OCTOBER 2026

# COLDHAM CHRONICLE

**Coldham Hall Sailing Club Est. 1951**

***'The Heart of Sailing in the Yare Valley'***

**President: Gary Corbett**

## Club Officers

**Commodore:** David Taitt
david.taitt@gmail.com

**Vice - Commodore**: Vacant

**Rear Commodore:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Emma Crowfoot
ejcrowfoot@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** David Woolston
woolston546@btinternet.com

**Race Officer:** Ben Adams
tobenadams6@gmail.com

**Social Secretary:** Amanda Blezard

**Bosun:** David Taitt
david.taitt@gmail.com

www.coldhamhallsailingclub.co.uk

Coldham Hall Sailing Club

Yare Navigation Race

CHSC Triple B Dinghy & Keel Boat Race

## The Coldham Chronicle

Welcome to your 'October 'Halloween' edition of our club Chronicle.

As the days shorten and autumn colour begin to appear along the riverside October has been another month that reminds us what makes our club so special. Yes, we come together for the sailing and paddling, but just as importantly for the friendships, traditions and shared memories that tie us all to this special place.

This month saw members gather to scatter the ashes of much-loved Life Member Alan Sant, providing an opportunity to reflect on the contribution he made to the club along with the many happy times shared on and around the water. It was a fitting and poignant reminder that our club is not just about boats and racing, but about people.

Due to vastly changing wind strengths Sailing has been a challenge, with races postponed due to lack of wind to full blown gales Austen and Boleo. On a more cheerful note, Commodore's Day once again brought members together for a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Events like these are at the heart of club life and help create the memories that keep us returning year after year.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, practical improvements continue. You'll read about the replacement of the Start Box window, the new frame not only looks the part but provides a smarter much clearer view of the river and will make life easier for race officers for many years to come.

As ever, the club relies on members willing to lend a hand, organise events, tackle repairs and keep things running smoothly. To all those who have contributed their time and effort this year, thank you. Your work often goes unnoticed, but it is deeply appreciated.

We hope you enjoy this month's Chronicle.

**Notes from the Committee held on Wednesday 14th October by Teams.**

**Club Commodore** David Taitt opened the meeting and welcomed everybody, September 2026 minutes were agreed and signed, matters arising in September were all closed.

**Hon. Secretary-**. No Report.

**Treasurer –** Club finances detailed. No new membership.

**Bosun –**Planning on working on Start Box window, Monday 16th October(underway).

**Race Officer –** Waveney weekend very successful, 8 Waveney's with 6 support cruisers attending making a very good and enjoyable weekend for all involved. Yeoman Nationals are on 18th/19th September 2027 at Norfolk Broads Yacht Club.
Last summer series racing complete, now moving onto Commodores Day and then Winter Series. Ian Barker will assist Commodore on Sunday.
Ben is starting to review 2027 Racing Calendar.

**Social Secretary –** Mandy has booked The Old Feathers at Framingham Pigot for Annual Dinner and Prize giving evening on **Saturday 9th January 2027.**

**Partnerships-** No report

**AOB**.
A) Requirement for floorboards to be replaced in both Club Wayfarers, GC Proposed DD second, all in favour. Options discussed with view to using 9mm Buffalo Board, Dave Taitt will enquire on prices with a view to be replaced over the closed season.

B). Request received from Alan Sant's son Matt to scatter Alan's ashes in the Yare by the club. Suggested time 2pm on Sunday 25th October 2025, (Alan's birth date 27th October). Gary will email all club members asking those who would like to be present, any with craft who would muster on the river whilst family members scatter or lay the ashes (biodegradable Box).

## Upcoming Events
## 2026/27

**December**

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 2nd | Annual General Meeting |
| Sunday 13th | Christmas Pudding Race |

**January**

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday 9th | Annual Dinner & Prize Giving |

The above list is correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change throughout the year. A full list of all racing and social events are on the club website.

## Coldham Hall Sailing Club
## 76th Annual General Meeting
**Wednesday 2nd December 2026 Bramerton Village Hall 7.30pm**

**Notice is hereby given** that the 76th Annual General Meeting of Coldham Hall Sailing Club will be held at Bramerton Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd December 2025 at 7.30pm.

