

BALLAD NEWSLETTER 2022



Editorial

I have been a pretty rubbish editor for you all over the past couple of years, and mainly because my eye has most often been elsewhere as Commodore of the RNVR Yacht Club. It has been a roller coaster ride, with little time for anything else, that is until my wife broke her leg in the USA in March! The result of all this was that I didn't even have much time for my own Ballad, Vivacious. She languished on her mooring in Newton Ferrers, rather neglected, for much of the last two seasons. But 'things' are about to change again because I hand the RNVR Yacht Club baton to my successor in February next year! My wife, Liz, can't wait!

This year's Newsletter is a little thin and lacks any action photographs. Is this because I haven't been badgering you enough. Like me, you all have a story to tell about your beloved Ballad, be it success in racing around the cans or offshore, or an epic journey to somewhere unusual. Let's make next year's Newsletter something special.

Chairman's Musings

Dear Ballad owner and all Ballad enthusiasts,

Well, we are coming to the end of another sailing season (apart from those hardy members who may compete in autumn and winter series or may cruise) and this season has been almost back to normal. Yet again, we have been fairly lucky to have some lovely sailing weather during the season and even last weekend (October 8th) we took Shara out at 3pm in the afternoon to undertake what Peter calls a mission - we anchored in the Tamar just this side of the railway bridge across the Tavy and then took the dinghy up to Bere Ferrers and had supper in The Old Plough Inn before returning to Shara, lifting the anchor and making our way back to her mooring - by then it was dark but really not too cold and a beautiful clear sky with a full moon - hence the timings, anchoring 2 hours before high tide and returning for 2 hours after. I think this will have been her last outing for this year!

Obviously, one of the highs this year has been the celebrations of 50 years of Ballad yachts being built and them being classed as the ½ tonne offshore racers for 1972. You will notice that the majority of this newsletter focuses on this event which saw the Ballads return to Fowey- the home of the first Ballad One Design Regatta that led to the formation of our Association and the annual championships.

It was fantastic to see so many Ballads congregated together whether they were cruising, white sail or spinnaker racing. What a lovely sight they make! Then, along with seeing the boats was meeting up with many old friends (that is they've been friends for a long time!) and the opportunity to make new friends as well. John Minary, who had only bought his first yacht, the Ballad, Cracklin' Rosie, a few months earlier, took in the Championship during his circumnavigation of Great Britain. He didn't intend racing - just thought it a nice idea to meet us all, but, along with his single crew member, Jill, we persuaded them to race in the white sail division offering them one of our crew who happened to be surplus to requirements (you will see John's comments about Stephen later in the newsletter).

We then also met Malcolm and Ruth who own the Ballad, Imagine. They couldn't manage to sail her to Fowey in time but instead came by camper van and joined in with our social events. Hopefully they may join us for future championships.

Whilst at Fowey Gallants for a fantastic barbeque, John McDonald made himself known to me as well as several other Ballad sailors. He keeps his Ballad way up in Scotland but was on a trip down to Penzance to visit his daughter and decided to pop in to meet us. I do believe that our members are indeed very friendly sailors.

Peter Askew, of Blavinge, may well have been responsible for word about this 50th anniversary championship. He undertook to pass the information concerning the event onto the sailing press and succeeded in having articles in several yachting magazines. Thanks go to him from your Ballad committee for his perseverance.

Looking forward, we have our AGM along with a 3-course supper on Friday 11th November at Saltash Sailing Club - another opportunity for a great social get-together as well as planning future events etc. during the short AGM.

Menu choices along with the AGM agenda will be coming to you shortly so please make your meal choices and let Janie know in good time.

Next year's championship will be hosted by Plym Yacht Club with berthing available at Yacht Haven Marina and the championship prizegiving dinner taking place in The Bridge Restaurant. Hopefully, you are all feeling so enthusiastic about Ballad sailing that the turn out for this event will be as good as, if not better, than this year's event!

We will be reverting to our usual weekend, the Whitsun bank holiday at the end of May, 27th-29th. I did hear recently when our new monarch, King Charles III, is due to be crowned – Saturday 6th May. This gives us the go-ahead for the championship!

I hope you find the information and photographs in the newsletter interesting. However, if you have had any adventures or have undertaken work to your boat, etc, and feel other Ballad owners may be interested, then please do send an article in for future newsletters.

In signing off, I hope to see many, if not all of you at the AGM & Dinner but, if you cannot make it this time, I wish you all an enjoyable down-season and a joyous Christmas and look forward to seeing you in Plymouth for the championship if not before.

