

J U L Y 2 0 2 5

# COLDHAM CHRONICLE

**Coldham 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

Welcome to our July Chronicle, weather wise it's certainly been a scorcher with temperatures towards 30deg, ideal for the beach, but with the lighter winds frustrating when sailing.

Certainly a busy and active month at the club, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> we held the Club Regatta, could have done with a (lot) more breeze and a little less rain, still a good day, more in a bit. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> our annual friendship BBQ followed on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> the Triple B. Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Downriver Picnic 2.

Paddling has gone well with an increase in numbers every week, except 15<sup>th</sup> cancelled, inclement weather.

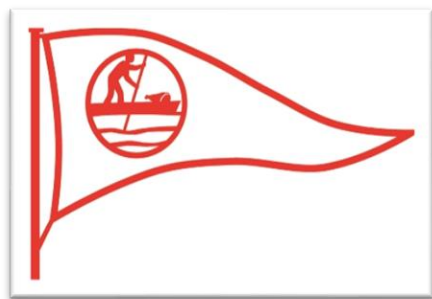
Did you see the wonderful low full moon on 14<sup>th</sup> June, this month it is the Buck Moon, named after the Male Deer shedding their antlers, July also the Thunder Moon due to storms.

In this edition we report on the Wayfarer 'On Tour of the Yare', very interesting week on the River, from Beccles to Norwich with a bit added on.

The Try Sailing sessions have come to an end this month, we report on our mid-season BBQ which was a great evening with 70 in attendance with a great feast, this year entertained by 'Stoke Holy Cows', six piece band

Thursday evening social sailing continues; a chance for boat owners to enjoy more hours on the water and new members to gain more 'water-time' and experience, some aiming to achieve club Wayfarer Competency, allowing them to hire the Wayfarer club boats, pop along if you are free.

In advance., a long edition hopefully you will enjoy dipping into. Happy, reading and of course 'sailing and paddling'



### Notes from the Committee held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Commodore David Taitt opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. Junes minutes agreed and signed, matters arising covered.

**Hon. Secretary-** Patrick Thirkettle has contacted the club asking if any of our members have a Mark2 Wayfarer for sale. Replied and posted on our Facebook page.

**Treasurer** – Club finances detailed. New applications, 3 x family paddle members with two kayak storage at club. All approved.

**Bosun** – Summer work party to be scheduled for clubhouse roof replacement. River frontage gate post needs replacing.

**Race Officer** – Update on Hardley Cruise, 4 boats and 12 crew sailed to Hardley Mill for Picnic. Survey to see how we continue in future. Triple B Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 18 entries, volunteer positions now all filled. WOD/Yeoman Race at CHSC cancelled.

**Social Secretary** -. Discuss Club BBQ, 66 attending, ordered 70 x Sausages and Burgers, other condiments arranged. Band arranged. Will hold Raffle. Message to go to members pre-event- chairs, arrange own drinks etc.

**Partnerships- No report**

**AOB.**

- a. Discuss Try Sailing 2025, positive feedback 7, new members and one existing member attended to boost confidence. MR will send out message to attendee's, helm's and

## Upcoming Events 2025

### August

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Reedham Race  
Oulton Week

### September

Saturday 20/21

CHSC/Waveney OD

### October

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

YNR  
Commodores Day  
Winter Downriver Series starts

### December

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

Annual General Meeting  
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.



## The Triple B: 2025

Nigel Kippin and Jeni Barnacle Triple B Officers of the Day

The Triple B is a passage race from Brundall (CHSC) to Breydon and back. The participants get to choose their start time between 7am and 10am considering their boat speed, wind speed/direction and tides.

This year the tides were perfect for a good race onto Breydon and back although initial wind was forecast as light. There were 20 entries- double from 2024- with two withdrawing before the start.

A wide range of dinghies and keel boats such as Norfolk Punts, Albacores, the popular Yeomans and two traditional half-decker's were scheduled to leave CHSC.



Most of the crews woke early to assess the conditions. They were later found in the Coldham Hall Tavern- over breakfast- still debating the start time and whether they would get wet.

