

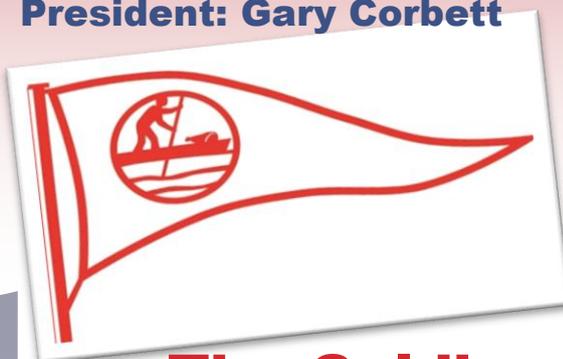
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# COLDHAM CHRONICLE

**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)

## The Coldham Chronicle

March has certainly been a changeable month for our weather. Throughout it has been quite a dry period with early continuous days of lovely sunshine, Norfolk officially warmer than some of the Mediterranean Islands. However, once the sun went down it was certainly chilly with many a good covering of frost first thing in the morning although it cleared quickly. We then had a cold period with the heating switched back up again and as we approach the clock changes the weather has certainly picked up once more, hopefully spring is with us, the days longer, evenings light till 8pm. The shorts and sandals are back out in use. Water here we come!

The nice weather gave many the opportunities to work on their boats getting them ready to be launched for the season; It's been a busy time at the boat yard with the introduction of a different method of applying anti-foul to the keelboats and cruisers, the weather has also allowed to get coats of varnish on and dry, before sanding and more coats, new floorboards of Buffalo Board are installed, quay heading is now complete with work parties infilling and a clean of the clubhouse.

With sadness this month we gathered to say farewell to long standing Life Member, past Commodore, John Ellis. On 13<sup>th</sup> March, Saint Mary's Church, standing room with pews and balcony full.

Please check our sailing calendar for your Officer of the Day duty, if you need prior help please ask, if you need to change a duty please arrange early.

We have some current advice especially for Yeoman owners who may have been paying too much River Toll.

And finally an early Happy Easter.



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



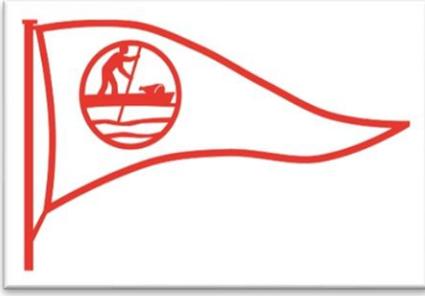
Coldham Hall Sailing Club



Yare Navigation Race



CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race



### Notes from The Committee

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

Commodore David Taitt opened the meeting and welcomed everybody.

**Hon. Secretary** NSBA (Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association) Flag Officers meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March Dave Taitt, Ben and Gary attending.

**Treasurer** – Primary outgoings including Tavern Service charge, quarterly rent, safety boat service, Club Boat BA Tolls all paid. We welcome a new junior member joining an existing club member. GDPR - Member contact details to be excluded from White Book by default.

**Bosun** - Quay heading works progressing well. (Now complete). Work parties to be organised to recover or burn scrap wood and to back-fill behind the new quay heading.

**Race Officer** -Triple B Planning in progress, expecting a good entry. Oulton Week hope to enter a fleet of Yeoman's from CHSC. May not be able to join keelboat allcomers races, because WOBYC do not use handicaps and Yeoman's are expected to be too fast against YBOD, BOD, WOD and Squib, but they will schedule Yeoman class races if we can field sufficient boats (~4?). Continuing to liaise. WOD (Waveney One Design) Team Race Wed 21 May WOBYC. Yeoman Team Race at CHSC BA to confirm suitable midweek date

**Social Secretary -Amanda Blezard.** –

Rigging Out Supper 5<sup>th</sup> April, slow response, advertises in Chronicle.

## Upcoming Events 2025

### April

Sunday 6th Racing Commences  
Sunday 27th Open Day/Push the boat out

### May

Saturday 3rd CHSC/NFSC/WOD Open Regatta  
Sunday 4th CHSC/NFSC/WOD Open Regatta  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> WOD team Race  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Try Sailing Theory

### June

Thursdays Try Sailing Water training  
Saturday 21st Hardley Mill Cruise & BBQ

### July

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10th Try Sailing Water Training  
Sunday 6th 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  
17th – 22nd Oulton Week

### September

Saturday 20/21 CHSC/Waveney OD

### October

Saturday 4th YNR  
Sunday 19th Commodores Day  
Sunday 26th Winter Downriver Series starts

### December

Wednesday 3rd Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 14th 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

### A.O.B

- Winter work parties The Committee recognised Bill Clark's excellent work with RSPB and volunteers to clear trees downriver.
- Defibrillator training** offered by Norfolk Ambulance Rescue Service. GC to arrange an evening training event with NARS.
- Aluminium scrap collection** DG to arrange collection of aluminium cans at the clubhouse for re-sale as scrap metal. See Chronicle article.



