



The Fleet Cruising Club Ltd

Information Pack for Prospective New Members

Beneteau Oceanis 45



THE FLEET CRUISING CLUB

Information Pack – September 2010

These notes are for those who are considering applying for membership of the Fleet Cruising Club (FCC). They clarify what you are joining, what you can expect and what is expected of you.

The Fleet Cruising Club

The Fleet Cruising Club is a collection of thirty or so individuals who have joined together to own and sail a yacht, defraying the cost between them in the most equitable manner. The number of members is a balance between enough to guarantee use of and income from the yacht required to discharge ownership costs, but not too many to prevent reasonable access by members to the yacht.

Although not an object of the Club, the happy result of this arrangement is that, by definition, it is not possible to sail a yacht of the class and age of the FCC yacht more cheaply. The model adopted by the Club divides the costs equitably between members according to each member's use. No profit is being made by anyone anywhere in this arrangement.

The FCC is a non-commercial club whose only asset is the yacht and whose only objective is satisfying the sailing aspirations of its members. The Club is constituted inside a company limited by guarantee, which is a legal entity capable of holding title to the yacht on behalf of its members. A company limited by shares, the most common company, is appropriate where individuals own assets and endeavours in severed (and often unequal shares) that can be bought and sold. A company limited by guarantee is appropriate where an asset and an endeavour are owned in community in undivided shares, where no one member's interest is any greater or lesser than another.

The FCC company exists to buy the Club yacht, operate it and replace it in due time in perpetuity for the benefit of its members. It is capitalised by a combination of interest-free loans to the company by its members and a marine mortgage on the yacht. A member never owns any part of the yacht; he/she pays a loan on joining and is entitled to its repayment, on terms, when he/she leaves. Members come and members go but the company and the yacht remain. If you like, members at any given time are beneficiaries of previous members and trustees for future members.

There is one final ingredient of the FCC which is crucial to its smooth operation and well being. The original Founders, who brought the FCC into existence, did so on strongly stated principles, the shorthand for which is "the ethos". An ethos exists in any organisation which has few rules but where everyone knows how to behave.

In short the FCC is:-

- Inclusive - Great friendships are forged as members sail together.
- Mildly ambitious – To gently spiral upwards and ensure that each new yacht is a small step forward
- Adventurous – Keen to support adventure in our members
- Nurturing - Keen to help novices acquire experience and aspirations
- Here to stay – An eye on the future and future members

The FCC is not:-

- A syndicate – You will never own a share of the yacht, only rights to use it and obligations to fund and support it.
- A commercial enterprise – No one is making a profit
- Sailing “on the cheap” – It is already as cheap, by definition, as it can be for the size and standard of yacht. If you can’t afford its modest prices please don’t join and seek to drag it down
- Exclusive – If you are only interested in sailing exclusively with family and non-members (there is nothing to prevent this, other than a cost issue), this is not the club for you as the ethos encourages sailing with other members.

Brief History of the FCC

The club was established ten years ago by four founder members who were sailing friends. Initially the club was formed with 30 members who purchased and ran a new Bavaria 38, “Ethos” based out of Plymouth. The club was quickly successful in delivering quality sailing opportunities to the membership in a cost effective manner. Membership turnover was low and the boat was well used but not excessively over booked. After our first winter in the UK when the boat had very little use the membership decided to try and base the boat somewhere warmer during the winter months. This improved the winter utilisation of the boat significantly and gave the membership the opportunity for winter sailing without the hyperthermia!

Ethos served the club well but was a budget boat that was receiving a high level of utilisation. In addition as club members experience grew the desire for a new vessel with better build quality and improved sailing characteristics reach a point in 2003 when the club decided to sell Ethos. A replacement boat was purchased and launched with the name “Fleet”.

The new boat was a Beneteau 411 Celebration with a high level of specification. The new boat was well received by the membership who enjoyed the additional space and sailing performance. The club continued the established model of basing “Fleet” in Plymouth during the summer months and in warmer climes during the winter. One winter some of the members took her across the Atlantic and our winter base was Antigua!

The club decided to replace “Fleet” in 2008 as she was showing signs of wear and tear, having served the club well. A new and very well equipped Dufour 455 “Fleet II” was purchased and was based in Plymouth during the summer and somewhere warmer in the winter.

