

Quantum Network–Newsletter Spring 2011

Welcome to the spring edition of the Quantum Newsletter. In this edition we have –

- **Sailing adventure: Team Building on Quantum Leap** – Martin describes his experience of taking his team out for a sailing day.
- **Featured location: Honfleur** – This popular destination is only a days sail from Gosport. Nestling on the southern bank of the Seine, once inside the secure harbour you find your self right in the heart of the old town.
- **Focus on Sailing** – Reeds Alanac is now online!
- **Dates for the diary** – Special offer on Easter long weekend cross channel sail + free taster sessions in April.

Sailing Adventures – Team Building in the Solent

When you think about team building, sailing a yacht is not, perhaps, the first thing that comes to mind. So it was with some uncertainty that I booked a team-building day with Quantum Sailing. I was to be pleasantly surprised, not only was it a fun day out, but we were soon to realise the degree of teamwork that is required to sail a boat effectively. We learnt that we could do things more effectively together, which was a theme that ran throughout the day.

The hospitality was faultless, it seemed that we had enough food for twice as many people. The hot bacon butties on arrival were just the business, and it was hard to stop eating, but we were keen to get on, so we forewent the temptation. We started with a comprehensive introduction to the boat and basic safety – all the essentials but not too long, we didn't want to miss out on time on the water.

The good thing about Haslar marina is that you are only 10 minutes from open water in the Solent and we were soon under sail, heading out towards the historic Spitsands fort. The morning consisted of basic instruction on how to sail – points of sail, setting sails, rules of the sea and an introduction to tacking and gybing (with lots of practice and everyone having a go!). Our first efforts were not great, but the crew rapidly improved and it quickly became clear how working together could make a huge difference to the speed and effectiveness of the manoeuvre; by the end we were really quite proficient!



We headed over towards Chichester harbour for lunch as the tides were just OK to clear the sand banks of the entrance bar. Glenn was happy to adapt the experience to the skill level of the crew. Most had not sailed before, but one or two of us had some sea miles under our belts, and Glenn handed out a variety of tasks including some basic navigation, which took us to our lunch destination. It was delightful moored up in the sun in such a location (officially an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), lying on the deck with a leisurely lunch – it even looked warm enough for a swim (almost!).

A few calories were used in raising the anchor and then it was back out into the Solent for more sailing practice and our next exercise. Man overboard drill is an essential part of sea craft but can be fun as well. After some basic instruction we had a go retrieving our 'volunteer' buoy under power. Once familiar with that, it was man overboard under sail – not so easy! Each team member took a turn at each task and it was turned into a bit of a competition by repeating the exercise with the helmsman blindfolded. This was the highlight of the day for me – being completely dependent on your team mates to guide you back to the buoy and responding in total trust to their commands – it is amazing how many people think they have the right advice to offer at the same time!

We finished the day with a meal and beers at the lightship bar and restaurant at the entrance to the marina – a perfect end to the day. Overall this was an excellent day out. Not only is Glenn a good teacher, but he also has an in-depth knowledge of the area and much of this was passed on during the day. He worked hard to make the day work for the size of our team and level of experience, and everything was tailored to suit.

Two months later and I was out with Quantum Sailing again, with another team of willing volunteers! *Martin, Oxon.*



Featured Location - Honfleur

Located near the mouth of the river Seine, on the opposite bank to the busy port of Le Havre, lies many yachtsmen's favourite port, that of Honfleur in Normandy. Accessed via a lock (opens hourly, with free flow from HW-1 Le Havre to HW) and then through a road bridge, you find a secure mooring waiting for you in the 17th century Vieux Bassin, which puts you right in the heart of the town. Surrounded on three sides by 15th and 16th century buildings, many with slate covered frontages, the town is little changed since the 17th century.



Originally founded by the Vikings, Honfleur has a long and interesting history. When King Henry V crossed the Channel to invade France in 1415, he landed at Honfleur with 10,000 men. He besieged the supposedly impregnable walled city, which surrendered after he bombarded and destroyed the main gate. Following this, Henry went on to achieve his famous victory at Agincourt.

In 1681 the harbour was remodelled by Abraham Duquesne, under orders from Colbert, during the reign of King Louis XIV. It was under the orders of the same king that Samuel de Champlain was dispatched from Honfleur to settle the vast new territory of Canada, where he founded Québec.

Whilst the harbour is the central attraction for many visitors to Honfleur, there is plenty more to see when exploring the narrow cobbled streets. The 15th century Church of Sainte-Catherine can be seen to the northwest of the Vieux-Bassin. It was constructed of timber by ships carpenters and has the appearance of an upside down ship with a separate belfry. You can visit the salt warehouses dating back to the 17th century or L'Enclos, the former medieval fortress. The Lieutenantancy is another popular spot. As suggested by the name, this building was used by the



King's Lieutenant and is now the only remnant left from the ancient ramparts.



There are numerous restaurants and cafés in the town with an emphasis on fish and seafood. Honfleur still has an active fishing fleet and the outer harbour is reserved for them to land their catch on the quayside. Referred to as 'fresh fishing', the boats only go out for one tide, so the fish undergo no preservation treatment. During the season scallops and live shrimps can be brought on the quayside.

Artists studios and galleries are to be found almost everywhere in and around the maze of narrow streets that surround the old harbour. It is the birth place of the painter Eugène Boudin, and he gathered many fellow artists around him here, such as Jongkind, Monet, Turner, Courbet and the poet Charles Baudelaire. Honfleur is recognised as one of the cradles of Impressionism. The composer Erik Satie was also born here.

For more information check out the Honfleur Tourist office site- <http://en.ot-honfleur.fr>

Focus on Sailing – Reeds Online

For anyone that has brought a 2011 Reeds Nautical Almanac (an essential tool for any coastal or offshore sailing), the online version is now available. Using the information provided with the printed version, you just need to register at <http://www.reedsnauticalalmanac.co.uk/>. As well as including all of the usual tidal and port information, there is also a handy planning tool. It can operate in online or offline mode but does require Adobe Air to run and currently doesn't work on the iPhone or other similar devices. Nevertheless a handy tool – check it out.

Dates for the diary

Charter – free taster sessions - Thinking of organizing a group or family charter but not sailed with Quantum Sailing before? We still have some **Free Taster Experience ½ day** sessions available in April (weekend of 16th/17th). Come down to Haslar marina, meet us and other Quantum Sailing Network members, see the yacht and have a short sail from Portsmouth harbour. There is no obligation but we hope that it will inspire you to go on and organize sailing trips. Places are limited and booking is essential.

Easter Weekend Special Offer – Places are still available for our long weekend sail to France and the Channel Island on 21st-25th April. This promises to be great fun and is now being offered to Quantum Network members at the special discount rate of £275. This is a fully inclusive price covering all food, fuel, gas, moorings. If you are interested please contact us asap to avoid disappointment. Contact Glenn on 07919 017835 or glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk

Details of all our open cruises are on our web site <http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/adventurecruise.html>