



CA 180 The Cruising Association's 180 Day Visa Campaign

80% of waterways-based members plan to give up cruising in Schengen

A survey carried out among CA members who keep their boats on the rivers and canals of Schengen countries has revealed that 80% are likely to take them back to the UK or sell and give up cruising altogether, thanks to visa and VAT issues after Brexit.

Overall figures for coastal cruising boat owners are likely to be broadly similar, although some will sail out of Schengen waters to other cruising grounds.

The CA's 180-day visa campaign aims to make it easier for members to cruise in EU countries. – [See page 4](#)

Spring Promo Week delivers on all fronts

Our much-anticipated virtual Promo Week took off with a spring in its step on Monday 22 March and is deemed to have delivered successfully on all fronts. We gained new members, engaged with cruising fanatics on Live Chat, and delivered some excellent discounts for members.

We're delighted to have signed up **77** new members and want to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all. We expect this figure to rise as we have since **extended our discount offer until Easter Sunday**.

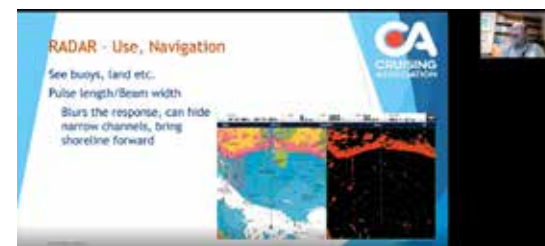
What did you think of the week?

The variety of engaging content throughout the week has clearly appealed to members and non-members alike and has especially helped to bring the CA to people's attention. We would like to thank everyone involved in making the week such a resounding success. We urge you to feedback your views on *how YOU* think it went. Please use the [feedback form](#) to let us know how you think we might improve our offering next time.

Big numbers

As a virtual event, it was important to attract people to the website

About the CA 	Promo Week Partners 	Webinars 
Zoom One-to-One 	Prize Draws 	CA Shop Discounts for Members 



A slide from Bob Garrett's successful webinar

in the first instance and social media also played its part in spreading the word throughout March, as we previewed Spring Promo Week and all the opportunities on offer.

We opened up registration to the three webinars to anyone interested in attending and recorded really good audience numbers. If you missed out, you will shortly be able to catch up on two of the webinars on our [Videos & podcasts](#) page. Thank you to all our presenters: Bob Garrett, Jonathan & Anne Lloyd and Rick Ballard. You can also read the [text slides and the Q&A for the Lloyds' talk](#) on their five-year circumnavigation.

Discounts are always popular, and we were fortunate to be supported by an excellent and generous line-up of top marine brands during the week. We extend our very grateful thanks to Arthur



CA promotions

Spring Promo Week delivers... continued from p1

Beale, ASAP Supplies, Gill, GRPro-Clean, Halcyon Yachts, Halyard & Wave International, Haven Knox-Johnston, Icom, Imray, Jeckells the Sailmakers, Navionics, Ocean Safety, Reeds/Adlard Coles and Ship Shape Bedding.

...and the winners are:

The winner of our Spring Promo Week Prize Draw Bundle for £160 worth of nautical goodies was a non-member.

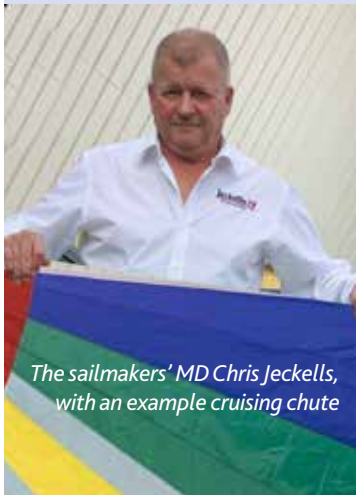
We also drew the winner of the Winter Big Prize Draw for Jeckells the Sailmakers Cruising Chute. See below.



The winner of our special Refer a Friend prize of an Icom VHF Radio was Andrew Thomas who recommended his brother to join the CA.

Our **Big Prize Summer Draw with GRPro-Clean** has now been launched and you can find all the details on how to be in with a chance of winning this prize valued at over £2,000, on [page 8](#).

