

Quantum Network–Newsletter Summer 2012

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

- **Dates for the diary:** A SPECIAL SUMMER OFFER - our mid week Adventure Sailing Cruise starting on 6th August.
- **Featured location: Poole and Chichester** – Some great natural harbours, just a short sail from the Solent.
- **Sailing adventure: Deliveries** – A great way to clock up the miles on a budget.

Dates for the diary

Adventure Cruise SPECIAL OFFER – There are still opportunities to get out on the water this summer with Quantum Sailing. In particular, we are offering places on our mid-week Adventure Cruise to France and the Channel Islands from 6th to 10th August at the special price to Network members of £225. This is an inclusive price covering food, fuel and moorings. If interested please contact Glenn on 07919 017835 or glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk.

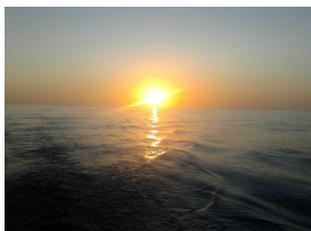
Also, don't forget our new 9-day West Country cruise from 24th August to 2nd September. Explore some of the best sailing locations in the country including, weather permitting, cruising to the Scilly Isles.

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

Sailing adventure – Delivery Experience

People often ask how they can build their experience without breaking the bank. Whilst we would like people to sign up for every Quantum Sailing cruise, we do recognise that isn't always possible. There are some other options, for example crewing for people that have their own boat but need some additional hands. You can find opportunities via the web or adverts in many local sailing clubs. Another, less obvious but quite effective, way to gain experience can be by crewing on deliveries.

If you are on the Quantum Sailing Network mailing list, you will occasionally get notice of opportunities to join a delivery, courtesy of YachtMovers limited, www.yachtmovers.co.uk, but what does this actually entail? Yacht deliveries come about for a number of reasons, usually when the owner of a yacht doesn't have either the time or the experience to move the yacht to where they want it. This often happens around the time of a sale / purchase of a yacht. On a delivery, a professional skipper plus crew will take the yacht to the desired location, sometimes with the owner onboard, sometimes without. They then return by plane, train or other transport.



The length of delivery passages can vary greatly, from a few days to a month or more. The destination could be anywhere in the world: to the Med or, just as easily, to the Medway. With a professional skipper onboard, the crew is normally made up of volunteers looking to get miles under their belts. To crew on a delivery you need to have some watch keeping experience to start with but also to be available for the duration of the passage, often at relatively short notice. In return you will get some great sailing for free, usually with food onboard and the return travel provided too.

The sailing on a delivery is however quite different from a sailing cruise. With the aim of covering the distance as quickly as possible, the sailing is a 24/7 activity. Working with a crew of 2 or 3, a regular watch system will be implemented, where you alternate keeping watch and sleeping throughout the day and night. Whilst you do sometimes get to stop in interesting places, you do also have to pass by quite a number. Depending upon the fuel, water and provisions onboard, you may be several days, or even weeks, at sea at a time.

Whilst there is no hiding the fact that they can be hard work, there are also many positives to deliveries. You get to visit some locations that you are unlikely reach on a normal cruise. You sail on a variety of different boats, sometimes yachts that you wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to sail. You also get some great experiences, for example, seeing the sunset and sunrise at sea is always very special.



Each delivery is unique. One memorable Yachtmovers delivery included travelling along the Corinth Canal; another the river Dart between Totnes and Dartmouth. Very different locations but both very impressive in their own way. One great experience last year was watching the dolphins in the Bay of Biscay. At a time when the south coast of England was being battered by storms, the Bay was glassy calm, enabling huge numbers of dolphins to be seen around the boat.

If you would like to be kept informed of delivery opportunities, do let us know, email info@quantumsailing.co.uk. If you need to get watch-keeping experience please check out our Adventure Cruises or talk to us about your specific requirements.

Featured Locations – Natural Harbours

A natural harbour is an expanse of water surrounded on several sides by land, providing an area that is protected and deep enough to offer a safe anchorage for ships. There are a number of very large and famous natural harbours around the world. It is difficult to find a definitive ordered list of these, hence many claims are made by locals, particularly when tourists are around. However, there is little doubt that the largest, by some margin, is San Francisco Bay at over 1,000 sq km. It is amazing that the narrow entrance to this expanse of water meant that it was overlooked by explorers sailing up and down the west coast of America, for over 200 years.

The next most significant harbour in terms of area appears to be Kaipara Harbour in New Zealand, although much of this is shallow and exposed as mudflats at low tide. Often Halifax Harbour in Nova Scotia is taken to be the second biggest in the world. Other famous natural harbours include Sydney Harbour in Australia, Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Closer to home, Cork in Ireland and Falmouth both have great natural harbours but you don't even need to travel that far from the Solent to find one. To the east, just a few miles from Portsmouth is **Chichester harbour**. Heading west, just 14 nautical miles from the Needles, will bring you to the entrance to **Poole harbour**.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy was set up by Act of Parliament in 1971, designating it as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is deemed to be a Site of Special Scientific Interest, due to its importance for nature conservation, with a Special Protection Area for wild birds. There are a number of habitats including a large area of salt marsh and mudflats, exposed at low tide, which are particularly important for wintering birds. If you are lucky, you might also catch site of seals when visiting Chichester.



Having a large expanse of water behind a narrow entrance, strong tidal streams can often be encountered here, leading to choppy seas on the approaches. With the infamous Chichester Bar, a shallow spit extending to the south west of the entrance, entering can be hazardous in strong southerly winds. The east side of the harbour entrance is an area known as East Head. This is a large sand dune linked to land by a narrow spit known as The Hinge. It provides shelter for one of the most popular anchorages around. With three main channels, there is plenty of water to explore in deep draft boats, as well as the huge number of dinghies you will find there.

At 36 sq km's, **Poole Harbour** is another large but shallow natural harbour. There is a dredged channel from the entrance to the ferry terminal and the town quay, where you can park in the very heart of the town of Poole itself.

After passing Old Harry rocks, as you travel through the narrow entrance to Poole harbour, you will see some of the most expensive housing in the county at Sandbanks. So watch out for the rich and famous. You also need to negotiate the chain ferry across the entrance, linking Sandbanks to Studland and Swanage.

Having passed Sandbanks, immediately in front of you is Brownsea Island. This is the largest island in the harbour at 1.5 x 0.75 miles. It is owned by the National Trust and is a haven for wildlife, with thriving natural habitats encompassing woodland, heathland and a lagoon. It is home to a wide variety of birds, including kingfishers and oystercatchers, as well as rare red squirrels. Brownsea Island is probably most famous though, as the birthplace of the Scout ing movement, as it was here in 1907 that Lord Baden-Powell held the very first Scouts camp.



The strategic importance of the harbour however goes back much further than 1907, pre-dating Roman times. In 1964, the remains of a 2000 year old Iron Age longboat were found preserved in the mud off Brownsea Island. Dated at 295 BC, the boat is thought to have been used for continental trade.

Both Poole and Chichester are ideal for dingy sailors and you will see hundreds out every weekend. For the yachtsman, both harbours provide anchorages and a choice of marinas, with all the usual facilities. With abundant wildlife and beautiful scenery both are well worth visiting and are a great addition to any weekend cruise from the Solent.

For more information see <http://www.conservancy.co.uk> and <http://www.phc.co.uk> for more details.