There are a number of Officer and Committee positions to be filled, nominations for these are to be sent to Honorary Secretary by Monday 2nd November 2026

Matters for inclusion on the agenda should also be with Honorary Secretary by Monday 2nd November 2026

Notice of the meeting and of the business to be conducted will be sent to all members by Sunday 22nd November, (10 days before the meeting in line with Rules 10.2 and 10.3).

Members are reminded that no business can be raised at the meeting other than that covered by the agenda, or by questions on any of the Reports given.

# Fair Winds and Flowing Tides: A Final Farewell to Alan Sant

On Sunday 25 October, in accordance with Life Member Alan Sant's wishes, family and friends gathered at the club to lay his ashes to rest in the River Yare, his final resting place bringing together his love of the water and the many happy memories he made at Coldham Hall Sailing Club over the years.

Just before 11.00am, Alan's good friend Barry shared a few heartfelt words on behalf of Alan's family and friends. Alan's grandson, Harry, then rang the Ferry Bell to mark a minute's silence, giving everyone present a moment for their own private thoughts and memories of Alan.

Following the silence, Alan's granddaughter, Amelia, together with Commodore Dave Taitt, made their way along the club jetty and gently placed Alan's ashes, contained within biodegradable urns, into the river. Carried by the breeze, they drifted gracefully out into the main channel of the Yare. After a few minutes, they slowly slipped beneath the surface. Then, fittingly, a strong gust swept across the water, as though nature itself were acknowledging the occasion.

It was a special farewell and a fitting tribute from our sailing community to honour a fellow member who had enjoyed so many memorable times on and around the water with his friends at Coldham.

Our thoughts remain with Alan's family and friends. We hope that the gathering provided a heartfelt and memorable farewell to a much-valued member of the Coldham community, whose presence, friendship and contribution to club life will be fondly remembered for many years to come.

A full tribute to Alan is in June's edition of Coldham Chronicle

## Coldham Start Box Window

Many members will have noticed that after almost fifteen years exposed to the elements the main window in the Start Box was getting a bit tired and was well overdue for replacement. It has served the club faithfully being throughout the years being opened and closed week after week whilst taking its fair share of weather from the riverside.

The good news is that Commodore/Bosun Dave Taitt assisted by Dave Greenacre have come to the rescue with a brand-new plastic-coated Aluminium frame which not only looks smart, but works a treat too and should last for many more years to come.

Gone are the days of lifting the centre section out, finding somewhere to put it, and then wrestling it back into place afterwards. Instead, we now have a much more user-friendly window and a lovely clear view across the river. New flag ropes too.

Many thanks to Dave and Dave for their time, effort and craftsmanship. Another great example of members quietly getting on with jobs that make a real difference to the club.

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# Sailing Section

## OOD Duties - November

| DATE | ALLCOMERS EVENT | River Cruiser Class | OOD | SECOND OFFICER | THIRD OFFICER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | Winter Downriver (2) | | Phil Parker | S Lock | S Lee |
| 8th | Winter Downriver (3) | | C Brown | K Halifax | T Hyder |
| 15th | Winter Downriver (4) | | B Adams | A Blezard | M Dunne |
| 22nd | Winter Downriver (5) | | T Pye | A Sachs | G Angel |
| 29th | Winter Downriver (6) | | J Robertson | D Jaffey | S Krzykala |

Please check Officer of the Day duties on the club website, if you need to swap please inform our Race Officer Ben.

## Sunday sailing.

**Sunday 2nd October,** postponed owing to no wind, held on 11th Oct**.**

**Sunday 11th October ,Local Race 14, OOD's Dave Durrant, Chris Hovey, Kelvin Halifax**
**Wind SW -South, 9mph gusting 15.**

Following last week's cancellation due to a complete lack of wind, the postponed racing took place today with 12 boats coming to the line for a split start.

The Officer of the Day (OOD) initially set a three-buoy course with an upriver start. However, prior to racing, Buoy 2 was removed from the course due to the lack of wind in front of the boatyard.

In Heat 1, five boats got away cleanly and headed upriver on a close-hauled course towards Buoy 3, which was rounded to port. The fleet then worked towards the north bank, where the strongest breeze could be found. A couple of short tacks were needed to escape the bank and continue making progress.

Five minutes after the first start, the second group of seven boats got underway. Unfortunately for Kingfisher, she crossed the line early and was recalled, leaving her with a difficult task to recover lost ground.

