



C. A. Y. F. Newsletter

This is an occasional newsletter from the Crouch Area Yachting Federation for affiliated Clubs, issued only when there is something of interest to tell your members. Designed to be pinned on noticeboards

March 2020

- **Reminder to attend the CAYF AGM**

The CAYF AGM will be held on Sunday 15 March at South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club from 2pm. It is hoped that most clubs will attend as last year few members turned up.

Ken Wickham outgoing Chair's report to AGM 2020

This is the last year, I am standing down as your chairman, we need to have continued fresh minds on this Federation and I believe I have done my stint and duty.

This year I have on behalf of mainly of the Roach users attended stake holders' meetings with QinetiQ over the issues concerning the operation of the bridges at Havengore and Potton Creeks and the boundaries of the range into the Crouch. Along with the 2 affected yards in the Roach and The SHB Watermans' Assoc I have been able to make the MOD representatives QinetiQ understand the physical difficulties of lack of maintenance has caused during the past years and especially 2019. Moving forward the extreme amounts of maintenance work is schedule to start early February and to be completed by early April 2020. This involves, new main lift rams, a complete new electrical and hydraulic system, along with overdue general maintenance on both bridges. By involving outside consulting engineers who actually work on bridges it has highlighted the problems encountered over many years of poor design, construction and lack of maintenance. This also means the bridge is totally closed and not able to be manually opened.

The issues of the boundary of the range against the navigational route of the Crouch has been resolved and in the coming year, under general maintenance of the navigational buoys and possible removal of some, will realign the boundary which was wrongly laid at the start of the Cross-Rail project.

I have attended the regular Eastern Region Committee of the RYA meetings when possible and have supported when required Doug who is their Chairman. In November I also attended the RYA East Affiliated Clubs Conference and the following day helped in the background run the Eastern RYA Cruisers Conference at Holbrook Hospital.

As Chair of the RAFCC I have for the last 5 years been chair of the Advisory Committee and sit on the CHA Finance and Estates Committee and have taken some of your concerns to the members meetings of the CHA. Some we have triumphed on some but I am sad to report we have not won all.

The membership of CAYF though in the upper 20's, by real attendance at AGM's has not been great. The larger clubs on the rivers have not seen it as a requirement to attend in the past nor in fact see the value of CAYF having already direct contact with the CHA and RYA.

Thus, I think it's time to look at our RYA membership and its requirements to belong as a group to the RYA. This is because clubs we repute to represent already have direct contact availability to the RYA by being affiliated. This would also increase the RYA East head count as to the number of clubs they represent. We have to be in existence under the 1974 Act for the CHA as we are supposed to be the only conduit to the CHA for the yachting and boating community, but as seen, some over the years some already have the capacity to circumnavigate that and go the direct route.

As I said I stand down as Chairman of CAYF, but I will still represent the Roach Area Fairways Conservation Committee at CAYF. I wish the next chair well and hope he / she can make some impression on those clubs who do not realize the need of CAYF to continue. Regards Ken Wickham Chair CAYF

- **CHA Harbour dues reminder Early Payment rate is 1 January to 31 March**

Sadly there are less bigger boats to pay dues this year and coupled with the last cargo income from Crossrail (alternatives are hoped for) to break even the CHA plaque fees will need to go up next year to balance the books. After exploring other revenue streams without success, your CAYF reps agreed to vote it through. It should be emphasised that the CHA dues have not increased for early payment in the last 3 years.

- **Havengore Bridge Update (03.02.20) from Nicki Uden – Community Liaison Officer, SHOEBURYNNESS RANGE**

Careline: 0800 0560108

Email: nuden@QinetiQ.com

We're pleased to confirm that the major programme of works to refurbish Havengore Bridge began on Monday 13 February. The hydraulic system will be redesigned and improved with upgraded hydraulic components and replacement of the main lift cylinders. Controls equipment, systems and software will also be redesigned and upgraded to modern standards and fully integrated with the hydraulics. A new safety system and fault diagnostic technology will also improve bridge operations and reduce repairs times.

The works will take several weeks to complete and we are no longer able to offer manual lifting so no marine traffic will be able to pass until the bridge is returned to full operational capacity in early April.

We're committed to improving the reliability, serviceability and long-term resilience of the bridge and will provide further updates as they become available. We thank you for your continued patience and co-operation. Regards, Nicki

- **Havengore Bridge Update (03.02.20) From Ken Wickham**

The works should be completed before the beginning of April, but has shown the need for a complete overhaul of the control systems both hydraulic and electrical. There are no spares available and new lift rams have been ordered and will be installed along with valve and electrical gear. Routine structural repairs were missed out and thus this has added to their problems, these also will be completed. Staff will be retrained and the updates will mean off site inspection of any electronic failure can now be had by the consultants.

Potton swing bridge meanwhile, though being far older has very little wrong with it and some emergency repairs and re routing of power cables are required. This will be done at the same time but will not involve the closure of the bridge for lengthy times.

One good thing though, we have it in writing that the MOD / QinetiQ will not ever consider closing the maritime right of way through Havengore or Potton bridges. Only problem is the need to update the Bye Laws to make them read sense in the modern day?

- **OUT OF DATE FLARES**

Please note that we have been advised that you can now dispose of out of date flares at the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) Office in Colchester on the last Thursday of the month. Colchester Marine Office C02 9BY

Please note this service is by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** which are required to be made by contacting

DOVER COASTGUARD on **01304 218500**. You will be asked to supply

- A list of **all** Flares to be disposed of
- The type of Flare
- Date of Expiry

Please be aware that this service is only available to individual Members of the Public and **is not** available to Sailing Clubs and Commercial Organisations.

- **CAYF website**

A new CAYF website has been launched, **www.cayf.org.uk** this is replacing the old website which was provided by essexinfo.net using Cambridge Open Systems technology which is closing on 31 March 2020.

- **RYA Information**

The RYA are pleased to inform you that they are delivering a number of Club Development Forums throughout the East region in February, March and April and would like to invite your club to attend.

The first round will take place at four different venues on four different evenings, however we will be covering two topics at each venue to encourage clubs to send along a couple of people (if not more) to each one. We have listened to your feedback and will be delivering sessions on Volunteering and Membership Retention to support the work you do. Each session will be interactive, we'll share the latest insights and information and encourage discussion to make the most of the time available.

To find out more and to book your place please click [HERE](#) Each session is free for affiliated club representatives and includes refreshments.

There will be another round in April looking at Junior participation and Race management.

- **Consultations**

Draft South East Marine Plan is now open for consultation. It covers the areas waters are developed, protected and improved over the next 20 years. <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/draft-south-east-inshore-marine-plan/>

Essex Coast RAMS Supplementary Planning Document. Consultation document on a mitigation strategy measures for birds on the Essex coast. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/place-services/the-essex-coast-rams-spd/>

CAYF Officers representing your interests

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