At 7-15am the first boat started, Wayfarer, 1<sup>st</sup> Brundall Scouts number 9810, crewed by Simon and Arthur Welin. Unfortunately, the tide was still against them and with little wind they took 45minutes to negotiate half of Train Reach.

At 8am 3 of the eight Yeoman summoned courage to leave the pub and brave the steady rain to head down river. A turning tide and slowly building wind allowed for faster progress.

The 9:15am start time slot proved popular with 6 boats heading off. The three visiting Albacores starting together to battle the course.

The last boat to leave was the Punt, Comet at 10am. Their late start time allowed them to miss the early rain which held off for the rest of the racing.

The half decker Swallow struggled with her Lug rig and light winds. They eventually retired mid-afternoon at Cantley but said they had a great sail and enjoyed a relaxing return to Coldham.

The first boat to the time out at Reedham was Whisper a RS200. They had left at 8am but were being quickly closed down by the later departures. Most crews elected to pass quickly through the time out zone on the way to the Breydon mark.

### **On Breydon**

The wind had started to pick up at Breydon as the boats sailing on a reach quickly negotiated the starboard mark. Many of the planning boats enjoying the exhilaration of the fast conditions in the open water and completing the Breydon section in a little over 1hour 30minutes. Even some of the slower keel boats achieved this section in 1hr 45mins. The option of many boats to loiter at the return time out through Reedham was dismissed. Some due to the time constraints of the return and potential for a dying wind to cause them to finish outside the 6:30pm cut off time.

### **The Finish**

The first boat back to CHSC just after 4pm was the Albacore, Crystal. It was quickly followed by a visiting Yeoman, Scorpio.

Twelve of the boats were timed in by 5pm. Most having to battle their way down train reach with a failing wind which had amazingly swung 180 degrees to further hamper the return.

The last boat returning was the Half Decker, Polly. On the horizon with 20 minutes before time out the supporters amassed to see if she could negotiate the remains of Train Reach before the cut off. The pressure was on as she finished to enthusiastic celebrations with last minute tacks being required to get her over the finish, with just 2mins 3seconds to spare. Phew!

Despite challenging starting and finishing wind conditions all but one boat completed the sail to Breydon and back. Most only experienced the first couple of hour's rain and had good winds.





The Trophies were presented by the CHSC Commodore David Taitt as the rain started to fall. The raffle was quickly drawn, and all withdrew to enjoy the hospitality of Coldham Hall Tavern.

**All crews who competed were presented with Triple B 2025 stickers for their boats.**

**A BIG thank you from the Triple B race committee goes to:**

- All our volunteers on the course who helped to make the race run so smoothly
- Debbie Jaffery for organising the raffle.
- Will Taitt for designing the race stickers
- Yare SC and Norwich Frostbites for the use of their safety boats
- Abbey Boat Builder at Reedham use of their moorings for a safety boat and the timing team.
- Coldham Hall Tavern for opening so early between 7am - 10am to provide breakfast butties for those racing, supporters and volunteers
- All our club members who made our visitors feel so welcome
- The race committee
- All our competitors some of whom it was the first time racing on the river Yare

**Finally:** a selection of the positive feedback we have received from some of the competitors

*"The CHSC Triple B is an interesting race -beautiful scenery on the meandering river Yare, wildlife, various wind conditions and a very hospitable host club made for a great day's sailing! Albacore crew on Association Facebook group*

*Thank you on behalf of the visiting Albacores to the Coldham Hall team for such a warm welcome and a great event - We all really enjoyed the day and will be back next year hopefully with a few more! Richard*

*Thank you everyone at Coldham Hall Sailing Club for such a warm welcome to your triple B Race. The event was so well organised with a very friendly atmosphere at the club and in the race. We all immensely enjoyed ourselves and were very impressed by the sailing on the southern Broads. From Steve Middleditch and the crew of Y65 Scorpio.*

## Trophy winners

**Overall Trophy winner** - Crystal ( Albacore ) - skipper Matthew Metcalf-Smith

**Fastest Keel Boat** - Scorpio (Yeoman) - Skipper Steve Middleditch Maria Spreadbury, Shirley Needham

**Fastest Dinghy** - Crystal ( Albacore ) - skipper Matthew Metcalf-Smith

**Fastest Punt** - Comet - Richard Whitefoot & Paul Jarvey

**Fastest Yeoman** - Scorpio

(Yeoman) - Skipper Steve Middleditch, Maria Spreadbury, Shirley Needham

**ODO BOD** - Polly - Tony Ridley and Alex Buckenham

If you wish to submit your day at the Triple B, all editions welcome and will be included next month.