Winner of the cruising chute sends thanks to Jeckells



*The sailmakers' MD Chris Jeckells,
with an example cruising chute*

Stephen Tedbury was the winner of the Winter Big Prize Draw for a cruising chute worth £2,000 from Jeckells the Sailmakers. He told us: "Hearty thanks to Jeckells for a most welcome birthday present! I have been cruising since 1972, so for nearly 50 years, since my first trip with my future wife and a university friend from Fowey to Guernsey. That yacht was pretty basic – we dropped corks over the side and timed them, so we could calculate our speed and distance run, but we were hooked. Since then, we have used our annual holidays to sail away somewhere every year from our base in St Mawes, mainly to SW Ireland and southern Brittany, but with two longer forays to Scotland, one to northern Spain, three to Suffolk and the Netherlands, plus one long delivery trip from Turkey to Cornwall.

"As for so many people, last year was different, with just some short local trips with family and friends, but we are looking forward to setting off again this summer if we possibly can. In 20 years, we have had only one really new sail, so Jeckells' prize will be extremely welcome!

Refer a friend – summer prizes

Over the past difficult year there have been few events where the CA has been able to recruit members – normally a key part of spreading the word about what we offer. So this year we will be especially grateful to any member who gets a friend to join.

Usually, the friend gets 25% off their first year's membership and the member gets £20 to spend in the CA shop. This summer we are offering a **series of monthly prizes each worth around £150**. If you recommend a friend and they join the CA, your name will go into the draw to win a prize, each month from April to September.

Who do you know who might benefit from CA membership? Go to the [Refer a friend page](#) on the CA site to find out more, obtain the online code and get them to join up.

April: Gill duffel bag plus one night's cabin stay at CA House (can be taken any time).

May: £150 voucher towards Imray charts and books

June: ASAP Supplies cleaning bundle. A selection of cleaning products worth £150

July: A £150 GRPro-Clean voucher towards a full clean and reproof of a boat canopy anywhere in the UK

August: Rolling carry-on bag from Gill

September: Day sail in 2022 on accessible Jubilee Sailing Trust Ship *Tenacious*

Gill

Imray

**ASAP
Supplies**

GRPRO-CLEAN
PROFESSIONAL BOAT VALETING SERVICES

JST

CA campaigns update

Council and RATS have been working together on three campaigns.

Long-term health insurance post-Brexit

Initially it was thought that the EHIC would not be valid after the UK left the EU, and health insurance would become essential. The CA was hoping to obtain a health insurance package specifically for boaters. The EHIC has now been superseded by GHIC (existing EHICs remain valid until expiry) which reduces the requirement for health insurance in the EU, but it does not cover repatriation for example. At the moment no insurer is prepared to offer anything special given that Covid is still a major problem. We are not pursuing this further now. You should explore what is available; there is a lot of useful information in [this forum thread](#).

HMRC's demands for VAT payment on returning yachts

HMRC has now agreed to extend the "grace period" for return of yachts from the EU to the UK without VAT being due from December 31, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – [see page 5](#). However in the view of the CA that is not sufficient. We are pursuing three approaches to the problem.

- We are taking **legal advice**, particularly on HMRC's changes in the rules made very late in the transition period.
- We are asking under the **Freedom of Information Act** for the documentation that led to HMRC's change of attitude in their statement of October 2020, a contradiction of their stated position of February 2019.
- We are exploring a **political approach** with the help of influential MPs.

The 180-day visa campaign

The visa campaign has had excellent publicity and a full account of the campaign is on [page 4](#).

Julian Dussek, President, Cruising Association

Formal complaint made over plans for VAT on UK boats in Greece

Following the UK's departure from the EU, the Withdrawal Agreement set out how VAT on existing "Goods" (which include yachts) would be divided between the EU and UK. Yachts in the UK would become UK Goods, and yachts in the EU and elsewhere would be EU27 Goods. So far, so simple.

Three months into 2021, the Greeks have finally announced to Port Customs an instruction on UK yachts, despite nearly 12 months of unanswered questions from the CA. After a formal request was made to the Greek Embassy in London they finally sent us a formal instruction which conflicted with those issued to the Port Customs on many points.

The instruction denies "EU Goods" status to all UK-flagged yachts, unless the owners were "established" (resident) in Greece or the EU. However, Port Customs have denied **all** UK yachts their VAT status if VAT was paid in the UK. Conversely, they are recognising the VAT of UK yachts where VAT was paid in the EU27



*Sailing off Meganisi.
Photo: Brian Dandridge/imagesCA*

All UK-flagged yachts are also being told, "If you leave EU waters and return to Greek waters later, you will be treated as third-country yachts and be issued with an 18-month Transit Log." If the third-country yacht is owned by someone "established" in Greece they cannot use Temporary Admission, and will be issued a one month Transit Log. This means they would need to leave Greece.