The breeze held reasonably well for the first group, with Tara leading the fleet and eventually taking the flag.

After racing, crews returned ashore for coffee and a delicious piece of banana cake, which we were told had been baked by Chris, although all remained sceptical!

The fleet returned to the water for an 11:30 start to Race 2, again using a split start on the same course. By now it was noticeable that the wind had shifted slightly and was coming more from the south. Trio took the honour s and the flag in Race 2.

Race 3 followed a similar format with the same course and split-start arrangement. The wind continued to veer, moving further round from the south towards the south-east. Four boats started in the first group, followed by seven in the second. As the breeze eased, Teal sailed well to take the flag.

With the Summer Local Racing Series now complete, attention turns to the Autumn Downriver Series.

**Sunday 25th October Downriver Winter Series 1, Cancelled owing to Storms Austen and Boelo (postponement day 6th December).**

***Origin of BOELO***
*The name "Boelo" is of Dutch origin, derived from the Old Germanic name "Baldowin," which combines the elements "bald," meaning bold or brave, and "wynn," meaning joy or friend. The name has been recognized predominantly in the Netherlands and among Dutch-speaking populations. Although not among the most common names, Boelo has gained some popularity in recent years, particularly as a given name, where it is often used for boys.*

**Commodores Day, Sunday 18th October, Commodore Dave Taitt with Ian Barker,**
**Low Tide 12.19hrs Wind N bearing NE 13mph with 25 gusts and rain.**

**Commodore's Day... With a Twist!**

Nine boats and 23 sailors turned out for Commodore's Day, only to discover that Commodore Dave had been plotting ways to make life more interesting.

With boats already rigged and waiting on their moorings, competitors gathered for the 10:15 briefing before Ian unleashed a dramatic "3, 2, 1, GO!" from the clubhouse. Crews promptly 'sprinted' to their boats in a Le Mans-style start *( Ed - with varying degrees of elegance and athleticism*).

Once aboard, the fleet headed downriver on a broad reach towards Buoy 1. Diamond Lil got away quickest and looked determined to stay in front, a plan that worked remarkably well. The fleet then hardened up for the beat past the start box and on to the starboard mark at Buoy 3.

At this point, the weather decided to join in the fun. A lively and wet squall swept across the river, giving boats and crews an energetic shake. Special mention goes to Paul, sailing the Wayfarer single-handed, who managed to keep both himself and the boat pointing in roughly the same direction throughout and to Dave and Tina in Bluey who promptly sailed straight onto the lee shore sideways, mutterings about jib getting caught and unexpected loss of control being heard as they attempted to get back in the race at least half a lap behind everybody else.

The course then sent competitors on a run and broad reach back to Buoy 1 for three laps. However, the next twist arrived on lap three when helms were instructed to cross an imaginary line stern-first before bringing the bow through. Yes you heard right "Sail backwards over the start line", right!
A manoeuver that sounds simple enough when explained on dry land and when carried out in lightish winds but a whole different kettle of fish with the wind strength on the day. Although most of the attempts were to say the least "a spectacle to behold".

After completing the laps, competitors had to moor their boats and race back to the clubhouse to finish. Some crews completed this with military precision; others provided valuable entertainment for spectators.

Following coffee, biscuits and the usual post-race analysis that grows ever more impressive with each retelling, the fleet headed back out for race two.

The second race followed a similar format, although Dave Greenacre and Gary in Kingfisher demonstrated that turning a boat around in the confined space of the full river can have unexpected consequences. The manoeuvre ending with an unscheduled going aground under the front of the Start box and retirement from the race. Mind you they were trying to go backwards just went wrong way round and ran out of water.

With all boats recovered, stories exchanged and calculations completed, the final results were announced:

3rd Place: Nigel in Talisker
2nd Place: Sandy and John in Diamond Lil
1st Place: Ben and Colin in Falspar

The consensus was that Dave T's twists added a whole new dimension to the traditional Le Mans-style racing start. Confusion, excitement, questionable boat-handling, excellent sailing, a bit of paddling, and plenty of laughter combined to make for a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Whether everyone completely understood the rules by the end remains open to debate, but everyone agreed it was a fantastic event. Well done to all who took part. There would have been some sailing pics but the spectators were laughing so much they forgot to take any and the competitors were mostly had their hands full.

