


News and current affairs from the world of boating

Easier check in and out requirements for sailors cruising to France

Cruising sailors now have much more choice as to where they can land on French soil when coming from outside the European Union (EU).

Previously boats would have to arrive at and depart from a Port of Entry (PPF), although last year a few ports were given a special derogation which allowed entry for a limited period. Now French officials have granted some 53 marinas (which are not PPFs) the rights to handle leisure/recreational boats arriving from or departing to outside of the EU or Schengen area.

New protocol

The new protocol came into force on 1 June. Skippers of these boats will need to email a specific completed form to the relevant port in advance of arrival or departure. A link to the form required is usually available on the website of the port or marina. For example on

Great news from France – cruising sailors now have much more choice as to where they can land on French soil



the Calais website – www.calais-marina.fr – there is a link from the home page to ‘practical information’ and then to ‘documentation’ which links to: www.calais-marina.fr/page/documentation

These forms will then be processed by local officials. The Cruising Association (CA) anticipates the stamped papers may be picked up on arrival or

emailed in the case of departure (as last year for those few ports). A spokesman said: “This announcement will make cruising to and from France this summer much easier and more attractive for all. The CA and cruising community is grateful to the French authorities, the ports and marina officials for their work to enable this outcome.”

PBO contributor Ken Edean said: “The new system is clearly an improvement but anchorage enthusiasts who wish to zigzag between France and the Channel Islands (including Chausey etc) will look forward to a completely digital system not linked to specific ports.”

PBO reader Paul Kelly said: “It is helpful but the omission of some ports and bolt holes remains regrettable. If sailing to France via the Channel Islands, from St Peter Port it is 75 miles to Roscoff but only 50 miles to Port Blanc which is not on the entry list. That 25 miles makes quite a difference for smaller craft. It is very good to see L’Aber Wrac’h on the list!”

PBO contributor Dan King, who has racked up more than 40 Channel crossings in his 1970 Westery Pageant (PBO, May 2024), asked: “Could the CA clarify the implications of changed plans having already done the form filling?”

‘Earliest opportunity’

Bob Garrett, joint CA Channel section secretary, responded: “The need to inform the French authorities of a change of port of arrival or departure in advance may not be ideal but it is not always the case. If using a port of entry (PPF) then there is usually no need, but if using one of the ‘protocol ports’ then it is necessary because they have to forward the document to the French authorities for them to check, stamp and return to the port. If there is a change while under way, they should be informed of this, and I expect they would be happy to accept this. It is not a lot different from the UK situation where a Pleasure Craft Report must be completed in advance, and any changes notified at the ‘earliest opportunity.’”

The PPFs and other marinas or ports for Channel France

Ports included (as at 31 May 2024) are: Anglet; Antibes; Arcachon; Barneville Carteret; Binic; Calais; Camaret; Cancale; Cannes; Cap Breton; Cap d’Ail; Carentan; Cherbourg;

Concarneau; Courseulles-sur-Mer; Deauville; Dielette; Dieppe; Dinan; Dinard; Dives-sur-Mer; Douarnenez; Dunkerque; Fécamp; Grandcamps Maisy; Gravelines; Honfleur; Hyères;

Isigny sur Mer; La Rochelle; La Trinité sur Mer; La Vicomté sur Rance; L’Aber Wrac’h; Larmor-Baden; Le Conquet; Le Havre; Lézardrieux; Marseille; Morlaix; Paimpol; Perros-Guirec; Plouër-sur-Rance; Pontrieux; Port en Bessin; Port Saint Louis du Rhône; Port-Bail-sur-Mer; Quiberon; Saint Briac; Saint Jacut de la mer; Saint Suliac; Saint Vaast la Hougue; Saint Valery en Caux; Saint-Cast le Guildo; Saint-Malo; Saint-Quay Portrieux; Saint-Raphaël; Saint-Tropez; Sanary-sur-mer; Sète; Trébeurden; and Tréguier.

■ www.pbo.co.uk/france-new-protocol



Chart showing the French Channel Ports of Entry (PPFs)

Round the Island Race rescue ‘like doing an MOB recovery wearing a neck brace’

This year’s Round the Island Race saw winds gusting 45mph and 3-4m swells, and nine incidents including a man overboard (MOB) rescue.

Of the 939 ‘race for all’ entries on 15 June, 418 retired and 154 completed the 50-mile course around the Isle of Wight. Several classes were cancelled before the start due to the adverse forecast. As the weather took a turn for the worse from the outset, many competitors retired between Cowes starting line and Alum Bay near the Needles.