The Greek AADE (the tax authority, which is independent of politicians) is therefore breaking the Union's Customs Code and is violating the Withdrawal Agreement which is binding to all EU states.

Consequently the CA has made a formal complaint to the EU through its complaints procedure. If UK-paid VAT is recognised, all the issues will disappear and UK boats will be issued with the [unlimited Transit Log](#) as we had originally expected.

We await the outcome with confidence.

Chris Robb

CA in action: 180-day visa campaign under way in Europe



The CA 180-day campaign has been very active over the last month, with groups targeting Sweden, Netherlands, France, Greece, Spain and Portugal, supported by a dedicated publicity team, and a steering group which includes the CA's President, and members from Council, Sections and RATS.

A letter from Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the CA's Patron, to Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, setting out our concerns, created a lot of interest in the boating community. The response from the department was unhelpful, and the responses from individual MPs suggest that many are actively against the idea of UK citizens spending extended time in Europe; others seem totally unaware of the issues that have been created.

However RATS has had a much more positive response from the EU Commission which confirms that it should be possible for individual countries to offer 180-day visas if they wish to and hence this remains our campaign focus.

Sweden and **France** already have visas that appear suitable but require a relatively detailed application procedure. Hence we are in the process of making test applications in order to highlight any issues, so that we can give members the best possible advice. We have also written to the French

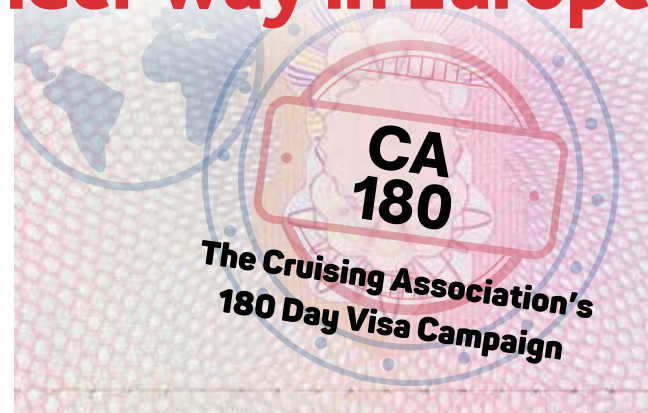
visa processing organisation with a number of questions and suggestions on how to avoid problems when receiving applications from cruising boat owners who do not have permanent marina berths in the EU.

Greece has very recently made an announcement suggesting that it will make certain aspects of its temporary residency scheme more flexible. However, while this may suit second-home owners who already have residency cards, it was not what we were hoping for and there are a number of issues that would need to be resolved for boat owners. There is a possibility that this might become a template for the scheme adopted by **Portugal** and **Spain**, so we are writing to both the Greek and Spanish governments to explain the situation for cruising boat owners. Greece has also confirmed that it will follow the provisions negotiated between UK and EU and recognise that vessels which were in the EU on December 31, 2020 will be entitled to retain that status and hence be issued with unlimited transit logs

Progress in the **Netherlands** has been held up by the Dutch elections, but good contact has now been made with HISWA, the trade body representing the country's vibrant boating industry.

A survey of European **Inland Waterways** Section members has given us some valuable ammunition by indicating that more than 80% of those with boats in the EU are now considering returning them to the UK and/or selling them and/or quitting cruising altogether. A hard-hitting press release for both European and UK media is being issued.

Spain: our CA President was recently interviewed by the



Mallorca Daily Bulletin, an online daily, resulting in an article in the Spanish press, and we learned that the Spanish government are taking the impact of the loss of British yachts and superyachts seriously.

We are not yet launching mass communications, but we are preparing suitable flyers. If members are interested in helping the country groups to prepare, particularly in Spain and Greece, please contact RATS@theca.org.uk or your Section Secretary.

Trevor Page

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HMRC update to Brexit VAT rules: the CA's view

HMRC has made a further revision to the VAT Returned Good Relief (RGR) rules that now apply to yachts following the end of the Brexit transition period. The headline news is that the "grace period" allowed for the return of yachts from the EU to the UK without VAT being due has been extended from December 31, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

The CA received the following statement from the Stakeholder Engagement Team of HM Revenue and Customs:

The additional period extends the existing one-year grace period agreed last year to 18 months, allowing goods located in the EU to return to the UK by 30 June 2022 under RGR rules, regardless of when they left the UK.