# Canoe and Paddle Board Section

## Paddle News – October 2026

Official Paddling has now come to an end for the year but to all who intend to make the most of any good weather still around please stay safe.

## Paddling and all craft check list.

➢ Check your craft for damage every time before you put it into the water. Keep an emergency repair kit with you if using an inflatable craft.
➢ Ensure you wear a buoyancy aid when near or on the water along with suitable warm clothing and leave a change of clothes back at base.
➢ Check you have all the equipment you might need for the activity you are planning.
➢ In a canoe or kayak, think about taking air bags or flotation devices.
➢ Consider any other items you might need, such as drinking water and energy snacks, and a travel first aid kit, and a map or navigation device if you are going somewhere new – a dry bag is a useful item of kit to keep these essentials in on the water.
➢ Taking your mobile phone in a waterproof pouch is recommended.
➢ Ensure that you are aware of self-rescue techniques, and that you have practised these in a safe environment with other people before going paddling alone.
➢ Top of your list; let others know what, where and times you're going paddling and return.

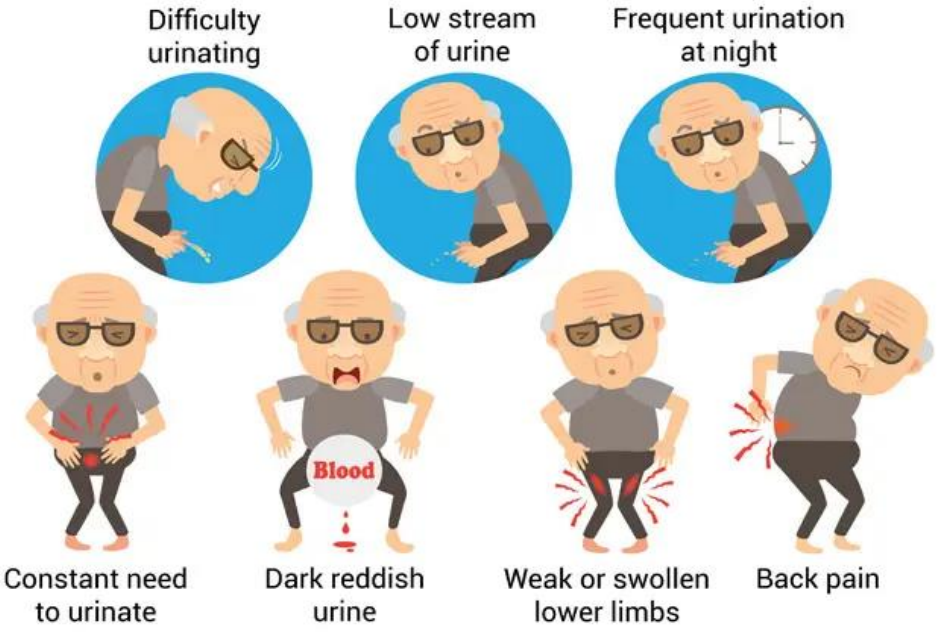
Autumn paddling can be a great time to get on the water for a short period – keep safe and enjoy.

## Movember: Check Your Rigging, Check Yourself

As sailors, we're pretty good at carrying out checks before heading afloat. We inspect the rigging, check the engine, and make sure everything is shipshape before leaving the mooring.

So here's a friendly reminder this **Movember**: when was the last time you checked **your own equipment**?

Prostate cancer is now the most common cancer in men, and early detection dramatically improves outcomes. If you're over 40, have a family history, or have noticed any symptoms, don't leave it drifting down the to-do list. Book a chat with your GP and ask about a PSA test.




And while you're at it, remember to check your testicles regularly too. It's all part of good seamanship, after all!
As ever, a big thank you to the ladies who support, encourage and occasionally nudge us into doing the sensible thing.

This Movember, grow a moustache if you wish, raise awareness if you can, but most importantly...

