



# ODCC Waterlog

August 2022



The journal of the Oxford Ditch Cruising Club

Welcome to this year's August issue. After one of the hottest summers since 1976, we are hoping the warm weather will continue for our afternoon tea at River Gardens in September.

## Commodore's Log:

Earlier this month, three Oxford Ditch boats, *Cavas*, *Lady Lara* and *Sheer Beauty*, cruised down to Weybridge for our visit to the Brooklands Transport Museum. (See *Andy Wilson's report overleaf*).

Philip and Barbara caught up with us at Henley for the three-day trip downstream via Henley, Cookham, where Andy and Chrissie joined us, and Windsor where six of us enjoyed a meal at a Greek restaurant in the town.



A ten minute taxi ride took us from the Weybridge moorings into the museum where we spent five hours wandering around the many exhibits, several of which were new since our last visit in 2019.



On our departure from Weybridge the following morning, we popped into Shepperton Marina for some fuel and to catch up with Wayne and Pauline Vallance. They had recently brought their boat *All's Fair* back across the channel from France after spending two years on the French canals. We didn't stay too long as they were busy antifouling and repairing minor damage accumulated during their time in France.

*Cavas* had made an early start from Weybridge as they had to be back at home by the weekend, but we caught up with *Lady Lara* at Egham. The weather was still very hot and we were able to dine al fresco at the Italian restaurant there, accompanied by Philip and Barbara's dog Ruby.



Our final overnight stop was in Cliveden reach. This coincided with an engine overheat warning on *Lady Lara* and we had to manhandle her the last few feet to raft

alongside us, as with only one engine, steering is extremely unpredictable. After allowing things to cool down during the afternoon, Philip performed the usual engine checks, topped it up with SEVERAL pints of water, and pronounced the offending engine fit and well.

After an early start the next morning, an uneventful run upstream in company with Lady Lara saw us back at our home marina.

## **Stuart Francis**

### **ODCC Downstream Cruise – August 2022**

Our 2022 downstream flotilla comprised Sheer Beauty (Stuart & Sue), Lady Lara (Philip & Barbara) and CAVAS (Andy & Chrissie).

Well, what a week we had, the most amazing weather, fabulous river conditions and great company! I'm sure most people reading this will have a pretty good idea of what the River Thames looks like so I'm not going to waste reams of electronic paper describing every reach travelled, but rather focus on the planned itinerary and highlights during the cruise.

First things first, where were we headed and what was the objective? The planned objective was to visit the Brooklands motor museum in Weybridge, which I'm happy to say was achieved and met/exceeded expectations, more of which I'll talk about later.

The cruise commenced for Sheer Beauty and Lady Lara on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> while CAVAS departed Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> intending to rendezvous with the other boats at Cookham. As I was skippering CAVAS I can't say much about Saturday's exploits, suffice to say both Sheer Beauty and Lady Lara reached the rendezvous point in good time.

With CAVAS departing lunchtime on Sunday we had a trek ahead of us, with 8 locks to navigate plus a fuel and pump-out stop at Thames & Kennet marina in Caversham.

This was when we discovered that Tingdene offer various clubs, including ODCC, free pump-outs, 15% discount on fuel (10% at Windsor Racecourse), 5% discount in their chandlery and 7 free overnight moorings per year at their marinas. For practical purposes that includes Thames & Kennet, Windsor Racecourse and

Walton marinas unless you visit other waterways. Having bought some fuel and had a free pump-out (normal cost is £20) we saved £60 which was very welcome!

We were delayed at Hambledon lock due to broken gates but otherwise the first leg of our journey was uneventful and we reached Cookham moorings around 8pm with our newly fixed nav lights highlighting our arrival.

At this point I should mention that CAVAS became the unofficial social gathering and party boat and I considered an important secondary objective of the cruise was to introduce as much alcohol as possible to the flotilla members at every opportunity. I always thought that beverage consumption was an inherent and necessary ingredient to complete boating fulfillment, however I think Stuart now believes I have a drinking problem! In my defence, unlike some, I have never tried to poison fellow boaters with toxic out-of-date concoctions, more about that later!

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August we finally set off as a complete flotilla of 3 boats, Sheer Beauty leading, CAVAS following and Lady Lara performing rear-guard, destination Windsor. After such a long cruising day on Sunday, it was a pleasant relief to just cruise for a few hours and arrive in Windsor for a late lunch. Some of us walked into Windsor for a spot of shopping and after a chill-out afternoon we all walked back into town for a meal at Latino Taverna, one of two Greek restaurants in Windsor.



One of the highlights for me cruising in company was the social interaction using the VHF, which enabled Stuart and Philip to educate Chrissie and me on useful items such as good mooring spots, celebrity houses and restaurants.

Not sure if this was what the VHF was intended for but nevertheless, very useful!

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> we reached our final destination and moored downstream of Shepperton lock on the starboard bank. What I wasn't aware of is that moorings downstream of Staines are free of charge for 24hrs, rather than the £8 per night we paid at Cookham and Windsor. A small ferry operates to cross the river which was taken advantage of by Stuart, Sue, Philip and Barbara to head to the café opposite for ice-creams. Chrissie and I elected to continue chilling, drinking and playing with the SUP paddle board. We then rode tandem on the board to cross the river for ice-creams, thus saving the £5 per-person return ferry fare!