This change is a step forward and will provide some relief for members who were intending to bring their boats back to the UK this year, but it still does not address the fundamental issues about which the CA is campaigning. Moreover, the revised legislation is unclear on certain points and potentially results in some strange, likely unintended, scenarios. These are summarised as:

- The 18-month period for return to the UK still does not address the needs of yacht owners with yachts in the Eastern Mediterranean. Covid and the 90/180 day visa restrictions mean that coming back to the UK before July 1, 2022 still represents a formidable challenge.
- The changes do nothing to address the plight of yacht owners who purchased their yachts in the EU and have not previously kept their boat in the UK. These yacht owners will still be required to pay UK VAT *within 30 days* if they bring their yachts into the UK.
- Somewhat absurdly, the new HMRC rules clarify that relief from UK VAT is available for yachts purchased in the EU that were exported from the EU before December 31, 2020 and which are returned

to the UK before June 30, 2022. This means that yachts purchased in the EU that left the EU on a cruise outside the EU (e.g. to the Caribbean) before December 31, 2020 can now be returned to the UK before June 30, 2022 without being subject to UK VAT.



- The updated HMRC wording on the extended 18-month grace period states that goods in the EU at 31 December "must return" by 30 June 2022. As currently drafted, this seems to have the effect of overriding the usual 3 year RGR rule, which means that all yachts in the EU would have until 30 June 2022 to return without becoming liable for VAT, regardless of when they left the UK. (The previous HMRC version referred to goods "that are returned" with the one-year grace period extension, which indicated that the normal 3 year RGR period would not be impacted).

The CA will continue to press HMRC to grant a three-year transitional period expiring on December 31, 2023 for all leisure vessels to claim RGR on their return to the UK without paying VAT, irrespective of whether they were located in the UK prior to the end of the transitional period. In addition, we are asking that "exceptional circumstances" should be expressly applied to leisure vessels however long they have been outside the UK.

The CA is currently seeking legal advice about HMRC's unreasonable approach and is endeavouring to enlist the help of influential politicians to assist in the campaign to change HMRC's approach. We are also requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act on HMRC's discussions in 2020 on these issues.

As soon as there are further developments on these important concerns, updates will be issued to CA members.

CA sponsors Cowes Week class

This year's Cowes Week, July 31 to August 7, includes a completely new class: the Club Cruiser Division, sponsored by the Cruising Association. Cruisers have been split into Performance and Club divisions to recognise the very different performance characteristics of yacht designs, as well as the sometimes more family-orientated crew lists in the club cruisers. Cowes Week and the CA believe this will deliver high-quality racing for everybody, with similar boats and like-minded crews in the different divisions. We'll have more information on our plans for the event in forthcoming Newsletters.

La Rochelle HLR to retire

Nigel St George, HLR for the Île de Ré and La Rochelle, France, is standing down as an HLR from the end of 2021. If you know of someone who could replace him, please contact Isobel Porter, chair of the HLRs group, at jandiporter@talktalk.net.

Continuing uncertainty for international travel in a Covid world

All dates are subject to change. It already seems possible that Step 3 including international travel (May 17) will be delayed in England, and further amendments are likely.

Please check the latest information from official sources before taking any actions.

RATS is monitoring the Covid-19 situation for key locations in the UK and Europe and [publishing updates](#) including links to government web sites for each country. Information is also provided by some CA Sections and on forums based on local knowledge and information provided by HLRs.

The developing third wave sweeping mainland Europe and likely to arrive in the UK, together with the various mutations that are developing in different parts of the world, is likely to result in rapid changes in policy and regulations.

England

The [government plan for England](#) issued on February 23 includes "Not earlier than" dates from Step 2 onwards that are yet to be confirmed. Under current dates one household may stay overnight on a boat from April 12; this increases to two households or six people from May 17. See [latest government advice](#).

Scotland

Further details of the timetable for easing lockdown were given on March 16. See [latest government advice](#). Different rules, including those for travel, apply in some cases to Orkney, Shetland and some of the Hebrides.

Currently owners who live close to their boats are permitted to day sail as a form of "exercise". Travel is also permitted to perform "essential maintenance" (generally for safety reasons only, not fitting out) on boats.

Travel within Scotland is legally restricted to within the local authority boundary +5 miles. Travel between Scotland and other UK nations is banned. Staying on board boats is banned (and self-catering accommodation closed). All these may be eased from April 26. International travel into Scotland is banned until May 17 and possibly beyond. *All* arrivals, except from Ireland, are subject to hotel quarantine.

