

BALLAD NEWSLETTER 2018

Editors' Musings

As a result of being 'volunteered' at the Ballad Association AGM last November you have not one, but two editors! Unfortunately, we are both very busy, and settling down to put the Newsletter together has proven very difficult to do. This newsletter dwells greatly on a report of the 2017 Nationals, courtesy of Paul Jagger and Sue Watts, but there must be a lot more. You Ballad owners must have had some adventures other than the 2017 Nationals, despite the disappointing season weather wise. So, come on, help us out and put pen to paper (metaphorically speaking these days). We would be delighted to receive copy, with pictures, in Word please, because it allows us to adjust to fit, and don't forget to provide captions for any accompanying photographs.

Our season came to an abrupt halt after a couple of day trips as the weekend weather allowed. Having embarked on the big event of the Summer, a Summer Rally in the Westcountry with the RNVR Yacht Club, the spear side of this editorial partnership fell seriously ill in Fowey with dysentery and ended up in Plymouth hospital on a drip to rehydrate for 5 days! The trip back to our home port in the Yealm, prior to hospitalisation, was something of a blur!! This year it is going to be different, even though work and weather meant Vivacious was very late out of the boatyard, and her two stalwart crew members both found they had family commitments over the Ballad Nationals weekend! However, I promise to watch from the sidelines! Apart from that Vivacious will cross the Channel once again in July to participate in the RNVR Yacht Club's 2018 Rally.

In this issue you have an account of the testing 2017 Nationals, some pictures of Sixpence's start from Plymouth earlier this month for the Jester Challenge race to Newport, Rhode Island, a Ballad owner's winter diary, and an eloquent tribute by Chairman Tim to Cathy Noakes for her tireless efforts on behalf of the National Ballad Association over many years. In addition, at Annexes A and B are, respectively, the Minutes of the last AGM in November 2017, and a statement of the Accounts to November 2017. At Annex C are details of how to purchase polo shirts with the Ballad logo and your boat's name embroidered on the left breast, and Annex D gives notice of Ballads for sale.

Finally, moving on to a more mundane issue, we desperately need a volunteer to take over the website from Mick Pindar. The successful applicant would be able to assume the prestigious title of 'Ballad Association Webmaster. Bids to Janie as soon as you can. Have a really great season.

T&L

Ballad National Championships 2017 in Fowey

By Paul Jagger and Sue Watts



Twelve Ballads adorned the River Fowey for the 2017 Championships

The Ballads arrived on the Friday to enjoy a perfect late spring evening. Those that had travelled from Plymouth enjoyed a splendid sail with constant easterly winds and bright sunshine. Those that travelled from the West, not so! The weather was characteristically unpredictable and, at race registration Chris Ogg, the race organiser for the Port of Fowey Race Committee, attempted to select the best option from several forecast websites. All looked set to predict an interesting Championship, and those that had wondered how they were going to sunbathe wearing mandatory life jackets must have thought again the following morning. That evening the heavens burst under what was an electric sky; a lightning storm of unusual intensity and endurance.

The Saturday morning saw a grey sky and strong south- westerly winds. The swell at the harbour entrance was significant. With two-metre seas, the committee boat was unable to anchor and lay the race marks outside, so we all returned for a river start. Of course, that meant a savage beat against the swell to start the race and head out towards Cannis Rock. The first race consisted of long legs out in the bay with wind speeds reaching 30 knots. A late lunch made for a quick turnaround for the afternoon start in the bay.



The seas had by this time died down and the second race saw some good spinnaker runs — for some but not all.

First night enjoyment was provided courtesy of the charming and friendly Fowey Gallants SC who put on an amazing BBQ.

The second day of racing saw different conditions again. A bay start for first race was followed by some great spinnaker runs for all. With the weather forecast to deteriorate later in the day with potential thunderstorms the decision was made to go immediately into the second race, back to back-so immediate it took some by surprise, which meant a rush to the start line! During this race it rained heavily and winds dropped leaving many drifting in the drizzle. Some decided that this fell well short of the definition of fun and retired. Especially those that had taken a seaward excursion to make a long tack to the Juliet Mark!

