

Hi Everybody,



Just look at that sky today! I'm so sorry that your blog is a day late – all my own fault. I had made the mistake of still having a dentist (and hygienist) in Godalming and I wasn't going to miss the opportunity of finally being granted this pleasure after that long wait created by Covid.

For those of you who may not be aware, a dental appointment is as precious to a woman as a hairdresser's appointment – a bit like winning the lottery! That was the good news! The bad news began with the accident on the A27 which made my journey as far as Sainsburys take a slow 40 minutes. Oops - are you getting bored yet?

And then, when I had finally raced along the A3 the noise from the rear offside tyre forced me into a service station. I am not even going to bore you with how I feel about a car manufacturer who doesn't feel the need to provide a spare tyre, or even the space for a space tyre. What I will let you know about is a van full of fabulous young workers who were finishing off their Greggs sandwiches who tried to reflate a destroyed tyre and finally detoured to give me a lift to the dentist. They even apologised to me for the mud on the seat, bless 'em. Don't even try to decry the men in this world as some are doing on the tele as I am writing this!

And yes, my man had to drive all the way from Pagham to get a new tyre fitted so I could drive home so, it only took 6 hours for a 30-minute appointment!

This really cheered me up after I had finished thinking that maybe now is the time to replace not only my dentist, but my car - so now I have just bought a new car after 13 years. That'll teach it to let me down

when I needed it! And my dentist!

Speaking of cheering people up, you probably won't be aware that we do have a couple of our members who, for one reason or another are unwell, or who are undergoing hospital treatment. None of this is connected with the Covid virus but is equally aggressive for their bodies and their minds to cope with. We wish them all the love in the world and look forward to them joining us later in the year when they feel they are able to join with us. Do think about them and smile.



In the meantime, it is wonderful to see that Spring is finally showing through around Pagham. Great to see the signboard and the planted boat area leading up to the beach is being looked after. I think this may be Maria's efforts? Thank you from all of us.

On our behalf, don't forget 14th April when we will be opening the Bar to serve to members seated outside - only until 17th May when some of us can move indoors. Sorry to sound off about the rules now, but if you know what we have to do then life will be so easy when we can all join together again for a drink. The current rules are only for 6 to a table or 2 households sitting together. Access will be from the beach only (West Front Road door will be locked) and members will have access to the toilets through the Bar area wearing masks. Any drinks will have to be ordered from servers whilst sitting in the marquee.

I was thinking about server outfits for the men for the opening night – perhaps dinner jackets, white dinner shirts with bow ties to go with their shorts? No? Oh, well. Which reminds me – I will need fairly soon to circulate a list asking for people to work behind the Bar and for servers to take orders and payments. Do let me know if you would be willing to do a hour here or there and which days you would be able to do this. The more the merrier! These are enjoyable roles and, as I have would only be for an hour or two to spread the load.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Hopefully you will all now have received your copies of the EGM and AGM papers. I have been told that there may be one or two errors in the numbering so, please forgive me for that. (Phew! Only one or two!!!) Even though the papers have been checked, I'm sure you will understand that there have been many alterations over the past weeks and the Management Committee are confident that, on the day, the Chair will be able to lead you through the zoom meeting so you do not get too confused. We are all on a learning process and hoping that this will be the last time for a while!

Nominations for election of Club Officers are now closed, so those detailed in the AGM papers are those which will be voted on. With no positions opposed, voting should be straightforward and, with any luck, swift!

You will have seen that there are several positions that are still vacant and you may be aware that these can be filled by co-opting a member onto the Committee at any time in the future. If you are still interested in any of the roles, please do let us know of your skills so that we can talk to you in the time ahead.

### **Sailing and Angling Report**

As Sailing will be starting on 2nd May, RC Sailing Kevin has had his marine engineer in today to look at the ribs, taking certain parts of the vessels away so that he can come back to service them in readiness for the start of the season. It really is all happening! Oh yes!



From RC Angling Pete, no one has been out or fished since last week. (I don't want to tell him this, but today there were two fishermen on the beach, who were not members, who told me that they had just caught a small plaice! Groan) Come on, do get out there boys!

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### **Social Membership**

Right - the RYA are giving us the answers to last week's questions so...

1. What is meant by the expression "winding the boat"?

"This is to spin the boat in its berth with the use of warps and with the assistance of wind and/or tide."

Please – don't ask me what warps means in this context! I really do give in!!!!

2. What are the three different types of pyrotechnics (flares) used for distress signalling? One I knew! "Red rocket, red handheld and orange smoke." Please, do let us be aware of this if you have flares on board.

3. What is meant by the term "trim" in the context of stability and buoyancy relating to a vessel? Again, another one I am familiar with!

"The trim of a vessel is determined by the position of the bow and stern relative to one another. Positioning of the weight further aft or forward will raise or lower the bow or stern. Similarly, adjusting the tilt of an outboard engine will allow the bow to ride higher or lower in or on the water."

4. In terms of offshore boating, which is more appropriate – a buoyancy aid or a lifejacket, and why?

"A buoyancy aid is designed simply to provide simply a little positive buoyancy but nothing else. A lifejacket (whether inflatable or fixed buoyancy) is designed and tested to ensure it provides adequate positive buoyancy in addition to floating an unconscious casualty in a face-up position with their airways clear of the water." Good advice if you are not a good swimmer or know you will be well out of shore visibility. Good advice!

5. Why is it good practice to position the vessel to windward of the casualty for man-overboard recovery?

As a clue, I said that RC Sailing Kevin knows the answer to this one!

“As the vessel comes to a stop alongside the casualty the wind will naturally blow it down towards the casualty, assisting in a comfortable and controlled recovery. It also creates a lee, reducing the likelihood of water splashing into the airway.”

In Kevin’s case, the “vessel” was the one he fell out of which badly gashed his leg as it was blown toward the shore with him in the way! Never mind, eh Kevin? Won’t do that again eh? Oh – well.....

And on to this weeks’ questions. Now that I have invested in my first new car for 13 years, I feel that we should have a look at anything to do with cars and travel:

1. What was the first Motorway opened in Britain? The clue is that was in Britain and I am using what they are part of into today’s travel. Were they part of: M6, M1 or M10?
2. When were the first “tensioned safety barriers” put in on a section of the M1? Was it 1969, 1971 or 1973? Frightening that it was so late! It was the number of deaths that made them act - fortunately.
3. How many Motorway Service Stations are there on the M1 (this includes the ones where you are able to stay overnight)? 16, 17 or 18? I really don’t know if they are open now so don’t challenge me on that one!
4. If you use the A1(M) heading north, what is the famous place name where you end up if you don’t use the M6? (I wanted to use the song “Go North” but I ended up with Pete the Dragon’s version so forget that! I think I had in my mind “Go West” by The Village People .....enough said.

Short but simple xxx

Hoping that you all are well and that you are getting your jabs,

Jill

Honorary Blogger

Pagham Yacht Club

16.03.2021

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