Among those was the five-strong crew of *Walkabout IV*, a Dufour 40, after a huge wave swamped the boat.

Knockdown

Skipper Steve Daniel, 69, who suffered a fractured tibia in the knockdown, said: “All of our lifejackets automatically inflated under the deluge.

“As we surfaced a rapid head count revealed three out of five crew plus a pair of legs over the top leeward guard wire but still hooked on, Tom and Nigel soon had James, who at 6ft 6in is a big lad, back aboard. Tom quickly identified Keith in the water 15m to leeward with lifejacket inflated and two thumbs up.

“We quickly had the jib furled and engine running after a loose rope overboard check, being within 300m of a lee shore, time was of the essence.”

One failed rescue attempt down, Steve’s brother Nigel, a Master Mariner, put out a Pan Pan to advise the Coastguard of a ‘potential situation’.

Steve described the inflated lifejacket scenario as a ‘double-edged sword’. He said: “While self-inflating lifejackets are great when you fall in, they are a bit of a liability inflated in the cockpit; working with a neck brace on comes to mind.”

Lifeboat crew in action at Round the Island Race 2024



Warren Mason



Richard Langdon

ABOVE 76-year-old Keith Fisher was rescued successfully on the third attempt by his crewmates in challenging conditions

RIGHT Without that bathing platform, the recovery would have been much more difficult



Caitlin D’Arcy

They dropped the main as it was limiting manoeuvring “by having to avoid gybes”. Their hi-tech throwing gear was too light for the conditions, so a 12m x 12mm diameter warp was used. Keith, 76, was successfully retrieved on the third attempt.

Steve thanked the coastguard and Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) crews for their response and praised photographer Richard Langdon who used his initiative while operating a drone in the area: “It was a good MOB reference point.”

The RNLI, which marks its 200th year, was the official race charity and crews from Cowes, Calshot, Bembridge, Mudford, Lymington, Portsmouth, Yarmouth and Selsey provided safety cover, along with independent lifeboat volunteers.

Other incidents included a 40ft yacht taking on water following a collision, a 34ft vessel with a fouled prop, and a

yacht which put out a Mayday call, as it was taking on water due to a collision with another boat. All were escorted to port.

Main trophy winner

TP52 *Notorious* was first overall in the IRC Class, winning the coveted Gold Roman Bowl.

Skipper Peter Morton, of Cowes, described the race as the “toughest one I’ve done” over the past 50 years. He said: “It’s 40 years ago since I won the Gold Roman Bowl on a little 25ft boat called *Odd Job* which was the smallest boat in the fleet, so this year was very special for me.”

First across the finishing line was the multihull *Highland Fling 18*, with a time of 3h 39m 5s, winning the Freedom Challenge Bowl. Owner and helm Irvine Laidlaw said: “It was the first event for us in 2024 and we’ve travelled over 3,000 miles from Palma to be here – but it’s worth it!”

Race director Dave Atkinson said: “Despite the challenging conditions we only had nine incidents connected to the race which is less than previous years. This shows the seamanship of the crews and the correct decision making that went into undertaking of the race.”

The 2025 race will be held on Saturday 21 June. ■ pbo.co.uk/round-the-island

Avoid carrying diesel in jerry cans to EU

Following a review of advice about sailors carrying spare diesel in cans when entering the EU, the Cruising Association’s regulatory advisory team (RATS) says: “this should be avoided if at all possible.”

The Istanbul Convention allows temporary importation of fuel held in a vessel’s main tanks between different customs jurisdictions without any customs liability. This is not an EU rule and applies to all of the signatories to the convention, which includes the UK and EU.



Beware being liable for import duty/customs action

The CA’s Trevor Page, said: “While the convention does mention lubrication oil for normal servicing, it does not mention spare fuel in cans. It can be argued that these are outside the protection of the Istanbul Convention and potentially liable to import duty and/or customs action for the evasion of duty.”

He added: “The SOLAS V requirements may not give shelter from possible customs actions. Our advice now is that it’s best to avoid carrying spare diesel in cans when entering the EU or Northern Ireland.”

Any fuel put into cans for onward passage after entering the EU must be white, and receipts kept to show duty was paid.

Gillfoto Alaska/Stockimo/Alamy

Bob Garrett/Cruising Association

The Cruising Association

Geoff Holt completes his 'finishing the dream' circumnavigation

Quadriplegic Captain Geoff Holt has completed another trail-blazing voyage around Britain, via the Caledonian Canal.