Wales

From March 27, staying overnight in self-catering accommodation (and by association boats), and travel anywhere in Wales has been permitted. Only those with a reasonable excuse, such as work, may travel into or out of Wales until April 12. Check the [Welsh Government website](#) and the [Government statement](#) from March 26 for the current position.

Northern Ireland

A five-step "pathway" out of lockdown has been announced, but as yet with no dates. Steps are expected to be around four weeks in length. See [latest government advice](#).

- Outdoor "exercise" in the local area, with own household or one other person, is permitted in Step 1.
- Only essential travel is permitted within Northern Ireland until Step 2.

- Caravan sites may open from Step 3, so staying on board boats may also be permitted.

It is not clear when international travel to/from Northern Ireland will be permitted. Separate rules apply to the Common Travel Area, which includes the UK and Ireland.

Overseas travel

Travel out of the UK is not currently permitted. The UK government's Global Travel Task Force (GTTF), planning a return to international travel at the earliest opportunity, is due to report to the PM on April 12. This is likely to affect overseas travel from all countries of the UK, which will not start before May 17 and may be later.

France: The health situation in France remains severe. A national curfew is in place and after Easter, tighter restrictions and attestations will be required to go further than 10km from home, non-essential shops will be closed and travel to other regions is banned, apart from in exceptional or professional circumstances. These restrictions are already in place in 19 Departments. However, since March 12 [travellers from the UK have been allowed to enter France](#) without a compelling reason although testing and quarantine requirements are in place.

Greece: Travel to Greece from the UK is permitted, subject to testing and quarantine, but the health situation remains severe and there are significant restrictions on movement and day-to-day activities.

- For updates on other countries see the RATS pages on [Covid-19 restrictions on cruising](#).

Roadmap for visits to CA House

Following the UK Government's announcement of a roadmap to recovery from Covid-19 in England, the CA has agreed a route to reopening of CA House. **All dates are of course subject to confirmation** and may be delayed by further waves of infection.

April 12

- The Galley re-opens for drinks and food with outside table service only, limited to six people/two households. Toilets can be used but facemasks should be worn at all times inside the building.
- The library re-opens, with members booking via Jeremy Batch at reception@theca.org.uk. Full details will be on the [CA website](http://theca.org.uk) but masks must be worn, hands sanitised, and any books or charts handled by members will be "quarantined" for three days.

May 17

- Cabins will re-open for overnight stays. Members can book now at reception@theca.org.uk or by phone, but this is subject to wider Government lockdown restrictions. The CA is part of Good To Go England which specifies cleaning and safety of overnight accommodation.
- The Galley re-opens inside, with table service only, limited to six people/two households
- Room hire is available for business purposes/internal meetings.

June 21

- CA House goes back to "normal" – whatever that is!



Events for spring & summer

We're still hoping that UK rallies planned for July onwards will go ahead. Events planned for April are listed here, plus some later in 2021. See the [Events Calendar on the CA website](#) or each section's newsletter for the most up-to-date list. Please note that the Tall Ships Rally is completely **sold out** and other events are likely to attract a similar response once they open.

Thursday, 15 April, [Crewing Service Meeting via Zoom](#), 19:00. Spring into the coming season and join the next CS meeting.

Planned physical events – all subject to Covid

Tuesday 13 April: [Western Australia Meet](#), Antipodean, 17:30. An evening meeting has been arranged by John Boardman at the Royal Perth Yacht Club, discussing travel, Brexit and Covid. For further information email John at jbadvisory@hotmail.com or phone +61 414932166 (Aus).

Sunday, 18 April, [NSW Lunch Meeting](#), Antipodean, 12:00. Paul Hardcastle is organising a lunchtime gathering, at the [Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club \(RPAYC\)](#), Newport 2106. Please email Paul at hph501@gmail.com

Late April, Queensland lunch meeting, Antipodean. Jane Jarratt is organising a meeting for Queensland CA members in Brisbane. If you are interested please email Jane at janejarratt@hotmail.com for more information.

Saturday, 3 July to Tuesday 13 July, [Channel Rally and Cruise in Company](#), Channel. To be confirmed, but express interest now!

Wednesday, 28 July, [Brixham Trawler Pilgrim - CA Charter](#), South West (All day). Sail on board one of the last Brixham trawlers afloat.

Tuesday, 17 August to Thursday August 19, South West Section – Tall Ships Race. **This event sold out** within 24 hours, with 116 members and guests attending, and the waiting list is closed!

Wednesday, 18 August to Friday August 20, [Channel Section – Plymouth Fireworks Rally](#). View the spectacular British Fireworks Championship. TBC, but express interest now!