**Check your course. Check your tackle. Check yourself.**

**Know your risk: https://www.prostatecanceruk.org/risk-checker**

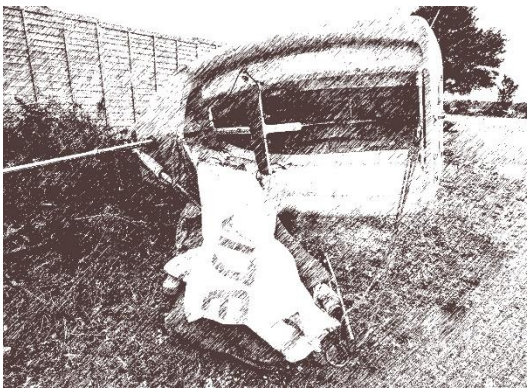
**Fair winds, following seas, and good health to all.**

On **Monday 26 October**, MPs debated prostate cancer screening in Parliament,

## Winter Weather Preparation

As the main season draws to a close then an annual plea to all members sailing, canoeing & paddling.

The first storms (Storm Austen and Boelo) have been and gone but they heralds the start of more to come with Storm Chloe already forming in the wings. So again just a timely reminder that we should not become complacent. If your boat is on the dinghy park or you have a canoe on the racks then please take steps and prepare to prevent them being blown over by wind and sometimes damaging themselves and other boats. If you cannot take your boat/canoe/kayak away for safe winter storage then please take a few moments to prepare and go down the club and do so.



Make sure your boat cover is properly fitted and secured. Remove any equipment that is not needed over winter such as sails and store safe and dry at home. If you can, tie the boat down to the trailer and additionally fit tie downs securing the boat and trailer to stakes in the ground so that it cannot blow over.

Owners of canoes/kayaks on the racks should consider securing them to the frame of the rack with strong rope to prevent them being blown around by high winds.

If you leave anything in the clubhouse then please make sure it is not on the floor so that it is protected should the clubhouse flood.

Members are reminded that CHSC are not responsible for damage to members property (Club By-laws dated 2022) as such members are responsible for damage caused to their boat/canoe/kayak or to other members boats/canoes/kayaks or club property caused by failing to ensure a boat/canoe/kayak is adequately secured.

Your insurance company may not pay out if they feel that you have not taken adequate precautions leaving you with what could be a major expense so lease don't give them the excuse to say NO!

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## And Finally a Ghost Story for Halloween

**The Legend of Joseph Bexfield**

It is said by some, that the marshes around Thurlton are haunted by the ghost of one Joseph Bexfield and that on the night of August 11th each year if you are near the marshes and Thurlton church yard you may see Bexfield's ghost struggling through the gloom.

The story goes that on the night of August 11th 1809, Joseph Bexfield a 38-year-old Wherryman was drinking in the White Horse Inn, Thurlton along with his mates, their Wherries tied up for the night at the nearby Thurlton Staithe. As the night wore on and the beer flowed Joseph, who by now having consumed a moderately large amount of ale was highly merry, claimed he saw, through the window of the inn, lights moving across the marshes towards where his Wherry was moored. Joseph took this to be that wrong'uns where afoot and aiming to rob or harm his wherry.

Lurching to his feet he turned to head out the door to catch them at it. Others in the pub, who had a. little local knowledge, warned Joseph not to go and that what he saw were just ***'The Lantern Men'***. Joseph although probably too drunk to heed the warning, said that he had a parcel to collect from his Wherry and left the pub to retrieve it.

Nobody knows what happened to poor Joseph that night. His drowned body being dragged from the Yare three days later before being laid to rest in All Saint' Churchyard in Thurlton.

Was he lured to his death by the Lantern Men? Or more likely, did he in his inebriated state fall into the river and drown? Nobody Knows!

But to this day if you are out on the Thurlton Marshes late at night in August and you see an eerie, dancing light on the marsh followed by Bexfield's ghostly shape take heed and don't follow nut instead head for the safety of the nearest pub.

*In Norfolk Broads folklore,* ***Lantern Men*** *(ignis fatuus) are described as malevolent spirits, pixies, or glowing orbs that lure travellers and boatmen off the safe paths into deep, water-filled bogs.*

*Scientifically it is just the spontaneous combustion of escaping marsh gas (methane & Hydrogen Phosphide*

## or is It ?

# Wishing you all a Happy Halloween.

Please note that some images may have been digitally altered or created by AI – you have been warned!!!

All members are invited to submit articles, photographs, comments, items for sale or anything they feel suitable to be considered for publication. Email to Gary Corbett corbett01@btconnect.com or Dave Durrant davidkdurrant@yahoo.co.uk The editors reserve the right to delay publication or amend/reformat/correct submissions as deemed appropriate.