The 58-year-old and his team arrived back at St Katharine Docks, London, in a 9m accessible power catamaran – the first Wetwheels wheelchair-accessible power catamaran, on 12 June after 25 days at sea.

Seventeen years ago Geoff spent 110 days doing a solo circumnavigation in a 15ft catamaran dinghy. This time, he stayed dry aboard a Cheetah vessel, supported by co-pilot James Dunn and technician Sam Taylor-Nobbs, plus special guests along the way, and a road crew of Chris, Elspeth and Geoff's wife, Elaine.

The 'finishing the dream' goal was to raise awareness of the Wetwheels Foundation and fund four new wheelchair-accessible boats to fill the charity's locational gaps' around the UK so more people can enjoy 'barrier-free boating'. Geoff, who was paralysed from the chest down in a swimming accident in 1984, said: "The sea



Geoff Holt (centre) with technician Sam Taylor-Nobbs and co-pilot James Dunn



has always been my salvation since my accident, somewhere I can forget my disability."

He added: "Throughout this challenge, we have met wonderful people in the most beautiful places throughout

the UK. It wasn't without its challenges and having spent hours on end at sea we have returned home safe knowing more people are aware of the amazing work Wetwheels do." pbo.co.uk/geoffs_dream

ABOVE RIGHT Acquiring four more Wetwheels boats, would make a total of 12 bases around the UK

European inland waterways guidance

A new, free guidance note on the Netherlands Standing Mast Routes is now available from the Cruising Association (CA).

These routes are a popular passage for sailing and motor yachts, serving as a gateway to destinations like the Kiel Canal and the Baltic, or simply offering a new cruising experience.

Recognising the importance of keeping the cruising community informed with easy to find up-to-date advice on the routes and possible disruptions, the CA's European Inland Waterways Section (EIWS) has launched a free guidance note

on *Sources of Information on the Netherlands Standing Mast Routes*. This guidance note supplements the existing 48-page guide *Through the Netherlands via the Standing Mast Routes*. It details the numerous sources for obtaining up-to-date information, such as where to find alerts on the status of locks and bridges along the routes, current water levels, permitted draught and air



Cruising mast-up in the Netherlands

draught and known incidents affecting 2024 cruising. Plus a list of common questions and answers on the routes.

■ [Download the free PDF at pbo.co.uk/european-inland-waterways](http://pbo.co.uk/european-inland-waterways)

Celebrate unsung heroes

Do you know any individuals or Royal Yachting Association (RYA)-affiliated organisations making an outstanding contribution to sailing or boating life in the UK?

Nominations are open for the new look RYA Awards, which merge the former Club of the Year and Volunteer Awards into one celebration. From inspirational volunteers to forward-thinking clubs, the awards aim to celebrate all those going the extra mile across



ABOVE The RYA is merging its previously separate Club and Volunteer of the Year awards

two categories:
1) The Affiliate Awards to honour clubs, classes and organisations with accolades including Together on Water, The Green Blue team, Young Persons, Active and Event of the Year.

2) The Individual Awards to honour commitment and achievements of both long-standing and young volunteers with Unsung Hero, Long Service, Rising Star, Guiding Light and Inspirational Race Coach or Instructor accolades.

Nominations must be made before midday on 16 September 2024. Finalists will be invited to a reception held at the RYA Dinghy and Watersports Show on 22 February 2025 where winners will be announced.

■ pbo.co.uk/rya-awards

Six year old's single-handed adventure

A six-year-old boy who sailed solo around Hilbre Island at the mouth of the Dee Estuary in aid of the RNLI, was encouraged by his hero Bear Grylls.

Before his 5km voyage, off West Kirby in Wirral, Theo Geddes sanded down and painted his Optimist dinghy in Spiderman colours. While he was "scared" during the two-hour trip, and suffered a sore arm and hands, Theo was inspired by a birthday message he'd received from the TV adventurer Bear Grylls.

"He said to follow my dreams and never give up," Theo said.

Theo's dad, Matt, an RNLI volunteer with the West Kirby lifeboat station, accompanied Theo in a rigid inflatable boat from West Kirby Sailing Club to Hilbre Island, down the eastern side then back to the mainland.

Matt said: "I felt proud given it was all his idea. He complained about sore hands and a sore arm, but we had a discussion and it was entirely his choice whether he wanted to carry on or not. For his sixth birthday he got a little message from Bear Grylls encouraging him to follow his dreams, so that's what he did."