Saturday, 28 August to Monday 30 August. [East Coast August Rally](#), Suffolk. Postponed Bank Holiday weekend event for CA East Coast sailors. Bookings open in May.



Summer prize draw



MEMBERS PRIZE DRAW

Worth over £2000

GRP^{PRO}-CLEAN

CLEAN · PROTECT · MAINTAIN

WIN a professional boat clean

INCLUDING
Canopy Clean and
Re-proof Service
and a £100 cleaning bundle

www.grpro-clean.co.uk



Chance to win a £2000 clean-up for your boat

Boat cleaning specialist [GRPro-Clean](http://www.grpro-clean.co.uk) is offering one lucky CA member the chance to WIN a professional boat clean worth over £2,000 in our Summer Big Prize Draw.

GRPro-Clean is providing a £2,000 voucher to be used against its range of cleaning and valeting work, anywhere in the UK. To ensure your boat is kept gleaming, it has also thrown in a cleaning bundle worth £100.

- Washdown
- Full clean & polish
- Canopy clean & re-proof
- Teak refurbishment

GRPro-Clean also offers a 10% discount year-round to CA members on all its services. Get in touch via info@grpro-clean.co.uk to find out more.

CA members can enter this prize draw via [our online entry form](#), or by sending a picture of their boat flying the CA burgee to office@theca.org.uk, or at any CA event (as and when these re-start). Members who successfully refer a new member will also be entered automatically.

The prize draw is open to *members whose boats are based in the UK only* and closes on Wednesday September 15, 2021, at 5pm. Check out the full Ts & Cs and [all our current prize draws](#) on the CA website, or go to www.grpro-clean.co.uk to find out more about all the cleaning services available from GRPro-Clean.

New discounts for members

Go to the [Discounts page](#) on the CA website for details of how to obtain discounts from each provider.

The **English Logbook Company** is offering a 10% discount across its range of logbooks. The books are handmade in the finest materials and customised to your boat. Perhaps best kept for writing up neatly in harbour rather than scribbling course changes at sea. www.englishlogbook.co

Nicols, the French-owned inland waterways boat rental company, is offering 10% on short breaks, 15% on one week or longer. Valid for all boats, and all bases in France, but can't be added to any other current discount. www.boat-renting-nicols.co.uk

Ocean Coats Marine Services carries out painting, cleaning, polishing, and repairs from its base in Cowes, and offers members 10% discount on storage, labour and materials. www.oceancoats.co.uk



This is the first of a new series of Top Tips on sustainable boating from The Green Blue, the joint environmental awareness programme created by the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine, with the aim to inspire sustainable recreation for cleaner, healthier waters.

Anchoring with care

As recreational boaters it is essential that we are aware of protected seabed habitats around the coastline and ensure best practice is adopted to help minimise any impacts from boating activities such as anchoring. Anchoring can directly impact seagrass fronds and roots causing uprooting and degradation.

To anchor with care:

- Find out if there are protected habitats in an area where you are planning to anchor.
- Choose an anchorage away from sensitive habitats wherever possible.
- If possible, use an existing mooring already in place.
- Choose the correct anchor for the type of seabed to avoid drag.
- Flake out the correct amount of chain to minimise unnecessary abrasion on the seabed.

To find out more and to access an array of resources, including [The Green Guide to Anchoring and Mooring](#), check out [The Green Blue website](#).

Top tips from



Practical courses with First Class Sailing due to restart

First Class Sailing is continuing to run theory courses online, via Zoom. Physical courses at CA House including First Aid, VHF Radio and Diesel Engine Maintenance are scheduled to start again this month, subject to Covid restrictions. *Check with FCS for availability.*

Practical courses at CA House

RYA VHF Radio – Saturday plus half-day assessment on Sunday. April 10/11; May 15/16; June 5/6; and more dates in 2021.

RYA First Aid at Sea – One-day courses on April 17, April 18, May 9, May 22, June 13 and more dates in 2021.

RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance – One-day courses on April 25, May 8, May 23, June 26 and more dates in 2021.

Courses delivered online

RYA Day Skipper Theory – Monday & Wednesday evenings from April 12; further courses start May 8 and May 19, all via Zoom.

RYA Yachtmaster Theory – Monday & Wednesday evenings from April 14 or June 9, via Zoom.

RYA Radar – April 17, May 22 and more in 2021, one-day via Zoom.

RYA/World Sailing Offshore Personal Survival – May 16, June 13 or July 18, one-day course via Zoom.