## Kingfisher - Competing in the Triple B, (Brundall (Coldham), Breydon and Back). Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Gary Corbett and Mike Roll



It was an early start for many including visitors joining us from Sheffield, Nottingham, Whitby and clubs in Norfolk including Horning, and Hardley Dyke. We welcome you all. Coldham was represented by 6 Yeoman's, Sapphire, Mill Chic, Kingfisher, Felspar, Trio and Virago.

Eighteen entries including 8 Yeoman's, 3 Albacore's, 3 Norfolk Punt's, an RS200, a Wayfarer, and 2 Half Deckers.

The forecast was not looking good with heavy rain early morning to about 10am, so all were getting wet along with the sails, predicted light 7mph winds all day with little gusts. Competitors were informed the turning buoy would be in the area of Polkeys Mill, (Bill decided otherwise, worked well as that part was good sailing).

Low tide was at Coldham at 07.40hrs allowing a start time between 0700 and 1000hrs, helms had to privately nominate their start time at least 30minutes prior to their start. Marshalls were on hand to take entries, staff the start/finish box, Marshall at two sites in Reedham and placing the turning Mark at Breydon, as well as safety boats cover on route and at Reedham.

The race is made up of 3 legs, the first from the club to the Broads Authority hut at Reedham where you are timed out to allow to pass through the bridge, then it's back in the race at Abbey Boat Builders, previously Pearsons for the next leg to Breydon to turn the Mark and back to be timed again at Reedham, then the last long leg back to Coldham. 'Kingfisher's day', Mike and Gary discussed a proposed start time, with Low Tide at Coldham at 0740 and little wind with heavy rain we choose a later start, a bit extra in bed, "No".

Arriving at the club before 8am, we saw the Brundall Scouts who started at 7.15am in their Wayfarer within sight drifting along Train Reach, Felspar, Virago and the RS200 Whisper choosing 8am, we waved them off, again the tide being the downriver momentum.

Kingfisher's was readied, including the outboard, just in case, Mike and I headed to the club to register our start time of 9.15am, giving us plenty of time for one last visit and get back to Kingfisher. The rain stopped, leggi's removed then another shower, got that wrong. For those who don't know Kingfisher is moored at Sam's just upriver from the start box, we decided to launch from there, seeing others having to paddle to the line, wise move, ebb tide increasing. Half Decker Polly set off at 0830 followed by Yeoman Scorpio at 0845hrs and Trio at 9am, it was leading up to our start time and we were joined at the line by Albacore's Foxtrot Alpha and Nemesis, Half Decker Polly and Yeoman Mill Chic.



Wisely we kept just up river from the start; going over the line would be no return back over with the tide and no wind. All boats got away and generally drifting together the distance of Train Reach, something us locals are use to, as we cleared the trees after about 40 minutes the Albacores caught the wind and started to make ground, Mill Chic and Kingfisher keeping close together as we tacked in the Easterly Breeze. Once round Rocland Chimney corner we were able to point up more and began to make ground, trying to predict the best side of the rivers to get a decent close haul on the next stretch and to avoid losing ground on the tack. Buckenham now behind us, thoughts were now getting through

Langley Woods which with the Easterly the middle of the river took us through, approaching Cantley long close hauls until we approached the chimneys/towers a good wind blocker, perhaps we should have stayed more to the right. Anyhow, it was a nice controlled sail to Reedham Ferry where our two supporters who were tracking us were on the bank passing encouragement, sadly no Bacon Butties or tea.