DUCHESS' CHAMPAGNE MOMENTS:

This year, the Nationals experienced a wide range of weather including thunderstorms and fog



Janie: Saturday morning-calling water on Summertime when we were approaching a beautiful moored yacht on the Polruan side of the river, and Summertime replying that they needed at least 10 minutes notice. This is because

whenever I race against them every week , when I call water around a buoy I always back it up with needing lots and lots of water!

Feeling hard done by when there was more than one occasion when Duchess moved from leading the fleet to the back of the fleet when the fickle wind reversed the order of the yachts! Having said that, Duchess has never won a race in a Championships before and we were absolutely delighted with our win on the Sunday morning after a straightforward race with none of the fluky winds of the other races.

" THIS IS WHAT THE NATIONALS ARE ALL ABOUT"

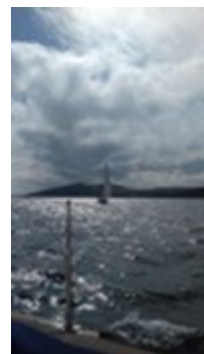
MAVANIER MOMENTS:

Peter and Cathy Noakes reckon that the weekend produced the most changeable conditions ever seen at a Ballad Championships. This meant that going into the last race, several boats could have won overall. And what a lottery that race was! Well done to those who stuck it out. It also showed how equal all the boats are. Whilst Peter's stated aim was to let the youngsters (Kim and Annelise) have Shara of York and then try to beat them, he never really expected to win overall in a scratch boat (does anyone else believe this?)

" THIS IS WHAT THE NATIONALS ARE ALL ABOUT"

POPPIN MOMENTS:

- 132% Spring Tides. Glad we weren't at the Yealm!
- Rain, sun and fog in about equal measures!
- Richard hanging on like grim death just before the first race while helping with the final setup of the new mainsail top batten
- Sleeping aboard POPPIN at Berril's Yard during the Saturday night thunderstorm. Constant flashes of lightning and a constant crash of thunder. Mightily impressive.
- Wondering what the wind was going to do next during the final stages of the last race on Sunday.
- Richard piloting the Committee boat out of Fowey by Braille on Monday morning, hoping there would be enough visibility outside for the Passage Race.



Maybe we'll just stay here?

2017 Prizegiving

A splendid Prizegiving Evening was held at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club. Congratulations to all who participated, whether prize winners or not, but the lucky ones were as follows:

Prize Winners 2017			
Categories	Trophy	Boat	Skipper
1st overall	National Champion and winner of the Jean Ellis Memorial Trophy	Mavanier	Peter Noakes
2nd overall	Upper Deck Trophy	Poppin	Tim Burne
3rd overall	Toms Trophy	Duchesss	Janie Smallridge
Highest placed Fowey yacht (after top 3)	Pam Sheridan Trophy	Capella	Brian Runnalls
Highest placed Plymouth yacht (after top 3)	City of Plymouth Trophy	Shara of York	Kimberly Noakes
Winner white sail division	Corinthian Trophy	Not competed	
Winner Best Endeavour	Variety Trophy	Balladier	Karen Mason
Winner Pursuit Race	The Old Ferry Inn Trophy	Shebeen	Ken Morgan
Yacht travelling furthest from home port	Noakes and Habermehl Voyager Trophy	Shebeen	Ken Morgan
Concours d'Elegance	The Julian Foye Trophy	Sixpence	Chris Jackson
Last overall	Rocky's Wooden Spoon	Matui	Paul Jagger & Jeremy Glover



Doesn't look too bad to me!