### John Augustine Ellis

02-04-1941 to 16-02-2025

By Clare and Matthew Ellis.

'Dad' did a huge amount in his life; he approached every challenge head on with energy, enthusiasm, methodical, logical, the ultimate completer and finisher, enormously kind showed his love in a multitude of ways. When younger, we never had to worry about having friends round, Dad loved the busyness of a full house, greeting people with enthusiasm and offers of whatever soup and crumble was on the go at the time. His 'open invitation' was to all

His first career was in the navy as a Chief Artificer, he travelled the world on various ships including minesweepers, a keen runner representing the navy; towards the end of his service he set his sights on his second career, and perhaps vocation education, following teacher training at nearby Keswick Hall he taught maths for the best part of 30 years at Hobart High School, Loddon.

Following his death, its been overwhelming to see the affection in the masses of comments posted on the 'Friends of Hobart High School Facebook Page', some from students he taught nearly 50 years ago, all referring to 'Sir or Mr Ellis'. Many spoke of the support they received when feeling out of their depth with maths, or in life generally - the bolstering they needed, were given, and haven't forgotten. A new found knowledge that dad chose to tackle disruption in his class by playing 'silence is golden' on his guitar!

School was a huge and very important part of his life with a passion for computers he managed to combine the two producing "living worksheets" through his dedication and hard work, (at CHSC Club John produced early versions Race Sheets, the YNR results adapted using John's template, for many years mum and dad's home was the YNR results base, all received by hand and feed into the computer, no modern internet or WhatsApp.

Alongside all of this he also made the time to continue the work of his parents Ted and Phyllis at the Ted Ellis trust as chair between 2003 and 2015. His work ensured the continued enjoyment of the reserve; he added the



John & Brother Martin

study centre during his tenure to cement the educational legacy enjoyed by generations of children, we ourselves used to visit on school trips to 'grandma's house'.

Dad was hugely capable, pragmatic and resourceful with an unbounded capacity for work. He played his guitar and sang to us in the bath, he built us climbing frames and tree houses, he renovated the house and extended it as our family grew and he helped us renovate ours as we grew our families. He loved his grandchildren so much and they loved him. He was born to be a 'Granddad'



He had a seemingly quite relaxed attitude to risk, chainsaws, machinery, air rifles and machetes were acceptable playthings and we had the freedom to roam long out of sight and earshot.

This approach occasionally backfired and there are a huge amount of near misses and memories. One in particular stands out. Transporting broken up concrete with our grey 'fergie' from a sailing club work party down the footpath back to our house Matthew hit a tree root, did a wheelie and ended up in the dyke. Matthew was fearful about feeding this information back to dad but whilst briefly taken aback he was not angry but set about solving the issue in hand, how do you retrieve a tractor from a dyke with no machinery and limited access? By the end of the day with planks, pulleys, ropes, friends, passersby and a Vauxhall Cavalier we had done it, this with a trip to the dentist for dad as an interlude. By the end of the following day we had stripped the engine, removed the muddy water and got it running again. A few litres of Ecover in the dyke to break up the oil and we could pretend it never happened.

At Wheatfen

Sailing was a passion in Dad's life, when he was young it was something he enjoyed with his grandfather and brother Martin, John and Caroline met through sailing, all sorts of boats passed through, a Javelin, Merlin rocket, our half-decker Cormorant, Blue Jacket, Stratus and his Norfolk dinghy 'Rainbow' to name a few, he helped on many boats in many ways.



Coldham hall was the focal point and Dad as ever poured himself into the club over many years. He was ever present on work parties, instrumental with others in converting to our new club-house, and helped install what we know as the 'Pinder Slip' with good friend Geoff. He was commodore on 3 occasions, a Life Member with Mum from 2010. We had

many sailing adventures as children both on the broads and in our mirror dinghy that we would take with us on holiday to the Brittany coast. Later on racing Blue Jacket with dad was a real formative part of life, which I still continue.

There is a lot to take forward from how Dad was but he really lived the approach that there is nothing you can't do if you try, and I think he was right, except when he attempted to make a lawnmower from a washing machine motor and a plastic tray.