Best wishes,
Catherine

The Ballad Nationals 2022- report from Ken Morgan on Shebeen

The Ballads normally get together for their annual UK nationals over the last weekend in May. But this year was special, because Her Majesty, the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations grabbed the May slot ahead of us. However, the intrepid Ballads were not to be outdone and to celebrate their first glorious 50 years gathered in Fowey on 10th June for a four-day fiesta of fun and frolics. Balu, Blavinge, Capella, Cracklin Rosie, Duchess, Kotuku, Shara of York, Shebeen, Summertime, Variety, Poppin and Windwhistle were all there, plus several past Ballad owners (some on their new yachts) and a few who arrived 'sans bateau' but wanted to join the celebration. Blavinge came the furthest, all the way round from Cardiff.

Although most of the racing Ballads are now based in Plymouth, Fowey was chosen for this special event because they hosted the first UK Nationals in 1989, and also because Fowey is a rather special place. Despite ominous forecasts a week or so ahead, the wind gods smiled on us and there were none of the usual Ballad blows, flat calms or impenetrable fog banks.

Thursday – Fowey was buzzing – no, not the Ballads – rather Fowey's Ladies' Gig Team had won the world championship in the Isles of Scilly – they beat 120 other boats! The beautiful bright red Gig was towed through the town and that evening the girls hit the Gallants SC dance floor with a vengeance – their energy and pride was palpable.

Friday – Boats were still arriving so running the planned fun relay race wasn't going to work. Instead 3 of us – Duchess, Shara and Shebeen had a cracking fast windward blast over to Mevagissey, fortunately spotting the mussel bed traps in time to tack clear. For the last half-mile where we approached the anticipated land shadow, the wind machine was somehow turned up a couple of notches. Shara carrying her usual no1 leant over a few more degrees whilst her more prudent companions were very happy with their no2s.

Mevagissey is full of fishing boats – registrations WH, PZ, PH, FY, SS, PW – but we picked up mooring buoys fore and aft, just inside the breakwater. The harbourmaster took us ashore in his old Dory with an even older and crotchety outboard. A beautiful day, ice creams, predatory seagulls, emmets and grockles – could get used to this cruising life! Back to Fowey, straight downwind in a brisk breeze, with an hour to spare before the planned Parade of Sail under spinnakers past the Royal Fowey.

The breeze picked up and by 1700hrs a vicious short steep swell was making the harbour entrance very interesting. OK – the call went out for no kites – instead the Ballad convoy sped in under white sails each receiving the Commodore's salute. A grand affair, then back for the Briefing. All straightforward but clearly some concern about protecting the quarter of the rather splendid Committee Boat Catamaran. They must know about Ballad race starts!

Saturday – First warning 1055 with a fresh SW and residual swell. The line was laid close inshore just east of the entrance. The course was bespoke using fixed marks and a harbour finish on the RFYC line, rather than the usual Ballad triangle/sausage. Kotuku led from start to finish – hmm – not the usual Shara whitewash then.

Lunch on the pontoon, then off again, this time for a 1500 start. Much sharper and almost crunchingly aggressive at the Committee end. Fortunately, most of us love our old Ballads too much to take the hit! Another bespoke course taking us east along the shore prior to heading back to Cannis. Another Kotuku win albeit hotly pursued by the kites of Shara then Duchess across the harbour finish.

Supper in the Royal Fowey where the floor and tables all rocked disconcertingly. It wasn't just the writer; many reported the same.

Sunday – Much flatter with a bespoke morning course featuring much shouting on the line, and then taking the fleet well into St Austell Bay where the leading pack meandered trying to fix their target. This time a Shara win with lunch inside again. The afternoon course was laid along the shore with windward-leeward runs. Tidy with no dramas and Shara up front again.

Then, the weekend's highpoint – the Concours d'Elegance. The fleet at the Harbour Office pontoon, primping, polishing, clean shirts, Shara and Shebeen desperately putting out more and more flags to out flutter the others, Rum tots, cakes and candles, loyal toasts, Happy Birthday sung for the Ballads and no, Shara didn't win! Your writer's proudest moment – In the past Shebeen has taken home the Voyager Trophy (many times), the Pursuit Cup, a 2nd and a 3rd overall but now, finally recognition of her true beauty (which I have never doubted). Enough of this emotion – off to barbeque at the Gallants.

Monday – a fine day for a Pursuit – all 3 of us - yes, Shebeen, Shara and Duchess again, starting in that order. Strong ebb tide across the RFYC line and an infuriatingly fickle light to nothing breeze. Just avoided OCS closely followed by rotating zephyrs through the entrance then settled down for the gentlest of cruises round to Polkerris. Someone said it was meant to be a race, but I didn't care, I enjoyed it. Dropped the hook right at LW in 1.7m off the beach and taken ashore in the FL rib to meet up with bands of Ballad hikers arriving overland. A lovely light lunch in the sun outside the Rashleigh Arms and home again for the RFYC Gala Prizegiving Dinner.