We then approached Reedham Village where our time keepers David and Margaret timed us at 1150am, 2hrs 35mins, not too bad. As we moved towards the Swing Bridge, the timer said, 'Closing' no option but to wait, a good opportunity for a bit of relief- saves using the bailer.

We all know the strength of the tide through Reedham, after a couple of 360deg, moored up and main lowered, then a dash, both of us taking a look where Maurice would sit for many YNR's. Back on board, delicious Seppings sausage roll provided by the Rolls, Bridge Open, sail up, cast off and the sign said Bridge Closing, never mind, a few up and down the river to be joined by Yeoman Sapphire who left at 0930hrs, after the Yarmouth bound train cleared the Bridge cranked open, sure it's done by hand with a big handle and off we set to be timed back in the race by Stephen and Bob, time at Reedham 50 minutes, not just that the time was now 1239hrs and the tide was due to change at 1202hrs, no worries Reedham always a bit late we hope.

Off to Breydon we go, once round the corner the Easterly picked up and it was a hard slog into the wind and now changing tide, more minutes. On the way we encountered two challenges, the first. We have a spring snap shackle holding the jib to the sheets, (ropes), occasionally this will get caught on either a shroud, mast or it just feels like coming undone, to combat this a bit of electricians tape is wound round to keep it closed, I didn't put enough tape today, hence going at speed the unit opened and a 'flapping jib' quick turn to head to wind get the sail to centre and crew tapes back up, at least 15minutes lost, number two starboard side a bit shallow, we went aground on the tack, fortunately with a little effort and pulling in the jib we managed to get free. By this time we are on our own heading to the starboard buoy, making sure we weren't caught too tight and blown in to the mark a wide turn. Sure Bill and Diane were having a cup of tea.

Heading back it gave us a chance to catch our breath mainly on a run at good knots, as we were approaching Reedham we noticed a couple of boats in sight, and we crossed the time out line and through the Bridge together. Leg 2 Reedham to past the Barney and back in just under 2hrs, good going.

We kept a reasonable wind up to Cantley and the tide was now beneath us, Langley Woods keep out in the middle to use the tide, then things slowed a bit and thinking we're way behind, the straight up to Buckenham was slow, once round the corner things picked up with the wind change towards the west and increased a bit, we were able to point up, then slow for a bit. Train Reach the wind was in the middle to the north bank, keep to that side tack only to the middle and tack, we meandered along, as we were passing Strumpshaw at 1750hrs was cut off 6pm or 6.30pm, fortunately the latter, we crossed the line to cheers at 1758hrs, a long tiring but satisfying day.

Don't furl and drop the sails to quick otherwise we would end up by Brooms. Kingfisher patted and put to bed, she had done a good days work.

Quick visit to the clubhouse and join the earlier finishers at the Tavern for a 'sherbet' and Prize giving, the day ended as it started, a downpour.

First of all thank you to Officers of the day Nigel and Jeni and all the Marshalls throughout the course, it was a long day for you too.

Congratulations to all the helms and crews, a good days work, to the Trophy winners Well Done, and to all 'See you Next Year'.



## Dancing in the (Dinghy) Park and club BBQ

On Thursday 17th July the club held its annual BBQ at the sailing club, traditionally it follows a week after the last Try Sailing Thursday, week after it's social sail Thursday's, it's an opportunity to have a get together, get to know old and new members with a lovely bit of food. It was truly a lovely evening; the weather was good allowing some sailing in the afternoon.

In my 25 years at Coldham, this was the first time I've seen people dancing on the dinghy park, members were entertained throughout the evening by local band, 'The Stoke Holy Cows' lead by paddle member Phil, with Andy, Jonathan, James, and two Nigel's, playing a wide Era and variety of music including The Undertones, Fleetwood Mac, Marc Bolan, Bettles and more.



If you get the opportunity, give 'Stoke Holy Cows' a look. They will entertain you.

**The BBQ**, 70 members with partners attending enjoying a delicious and well-cooked BBQ including real sausages and 1/4 lb beef burgers obtained from Blofield Farm Shop Butchery (highly recommended).

