will include in our March edition.

**Treasurer – Dave Woolston.** Detailed account information, renewal membership was positive but had slowed. Send a reminder to those who haven't renewed as yet. David has reviewed our club's Insurance in regard to our assets, including clubhouse, rescue boat/engine and increased the amounts covered accordingly. One new member has reserved a place on 2025 Try Sailing

**Bosun -David Taitt.** Contact with contractor's; quay heading to commence 14/02/25, (plans in place in case runs towards start of season). The two benches near the quay heading have been refurbished.

**Race Officer -Ben Adams.** Planning in place for Seasons sailing including Open Regatta 4<sup>th</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> May, discussion with Frostbites and invite to Waveney's.

**Social Secretary -Amanda Blezard.** – Successful annual Dinner, positive response from attendees; Quiz night on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at Frostbites, limited to 20 which is now full. CHSC will take raffle prize. Rigging out supper 5<sup>th</sup> Apr. Surlingham Village Hall booked Ben asked to do quiz.

**General –**

**Partnerships,** Dave Taitt and David Woolston had had discussions with Tavern including upcoming 2025 events.

## Upcoming Events 2025

### April

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Rigging Out Supper  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Racing Commences  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Open Day/Push the boat out

### May

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> CHSC/NFSC/WOD Open Regatta  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> CHSC/NFSC/WOD Open Regatta  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Try Sailing Theory

### June

Thursdays Try Sailing Water training  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Hardley Mill Cruise & BBQ

### July

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Try Sailing Water Training  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Club Regatta  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Social BBQ  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Triple B race

### August

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Reedham Race

### September

Saturday 20/21 CHSC/Waveney OD

### October

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> YNR  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Commodores Day  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Winter Downriver Series starts

### December

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pudding Race

## 2026

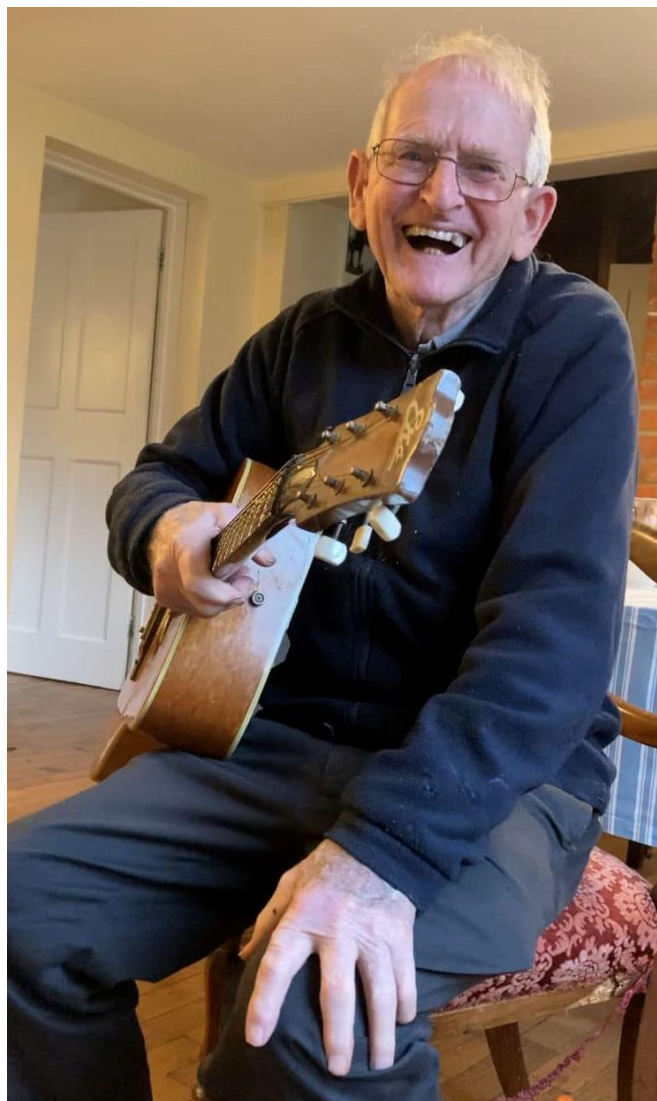
### January

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Prizegiving

The above list is correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change throughout the year. A full list of all racing and social events for 2025 will be shortly updated on the club website.

### AOB

- National Paddle Clean up of river, all members will be asked to get involved, 24<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- Gary discussed diversity and transparency which all committee agreed we are doing all possible to be inclusive to all.
- Gary will continue as Moorings and dinghy park secretary.
- Surlingham Ferry 300year anniversary this year possible club involvement.



