

Quantum **Network**–Newsletter Autumn 2014

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Quantum Network Newsletter. In this edition we have the following:

- **Quantum Sailing news:** As well as an update on our activities, we have a picture quiz to test you.
- **Electronic Charts:** Continuing this series we review our use of a couple of apps on an Android device.

Quantum Sailing Update

I think that most people will agree that we've had good weather for sailing this summer. At Quantum Sailing we have been taking advantage of that with some excellent trips, including the opportunity for QS Network members to join us on deliveries, covering significant mileage offshore, as well as Adventure Cruises in different locations. We've even done some cruises across the Channel on *Quantum Leap*, so we're not missing her too much.

Rather than listing all of the places we've been this season, we thought that we'd have a picture quiz. Can you identify any of the following locations visited this year? You can find the answers at the bottom of this newsletter:



Whilst we will be out on the water throughout the winter, our thoughts invariably start turning to next year and dreams of cruising in the summer sunshine. So, what can you expect from Quantum Sailing in 2015? Certainly more great sailing opportunities but where we sail is up to you.

This season our programme of Adventure Cruises, sailing trips where you can book individual berths, has been more flexible and dynamic than previous years. Rather than having a fixed programme, set for the year, we put on cruises in response to specific demand. This is an approach we plan to continue to build on in the coming year, getting together groups with similar interests and organising cruises on dates to suit the group.

Included in this programme, we'll certainly have some long-weekend cross-channel trips. We've also had interest expressed in another West Country cruise next year. High on our priority list, based on feedback to date, is cruising the Western Isles of Scotland. A Mediterranean trip is also possible. But it will all depend upon your feedback.

So if any of the above takes your fancy, or you'd like us to organise a particular trip for you, please let us know. You can email us at info@quantsailing.co.uk or just fill in our survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G3K9V3R>. It will only take a couple of minutes and will help us to put on the sailing trips you really want.

Electronic charts

In our Spring newsletter, Rick gave an account of his experience with *iSailor* on the iPad. Over this season I've been trialling the use of an Android tablet with chart software, using it on long haul deliveries, as well as local trips.

I have been using two different packages – *Navionics 'Boating'* and *C-Map (Jeppesen) 'Plan2Nav'*. There are many other options, but these are well know and respected suppliers, for example *C-Map* charts are installed on many of the fixed chart plotters you will come across. Both products have cost effective charts, can be used offline and provide basic navigation tools (compared to fixed chart plotters), including charts with vessel position and course over ground, measuring tools, and tide and weather information but their route planning functionality is limited.

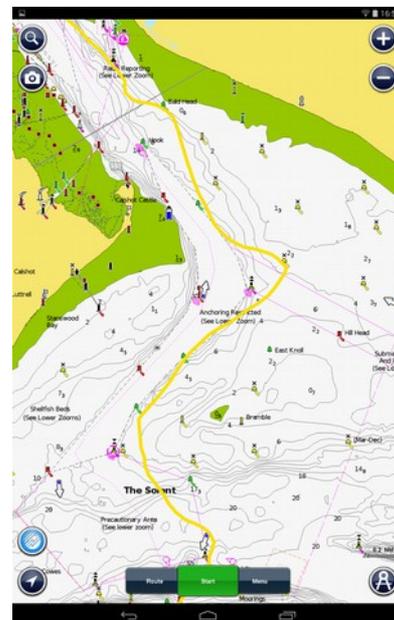
The *C-Map* product has the advantage of including *Active Captain*, a cruising guidebook, providing lots of information that you would normally have to get from the almanac. It also has integral compass, an anchor watch alarm plus a licence to use the charts on your mobile phone in addition to the tablet.

The *Navionics* app, whilst it has less functionality, is actually the one that I have found myself using most. It is very easy to use, I love the clarity of the charts, and it includes seven days tidal stream and height predictions.

I did start with a concern over battery life but that has not proved to be a problem. Even with the GPS enabled, the tablet will run all day when left on during coastal cruises (putting the screen to sleep when not actively using it). On delivery, I find that I tend to only require occasional use on passage, which has limited impact on the battery, and then more intensive use is only required close to port.

One of the things that has surprised me, is how useful this has been as a teaching tool. Whilst students are using the ship's navigation station and chart plotter, the tablet has been a great tool for monitoring them and particularly for providing feedback. The tracking capability makes it very easy to show them exactly what they have done but the great thing is to be able to do this without interfering with the main chart plotter when they are using it. It is also a tool that you can pass around easily when you are discussing the feedback (it is always difficult to get a lot of student round the chart plotter). As an example, the image here shows a yacht track from a blind navigation exercise in the Solent.

Overall, I have been impressed with the tablet as a tool. The Mac equivalents, such as *iSailor*, may have more functionality but cost is also a significant factor. When the hardware is taken into account, I estimate that the total cost for the Android solution is less than two thirds of the cost of the iPad based solution.



If you already have the hardware then my favourite, the *Navionics* App, is free, with very reasonable costs chart packages. You can check out the current prices but we paid just £32 for charts covering the whole of the UK & Ireland plus the channel (part of North France through Belgium and Holland). You don't get many paper charts for that money! So from my perspective, they are good monitoring tools and a very useful addition to the kitbag.

If you would like any further information, please drop us an email – info@quantumsailing.co.uk

Picture quiz answers:

- 1) Spain – La Coruna - photo of the Torre Hercules, the world's oldest lighthouse.
- 2) The Solent – the iconic Spinnaker tower at Portsmouth, taken from Gosport.
- 3) Channel Islands – St Peter Port – note the connected pontoons in the outer harbour, new this year.
- 4) France – The entrance to the lovely little port of St Vaast on the Cherbourg Peninsular.
- 5) Isles of Scilly – Looking along New Grimsby Sound from Tresco.
- 6) Scotland – Firth of Clyde – passing Alisa Craig. In the rain of course.

Do let us know if you managed 6 out of 6. If you scored 2 or less, please make a note to get out sailing with us more next year!