Our thanks to our galley crew, Mandy, Debbi and Nicki, cooks at the BBQ Mike R, Mike D and Gary, with trusty

thermometer, even the veggie sausages were enjoyed.



A lovely coming together of our Try Sailors, paddlers and sailing members, a night to remember enjoyed by all. Our thanks to all who helped with putting up and taking down the marquee, tables and chairs, great team. Thank you for the salad's Brownies and Cheese straws and donuts.

**All in all it was a great club and team event.**

Give Brian the Butcher at Blofield Farm Shop a look for a variety of items produced in Norfolk, locally grown fruit and Veg, located at Norwich Camping and Caravan, Yarmouth Road, Blofield. Please mention you had a sample at our BBQ.

<https://blofieldfarmshop.co.uk>





## Wayfarers on Tour June 5th – 12th 2025

Report by Ian Paterson – “Bluey 2”

### South Rivers Broads Cruise– led by Mike and Helen Playle

Five double-handed Wayfarers and one single-handed Wanderer set out on one of Mike’s regular cruises around the Broads. The weather promised a variety of conditions and the passage plan had many options with several alternatives.

Thanks to Mike’s contacts and knowledge of these waters, we were grateful for the generosity of clubs (and pubs) along the way. Beccles Amateur Sailing Club (BASC) for launch and storage facilities; Waveney and Oulton Broad Yacht Club (WOBYC) for pontoon mooring and on site facilities and last but not least Coldham Hall Sailing Club (CHSC) for mooring and use of the clubhouse for which we have Ralph Roberts to thank.

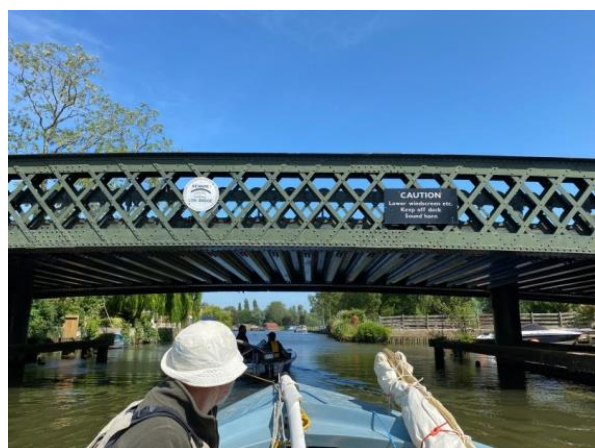
Most boats had arrived and had set up camp alongside the clubhouse for the first night on the water with the remainder arriving the next day and making ready for a gentle first leg in bright conditions with a light following wind to WOBYC, with a stopover at the Waveney River centre for lunch.



The third day began wet and relatively windless so oilies donned, we trudged our way north westwards aiming for a break at Burgh Castle before heading up the river Yare to Reedham. The weather although brighter, threatened stormy conditions with thunder and lightning almost catching up with us before we settled under our boom tents for the night.

Day four made good speed as we headed to CHSC, in fact such good progress was made that we anchored at Bargate to enjoy the

sunshine, the second stop of the day after the entrance to Rockland Broad. The forecast 30mph gusts helped enormously. A lone kayaker (Gary Corbett) arrived to let us know the Clubhouse was ready for us so we took the scenic route round the meander and set up camp, watching the racing Yeoman class boats including one unfortunate who appeared to have got themselves pinned to the front of a cruising boat but was in fact being “rescued”. Not every one could get moored at CHSC but we secured moorings at the Coldham Hall for the price of one drink...or three!



A city break was planned for our fifth day. Heading to Norwich, we stopped at Thorpe whereupon Wayfarer masts were lowered, passengers and tows arranged for the five boats to enjoy the sights – chiefly the Ribs of Beef. One Wayfarer continued on in hopes of finding the source of the Wensum, but failed as they hit New Mills only a short distance ahead, but close





enough to find a local shop for lunch. The return journey to The Ferry Inn Surlingham took some of us along the River Yare at Thorpe St Andrew rather than via the New Cut.

Our longest sail on day six took us almost directly downwind in perfect conditions with a stop near Rockland once again. We arrived at the Waveney River Centre in time for one of the group's birthday party pancakes on the pontoon.

