R.C.C.

NEW MEMBERS INFORMATION

Rochester Cruising Club

Cruising Since 1905

ester Cruising Club
1905 - 2005

The Club was founded in 1905. Rochester Cruising Club is one of the premier motor cruising clubs on the River Medway. (We also have a few sailing members.)

The Club benefits from the superb location on the Esplanade just below the walls of the ancient Norman Castle, and within a few minutes walk of the Cathedral and the quaint Dickensian High Street and curiosity shops.

Our newly extended clubhouse with roof terrace incorporates a bar, dining and social area with dance floor; hot meals or snacks can be ordered during all bar sessions. Changing rooms with showers are available, also a laundry room, both available to members on a 24 hour basis and adequate private parking space is provided within the grounds.

We provide an extensive social and cruising programme throughout the year.

Social events: The majority of the dinner/dances and discos are held in the clubhouse with the catering provided by our own staff. The main social event is the Annual Dinner (Dinner Jackets) which is held at the end of February and at which various awards are made for notable seamanship, assistance to the club, also a wooden paddle for the boating bloomer of the year.

As we are a cruising club, we also hold Fitting-out and Laying-up suppers. In addition the Social sub-committee and Purser organise around a dozen more events celebrating Valentine's day, Easter, The Commodore's Sail Past, The Admiral's Cruise, A Ladies' Night, Christmas and New Year's Eve Party along with a summer bar-b-cue evening and our traditional Children's Christmas Party.

Cruises: These cover the continent, coastal and non-tidal waters to cater for the preferences, performance and the varied ability of all craft and crews. Upriver cruises to Maidstone and beyond commence around Easter time and culminate with the popular Christmas Shopping Cruise during early December, which finishes with a supper at a riverside pub. During the summer holidays there is usually a cruise to the upper reaches of the Thames.

The tidal programme starts with a Mothers Day cruise and a meal ashore in the clubhouse. Typically the tidal programme takes in trips to Ramsgate, the Crouch (West Wick & Burnham), the Blackwater (Bradwell, Brightlingsea, Heybridge), the Orwell (Levington, Wolverston, Ipswich), the Thames (Richmond, St Katherine Yacht Haven, Limehouse, and more locally Conyer and Leigh-on-Sea. For these cruises boats are usually grouped so that they cruise in company according to speed or inclination. Some explore the delights of lying overnight at anchor and use of mud berths. No cruise is compulsory but most members usually do two club cruises a year, some do more.

Moorings: We operate around 100 full-tide and a number of half-tide and mud pontoon moorings, all having fresh water service. The moorings have a 16amp metered electricity supply.

Diesel Fuel is available, at a considerable saving on the commercial rate, this service is by prior arrangement with the Fuel Officer or one of his assistants. A superbly constructed scrubbing block berth with high pressure water washer is available; this service came into operation during 1999, and has proved a very popular amenity. This can be used by members after a short induction safety course; the fee for its use is currently around £45.00 inc V.AT.

No person is allowed to live permanently on any boat moored to the Club moorings or its environs.

Admiral's Cruise: Rochester Cruising Club are the organising body for the prestigious Admiral's Cruise, when the Mayor of Medway (Ancient Charter decrees that while Mayor, he/she is also Admiral of the River Medway). The Club Members supply the Admiral's Barge and other official boats. The Admiral, his Water Bailiff and other dignitaries take up their assigned vessels, and travel over the waters within his jurisdiction, which are from the Hawkwood Stone at Walden to the outer limits of the River Medway at Garrison Point. The Admiral and dignitaries are accompanied by up to two hundred boats, all dressed overall with signal flags or bunting. A wreath is laid at the site where the HMS Bulwark was lost with most hands aboard. All vessels pass this site with dipped Ensigns. Continuing in convoy out through Garrison point to the wreck of the MV Richard Montgomery, where all boats heave too, a short prayer is read over the VHF radio followed by a period of silence, a sign of respect for all persons lost at sea. The convoy continues into Queenborough for lunch, during this time the Admiral will visit as many boats as possible. Once back at R.C.C. the Sunset Ceremony takes place at the flag pole in the rear car park. Everybody on the cruise is then introduced to the Admiral, this is followed by a Champagne reception and buffet. A day all Members and their families should attend.

Members involvement: Most work and social functions at the club are carried out by voluntary sub-committees and work parties. This is part of the clubs ethos keeping costs down and helping members get to know each other. (Even the unfit and unskilled can usually find themselves something to do, even if it is making tea or acting as Gophers)

Visitors: We pride ourselves in providing a warm and accommodating welcome to visiting boaters, and our reputation in this regard enables us to enjoy reciprocal hospitality when cruising the waters of other boating clubs. Our members come from a wide variety of occupations and walks of life.

Joining: If you would like to explore the possibility of joining our club contact the Assistant Honorary Secretary at the above address or by telephone during working hours. An application form is enclosed for your convenience.
(Please remove and complete the centre pages from this booklet)

Moorings are charged for overall length inclusive of all overhangs.

Dinghies: There are no mooring spaces for dinghies except when on davits etc.

Insurance: All Boat Owners are to have £2,000,000 third party cover. Proof has to be deposited in the Club office at time of interview for membership.

Club access: Electronically programmed keys operate the clubhouse back door and pontoon gate access, please contact the Assistant Honorary Secretary for the current price of any additional keys.

Bar Facilities: The Bar is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 19.00 Hrs. Also, Saturday and Sunday from Midday. Hot meals are available at each evening and lunchtime session.

Toilets and Showers: The Clubhouse Toilets and Showers are available 24 Hrs with access through the back door. Laundry facilities are also available.

Club Regalia: Burgees, Blazer Badges, Ties, Scarves and Pin Badges are available through the office or from the Committee Member. Embroidered clothing is also available to order.

Social Events: The Club runs a comprehensive social programme; details are listed in the club rules and fixtures booklet, which is issued to each member. The Club Vice Commodore chairs the Social Sub Committee.

Cruising Events: The comprehensive cruising programmes are organised by the two Rear Commodores (Offshore and Inshore). Details are in the fixtures booklet and advertised on the notice boards. Cruises cover Continental, UK Coastal and Non Tidal waterways.

What You Receive When You Become A Member Of Rochester Cruising Club

You and your wife or partner will have six free events a year taken from your membership fee. Valentines dance, Admiral's cruise dance, Sail past dance, Purser's bash and New Years Eve dance. All other events are paid events, for example Ladies night, Annual Dinner Dance etc. You are also allowed six nights a year free moorings, if your vessel is moored elsewhere and you will also receive a club tie free of charge, along with a tide table book, information and events book and a certificate of Membership of Rochester Cruising Club Ltd. There are also many other benefits to becoming a member of this club i.e. Club cruises through the year, diesel fuel available on the premises and a purpose built scrubbing block and pressure wash facility to remove barnacles and refresh your antifoul and anodes.

Richard Wadhams, Commodore, 1905 - 1907

Rochester Cruising Club Ltd.

(Established 1905)

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