



CRUISING MATTERS

The latest news and views from the Cruising Association.

The CA was founded in 1908 specifically to meet the needs of cruising sailors and provides services, information, help and advice to thousands of members worldwide. For more information visit www.theca.org.uk.

SCANDAL WINS CLUB CRUISER CLASS

Image: Paul Wyeth/
Cowes Week

The Solent served up a sensational week of conditions at Cowes Week, with a light breeze through to 25+ knots providing plenty of thrills and spills, along with some epic starts off the iconic Royal Yacht Squadron line.

This marked the second year of the Cruising Association as presenting sponsor of the Club Cruiser Class at Cowes Week. The CA's motivation is to encourage and celebrate the many sailors who enjoy competitive racing alongside exploring cruising waters around the world.

The growing popularity of cruising boat divisions in multi-class race weeks was evident in the 25-boat fleet, up on entries from last year. The boats were split into white and blue fleets for seven days of racing, with the level of competitiveness demonstrated by nine different boats claiming finishes inside the top three.

The final day was a tense affair, as three boats – Scandal, Aqua and Panda of Hamble – were in the running for podium places. An impressive run of form saw Scandal, a Sun Odyssey 349, earn a sufficient points margin to discard their final day's second place finish in the blue fleet and claim overall victory.

In the white fleet, the fight for second and third overall was a matter of who finished ahead, with the race 7 win going to Aqua with Panda of Hamble finishing in third place, to end the series on equal points. The tiebreak advantage was awarded on countback to Aqua.



ORCA PROJECT UPDATE

In July's All At Sea the CA shared information about the CA and Grupo Trabajo Orca Atlantica collaboration and launch of a new online orca reporting form, which aims to gather data and investigate orcas interacting with vessels primarily along the Iberian Peninsula.

The phenomenon, which began in 2020, sees orcas often damaging small yachts and other vessels along the south and west coasts of Spain and Portugal. It is linked with the migration of tuna exiting the Mediterranean from the Strait of Gibraltar and heading west and north around the Iberian Peninsula, primarily between June and October.

The CA reporting platform is intended to assist with and build upon the work already undertaken by the GTOA study by improving communication with the boating community and enhancing research to learn lessons that will assist crews to avoid interactions with orcas or reduce the impact on their boats if an interaction occurs, as well as to identify patterns of orca behaviour.

Skippers are invited to report 'interactions' and 'uneventful' passages along the Iberian Peninsula. Since early June more than 160 reports have been submitted. In a change to

behaviour over the past two years, orca 'interactions' have been reported as far north as off the coast of Brest, France.

The anonymised reports are published online on an interactive map, so users can see where the 'interactions' and 'uneventful passages' are occurring, read the nature of what happened and what the skippers did to shorten or end the interaction.

The CA has also published the comparative data, which enables users to see if there are any noticeable differences in the factors being reported. These factors include sea state/wind speed, boat speed, day/night, cloud cover, distance off land and sea depth.

Once sufficient reports have been received, the CA will compare and present a statistical summary of data received against the same data set reported by boats on passage through the affected area without an interaction.

Find out more about the Orca Project at

www.theca.org.uk/orcas

View the Orca Project Reports at

www.theca.org.uk/orcas/reports



SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW

You can visit the CA on stand J419 in Ocean Hall and discover the vast knowledge they provide and learn more about the thriving cruising community.

Advice - the team will be on hand throughout the show, and dedicated drop-in sessions will share practical advice and answer your technical questions. They can guide you through a myriad of regulation and legislation topics, such as VAT, Brexit, craft registration, entry and exit formalities, electric propulsion, 90/180 stays and red diesel. The drop-in sessions are open to all, member or non-member, from 1400-1630 hours on both Fridays and Saturdays of the boat show. Supporting your cruising adventures, CA experts will also be giving talks on the Foredeck Stage including: Buying a Boat and VAT, Introduction to the Cruising Association and Channel Crossing Paperwork Procedures and Q&A.

CAptain's Mate - explore the exclusive to members cruising app. CAptain's Mate provides a breadth of information and cruising reports covering 6,500+ locations around the world, providing up-to-date, accurate and informative location data on anchorages, marinas, ports, harbours, boatyards and quays. The app's worldwide coverage across 77+ countries reflects the CA's international membership, with 20,000+ member contributions and reports.

Prizes - the CA's Summer Big Prize Draw is a £2,000 AquaMarine voucher. The prize can be spent across AquaMarine's entire product range, covering everything from safety, deck hardware and lighting

to dinghy and outboard equipment, anchoring and mooring and technical apparel. During the show, CA members can enter the draw by visiting the CA stand; the winner will be announced at 1200 on 21 September. The CA Winter Big Prize Draw will launch in partnership with Lalizas UK on 22 September, with members able to win £2,000 of products from their new Marine Equipment Selection Catalogue.

Membership Offers - the CA is offering membership discounts throughout the show, with 10 per cent off* the first year of full membership and no joining fee. If you are a member of a partner boat owner association/club/organisation or are referred by an existing member, the discount increases to 25 per cent*. New members will also receive a complimentary CA Burgee and an invitation to a welcome seminar at the CA clubhouse in London. (*paying by Direct Debit)

Get Social - as always, members and non-members are invited to the on-stand hospitality from 1600 on 22 September. Meet the team, catch up with cruising friends, talk all things boating and enjoy a few drinks.

In welcoming visitors to the stand, Lucy Hyslop, CA general manager, said: "Whether you are just starting out and cruising in local waters, are planning to journey under power along the inland waterways of Europe or are a seasoned boat owner heading for more distant shores and blue water sailing, the benefits of CA membership are many and varied. We look forward to welcoming you."

CA CREWING SERVICE

Are you looking for crew for your boat or do you want to build crewing sea time? The CA Crewing Service helps find crew for anything from local cruising to crossing oceans, providing skippers and crew with the opportunity to connect.

CA member Ron Houston shared his experience, saying, "I just want to feedback how useful I found the crewing service. I attended a crewing service meeting at CA House for my intended trip Lagos-Madeira-Azores-

NW Spain. I needed crew for the final leg. Two signed up and both were very competent and nice guys. Although we had a routing forecast, conditions on that leg were testing, close-hauled for 36 hours in F6/7. The boat handled it no problem (Hallberg-Rassy 37) and the crew were good too. So, thank you CA Crewing Service for helping me complete the 1,700 mile circuit."

The Crewing Service hosts monthly meetings from October through to April, with a mix of in-person at CA House in London and virtual via Zoom. You can join the Crewing Service for £29.50 per year (paying by Direct Debit).

www.theca.org.uk/public/crewing

YOU ARE INVITED: The CA runs a comprehensive autumn/winter lecture and event programme from October to April. All lectures are open to members and to support the wider cruising community and many are open to 'non-members' too. The calendar is really interesting, so take a look and book early at www.theca.org.uk/events/all.

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