Two boats had had to call it a day due to other commitments, and as we stopped at BASC en route to our planned exploration of the upper reaches of the River Waveney we helped them pack up and bid them adieu. Our epic voyage however was frustrated by a large tree blocking anything but the tiniest of craft to navigate, so we stopped for lunch in the hot sunshine and had an early finish at the "historic" Locks Inn.

The cruise came to an end after a short leg back to BASC. It would have been fairly uneventful if one crew member hadn't decided to take a headfirst "dip" in full view of the population of Beccles. The water was lovely, apparently!





## Sailing Section

### OOD Duties - August

DATE	ALLCOMERS EVENT	River Cruiser Class	OOD	SECOND OFFICER	THIRD OFFICER
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reedham Race		B Adams		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Local (9)	RCC (6)	I Barker		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Downriver (7) Picnic (2)				D Warner
17 <sup>th</sup>	Local (10)			T Lewis	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Downriver (8)		A Sach	T Moore	J Moore
31 <sup>st</sup>	Local (11)		M Wells	H Wells	T Duddle

**Officer of the Day, duties.** As can be seen we are short of OOD's for August if you can assist, please contact Ben Adams email [tobenadams6@gmail.com](mailto:tobenadams6@gmail.com) mobile 07799148989.

**Note** August 10<sup>th</sup> previously Downriver 8 is now Downriver 7 Picnic 2 as result of cancellation. (RCC 7) reverted to RCC 6.

Full results on club web page.

### 49<sup>th</sup> Yare Navigation Race 2025 Appeal for helpers

This year's YNR is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Coldham Hall Sailing Club hosts this spectacular annual event on the River Yare, slightly later in the calendar looking for good tides, we are asking for volunteers to make this year's event a continuing triumph for the Club.

If you can help in offering your services, please speak to YNR Committee member Gary, who is coordinating Marshalls email [corbett01@btconnect.com](mailto:corbett01@btconnect.com)

Duties include: (Morning and afternoon shifts).

- Taking entries in the Clubhouse & Runners to start box. (Morning duty).
- Start box officials including finishers.
- Bank Marshalls/Timers at Reedham Village, ADB Marine and the turning buoy on Breydon.

This amazing event relies on our volunteer member's involvement, the YNR Committee and race entrants would like to thank everyone in advance for their efforts.



## Club Regatta Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Annual in-house Regatta at the club, officers of the day, Commodore and President, no not 'Donald'.

If we start with the weather to get that out of the way, leading up to even the day before the weather had been lovely, nice and dry and a good wind, Midweekers on Friday were able to sail to Reedham and back, on Sunday you wouldn't get a few hundred yards, getting back on the strong ebb tide, not worth considering. Monday another good breeze.

Anyhow, 3 marks set out, number 1, set downriver to port in the first gap in the trees, hoping the helms could make use of the little westerly on the north side, Mark 2 placed just upriver from the start box and 3 out from the entrance to Bargate to again pick up the breeze from the channel.

Nine Yeomans came to the line, for a 2-lap course, all managing to get away, a slow run to number 1 mark, then problems started and the same challenge throughout the day, trying to get close to the mark before a downriver drift. The first race Kingfisher with a good set of heels before Diamond Lil overtook before the upriver mark and sprinted for the line. (Reduced to 1 lap).

As the ebbing tide strengthened along with the lack of a breeze, matters didn't get any better, Race 2 the OOD's choose to bring number 1 mark upriver to the marina entrance, good decision, boats away, the course shortened to one lap when a squall came through prior to a downpour, only a short distance to get to the bank to moor up, all were soaked.



The Novices race saw 2 boats at the line, Tina in Felspar and Try Sailor Colin in Bluey. The lighter wind with a shift to the north, buoy 2 was moved a few yards down river outside the Tavern, boats making the short distance to turn upriver to number 3 and over the line. Colin taking the line.

The ladies' race, two Yeomans, Tina in Felspar joined by Sandy in Diamond Lil, Tina getting off to a good start but caught by the ebbing tide when heading upriver, Sandy taking the bell.