Ballads resting

Jester Challenge 2018 across the Atlantic to Rhode Island

Sixpence shows the other boats how to make an excellent start to the Challenge



Sixpence at the start



Sixpence shows the way

Seven solo skippers, one of whom is Chris Jackson in Sixpence, now have their bows firmly pointed in the direction of Newport, Rhode Island as they race in the Jester Challenge 2018.

Described as 'a modern experiment in old-fashioned self-reliance, self-sufficiency and personal responsibility' by organiser Ewen Southby-Tailyour, the race has no time limit and embodies the Corinthian spirit of one of the original sailing greats, Blondie Hasler.

The 2018 competitors crossed the start line off the western end of the Plymouth Breakwater at 12 noon on 7 May in near ideal conditions – a warm sun and lightish southerly winds.

The Jester Challenge, which is held biannually for yachts under 30ft, has no entrance fee or rules.

The skippers, who take responsibility for themselves, just need common sense and good seamanship. In addition to Chris, 2018 Jester Challenge Skippers are:

Tim Luke, *Medusa*, 34ft Vancouver, UK

Doug Pingel, *Jekeeda 2*, 33ft Westerly with bilge keel, UK

Howard Chivers, *Sandpiper*, 29ft Sadler with bilge keel, UK

Len Hiley, *Emu*, 27ft Hurley, UK

John Apps, *Raven*, 29ft Rival, Australia

Good luck Chris!!

Ballad Owner's Diary Winter 2017/18

27 Oct 17	Lifted out
28 Oct	Winterised; fitted cockpit cover (what a boon that has turned out to be!)
29 Oct	Removed running rigging for laundering, and main boom
1 Nov – 1 Apr	Too cold and/or wet to do anything, but, thankfully, no major jobs this year
7 April	Re-installed boom and running rigging
14/15 April	Favourite job – rubbed down the antifouling
27 April	Started antifouling
28/29 April	Completed antifouling
3 May	Holiday taken to get VIVACIOUS ready to launch
4 May	Removed cockpit cover Refitted the mainsail
5 May	Purchased a cruising chute
7 May	Ran the engine; started first time Scrubbed boatyard filth from deck and cockpit Cleaned and polished topsides
8 May	VIVACIOUS relaunched Passage to Newton Ferrers under engine; South of Plymouth Breakwater called Rame Head NCI on VHF 65, no reply!
9 May	Spring cleaned interior Called Rame Head NCI on VHF 65 from Yealm mooring; call answered, VHF proven Start exterior woodwork preservation
12 May	Shakedown sail; only one crossed halyard

Tribute to Cathy Noakes

Some of you will know that, unfortunately, Cathy Noakes resigned from our Committee at the last AGM after a long and influential membership. Cathy and husband Peter began their Ballad story with the purchase of Shara of York in Malta way back in July of 1982, and sailed her back to the UK. That, apparently, is another story in itself, and perhaps your editors might be able to persuade them to

share it! By the start of the season in 1983 they were racing Shara locally at Saltash and taking part in the PPSA off-shore races. It took them a little while to make an impression on the other Ballads, but they persisted and made steady progress.

In September 1989 Cathy and Peter accepted an invitation from the Royal Fowey Yacht Club to an open race meeting and thoroughly enjoyed it - possibly helped by winning the event ... a clear sign of things to come. That winter the SW Ballad Association was formed under the chairmanship of Ken Farr, and Cathy became Press Officer. The annual Championship on the Whitsun Bank Holiday was born.

After 3 years Cathy became Secretary of the Association which then renamed itself the National Ballad Association. The requirement for Association officers, however, was reduced and her post became secretary and treasurer. The Committee liaised with the Royal Fowey which agreed to the loan of trophies to the Association. This connection led to the championship being held in Fowey bi-annually, and at other South West clubs during the intervening year.

Cathy continued in the post of Secretary/Treasurer for several more years during which time her 3rd daughter was born, and the stage was set for the Noakes to race as a family. One year Cathy and Peter were away attending a family wedding and sent Shara to the Nationals with a substitute crew, just ensure that she has never missed a UK Ballad Championship in their ownership (perhaps the only other Ballad that can claim that would be Windwhistle?).

