



Army and Navy Club Yacht Squadron

Commodore's End of Season Update 2024

As the Army and Navy Club Yacht Squadron approaches our first Laying Up Dinner (31st October), it's timely to look back on the season. Bear in mind that this is only our second full year, but already we're making solid progress with a growing membership and a sound modus operandi in place for the future.

Five members of the squadron enjoyed an early autumn weekend cruise out of Gosport and down The Solent to a night's mooring off Yarmouth, before an early departure to catch the tide and round The Needle at 07.00hrs. We then picked up a favourable, if damp wind to have a hugely enjoyable run along the southern shore of the Isle of Wight to be back and moored in good time on Sunday afternoon. This was aboard the Army Sailing Association (ASA) yacht Grebe VIII – a well-found Hallberg Rassy 34.

The Army and Navy Club Yacht Squadron is now a group member of the ASA and not only does this enable us to charter Grebe for squadron cruising, but individual members of the squadron may also make use of her on a personal basis, along with the association's other boats – including their fleet of Folkboats in Chichester Harbour – and sign up to the full range of RYA courses they offer. Their charter rates and course fees are hugely competitive and it's well worth Googling their website to see just what they have to offer. The access code to book with the ASA is available to all members of the squadron.

For 2025 we're looking to offer a slightly more ambitious programme with three weekend cruises on The Solent and beyond, a week's cruise off the West Coast of Scotland and a range of racing opportunities. The full programme will be published in early Spring. One of the weekend cruises could be designated a Ladies' Cruise if there is demand.

For those members who have their own boats and are looking for crew can I encourage you to make use of our WhatsApp group.

Ashore, our social life is healthy with the squadron's popular Drinks and Lecture evenings covering a range of topics from Swallows and Amazons to Sea Survival. For our Laying up Dinner we will be joined by Lieutenant Colonel Will Naylor – skipper of the Army Offshore Racing Team – as our guest and speaker who will talk of 'Soldiers at Sea'. Our social events are open to all members of The Rag so please feel free to encourage others or bring guests along.

The squadron continues to develop its own organisation and I'm delighted to acknowledge the hard work of our officers who bring a remarkable set of skills and energies to bear on their roles.

Hon Secretary and Treasurer – John Amey
Rear Commodore Racing – Gaurav Sarin
Rear Commodore Social – Geoff Smith
Rear Commodore Cruising – Neil Thubron

And finally, I'm happy to highlight that our squadron burgee has now been flown by members on a wide range of waters from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean, from the Outer Hebrides to the Barrow Channel and out in The Solent.

To find out about anything mentioned here or to enquire about membership please contact sailing@therag.co.uk

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Commodore

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