In 2018, the club bought a one year old Beneteau Oceanis 45, Estela. Estela will be based in the eastern Mediterranean for winter 2018 and summer 2019, before returning to her usual Plymouth base.

How can 30 Members and 1 Boat Work?

Booking of “Estela” operates on a first come first served basis via a dedicated web site www.fleetcruisingclub.co.uk . Over the last 20 years, we have found the balance between having a large enough group of members to make best use of the boat, and having enough availability to ensure that members can use the boat as much as they wish. The club is funded by a combination of usage fees and subscriptions, and from time to time the balance between these can be adjusted to achieve both good use and good access.

What can I expect as a member of the FCC?

- The ability to use on a first come first served basis the yacht from FCC at a rate calculated to cover running costs, pay off the marine mortgage and replace the yacht with one of similar standard in due time. This is inevitably less expensive (sometimes considerably so) than chartering from a commercial company.
- Ownership – We are a club of owners. When you use the yacht you are and moreover you feel like its owner.
- Other members to sail with – often yacht owners struggle to find crew. The club will deliver a source of crew to sail with and much good company
- A club that organises occasional sailing activities such as sequential cruises enabling you to sail in different and sometimes exotic locations.
- A Deed of Participation will evidence both your membership and the loan you have made to the club.

What is expected of you?

Risk

As a member of a company limited by guarantee your liability is restricted to £1. However, no lender will lend against the security of a yacht alone without taking personal guarantees. Estela is funded by member loans that each member makes to the club, and by a long-term loan from a consortium of individual members. You will be asked to sign to indemnify the consortium members prior to being accepted as a club member. The yacht is, of course, properly insured against all normal perils so by the time the risk is spread across the club the exposure is much reduced.

Ethos

Prospective members must be willing to adopt the ethos both generally and in respect of the following:-

- In any situation you put the interests of other members and the FCC before your own.
- You try always to be generous to the FCC and other members and never to be mean or penny pinching.
- You seek to help the club by joining the committee or work parties occasionally organised to work on the yacht.

Cost Associated with Membership of FCC

1. You will be required to make available to the club an interest free loan amounting to £3,250. This is refundable when you leave the club only once a replacement member who is acceptable to the Committee has been found and has established membership. A 5% levy to cover advertising and other costs associated with finding a replacement member will be deducted from the loan prior to repayment. Please see Articles of Association for further details.
2. A non-refundable application fee of £300 is payable with your application for membership.
3. Once you are accepted for membership you will be liable to pay a variable annual subscription. The current subscription fee for 2018/2019 is £672. The subscription year runs from the Annual General Meeting that is held in October. The committee prior to this meeting reviews the rate for the following membership year. For new members joining part way through the year the subscription fee is charged on a pro-rata basis.
4. Usage of the boat currently costs are dependent on the time of year and are detailed below:

Season	Start	End	Week	
Summer	1 st April	30 th September	£1400	
Winter	1 st October	31 March	£700	

5. If non members form part of your crew there will be a supplement per day for each non member. For 2018/2019 this is set at zero. Please see Chartering Rules for details.

Management of the Fleet Cruising Club

The FCC holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October each year. At that meeting the membership are presented with an overview of the clubs activities during the year and the clubs financial status. Any resolutions that are proposed are considered and plans for the following year are discussed.

At the AGM the current committee resigns and a new committee is democratically elected by the membership. The committee comprises of the following officers of the club plus a few ordinary members:

- Commodore
- Vice Commodore
- Treasurer
- Boatswain
- Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Guarantors Representative (only if a Guarantor is not already serving on the committee)
- Ordinary Members (usually 2 or 3)

The new committee has the responsibility for managing the club for the following 12 months.

Summary

This document is designed to give you an overview of the Fleet Cruising Club and to let you know what you can expect and what is expected of you should you decide to apply for membership.

If this sounds interesting to you then I would suggest we have a phone call so that I can answer any questions and if need be send you more detailed information and an application form.

Any potential new members who would like to visit Estela prior to application would be most welcome as I am sure they will not be disappointed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Roger Haynes
Membership Secretary
Fleet Cruising Club Limited

Tel:
07947 507553