Discounts for CA members

[Discount codes for all courses](#) are available to CA members logged in to the CA website – just enter the appropriate code when you book. Or call First Class Sailing on 0203 006 3717 or email info@firstclasssailing.com.



Ofcom licence changes: what you need to do

Any registered owner of a radio transceiver (not just maritime, but radio amateur, aircraft operators, and others)

will recently have received a communication

from Ofcom regarding changes to your licence. It is fair to say that the email/letter was an excellent example of how to obfuscate a simple subject with technical waffle – factually correct, but not intelligible to the layman!

Ofcom responded to the many complaints and has issued somewhat [clearer advice](#). Click the link and download *What you need to know as a maritime radio user*.

Ofcom expects to “publish the final requirement by 18 May 2021, to be followed by a period of 6 months (i.e. mid November) within which to assess compliance and get appropriate records in place.” (Unless continuing Covid restrictions prevent you). So there is no need to panic for this season!

What do you need to do?

There is a good flowchart in the Ofcom guidance, but in summary all you will have to do is:

1. Familiarise yourself with the essential requirement of the regulations;
2. Check your installation complies with the regulations, and take appropriate actions if it is not;
3. Record the status with your ship's papers.

Who may have to take remedial actions?

Firstly, any transmitter of less than 6.1W ERP is below the threshold, and requires no further action. This will include most VHF handhelds, and any Class B or B+ AIS transceivers.

Secondly, the majority of sailing vessels with a masthead 25W VHF antenna and a mast-mounted radar up by the cross-trees will be safe, provided that no transmissions occur whilst anyone is up the mast. For the radar, you should ensure it is in standby while in a lock or alongside a dock wall, for example.

Those with radar scanners and/or 25W VHF antennae at a lower level (mounted on an aft deck pole or stern gantry, for example) need to think carefully about their installation. You may need to consider changing the installation, or at the least enforcing procedures (such as no-one on deck while the radar is transmitting). Radar manufacturer installation manuals will specify guidance on safe installation.

Finally, those with 150W MF/HF SSB will have to check carefully that safe distances are complied with. This may require physical “fencing” and/or rigorous procedures.

In summary

For the moment you need do nothing. When the new regulations are finalised, RATS will publish additional guidance and examples. This is not a complex situation and only a few owners will need to take any remedial actions.



Peter Jackson

Red diesel update

Members may have read the CA's recent [press release](#) on marine diesel in Northern Ireland, summing up the recent RATS meeting with HMRC. The Northern Ireland Brexit protocol bans the use of red marine diesel for private pleasure craft.

HMRC must now speedily resolve very difficult problems. If the UK had changed to white marine diesel for private pleasure craft, the RATS-recommended solution, which avoided pumping out boat tanks, was to refill immediately with white diesel, reducing the amount of red dye in the boat tank to an HMRC-agreed concentration over a period of several years.

This scheme has been resubmitted to HMRC. RATS understands that Northern Ireland marinas are keen to cooperate with the changeover, so we also suggest that approved surface-mounted tanks of around 5,000 litres could be installed for white diesel, leaving existing marina tanks for those boats permitted to use red diesel. The change to white diesel is expected to be at the end of June 2021.

Subject to Covid regulations, UK-based members may be able to sail to EU maritime states. They can do so using UK red propulsion diesel fuel under the Istanbul Convention 1990. The full details are in the latest RATS advice, [Post Brexit Use of UK Marine Red Diesel](#).

Colin Heywood

The CA log contest: winners announced

The CA's annual log competition dates back to the 1920s. Nine trophies are awarded to members for the best log of a cruise carried out in the most recent season, in a variety of categories. The osCA, sponsored by Haven Knox-Johnston, is awarded for the best video log of a cruise.

Highlights of the entries submitted from 2020, a most unusual year, include Alan Kohler's winning log in the *Yachting World* Family Cruising Trophy (best log of a family cruise).

The competition judge was Cathy Brown, a former editor of *Cruising* magazine, who commented: "This was one of my favourites of all entries in this year's log competition – something completely different. Forced by Covid restrictions to abandon his plan to take his grandchildren through the Crinan Canal, Alan Kohler came up with the idea of taking them day sailing – entirely permitted within the rules.

"This log records some of the shortest voyages ever mentioned in the CA log competition – in one case only 200 metres! But as he [Alan] points out, it is not the length of the voyage that matters when cruising with young children, but the experiences gained. Short day sails and playing in the dinghy proved the ideal solution, for everybody. It neatly illustrates why the *Yachting World* Family Cruising Trophy is one of the most important prizes on offer in the CA log competition."