The last two Allcomers races saw a reduced fleet of 3 boats, along with a reduced course, the last leg upriver passing the Tavern all 3 boats changing position (mainly going backwards), a gust, 'just the one' came through and a quick sprint for the line, all individual race results, on the website.

As deputy OOD, I got my 10,000 steps in moving the buoys.

A well done to our Trophy winners, full list on website



## Sunday 13th, Downriver and RCC 5 - OOD Bill Clark

**Cruiser's race 5 by Bob Branscombe.**

After a succession of poor winds, sometimes too little, often, too much cruiser 5 promised to be at least sailable. The OOD set us off upriver to avoid a running start, to a mark just short of Brundall which we took to port. For the three boats which entered it was a gentle run down train reach against the tide with a N to NNE breeze. In typical train reach fashion the wind swirled around on a reach and run, dropping in and out for the whole length of the reach.



After a good start Glory soon pulled away leaving Anna and Melody to sail along frequently together and often changing positions in the predominantly reaching and running course. The long course had been selected (just short of Langley woods) and whilst glimpses of Glory were sometimes seen across the marshes Anna and Melody continued to sail together seemingly unable to break free. Even Buckenham reach which is usually quite breezy failed to produce a result.

Speculation amongst our crew as to whether or not Glory had turned was soon dispelled when Glory rounded the bend not far from the turning mark on a close reach heading for home. Anna and Melody approached the turning mark side by side and turned together onto a close reach which by then had turned into a very sailable breeze.

Anna and Melody at last broke free of each other with Anna easing ahead. We could see Glory occasionally across the marshes but was often out of sight.

As we were sailing back we commented that even though it was approaching mid July there were surprisingly few hire cruisers on the river. Although this may sound like excellent news to us sailors, we need holiday makers spending money to support the Broadland infrastructure. Let's hope things pick up when the schools break for summer.

The return leg had lots of beating and close reaching and progress was made all the more swift as we now had the tide under us. Glory was still occasionally visible across the marshes and Melody was still in sight as we made steady progress towards the top of train reach.

Train reach was the usual frustrating challenge with the wind variable in direction and strength and rounding a bend half way along we spotted Glory beating toward the finish line. We pressed on and were soon rewarded with that satisfying 'ding' we all know so well.

A good sail of over two and a quarter hours. **Final results;** 1st Anna. 2nd Glory. 3rd Melody.

**Dinghies and Half-Deckers Downriver 6**

Eleven Yeomans and the club Wayfarer undertook the same start at 10.30am with a suggested middle course just past Buckenham, Felspar got a good start which Ben would maintain throughout. Boats began to get spread-out along the notorious Train Reach, which was becoming a challenge against the strengthening incoming tide with the little breeze on the South bank, creeping along and boats changing positions. All boats taking up to an hour to clear Train Reach.

Once clear of the trees, the fleet now spread out made ground to a port marker buoy, making fair-ground home until the wind was blocked by the canopy of trees, boats hugging the south bank avoiding tacking too far into the river in the light winds. First over the line was Felspar, followed by Diamond Li and the Wayfarer. Full results on club website.

After the boats were put away the afternoon breeze picked up.

## Canoe and Paddle Board Section



### Paddling

Many sailing members also take part in the weekly paddles from the club, our numbers increasing up to 27 out paddling on a Tuesday evening, we plan to leave the club by 6pm and follow the tide.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>** we set off upriver passing Brooms up to Marine Power against the tide, turning the current with us, on to Bargate where Clare, Vickie and Paul took the opportunity to have a planned dip to cool off, we told it was lovely and warm, Vickie on her open Kayak and Clare on her SUP showed us all how to get back on their craft's, Paul not so elegantly with help clambered back on his open Kayak to amusement of all.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** the tide still ebbing our group of 27, casually paddled downriver, the main group going up Rockland Long Dyke exploring and counting the elegant swans on the Broad, the tide turned, the breeze eased for a casual return to home. Jenny and Katherine noticing a little extra water in their Canadian canoe took no chances and returned returning to base from Rockland, a job for Phil to sort. 6.4Km covered in a couple of hours.