Speeches and many thanks all round. What a lovely bunch of old boats we are! See you next year at Plymouth.



They are very pretty yachts- and I'm definitely not biased!



Your chairman's championship report.

*[Received from the race officer- John Burford. Saturday am was SW about 8kts, into St Austell bay and finish on club line. Pm was more west, around Fowey bay, finishing inside again
Sunday was NW , a bit more pressure, am into St Austell bay, pm Fowey bay, both finished on committee boat outside]*

Everyone had gathered and several Ballads had enjoyed a cruise to Mevagissey, where the deputy harbour master was very helpful in ferrying us ashore for lunch and then back onboard. The race briefing had taken place in RFYC with John Burford as senior race officer and Richard and Judy Kirkham supporting him.

Saturday dawned overcast with a SW about 8 knots – everyone who has sailed into Fowey knows the “lumpy” sea that builds up just outside the harbour entrance. The first race started on time and took the fleet (both the main racing and white sail fleets) into St Austell Bay leaving Cannis Buoy to starboard then heading further into the bay before returning around the headland, leaving Cannis to Port before finishing in the harbour on the RFYC line with spinnakers flying. Kotuku finished first, fairly closely followed by Shara of York. After lunch ashore, with the start line reset as the wind was now more westerly, the race took the fleet around the buoys in Fowey Bay again finishing on the club line with Kotuku again getting line honours and Shara of York second.

Sunday the wind was NW with a little more pressure and slightly sunnier! The morning race again took the fleet into St Austell Bay with a committee boat finish (don't attempt the harbour club line in any northerly wind direction!) This time saw Shara of York finishing first. All rested on the result of the afternoon race as a series of 4 races was being held with 1 discard allowed, if all 4 were raced.

The afternoon race saw the fleet racing around Fowey Bay buoys in lighter winds with a committee boat finish. Shara of York prevailed, winning this race, meaning she had won the series overall.

During all these races, the fleet behaved impeccably- they avoided the very plush committee boat and took turns if any rules were impinged. No collisions occurred and the white sail fleet took part on the same courses with Poppin being the overall winner. Several of the Ballads who weren't racing, along with a couple of yachts with former Ballad owners onboard, came out to spectate. Others watched from the headlands, preferring a gentle walk to the exertion required onboard.. An enjoyable, well organised championship to celebrate the 50 great years of Ballad sailing, was had by all.

Thanks needed to go to the race officers who helped to set up this championship with its added events, both the RFYC and Fowey Gallants, Fowey Harbourmaster and staff and even the water taxi who managed to get skippers and crew onboard to start the races. Thanks also to Adam and Alan, commodores at RFYC and Gallants respectfully, for judging the Concours d'Elegance and presenting the trophies at the prizegiving.



One of Shara's crew members.



“Let the sails flap!”- early for the start.



Close racing and lots of concentration.

These are some of the photographs taken at this year's championship by photographer Paul Gibbins. He did a great job attending on the Saturday and spending the day out on a club rib to get some brilliant shots. If anyone is interested in purchasing a photograph from him then please contact him. E-mail paul.gibbins@me.com



One of our host clubs.



The splendid committee catamaran which we all managed to avoid hitting!



Cracklin' Rosie white sailing and racing for the first time ever!

Overall results for Ballad National Championship 2022- Fowey.

Jean Ellis Memorial Trophy	Overall Championship Winner	3331	Shara of York	Peter & Catherine Noakes
Upper Deck Trophy	2nd Overall	1478	Kotuku	Pat Cooke
Toms Trophy	3rd Overall	3322	Duchess	Janie Smallridge
City of Plymouth Trophy	Highest placed Plymouth yacht	996	Summertime	Chris Tyrell

	(after the first 3 overall)			
Pam Sheridan Trophy	Highest placed Fowey yacht (after the first 3 overall)	987	Capella	Brian Runnalls
Rocky's Wooden Spoon	Last boat overall (by places in series races)	982	Shebeen	Ken Morgan
Corinthian Trophy	Overall Winner (White Sail Division)	3492	Poppin	Richard Greenacre
Old Ferry Inn Trophy	Pursuit Race Winner	3331	Shara of York	Peter & Catherine Noakes
The Julian Foye Trophy	Winner Concours d'Elegance	982	Shebeen	Ken Morgan
	Runner up	651	Balu	Dick Brown
Noakes and Habermehl Voyager Trophy	Boat travelling furthest from her home port to the championship	340	Blavinge	Peter Askew & Elsa Stewart
Variety Trophy	Best endeavour	73	Cracklin Rosie	John Minary

A Ballad called Kotuku- article by Pat

Racing Kotuku in the 50th Albin Ballad championship was an honour and we thoroughly enjoyed it. My crew and myself were delighted with how well Kotuku did, living up to expectations.