The top prize of the Hanson Cup for the best log of a cruise of any duration, goes to James Littlewood, with judge Cathy commenting on the fact that it basically has everything, including touching on the downsides of Covid restrictions and Brexit implications, and it's a log "which is laced with self-deprecating humour". She added "Anybody contemplating a voyage through the Dutch inland waterways should download this substantial publication from the CA website and read it from cover to cover. It will be a hard act to follow!"



Then & now in Sneek: James Littlewood followed in the wake of Henry Doughty

James told us: "What a wonderful surprise on yet another bleak day in lockdown...Thank you for brightening my day."

The osCA is awarded for the best video log of a cruise (Vlog), and it went to Graham Keating for [The post-lockdown shakedown – a cruise west from Dartmouth](#). As this category is currently sponsored by Haven Knox-Johnston insurance, Graham also wins a Hero7 GoPro, worth £200, as part of his prize.

Cathy said: "This YouTube video is made to a highly professional standard, complete with background music, use of varied and imaginative camera angles, elegant transitions between sections, and lots of useful information. There is no shortage of interest, with everything from pilotage notes, and an internal tour of the boat, to explanations of such technical issues as AIS, wind against tide sea conditions, reefing – and even gin time!"

Prizes are usually presented at the Hanson Lecture in March. However, owing to Covid-19 restrictions, all winners are receiving certificates and an engraved gift, with the possibility of a presentation later.

Extracts from some of the logs together with Cathy's comments on all of them will be published in future editions of *Cruising*.

The awards go to...

The full list of winners is as follows:

- **Hanson Cup** Best log of a cruise of any duration: James Littlewood
- **Dugon Cup** Best log of a cruise in a vessel of not more than 32 feet: Anne Busch
- **Yachting World Family Cruising Trophy** Best log of a family cruise: Alan Kohler
- **Lacey Trophy** Best member's website or blog: Chris Adams
- **The osCA** Best video log: Graham Keating
- **Dolphin Cup** Best photographic log: Helen Shrewsbury
- **Practical Boat Owner Prize** Best photographic log of a cruise under one week's duration: Michael de Pomerai
- **Love Cup** Best log of a cruise under 30 days' duration: Malcolm Denham
- **Hammett Trophy** Best log of a cruise using the CA's Crewing Service: Peter John Bell

Joining in

Where in the world was this photo taken?

It's difficult to find a Blue Water location that will be recognised by a large number of members, and last month's photo was no exception, with a rather modest number of entries. One member correctly identified the year as 2009, but got the location wrong – it wasn't Alicante at the start of the America's Cup, it was Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, taken during the dinghy event before the start of the ARC. Peter Moodie correctly identified both the location and the event, so wins the prize.

This month's question was inspired by a question to the CA's administration officer, Jeremy Batch. He was asked to identify the location of the photograph on the cover of the 2014 edition of the Cruising Almanac. Normally we publish a caption somewhere in the publication which identifies the photo, but in this case neither Jeremy nor Imray themselves, who provided the image in the first place, were able to find a caption anywhere.

Can you tell us the location shown by the image on the cover? (Fortunately the Newsletter editor *has* been able to identify it, so we can tell if your answer is correct). If you know where this is, send your suggestion to: editor@theca.org.uk. A place name and country will be enough, although bonus information might help you to win. The first or best correct answer drawn out of the CA cycling cap receives a new CA burgee.



Photo © Imray

Changing faces in Kent

Clifford Mickleburgh has stepped down as Section Secretary for Kent after 15 years. His place will be taken by David & Sue Long, who have been involved in running the section for some years, with a small group of helpers. They thank Clifford for his exceptional work in providing a programme of talks and visits, and say "He will be a hard act to follow." You can contact David and Sue at kent@theca.org.uk.



New award for marine journalism

Yachting Monthly has [launched a new journalism award](#) in memory of Irish TV journalist Brian Black and his wife Lesley, which aims to recognise the best writing about issues affecting the marine environment. [Applications are invited](#) from anyone who has recently used a sailing boat to explore an environmental issue about which they are passionate. The voyage should ideally have been undertaken in UK, European or Arctic waters to reflect Brian and Lesley Black's commitment to this area. The judges are looking for great stories told well, illustrated with beautiful photography to inform, educate and inspire the reader about an area and environmental issue.



Las Palmas, Gran Canaria



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If there is anything that you would like to see included in the newsletter, please do let us know by emailing editor@theca.org.uk