As most of you will be aware the 2017 Championships saw a change in the family dynamic. Kimberley, Cathy and Peter's eldest daughter, helmed Shara, with Anneliese, their youngest, running the foredeck, whilst Peter and Cathy raced an outsider, Malvanier. Peter and Cathy still won the Championship, which proves that cream always rises to the top, and you should not underestimate mature wiliness when pitted against youthful vigour!

In more recent times Cathy stood down as secretary, but remained as a committee member. She wrote a short history of the Association which was published in the 2013 Newsletter, and compiled a record of all the trophy winners. Finally, at the AGM in November 2017, she decided not to stand for re-election to the Committee.

Cathy has played a major part in the formation of our Association, including being a prime mover in the initial open meeting organised by the Royal Fowey Yacht Club. She has made a huge contribution to the Association's administration and development since the beginning, and has overseen, or been involved in, no less than 28 UK Ballad Championships And she has been part of the winning crew more often than any of us like to remember.

Well done Cathy and thank you.

Annex A

AGM 2017 NATIONAL BALLAD ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Minutes of the 25th AGM held at Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club on November 25th, 2017

Present: representatives of the following boats: Windwhistle, Duchess, Poppin, Summertime, Shara of York, Gancia Girl, Vivacious, Arabesque, Blavinge

1 Apologies: Matui, Happy Hour, Sixpence, Afrodite, Khadine, Shebeen, Balu, Variety, Kotuku, Sula

2 Minutes of the 24th AGM were circulated and agreed.

3 Matters Arising: Geoff and Ros Wheeler were thanked for the donation of the Corinthian White Sail Cup to the Ballad Association for boats wishing to race without spinnakers.

4 Report by Secretary and Treasurer: Janie apologised again for not managing to arrange a Winter Dinner, but Chris and Katie Jackson have agreed to give a talk, with photos, on their three sailing experiences in Thailand in February 2018, and Peter and Cathy Noakes will arrange this at Saltash Sailing Club. Action: Noakes and Jacksons

Fleeces with the Ballad Logo were ordered and an order for polo shirts is needed, preferably in time for Christmas. There was also a request for lined fleeces, which will be attended to. Action: Janie

The EU directive on the Data Protection Act comes into force in May and all members must actively give permission for their details to be stored and used for communications.

Action: Janie

The reason for the healthy balance in the accounts is because Fowey ran the Championships for a very reasonable fee and wouldn't take any money for the Championships dinner for their Commodore and his wife who presented the prizes.

5 Report by Webmaster: Mick Pindar has Khadine on the market and is looking for someone to take over the website. There is too much old content on the site and Tim asked Janie to identify it and get it removed. Action: Janie

6 Report by Newsletter Editor: Ken Morgan, who is suffering with a bad cold, has asked for someone to take over as he is not finding the time to produce a newsletter. Liz Clark volunteered herself and Tim. Ken will be asked to forward material which he has so that they can produce a newsletter. Action: Janie, Ken and Clarks

7 Chairman's report: Tim Burne commented on a very enjoyable Championships run by Port of Fowey Race Organising Committee. Poppin only came second to Mavanier (Peter Noakes) on countback, where any of 5 boats could have won overall depending on the results of the lottery of a final race! There were no entries to the White Sail Class.

8 Election of Officers for 2018: Chris Tyrrell and George Whetman were happy to continue on the Committee. After standing on the Committee since its inception with many years as Secretary and Treasurer, Cathy Noakes is standing down. Suggestions for a replacement were made.

Tim Burne continues as Chairman and Janie continues as Secretary/Treasurer, but would be happy for anyone to take on this role.

9 It was agreed to keep Subscription Rates at £6 per boat, and £5 for ex-owners.

10 Arrangements are in place for Yealm Yacht Club to host the 2018 Championships over the weekend 27th - 29th May. Action: Tim/Janie/Martin

11 2019 Championships: It was agreed that Royal Cornwall Yacht Club (Falmouth) will host the Championships.