I bought my first Ballad, Gypsy Ballad 104 in 1993 and I raced against Kotuku, with Mike Ellis on the helm, Paul Toms and David Cairn crewing. They were the boat to beat in Fowey, at the time, I don't think we ever beat them, but, obviously, admired Kotuku a lot.

We also entered Gypsy Ballad in the 1995 championship in Fowey and the following year in Plymouth where we observed how well Shara of York raced against Kotuku. Sometime later, I mentioned to Paul Dixon that if Kotuku had been for sale, at the right time for me, I would have bought her.

Then 5 years ago I decided to look for another Ballad and found Kotuku was for sale, advertised on the Ballad Association website, in the Isle of Man (see photo). She had been owned by somebody on Strangford Lough, in Ireland, and later sold to the person I bought her from, in Douglas, Isle of Man. She was very neglected, and I saw an opportunity to restore her to her former glory (see photo).



We were very impressed with the number of Ballads who turned up for the 50th Anniversary Championship, this year, and it was great to see so many Ballads together. The weather conditions were perfect, I thought the courses were also perfect and it is difficult to imagine how it could have been improved. We experienced some very close racing, and we are delighted to have restored Kotuku's reputation.

From Crackin Rosie’s Newbies on the Ballad 50th Anniversary Championships, Fowey

Dear Cathy,

I just wanted to drop you a quick note to say thank you to you and the organising committee of the Championships.

As you know, I am new to the Ballad, indeed a newbie to sailing, and racing yachts was not on my horizons. In truth I had some trepidation about participation in the weekend. I need not have worried! From our very first contact Jill and myself have been made to feel welcome. We have very much enjoyed chatting and picking the brains of everyone we have met, and socially we have had a fabulous time. The food and drink and banter have all been excellent and I know we have made some long-term friendships. It has been a pleasure.

The whole weekend has left us with very happy memories, and we have both learned so much from the experience. Having Stephen to crew with us was exceptional. He is such a knowledgeable and delightful young man, and a real bonus to have on board.

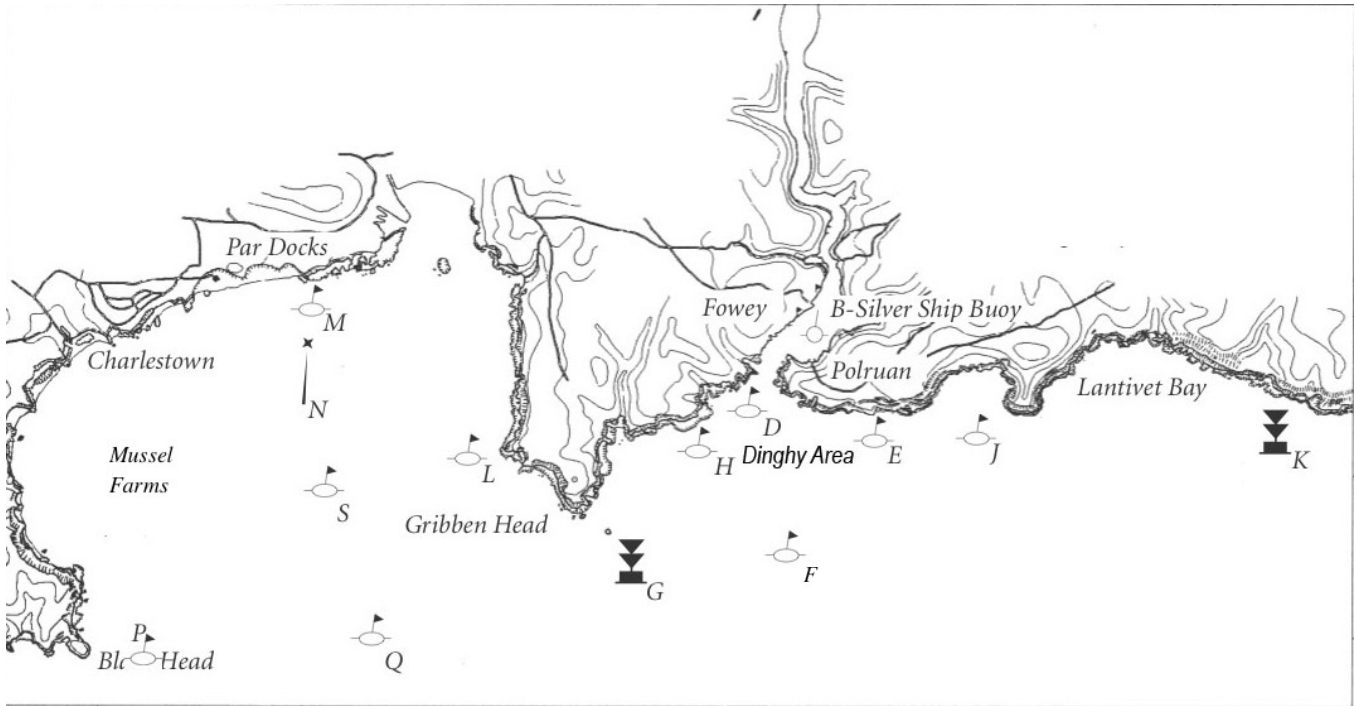
Cracklin Rosie surpassed my expectations for the weekend, and she performed perfectly for me.