Theo's efforts aboard Spidey raised more than £1,800 for the RNLI

Congrats madam chairman!

PBO editor Katy Stickland has taken over as chairman of the Yachting Journalists' Association (YJA).

After six years serving the YJA as chairman and vice-chairman, Cliff Webb and Mark Jardine have handed over the 'helm' during the annual general meeting (AGM) held on 4 June, at the Royal Ocean Racing Club in London.

Katy is now chairman, with Lou Johnson who owns Box PR, in the vice-chairman role.

Cliff, whose tenure marked the longest continuous position as chairman in YJA history, said: "I think we can look back with



Katy has another leading role

some satisfaction at what has been achieved in terms of stabilising the YJA financially and setting a new path for the association to move forward on.

"I'm delighted that Katy and Lou are prepared to take on these roles now, as I am

confident they bring a new approach and passion to continue to build and expand interest in the YJA."

Katy said: "The membership is the association's biggest strength, and I'm excited about developing plans so it continues to grow, offering new opportunities and focusing on supporting and nurturing those who want to work in our industry."

The YJA's awards this year will include the Young Journalist, the Young Sailor and Yachtsman of the Year. ■ pbo.co.uk/yachting-journalists-association

Sports come together for clean water

Seven national governing bodies of water-based sports have formed an alliance to call for an end to the discharge of raw sewage in UK waters.

The Clean Water Sports Alliance of Angling Trust, British Rowing, British Triathlon, GB Outrigger, Paddle UK, Royal Yachting Association and Swim England have united to fight water pollution, setting the vision to achieve healthy and nature-rich blue spaces across the UK.

Collectively, the organisations represent almost 450,000 members, elite athletes and water users across the country who rely on UK

RIGHT The alliance aims to improve the health of UK waters by 2030

waters for sport and recreation. Pollution from various sources contaminates UK inland and coastal waters, damaging ecosystems and making those who take part in water sports ill. Water that is unfit to host water-based sport has also caused events, training sessions and activities to be cancelled or postponed.

By uniting, the Clean Water Sports Alliance will work together to influence decision-makers and drive positive change. Angling Trust spokesman Kris Kent said: "We



need regulators to enforce the law and we need the government to be more ambitious in their plans to end the discharge of raw sewage."

Royal Yachting Association CEO, Sara Sutcliffe, said: "We must protect our playground to inspire the next generation." ■ www.pbo.co.uk/rya-awards

DIARY DATES

■ **Cowes Classics Week**, 6-12 July, Isle of Wight, cowesclassicsweek.org

■ **Conwy River Festival**, 6-8 July, cruisers, dayboats, Nobbys, Gaffers, classics, conwyriverfestival.org

■ **Titchfield Boat Jumble**, 7 July, 10am, Hound Hill Farm, boat-jumbles.co.uk

■ **LA-LA Rally**, 10-13 July, from Conwy to Caernarfon, power and sail welcome, conwyriverfestival.org

■ **Cam Sailing Club regatta weekend**, 13-14 July, marking 125 years since the club was founded, Waterbeach, River Cam, camsailingclub.org.uk

■ **Gorey Regatta**, 13-14 July, Royal Bay of Grouville, Jersey, 167th anniversary event, goreyregatta.org

■ **Thames Traditional Boat Festival**, 19-21 July, Henley-On-Thames, tradboatfestival.com

■ **Scow 100**, 21 July, centenary celebrations at Yarmouth Sailing Club, contact Pete Giles: Muttbuzzley3@outlook.com

■ **Cowes Week regatta**, 27 July-2 August, Isle of Wight, www.cowesweek.co.uk

■ **Worthing Boat Jumble**, 11 August, Marine Parade, boatjumblesussex.co.uk

■ **Portsmouth Boat Jumble**, 1 September, 10am, Fort Purbrook, boat-jumbles.co.uk

■ **Suffolk Boat Jumble**, 8 September, Trinity Park, Ipswich, rotaevents.co.uk

■ **Southampton Boat Show**, 13-22 September, Britain's biggest boating festival, Mayflower Park, southamptonboatshow.com

■ **RNLI 200 Year Anniversary Ball**, 28 September, RNLI.org/200

■ **Knox-Johnston Cup**, 28-29 September, Isle of Wight, clipperevents.com

■ **Kent Boat Jumble**, 29 September, Hop Farm Showground, www.rotaevents.co.uk

Got an event you would like to share with PBO readers? email pbo@futurenet.com