### **John Ellis**

We commence this month's Chronicle with the sad news that Life Member, Past Commodore and long-standing club member John ELLIS passed away on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Our heartfelt condolences from the whole membership and friends to John's wife Caroline, children Richard, Matthew, Clare and family. We will keep you informed of funeral arrangements; a tribute to John will be in a future edition.

## 2025 Membership Renewal

Your 2025 membership renewal letter should have appeared in your email inbox, streamlining procedure and cost.

The easiest payment method is by bank transfer; all the details for which are on the renewal letter. Please complete all sections of the renewal form, particularly the GDPR section, and provide full details of your boat(s)/craft(s).

The Treasurer always finds it helpful to receive prompt payment, particularly this year as the club has a couple of large costs to pay (Quay Heading Repairs). So if you can please pay early.

If you know anyone who wishes to become a member of CHSC sailing club, please contact the Treasurer with their details or direct them to the web site where joining details can be found.



### Annual Quiz with Frostbites Sailing Club

David Woolston

# Its coming home – Oscar's coming home!

Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> February and it was once again time for the annual quiz between CHSC and NFSC, an event stretching back several decades, with the two clubs vying for possession of the magnificent quiz trophy generously donated by CHSC Hon Treasurer David Woolston, many years ago.

Forty keen participants, split into 3 teams from each club, gathered at NFSC clubhouse in darkest Thorpe after braving the busy Norwich to Gt Yarmouth intercity train line to do battle

The host club welcomed CHSC members with a well-stocked bar and warm words of greeting before starting the first half of the event, with such questions as, what was a Lollylob Boy (a surgeons assistant aboard a Napoleonic warship) at the conclusion of which the leading team 'Coldham Hallstars' took the lead.

A first class Fish and Chip supper was then served to great acclaim followed by a tasty desert.

After the repast the quiz resumed for the second half, with rounds concerning sport, obscure and music. The obligatory raffle then followed while the quiz master calculated the final score, which proved to be very close, with the 'Coldham Hallstars' led by star quizzier Jonathan Mayfield holding onto their lead from the first half to take overall first position followed closely by 'Jenni's Team' taking second place.

The interclub quiz trophy is awarded to the club answering the most questions of each clubs teams overall correct answers, this year again falling to CHSC with quite a wide margin. Well done to them.

Further entertainment followed the quiz with snail racing. For the sum of £10 each team was invited to purchase a snail, the snail then being encouraged to race for a meal of either mixed salad leaves, stilton cheese, biscuit or broccoli. The proud wining team receiving a prize of £25.

The evening concluded with David Taitt, Commodore of CHSC, thanking NFSC for a very enjoyable evening, a sentiment echoed by all in attendance.



## A Lucky day !

By John Wells. AKA Y118 Yeoman 'Diamond Lil'.

In the last couple of minutes of sailing at the Christmas Pudding Race Sandy and I heard 3 loud TWANGS ! on Diamond Lil, "What was that said Sandy, don't know said I, we'll have a look later".

The following week we took the mast down ready for D.L. to come out of the water and thought no more. A few days later (Sam had by then, got her all nicely tucked away in the yard) I went down to cover her up and prepare for winter. One of the jobs on my 'list' was to change the outer shrouds, so while removing one to take as a 'pattern'.

It was only then that I noticed that at least 1 wire had pulled out of the swagged fitting near the deck!  
We were lucky it could have been a lot worse, with the tension on the mast it could have meant a bent mast which would need replacing.

I now have all 4 new shrouds !! believe some insurance companies insist on renewing standing rigging every 5 years, I had no idea how old my ones were and just trying to be careful.



Please learn from me, check you rigging and if in any doubt, check or change them ! A broken mast mid season can be costly and possibly make you miss several races.

I had the new shrouds made up at Norfolk Marine, cost was approx. £175 but I did also need 2 new ends as they had been bent.

Note :- did not change forestay or backstay as not so important but have inspected them.

**From the Ed.** Good advice from John to check your rigging regularly not only on Yeomans but on any type of sailing craft. If a wire is damaged or frayed it is best to get it properly checked out or replace the whole set anyway. If there is something you're not happy with or you are unable to check yourself, both Sam or Tom at the boatyard would be happy to have a look and advise. 4 shrouds are a lot cheaper than a new mast – especially if the insurance doesn't accept the cost.