I am so pleased to have participated at Fowey for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Ballad Association, in Cracklin Rosie's Fiftieth year. Excellent. Thank you once again for the opportunity to participate.

Kind regards

John and Jill
Cracklin Rosie

Marks for Offshore Courses - For identification only, not to be used for navigation



Description of Marks and Approximate Positions

D	St Austell Brewery “Tribute”	50° 19.504'	4° 38.838'	Yellow Top Hat
E	Sail Shape	50° 19.333'	4° 37.956'	Yellow Top Hat
G	Cannis Rock Buoy	50° 18.450'	4° 39.879'	IALA South Card

H	Four Turnings Garage	50° 19.161'	4° 39.399'	Yellow Top Hat buoy
J	Polruan Sails	50° 19.100'	4° 36.400'	Yellow Top Hat buoy
K	Udder Rock Buoy	50° 18.930'	4° 33.848'	IALA South Cardinal buoy
L	Kettle Kitchens	50° 19.122'	4° 41.462'	Yellow Top Hat buoy
M	The Beach	50° 20.041'	4° 42.856'	Yellow Top Hat buoy
N	Bay Buoy	50° 19.511'	4° 43.052'	IALA Yellow Special
	buoy P Bennett Jones Chartered Accountants	50° 18.000'	4° 43.800'	Yellow Top Hat buoy
Q	Quay Bakery	50° 18.000'	4° 42.500'	Yellow Top Hat buoy
S	Fowey Hall Hotel	50° 18.900'	4° 42.800'	Yellow Top Hat buoy
T	Gwineas Rock Buoy	50° 14.500'	4° 45.300'	IALA East Cardinal buoy
V	Radar B	50° 10.300'	4° 45.000'	IALA Yellow Special buoy
F	Foxtrot	50° 18.400'	4° 38.200'	Yellow Norfloat buoy marked F
B	Silver Ship Buoy	Opposite RFYC flagstaff - Silver ship mooring Buoy		

For those who are interested, the 4 race courses over the championship weekend were as below-

Saturday morning G- Cannis (S), L- Kettle Kitchens (P), S- Fowey Hall Hotel (P), G- Cannis (P) finish club line

Saturday afternoon G-Cannis (P), J-Polruan Sails (P), E-Sail Shape (P), G-Cannis (S) finish club line

Sunday morning D- St Austell Brewery (P), G- Cannis (S), N-Bay Buoy (P) committee boat finish

Sunday Afternoon D- St Austell Brewery (P), J- Polruan (S), H- Four Turnings Garage (S), J- Polruan (P) committee Boat finish

Ballad for Sale

'Anno domini has regrettably led Mike to sell the wheel-steered Variety. Here are a few details, with more to follow in our next Newsletter.'

Built 1972 UK Registry Ballad 57

Recently re-engined with new Nanni diesel FSH

New Jabasco manual wc this season

Folding prop

Facnor self-furling headsail

Spare original forestay with complete set of hanked sails, spinnakers etc

Spray hood

Electrics - Navico RT65000S radio/GPS/Raymarine ST60+ Wind, Depth, Speed

Usual internal accommodation, berth, cockpit and cabin cushions

Custom built cradle

Asking price IRO £12500

Contact: michael.sneary57@icloud.com

Sails Wanted

Steve Cooke (Ballad Gallivanter) is looking for replacement Genoas and Main. If you have any Ballad sails for sale please get in touch with Steve on: stevecooke55@icloud.com