**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>**, Paddle cancelled due to poor weather forecast.

### Sea Kayak Capsize

by Mark Rawding

In May Coldham Paddler Mark Rawding took part in a sea kayaking expedition with his brothers, all experienced Kayakers. Mark soon learnt 'how to involuntarily capsize and more importantly how your team rescue you

if you watch the below YouTube Link you'll see what the hand-pumps are for, and how very effective.

In Marks own words,

The Sea Kayaking Rescue was just off North Ledaig in Scotland 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025. I was paddling with my two brothers Dave Glenn and Andy. All of us have been paddling for 40 years plus and both Dave and Andy are trained



instructors involved in KKC 'Kingston Kayak Club' in Hull. They have done many courses over the years but never performed an actual sea rescue!!.

We had paddled the day before near Connel on Loch Etive as I was new to Sea Kayaking (On L Plates ie YTS Lad) which went okay although it was blowing with a swell and tide running but I at least managed to stay in the kayak!!.

The next day the weather improved so they decided to paddle from Oban to North Ledaig around 8 miles. Its fair to say that with such experienced paddlers I felt very safe and we stayed together all the time. We moved from the coast line to cross to North Ledaig which was around 2 miles of paddling. All was well although the sea conditions tide and wind meant staying upright was a challenge!! I was about half a mile from shore feeling very pleased with myself when a sudden wave, the wind and tidal flow all went in about 3 directions in the space of a second and I capsized.

All three raced to my rescue although I was okay and not concerned as I had a dry suit and as the video showed it was a perfect rescue although some of the footage pumping the water from the cockpit need a little explaining!!.

<https://youtu.be/6itqlbjCdko?si=qD72HDw1ehvcsDGS>

## Club Notices

### Swimming and diving from Club Premises.

In the wake of the recent tragedy on the River Waveney at Beccles members are reminded that club by-laws prohibit swimming from any part of club premises. This is for your safety as the water is tidal, which can be strong at times and with underwater currents. Also, there are a number of surface and hidden underwater dangers and obstructions.

Our neighbours at Coldham Hall Inn have also given notice on Facebook that they also do not permit or condone swimming from any of their quay frontage or from their jetty

#### **Coldham Hall Tavern Facebook message**

*We are sure you have read about the drowning of a teenager in the river at Beccles, it was a tragedy and our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends.*

*Following this news we have had conversations about how to safely and effectively manage local teenagers and others from jumping into the river from our jetty at Coldham Hall, whether that is from our side or the sailing club side.*

*Unfortunately, we have made the decision that this has to stop. The tidal currents are very strong on our stretch of river and with the added risk of underwater obstacles and weeds we do not want a repeat of what has happened to this poor boy and his family. Last year alone, there were four drownings on the Norfolk Broads and we would hate for it to happen our watch.*

*Over the years we have tried to manage the safety of local teenagers jumping into the river by asking for a parent to be present and watching out for them. However, this has not been acknowledged and they have done so unsupervised. We have also asked many times for the private boats not to be used as climbing apparatus when getting out of the river as there have been a few incidents of damage.*

*We are not out to spoil anyone's fun and we understand the draw of jumping in the river in the heat of summer. But ultimately, we have to think about everyone's safety.*

*We hope you all have a great weekend.*

*The Coldham Hall Team*

## Dave's cans for cash.

Reminder, please continue to drop off your crushed aluminium cans at the club, collecting for funds.

## Coldham Hall Sailing Club on the Net

Keep up to date with everything that's going on in your club with the Club website and Facebook pages



[www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk](http://www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk) - The site contains a wealth of information including full details of the club officers and committee, race programme and results, social events, club history archive, photographs of various events and much more. There are links to weather and tide information allowing you to check the conditions before venturing on to the water. To advertise sailing items or boats, for free, on the site contact webmaster Dave Woolston by email at [woolston546@btinternet.com](mailto:woolston546@btinternet.com)



For Facebook contact our administrators to give you a key and allow you in, contact either Judith Robertson and Jeni Barnacle.

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.