Entries are now open for the 2023 Three Rivers Race

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Sunday 1st June 2025**

Entry forms and full details now available at

[www.3rr.uk](http://www.3rr.uk)

## Inland Waterways Association (IWA).

This month the club was contacted by IWA with a lengthy email explanation about this national charity dedicated to supporting and regenerating Britain's canals and navigable rivers including our rivers to ensure that people can continue to enjoy the many benefits of our unique network of inland waterways. The Broads Society is a very active member of FBW (Fund British Waterways). If you would like a copy of the full information received please contact Gary by email mentioning Inland Waterways Ass. [corbett01@btconnect.com](mailto:corbett01@btconnect.com) or log onto their website <https://waterways.org.uk>



### Excelsior Trust Lowestoft

Discover Living Heritage with Excelsior, one of the UK's most historic sailing vessels still in operation from Lowestoft, LT472 is a traditional Lowestoft fishing smack offering sailing days and experiences to all. The Trusts aim is to take as many young people sailing as possible, to give them incredible memories and to see them grow valuable skills Excelsior is looking for volunteers to help with yearly maintenance and for opportunities in their sailing programme.

For all information log on to the Excelsior web site. <https://www.theexcelsiortrust.co.uk> or <https://www.theexcelsiortrust.co.uk/2025-sailing-programme>



## Sailing Section



### RYA Reveals new Portsmouth Yard stick numbers

The RYA has released new PY numbers for the 2025 season which include a new method of calculation, the first change in thirty years. Read the whole article at

<https://www.sail-world.com/news/283852>

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## Canoe and Paddle Board Section



### Paddling Remember the outdoors is the ultimate GYM

As with sailors it's time for the paddlers and canoeists amongst us to start checking your craft, canoe/kayak or paddle board along with your clothing especially buoyancy aids to make sure they are safe and ready for the season ahead.

A link to the latest issue of [The Paddler Magazine Issue 81 February 2025](#) publication.

To use your craft on the Broads you will need either a Broad's Authority Toll <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/boating/owning-a-boat/tolls> or a Paddle UK Licence, <https://paddleuk.org.uk> also sufficient third party insurance cover.

We aim to get back on the water in March. Fingers crossed.

## Ongoing works at the club

You will be well aware of the poor condition of our well used benches by the river frontage of the dinghy park. They had to be moved to allow the new quay heading works to commence and it was then that their true condition quickly became evident, one fell apart and the other similar. Bosun Dave Taitt, obtained new timber and replaced the slats, painted the metal frames to make up two double seats; you can clearly see the difference before and after. The benches will be security marked and secured once work is complete. This will allow both members and visitors the opportunity to once again sit and relax by the river in safety. Excellent work thanks David!



## Half submerged boat in the River at Surlingham

by Sam Dunning.

On a cold frosty February morning opening our curtains we did not expect to see a small motor cruiser half submerged floating downriver on the tide, fortunately nobody was with or on the boat. We managed to get the boat alongside and secure her to our moorings, the Broads Authority were informed and attended, so hopefully not to long before it is moved. At low tide the boat is fully submerged so please stay away from buoys, you don't know what's underneath.



## Check for flooding at Brundall

from Phil Beaumont

Handy on line information for current water levels and trends at Brundall, showing state of tides and height.

Link <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/6205>



### Tree clearing work parties

30<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> February, arranged by Bill Clark



Thanks to everyone who helped with the tree clearing work party on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at Langley Woods, North side. We were very fortunate with the weather and the cold was soon forgotten as the group got into the business of managing the waste leftovers from the recent riverside management.

This is the second year of a five-year program to manage the woodland which has developed opposite Langley dyke and has been made possible by the effort of the RSPB and the Broads Authority. A further work party was also held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb along Train Reach. Eight club members travelled by safety boat downriver and had a good days work clearing and with two fires burning the scrub. The weather improved and with the southerly wind blew the smoke across the river.



We are informed that the RSPB plan further tree and scrub cutting in this area so more work parties are planned before the bird nesting season. Watch this space! We also understand that the Broads Authority have been informed there will be a quantity of timber to collect with their barge and tree shears.

Any further day work days will be announced shortly.



Time for a well-earned break and mardle.



Tree cutting transport (who's singed his hair - on the left)

## February Trivia, did you know?

**Valentine's Day**, February 14th when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. It has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia held in mid-February. This was the festival which celebrated the coming of spring.. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius forbade the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century. A sweet surprise at the door for the kids is a very local tradition.

**February is the Snow Moon**, named before climate change, this month we were able to see a Planetary Alignment also a planetary parade in the dark sky when six planets align to create a celestial spectacle, the planets include Venus, Jupiter and Saturn clear to the naked eye with Mars Uranus and Neptune in the line up, Mercury is set to join in at the end of the month.



Crescent moon with Venus clearly above

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.