



CRUISING MATTERS

The latest news and views from the Cruising Association.

The CA was founded in 1908 specifically to meet the needs of cruising sailors and provides services, information, help and advice to thousands of members worldwide. For more information visit www.theca.org.uk.

BREXIT – THE PERFECT STORM?

We are hearing from a variety of cruising yacht owners that they feel they are getting a raw deal as a result of Brexit-related decisions being made by the UK government. Many have retired and since bought a boat and have been living aboard and sailing in EU and UK waters for a good part of their year. However, Brexit is producing some big challenges. For example:

● The Schengen 90-in-180 day tourist visa rule

Many cruising sailors are going to be badly affected by the 90 day rule. It is particularly galling that the UK will grant EU citizens and many other nationalities tourist visas for 180 days in 360 to visit Britain. The UK government refuses to negotiate a reciprocal agreement with the EU - why?

● Withdrawal of European Health Insurance Card

Travel insurance for a retired couple for a 90-day stay in Europe involving sailing is very difficult to find and extremely expensive with pre-existing medical conditions

usually not covered. You could end up paying huge premiums and still having to find thousands of pounds in medical fees if struck down with a serious illness. Being under-insured is a frightening prospect and the huge recurring cost of inadequate insurance means many older people will give up cruising in Europe.

● The VAT situation

Some boats have a value that can be of the same order of magnitude as their owner's house. Many have been purchased new, abroad, with VAT paid at that EU country's rate. HMRC has recently reinterpreted the law so that if these boats have not been located in the UK up to now they will lose their UK VAT-paid status on 31 December 2020. VAT will have to be paid again when the boats are brought into the UK. The cost of the UK VAT will make this impossible for many owners. So people will be stuck with keeping boats in the EU, where they can only use them for up to 90 days during the sailing season because of the 90/180 day rule.

Is the party over for retired UK yacht owners in the EU? Here is Isa Lei anchored in Carla Benarris, Ibiza. Image: David Whitehead



Portable solar panels are a great idea on board. Image: Bob Garrett

IDEAS FOR GREENER CRUISING

- Wind-up LED camping light as anchor light
- Portable solar panel for multi-directional sun trapping
- Solar panels for phone charging
- Foamless/eco detergents/soaps
- Hand compactor for recycling
- All lights changed to LED
- Black bag showers
- Non-gas fog alarm
- Solar fridge/keel cooled/extra insulation

FAQ

What can the CA provide that my local yacht club cannot?

We offer members the same social scene and camaraderie as you find in a yacht club, plus an incredible support network and a host of other benefits. You get exclusive access to our CAptain's Mate app and online forums, 16,000 pages of online cruising information, a quarterly magazine, access to CA House in London where you can stay overnight and/or visit our world-renowned library, plus hundreds of discounts worldwide.

CA SECTION NEWS

The CA's Suffolk Section, run by Simon and Georgette Harrison as Joint Section Secretaries, has remained very active throughout lockdown.

They have adapted their winter talks line-up from presenting to a room-full followed by a lively dinner at the Royal Harwich YC to

embracing Zoom, adding in some socialising using breakout rooms.

There are two interesting talks in the schedule this month. Access to these talks is free and available for CA Members, Crewing Service Members and RHYC Members. Taking place on 9 and 21 January the talks are:

9 January at 19:30: Unmanned Vessels, MASS, and the IMO by Andrew Higgs: An autonomous sailing vessel has already circumnavigated Antarctica, finding its own way back to New Zealand. Andrew Higgs, one of the Younger Brethren of Trinity House and a marine lawyer, will explain how the world of shipping is changing with increasing automation and the

introduction of Marine Autonomous Surface Ships.
21 January at 13:30: Surveying Harwich Harbour by Meredith Scanlon: Meredith, the surveyor for Harwich Harbour Authority, will explain how they have surveyed the sea floor beneath our familiar sailing waters and how the survey methods have changed in our lifetime.



Will this become a rarer sight on our horizons? Image: Simon Harrison