To round off the afternoon we arranged an impromptu cocktail party aboard CAVAS. It was at this point that we learned some interesting facts:

1. The alcohol supplies aboard CAVAS significantly exceeded the combined reserves of the other two boats
2. Philip had never had a cocktail in his life!
3. Philip had been nurturing a very old bottle of whiskey on Lady Lara along with an equally ancient bottle of Prosecco (more about this to follow!)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Stuart, Philip, Chrissie and I took a taxi to Brooklands museum. The taxi driver took it on himself to complete a 15-minute journey in less than 5! Suffice to say, when we arrived, we were somewhat dizzy, nauseous and relieved to get out of the car. Presumably, as we were visiting a motor museum, he must have assumed we were all speed freaks!

The museum itself was excellent and I would encourage anyone to visit. I would like to say that the highlight of the visit was the Concorde tour, certainly that was Chrissie's.



However, I believe this was trumped by watching Philip in the McLaren F1 simulator doing his best to set the record for the slowest lap around the Brooklands circuit! Despite his slow pace he still managed to crash at least 3 times!



Five or six hours looking at bikes, cars and planes in 30 plus degrees was sufficient and we were picked up by manic-cab for the hellraising ride back to the boats.



In our absence, Sue and Barbara went shopping to bolster their beverage stock having now come to terms with the CAVAS consumption rate.

This was Philip's opportunity to impress us with his vintage liquors and all I can say is the lid was not removed from the ¼ full whiskey bottle as the organisms growing inside the bottle would have likely caused a localised pandemic if released to the atmosphere and the Prosecco had the consistency and flavour of an out-of-date port! While the drink was a let-down, the entertainment value was priceless!

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> we all planned to start the journey home. CAVAS had a deadline to be in Sonning by Friday pm so we set off first with the others following on at a more sedate pace. Sheer Beauty and Lady Lara moored for the evening by the warehouse in Runnymede to enjoy a meal at the Italian restaurant. Meanwhile we motored on in CAVAS and were very fortunate to get the last mooring in Marlow. The downside was that it was the mooring alongside the water outlet, which gurgles and burps all night long! We enjoyed a great meal at The Coach before retiring and poor Chrissie had to deal with my snoring doing battle with the outlet pipe's own impression of bodily functions!

The moorings at Marlow now cost £15 however you do get free use of the facilities at the leisure complex (where you pay the mooring fee) and a discount on activities. The changing/shower/toilet facilities there are immaculate!

We had an amazing run on the locks both Thursday and Friday, the river being unusually quiet, hence we reached Thames & Kennet marina Friday lunchtime to use the pump-out, before mooring in Sonning to await our guests who were joining us for a 2-day cruise to Henley Saturday & Sunday.

And so ended our first cruise with the ODCC and hopefully not the last! Cruising in company was a new experience for us and very enjoyable. I'd like to thank Stuart, Sue, Philip and Barbara for making it such a great experience for Chrissie and me.

**Andy Wilson**

## **Tingdene Marinas discounts**

As a reminder of Andy Wilson's welcome discovery at Thames & Kennet marina, we have included a copy of the document supplied to Andy by the marina (See overleaf).

As you will see, there are several other discounts available to club members, providing they produce proof of membership of the Oxford Ditch.

**Editor**



Bradfield Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 4HB  
Telephone: 01933 551622  
Email: boatsales@tingdene.net  
Website: www.tingdeneboatsales.net

**2022 Offers from Tingdene Marinas & Boat sales to members of the following yacht Clubs**  
**New Harleyford MYC, Upper Thames MYC, Windsor YC, Thames Motor Yacht Club, Bray Yacht Club,**  
**Oxford ditch Yacht club, Broom Owners Club .**

**Membership card must be shown and a copy of this document signed off for Free overnights.**

- **Visitor Berthing** - 7 days FOC at any of the 9 Tingdene Marinas (3 Thames, 2 Severn, 2 Norfolk Broads, 1 Cambridgeshire Ouse, 1 River Wey) per calendar year subject to availability  
Please book in advance – Including 240v hook up.
- **Diesel** – 15% discount off pump price at Thames & Kennet Marina, 10% discount off Petrol and Diesel at Windsor Racecourse Marina
- **Pump Outs & Chemical Toilet Emptying** – Free of Charge
- **Chandlery** – Discounts available by individual items at Thames & Kennet
- **Boat Show Tickets** – Discounted tickets available via a central contact at each individual Yacht/Owners club as advised independently
- **Boat Sales** – Cash offers made / Part Exchanges / Discounted commission rates – Free sales berthing subject to terms – All boats marketed on 11 websites via 10 interconnected offices (Inland - 3 Thames, 2 River Severn, 1 River Wey, 1 -Cambridgeshire Ouse, 2 -Norfolk Broads. Coastal - Portishead)

All the above are subject to sight of a relevant club membership card and to agreement with standard marina and Boatsales terms where applicable

**Please show this form for allocation of Free visitor berth and confirm your Name, Boat Make/ Model/ Name , Email and Phone number with our offices and confirm we can store as per GDPR regulations**

<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Marina</u>
<u>Night 1</u>	_____	_____
<u>Night 2</u>	_____	_____
<u>Night 3</u>	_____	_____
<u>Night 4</u>	_____	_____
<u>Night 5</u>	_____	_____
<u>Night 6</u>	_____	_____
<u>Night 7</u>	_____	_____

*Registered Office : Bradfield Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 4HB  
Tingdene Boat Sales Limited : Registered in England No 2041572 VAT 897 3962 49*