### Memories of John Ellis: by Sam Dunning

I remember first meeting John, a very Coldham scenario. Before I was living and working at Coldham, I had a day off work and decided to visit my father in law down at the boat yard. As many others have experienced, they know the Carnser floods, but this day it was a big one, I was shuffling along trying not to overtop my wellies, but it was only getting deeper! About to give up, I saw a figure approaching me, it was John (who must be able to walk the loop walk from his house, over the marsh, past the club, and up the Carnser, with his eyes closed). As we meet, we introduce ourselves and he offers to lend me some thigh high waders. He walks me back to his cottage by the route on higher ground, where I then meet Caroline and am offered some fresh homemade soup. I do not remember our conversation, but it was lovely to be accepted as a friend and welcomed. Boots were passed to me, slipped on, and vaguely pointed in the direction of the club across the marsh, which was a tricky path to follow, as fully submerged. So, my first experience of Coldham flood in full force was also my first of meeting John. He was a part of life here, his greeting, his caring nature for the boatyard and my family, along with his always bright smile will be greatly missed.



**From the Ed...** Many of us have fond and lasting memories and adventures with John at CHSC, from work parties where he would be perched up a tree with a chainsaw in his hand and as mentioned his own risk assessment, to the development of the club house at its present location, also, hearing the sound of an engine from the track and John appearing pushing a grass cutter to clear the dinghy park and everything in front. Many of us have memories seeing John compete in either his Norfolk-Rainbow, or half-decker Stratus. John was Commodore in 1975, 1993 and 2004; John and Caroline, Life Members in 2010.

## Are you over paying your Broads Authority Toll

Gary Corbett

In a year when Broads tolls have again increased by around 6% we show you how easy it is to get caught out and pay more than you should be for your Broads Toll.

Yeoman Owners and maybe other sailing boats. Please don't make the same mistake I did. On purchasing Kingfisher some years ago, I contacted our lovely Broads Authority to notify change of ownership and to register her. Automatically, I received the Toll Certificate and paid what was asked. This year I decided to check and discovered that I was paying my Yeoman toll calculated at 12sq. metres.

So, a call to a lovely helpful person at the BA Tolls office, I explained my predicament and an enquiry was made, this confirmed a Yeoman is 6m x 1.9m, calculated down as 11square metres for BA Toll.

My new price is £159.17 with petrol outboard (opposed to (£173.64, a decrease in my favour of £14.47 this year). I believe that with an electric or no engine the cost should be £131.45).  
Happy days this year and the future.

My second question once the error was acknowledged was, am I entitled to a refund for previous years or a goodwill gesture of discount for this year. The one manager, without speaking to me, said **"NO"**. I bet If you underpaid the BA would they let it go?

Since sharing my discovery, a further six club Yeoman owner's found they were overpaying the same, are you? It's worth looking at your account and checking your sizes are correct. Any sailing boat owner may wish to check their account information.

## Cash for Cans

Dave Greenacre.

We know that recycling your empty drink cans is good news for the environment, but did you know it could also be good news for our sailing club?

'Cash for Cans, recycling is a perfect fundraising opportunity for us to help boost club funds.

Dave Greenacre has offered to manage a non-metallic can collection scheme at our club. If members could collect their used drinks cans and drop off into a sack at the clubhouse, then Dave will take to a local scrappy and all proceeds will go into the sailing club funds.

Please crush the cans and check cans are non metallic with a fridge magnet, if they make contact, put them in your recycle, if they don't collect for the club.

EVERY CAN COUNTS.



**Coldham Hall Sailing Club Rigging Out Supper**

Saturday, 5th April 2025, 7 for 7.30 pm, at Surlingham Village Hall

Cost £4.00 per person on the door on the night

This event is a great opportunity to get together, with old and new friends, before the start of the sailing season in a relaxed atmosphere along with a quiz arranged by Ben.

All invited please contact Amanda Blezard [amandablezard@hotmail.com](mailto:amandablezard@hotmail.com) or mobile 07789914457

**CANCELLED**


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)

**Sailing Section****OOD Duties - April**

DATE	ALLCOMERS EVENT	River Cruiser Class	OOD	SECOND OFFICER	THIRD OFFICER
Apr 6	Local (1)		D Woolston	M Woolston	D Durrant
Apr 13	Local (2)		D Greenacre	M Roll	S Roll
Apr 20	Downriver (1)		G Corbett	D Jaffey	C Logue
Apr 27	Local (3) Open Day		C Lambert	E Crowfoot	B Clark

**Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028**

In our last edition we reported on the release of the World Racing Rules of Sailing, we are aware there has been a number of key changes to the original version, which we are reviewing, if you purchased a Rules Book from the RYA, email them for a copy of the changes, otherwise have a browse at:-

<https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racingrules>

**Midweekers.**

Boats are cleaned, crews are ready, we will bring you a full report and first outing's next month. Enjoy your sail.

