

NOTES FOR CREW ON CLUB SAILING EVENTS

The following is a list of topics which are often discussed at crew meetings before events and should be considered as a reminder list of possible actions and points to note.

This list is not exclusive!

SAFETY

The primary objective of the Club is to gain experience safely. Current best practice suggests that lifejackets should be worn at all times when sailing. CSC recommends as a minimum that lifejackets should be worn at night, in fog and during rough weather and where appropriate this also applies to harnesses and being clipped on.

In any case, lifejackets and/or harnesses must be worn whenever your skipper instructs you to do so, and any time you feel happier wearing them. CSC also recommends that lifejackets should be worn when in dinghies and torches used in dinghies at night.

Watch leaders must know the Collision Regulations and how to sail, navigate and handle the boat - else the skipper can get no rest, which is a danger to all!

DISCIPLINE

If there is any unforeseen conflict on a boat during a club event which the skipper cannot resolve, the event leader may, at his discretion, attempt to solve this by rearranging crews. The skipper is ultimately responsible for his yacht - if there is an insoluble problem which is a danger to the yacht and other crew, it is his/her prerogative to put someone ashore to find their own way home. Don't be alarmed - this is an almost unknown occurrence. There are Rules of Conduct for club events and - please read them - they are to be found in the Club Rule Book, section 3, available on the club's website.

DOCUMENTATION

It is essential to let your skipper know of any medical problems or dietary requirements - these can then be dealt with and are not a problem. Is your own accident insurance, E111 and passport in order?

Bring your RYA log book - the skipper can sign off your cruise - and it may prompt you to ask your skipper about practical manoeuvres outside your experience. You should not expect him/her to be an able instructor or the yacht to be to the Code of Practice standard.

Formal sail training and RYA certificates are offered by commercial sea schools.

Evading customs, even to and from the Channel Islands, is a serious offence which could, in the extreme, result in confiscation of the yacht. The skipper will ask for a list of all your "foreign" purchases for the customs form.

CONTACT

Discuss transport, joining and leaving the yacht with the skipper.

Make sure the event organiser has your up to date contact details which should be included on the event application form, and will be distributed to skippers.

MONEY

Running costs such as food, fuel, gas and harbour dues will be equally divided between those on board. This is usually arranged by ship's accounts or by a kitty system. Tell the skipper in private of any money or personal difficulties.

There is a donation to the yacht's owner to be paid voluntarily to the skipper, by all the crew on the boat for the event, based on the number of days onboard.

Damage costs are to be decided by the skipper. Silly mistakes by one person may be differently handled from joint errors due to rough weather, or insurance claims by the owner.

If there is a possibility of a Channel crossing might wish to carry some Euros and your passport.

ITINERARY

The destination of the rally or cruise is never guaranteed as this depends on the performance

of all the boats given the weather conditions at the time.

NAVIGATION

CSC encourage skippers to use standard navigation methods, but crew will find many variations, and will have the opportunity to put their classroom skills into practice. All crew are encouraged to take part in all aspects of sailing a yacht – if you don't know how to do something, **ask** – skipper or other crew – everyone can all learn from each other.

CLOTHES

Lots of layers – even in summer it can get very cold in the early hours; wind and waterproof gear; neck towel or thick scarf; hat; gloves; soft soled shoes (but not with black soles that mark decks, or heavy treads which pick up stones); sailing boots; warm sleeping bag (others don't usually lend these out). Soft stowing bags for kit have to be used as hard ones do not fit in lockers. High heeled shoes are not to be worn on boats (you can put them on ashore).

Revised February 2010