CITY LIVERY YACHT CLUB

2026 SUMMER SNAPSHOT

Welcome to our end of summer newsletter! It's been a busy season for our members, full of adventures out on the water, and we've rounded up a selection of tales from the (not quite) seven seas below. I hope you enjoy reading about the summer as much as we enjoyed being out on the water together, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our events in Cowes and London this autumn.

Fair winds,
Caroline Roddis, Commodore

INTER-LIVERY REGATTA

We started the CLYC sailing season with our annual Inter-Livery Regatta in May this year – two and a half days in Cowes with some lively racing and convivial socials. We had 20 boats entered in the two 'big boat' classes and 3 Sonars in their own class, alongside spectator and hotel boats who visited the Isle of Wight as part of our CLYC event. You can read much more about the weekend, and check out the results of the racing, on the CLYC website – Inter-Livery Regatta page.



Boats mid-race 1 on the Saturday

SOLENT CRUISE

The club held our popular Solent Cruise in June, with members joining for part or all of the week, both via water and sea! Newer CLYC member, Peter Martin, recalls the week...

As a new member of the CLYC, I was really looking forward to meeting some fellow members and was very pleased to join the Solent Cruise. Having sailed in the Solent for over 40 years, I am reasonably familiar with it, though our cruising usually takes us West from our base in Lymington.



The cruise proper began on Tuesday evening, but the evening before we arranged a rendezvous with Keith and enjoyed his hospitality aboard his lovely Southerly, Hightime, in Newtown Creek.

On Tuesday we enjoyed a gentle sail along the Solent in lovely sunshine, including lunch at

anchor in Thorness Bay, before heading to Yarmouth to meet up with the rest of the fleet including Snow Leopard, Toscana and First Rule. Sadly Kittiwake was unable to join, but her company joined us in the evening. We met up in the Blue Crab fish and chip restaurant (which had opened for us that evening by special arrangement) before adjourning to the Wheatsheaf for a post prandial refresher. Or two.

The atmosphere was most convivial and as newcomers my crew (Eric) and I were made to feel most welcome.



Some of the CLYC contingent at the Royal Southern YC

Wednesday stayed dry but misty, with a light South-westerly and a calm sea as we set off on our intrepid voyage through the murk to Lymington, some 3 miles distant. The fleet all made it safely there and we reconvened for a very good dinner in the Haven, overlooking Lymington Haven marina and the Solent.

Thursday saw calm winds and sunshine, and a very gentle (and slow) sail to the Royal Southern Yacht Club on the Hamble. Drinks on the clubhouse balcony were followed by dinner in the club, and thence a number came on board Little Morten for a night cap or two, including a reasonable bottle of ancient port that had been hiding at the back of a locker for a couple of decades.

Friday was another sunny day, and we enjoyed a very helpful following wind past the forts to Chichester Harbour. The fleet rafted on the visitor's pontoon where Snow Leopard hosted an excellent pontoon party before a great dinner in the Ship at Itchenor, where we were looked after by the giggly mother and daughter team running the pub that evening.



The boats at Itchenor

All too soon, Saturday morning dawned signalling the conclusion of our cruise. Prior to departure, there was some discussion on when we'd be able to cross the bar on leaving Chichester Harbour and so the fleet cautiously cast off around 1:45 pm, only to find there was plenty of water after all. We then enjoyed a good brisk sail back to our various home ports.

Eric and I reflected on our way back on what a great, well planned cruise it had been. We felt we had made some great new friends and been welcomed into the Club splendidly. We're looking forward to the next one to meet up again with fellow club members. However, the port may not be quite so good next time …

HMS DARING AFFILIATES DAY

We were incredibly fortunate to have received an invitation to HMS Daring's Affiliates Day on 18th June, and a lucky 9 members were able to tour the ship and have lunch with

some of the other Affiliate groups. By all accounts the group had a fantastic day and were met with wonderful hospitality on board. Past-Commodore William Avery was also able to attend a dinner that evening for Affiliate Principals, as representative for CLYC, with the Captain and Officers of HMS Daring. To read more about the day, head to our CLYC News page online to read Committee Member Hugh Tinsley's write up. https://clyc.co.uk/a-day-aboard-hms-daring/

THALIA AT THE RICHARD MILLE CUP



Three crew haul in Thalia's balloon jib

A slightly different sail to those who tend to come along to our Inter-Livery Regatta, one our members, Jim Miller, took part in this year's Richard Mille Cup up on the Clyde in June. A fantastic event of classic yachts racing, our News page contains Jim's amusing account of racing Thalia where "there is not a single winch aboard" and "virtually of the ropes are light brown"! https://clyc.co.uk/thalia-at-the-richard-mille-cup-by-jim-miller/

COWES WEEK 2026





Many CLYC members were enthusiastic participants in the 200th edition of Cowes Week earlier this month. We had boats in a wide variety of classes and, I think it's fair to say, varying degrees of success out on the water! While everyone was busy with the many 200th celebrations on shore, I was delighted that many members could stop by for our informal CLYC drinks at RLYC on the Monday. Sadly, we didn't manage to include everyone in the photographs, but we did have a great evening catching up, comparing notes and assuring ourselves that the rest of the week would bring better results! I am very grateful to Sonja and Andy Freebody for suggesting the meet-up, and to Peter and Rosemary Bingham for coordinating things on the day.