12 AOB:

a) Port of Plymouth Regatta: Cathy asked whether we could raise a Ballad Class for the Plymouth Yacht Regatta, 13th-15th July, 2018. Action: Janie

b) Cross Channel Race: Tim Clark and Michael Bagley wished for a Ballad cross channel race, rather than 'round the cans'. They will investigate the possibility of a group joining the Yealm Yacht Club Trebeurden Race. Action: Tim and Michael

13 Date of future AGM. To be notified.

Annex B

UK Ballad Association Accounts for Year to 30 November 2017

	2017	2016	2015
	£	£	£
Membership income	£108.00	(=18) £105.00	(=17) £120.00 (=20)
Web hosting cost	(£39.99)	(£39.99)	(£39.99)
Stationery	(£5.93)		
Dinner income			
Dinner expenditure			(£25.00)
Championship dinner guests		(£45.00)	
Mooring subsidy and other expenses			(£258.18)
Underpayments on The Dolphin and China House			(£50.00)
Sale of clothing			
Income from clothing	£153.00		£615.00
Cost of clothing (£140.00)			(£558.40)
Postage/packing	(£18.50)		
Sale of battle flags			£84.00
Purchase of battle flags			
Sale of photo CDs			
Costs of photo CDs			
Movement in year	£56.58	(£29.99)	(£62.57)

Balance b/f	£943.42	£973.41	£1,035.98
Balance c/f	£1,000.00	£943.42	£973.41
Stock of 7 battle flags	£294.00	£294.00	£294.00

UK Ballad Association 2017/18 Subscription request

I do not necessarily ask you to pay the small subscription, but due to the change in the General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018, I do need you to actively agree to remaining on the Ballad database. The rates (agreed at the AGM) are £6 per boat. There is also a category for past owners of Ballads who wish to remain in touch with the group, at £5.

Please can you actively respond to give me permission to hold details of your names, email addresses, postal addresses and telephone numbers, in addition to details of your boat. These will only be used for distributing newsletters, meeting information and notes, Championship information and Ballad product and clothing information.

I agree to my personal details being used by the Ballad Association Secretary, as described above:
Name:

Boat name:

Please make cheques out to the UK Ballad Association and send (with this form) to Janie Smallridge at the address below:

The Willows

Ludwell Lane

Exeter

Devon

EX2 5AQ

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel. No.....

E mail.....

Ballad Name.....

Ballad No.....

Sail No..... Home Port.....

Please note the following change in my Ballad ownership
details.....

Note:If you have sold your Ballad, please ask her new owners to get in touch with the Secretary.

Annex C

Ballad Crested Clothing



For a cost of £12 each I will take orders for Fruit of the Loom, 65% Polyester 35% cotton, 170gsm polo shirts with the Ballad logo. The price includes VAT and the name of your yacht embroidered beneath the logo. Colours available are:

White
Black
Red
Royal Blue
Navy Blue
Burgundy
Heather Grey
Light Blue
Bottle Green
Sunflower
Orange
Kelly Green
Purple
Emerald
Dark Navy

Please email your order to Janie and pay online (with boat reference) to UK Ballad Association, Sort Code 30-97-28, A/c No 00643554

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel. No.....

E mail.....

Size Small Medium Large XL XXL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Chest (inches) 35-37" 38-40" 41-43" 44-46" 47-49" 50-52" 53-55" 56-58"

Colour

Number required

Ballad Name(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Sail No (if required)

I enclose a cheque/have paid online for

Polo shirts at £12 each = £

Plus postage (if applicable) @ £3.00 for 1 shirt = £

Annex D

Ballads for sale

‘Aurigny Song’ is for sale in Fowey and

‘Happy Hour’ is for sale in Falmouth.

Please contact Janie on janiesmallridge@tiscali.co.uk for details