## Canoe and Paddle Board Section



### Paddling

Hopefully you are gearing up to get on the water; our paddling group is managed by our Ambassadors Clare and Vickie who invite you to join our Whatsapp group, if you're interested drop them an email with your contact details.

Vicki [vhunterlines@gmail.com](mailto:vhunterlines@gmail.com) or Clare [cole-4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cole-4@hotmail.co.uk)

Plans are in place for a Paddle breakfast from the club to Surlingham Ferry on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, or meet at the Ferry. We hope to start off our Social Paddle Tuesday in early May, along with a Big Paddle Clean-up the end of May, we hope all club members will be involved.

Our Paddling fleet of canoes and Kayaks is increasing and more racking is sort, if you know of a redundant tower scaffold; only four pieces for one rack, please contact Gary.

### First signs of Spring at Coldham

You can always tell when spring has arrived at CHSC by the frantic activity at the Club and in Sam's yard. The Yeoman fleet takes to the water, courtesy of Sam and Tom, and begin to migrate to their summer roosting spots, the clubhouse and dinghy park become a scene of frantic activity with work parties coming and going and the smell of varnish in the air as the Cruiser owners apply a fresh coat before launch. Dinghy covers get lifted and tie downs removed, canoes and boards get taken down and cleaned, you may even see the dd one on the water already.

Yes, Spring has definitely sprung, the clocks have gone forwards and the first race of the year is only a week away and if you listen carefully, you might just hear the first Cuckoo of the year calling from the nearby trees and bushes.

Happy Sailing, Canoeing, Boarding or Kayaking.



## Ongoing works at the club

### Work Parties

The club wishes to extend its thanks to all members who have been able to help with our annual work parties, this includes at the club with Bosun/Commodore David and Bill clearing trees and the shrub on the river.

You will see the essential quay heading replacement is complete, our thanks to JD Services who have carried out an excellent job, our work parties cleared the old rotten wood away, tidied up the park and club house all before the start of our sailing and paddling starts, we have some before and after photos which show how urgent the work was needed. Four sets of ladders are installed to gain access to the pontoon, as always, we remind everyone to wear a buoyancy aid anywhere near the water.

The old boardwalk is removed, replaced with earth and to follow grass up to the quay heading; we must give time for the reinstatement and settlement of soil, so take care on any uneven/sunken surfaces. If you see anything that needs attention, please tell the committee.

### From this



### To this, prior to backfilling work



Tree clearing work parties

Bill Clark has continued to hold discussions with both the RSPB and Broads Authority to re-establish the river banks back to how they should be as reed bed with the removal of newer intrusive trees, generally willow, to allow a clear passage for sailing.



**Tree Fellers looking for four candles ?**

This year Bill has arranged a series of club work parties to clear the scrub and trees cut down by the RSPB and to remove trees where possible close to the river. This is year two of a 5 year plan and Bill hopes to resume work parties in the autumn with the view to cut further trees and allow them to dry before burning in spring 2026. We wish Bill well in his continued discussions.



**A well earned break.**



**Not sticking in the river.**

## March Trivia, did you know?

### **Mad March**

We've all heard the saying Beware the Ides of March, but what does it mean. To start off with the Ides go back to Roman days, they did not number each day of the month. Instead, they counted back from three fixed points of the month: the Nones (the 5th or 7th, eight days before the Ides), the Ides (the 13th for most months, but the 15th in March, May, July, and October), and the Kalends (1st of the following month). Which again the Ides determined the Full Moon, March was the first month of the Roman year. When did it become notorious, 44BC when we believe Julius Caesar was assassinated?

### **Mad as a March Hare.**

March is right in the middle of the hares' breeding season. This means that male hares are looking for female hares to mate with.

The males chase females but sometimes the females don't want the attention. That's when the boxing match begins! When the female has had enough of being chased, she turns around and wallops the male to discourage him. Take that! It looks like they're boxing because the female and male are on their back legs, hitting each other with their front paws. They even pull-out fur! It's got to be down to the Moon.



### **March Blood Worm Moon.**

The full Blood Worm Moon reaches its peak in the morning hours of **Friday, March 14.**

Worm Moon refers to a different sort of "worm"—beetle larvae—which begin to emerge from the thawing bark of trees and other winter hideouts at this time. It was initially thought it was related to earth worms showing and a tasty treat for the birds.

### **'And that's a fact'**

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.