A JOURNEY FROM TAHITI TO AUSTRALIA



It's always amazing to hear about the adventures our members get up to outside of CLYC events, and Committee Member Andrew Berisford's trip to deliver a boat from Tahiti to Australia is certainly one for the books! The pictures from his trip definitely trigger the jealousy of sailing on 'cup of tea' coloured waters in the UK compared the crystal turquoise water of the Islands at which they stopped. Check out the pictures for yourselves and read about his trip on our News page. https://clyc.co.uk/across-the-trade-winds-andrew-berisford/

IMPROMPTU MEMBER CRUISE TO TORBAY

A few of our members got together for a cruise West to Torbay in August, below is member Jim Miller's account of an eventful trip!

The CLYC Skippers for the July 2026 Normandy Rendez-Vous had to postpone due to predicted strong Easterlies which would have made travelling past Barfleur, Alderney and Cap de la Hague very uncomfortable. A diary re-think showed that 3 of the boats, First Rule, Xara and Eagle could still sail together in August's Old Carthusian YC West Country Cruise with 4 CLYC members aboard.



R&R on an XC34 in Weymouth

They were all out in the Solent by 0800 or so BST on Wednesday 13th August, heading fast towards the West. After a night rafted in Weymouth, where the Fish & Chip shop and curry house were sampled to great effect, on the Thursday the fleet went inshore at Portland and motored across Lyme Bay to Torquay.



CLYC's Skipper Jonathan Rolls (Xara) concentrating hard while having a picnic in Brixham during the Cruise

During a treasure Hunt on the Dart Steam Railway and throughout Dartmouth on the Saturday, the fleet grew up to 6 yachts with arrivals from Fowey and St Helier. 20 hearties took Saturday's dinner in the Royal Torbay YC, home of the 1948 Olympics at which an OCYC sailor achieved Gold.

There were a couple of medical incidents, a medical student on Eagle, who is hopefully not planning to be a surgeon, making a deep cut into her index finger while preparing the citrus for G&T for 15 and the XO on an XC43 taking a chunk out of her hand with her electric halyard winch, injuries soon patched up respectively by the medic's father (an NHS consultant) and by Alderney Hospital.

On the Sunday, 4 yachts in the fleet raced in light airs from Hope's Nose to Teignmouth and back, Xara taking a decisive victory. On the Monday, crews began to head home to the Channel Islands and the Solent, some encountering sporting conditions on the Tuesday with a following Force 6 puffing low 7 outside St Alban's Ledge. Eagle, a stiff heavy offshore Rustler 36, attempted surfing under full main and 2 reefs in the genny but got no faster than "8 knots downhill": another boat in the fleet, a Sun 36, reported a good 12 knots through the water.



With Mutter's Moor in the background, West of Sidmouth and East of the River Otter, 12 miles offshore the fleet received a friendly escort

STILL TO COME IN 2026....

- The Commodore's Dinner is fast approaching in a couple of weeks, for a small group of our members to dine in the Member's Dinning Room at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes. We look forward to seeing those who have booked spaces, there!

- Members are invited for a tour of RNLI's Tower Lifeboat Station on 22nd September 2026, with an informal dinner after the tour. Make sure you let the Club Secretary know if you would like to come along!

- A group of CLYC members are off to Malta for a long weekend in October, to explore the sunny island and new scenery!

- Our Laying Up Supper this year will be on Wednesday 21st October 2026 at the Savile Club, nicely tying in with the 221st Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Bookings will open shortly, make sure you snag a space!

- We are hosting a Cheese and Wine night jointly with the Royal Naval Sailing Association (RNSA) on Thursday 5th November at Watermen's Hall! This will be a ticketed event as spaces are limited and divided between our two clubs.

- The CLYC AGM will be held on Monday 9th November 2026. The Club Secretary will contact all members with more detail about this meeting, closer to the date.

Make sure you keep an eye on your Upcoming Event emails, where you will hear more details about all the exciting events to come, how to book, and links to the booking pages!