



Picture courtesy of Portsmouth City Council

# THE CIVIL ENGINEERS' CLUB



of The Institution of  
Civil Engineers  
Social & Sporting Events



## 2005 NEWSLETTER

## INTRODUCTION

2004 saw a year of change in the fortunes of The Civil Engineers Club mostly brought on by an initial dearth of willing volunteers to guide procedures in the role of officers and subsequently the advent of ICE Regional reorganisation. The sections are generally healthy with golf, sailing, walking and bridge particularly so. Details of these activities are set out elsewhere in this Newsletter

The Club, set up over 25 years ago to look after The Institution members social activities, has been dependent on volunteer input - not always easy to find - so that Civil Engineers and their partners can come together and mix, exchange ideas and recollections and ensure, particularly for retired members, that contact with their (your) Institution does not lapse for either age or geographical reasons.

The IT revolution has made the world a smaller place but at the same time has produced a superb noticeboard for all CEC activities to be advertised across the globe. I know that current thinking is focussed on enhancing this facility - watch this space!

The CEC has been labelled by some as an elitist organisation with a focus on members in the South-East and London areas. There may have been a certain amount of truth in this in the early days when the Club started, but strenuous efforts have been made to encourage regional and inter-regional activities with only limited success.

Change is in the air and I believe that, in the future, the re-vamped Regions will become more active in the running of their own events and that those with a national bias (golf, sailing) will continue to bring together competitively inclined Engineers with sporting instincts

I wish the Club well - happy socialising!

Howard Barrett - March 2005

## Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower

The picture on the front and back cover are by kind courtesy of Portsmouth City Council, who will very shortly open the Portsmouth Spinnaker Tower

The Renaissance of Portsmouth Harbour, a Millennium Commission backed project, has transformed the waterfront of Portsmouth and Gosport making this one of Europe's premier waterfront destinations. Now the construction of the Tower will form the centrepiece of the Harbour and add a new international landmark on the south coast of Britain.

The 165m high viewing tower is set to be completed in June 2004. Three viewing platforms will offer superb views over Portsmouth Harbour and beyond up to a distance of 23 miles. Visitors can choose to ride to the sky in a high speed internal lift or a glass panoramic lift offering stunning sea views.

Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower will provide an unforgettable experience for visitors and residents alike and will change the city's skyline forever.

### Fact file

Two inclined hexagonal concrete shafts merging into one shaft at 70m

One shaft contains an express lift

One shaft contains an escape staircase internally and a panoramic external lift up the seaward face

Two elegant crossed bows, fabricated in structural steel box sections rise from the ground, cross between the shafts at 35m and rise to connect with the shafts at 120m

Aerofoil shaped ribs span between the bows to give the distinctive 'Spinnaker' sail appearance

Top of Tower - will provide three viewing decks at 100, 105 and 110m. The lower two decks will be fully protected environmentally controlled environments, and the top level is 'open' to the elements. The lower deck will also be fitted with a section of glazed floor to view the promenade below.

Base building - will have a reception area and coffee shop with views across the harbour.

The Tower will be covered with a specialist white paint that will have a 15 year life.

## WINE

We have had an amazing year with some very well attended events. In the third quarter of the year, our first President, Sam Tan left to return to Malaysia, but remains Honorary President. Boon Seng Heng took over the role as the President of the Wine Section.

In 2004 our events included:

30th January 2004 Domaine de la Romanee Conti & German 2002

20/02/2004 (Fri) - Superstars from Three Countries

19/03/2004 (Fri) - Imperiale Tasting II

30/04/2004 (Fri) - Wines from 6 decades feat Talbot 1959 & Rausan Segla 1961

25/05/2004 (Tue) - May Wine Tasting 'Great Burgundies feat wines from Domaine Leroy'  
May Wine Tasting with tasting insights from Anne Tupker MW

22/06/2004 (Tue) - 1855 Grand Charity Wine Tasting in aid of RedR (Engineer for Disaster Relief)

12/07/2004 (Mon) - The Great Donnhoff and amazing Aussies

17/09/2004 (Mon) - September Wine Tasting 'Fantastic Rhones'

19/03/2004 (Fri) - Imperiale Tasting II

20/02/2004 (Fri) - 'Superstars from Three Countries'

30/01/2004 (Fri) - Domaine de la Romanee Conti & German 2002 feat Echezeaux 1961 & Romanee St. Vivant 1974

The RedR event featuring 30 cases of Classed Growth Bordeaux wines was extremely successful with over 500 people in attendance. The event was opened by Tom Foulkes, the Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers and our President Sam Tan. The event also attracted many Chief Executive, Chairman and top management staff from various civil engineering companies such as Halcrow, Atkins, Mott MacDonald and Sir Alfred Mc Alpine and others. We successfully raised over £13,000 for RedR at the end of the evening.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a more exciting year ahead in 2005!

Boon S Heng  
CECWINE  
President

## WALKING

There were five walks during the course of 2004. The first commenced from Hampton Court railway station and took in Hampton Palace grounds, with the maze, east front garden and the Royal tennis court and followed on to include the Thames path, Bushey Park and the Diana Fountain. This walk attracted our best attendance to date including our first Vice-President and our first dog.

The walk in April started from the village hall at Pratts Bottom to include a cross country route to Cudham and Downe, where we were able to see Downe House which was Darwin's residence. We had lunch at the Queens Head in Downe before completing a circular tour back to the starting point. The weather was ideal and the terrain provided many excellent views over the Downs. The walk on 5th June commenced at Pluckley and took a route through the fields, woods orchards with a lunch break at the Black Horse in Pluckley. Adventure ruled this one!

The 11th September walk commenced at Balcombe Station and passed around pleasant lakes, through fields and woods taking in the Millennium Seedbank, Ardingly College and Ardingly Reservoir. The walk on 27th November started from Westbourne Park and took in Portobello Road Market, Notting Hill, Holland Park, Camden Hill, Kensington Gardens, Albert Hall, Brompton Oratory, Harrods and Knightsbridge. London walks are popular in the Winter - 17 attended.

Dates for 2005 - put them in your diary now! If you are too far away to our walks, please consider starting a Group in your own area.

6th April 2005	mid Kent
4th June 2005	Godalming
10th September 2005	TBA
26th November 2005	London



## SAILING

### Elvera Cup - 2004

Although only a single log was submitted this year, that one, submitted by Robin and Gillie Whittle was of outstanding quality. The Elvera Cup was accordingly awarded to Robin and Gillie Whittle. The log covered their cruise in their Cornish Shrimper Bumble Chugger from their base at Thames Ditton up the River Thames, through the Kennet and Avon canal along the south coast of Wales to Milford Haven, then crossing the Bristol Channel to Padstow [77 miles] and St Ives before rounding Lands End and returning up channel past Dover into the Thames estuary and back to Thames Ditton. The cruise was carried out between the middle of June and end of July last year when the weather was wet and stormy winds Force 6 being the norm for much of the time..

### Spring Rally.



This was held at Lymington on May attended by Silver Wings Mike Broughton, Independent Freedom Steve Evans, G wiz Mike Keane, Dreamer Alec Leggatt, Bumble Chugger Robin Whittle and Shaker Too, Don Wade. In addition we were very pleased to welcome John and Mary Crofts aboard for drinks. We were fortunate to have a fine weekend if a trifle cool. John Crofts had arranged for us to have dinner at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club, Thank you John.

### Sailing Rally at Dives sur Mer. From 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2004.



(Taken from a report contributed by Martin Hadley)

A tour 'Historique et Gastronomique' in commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy D Day landings.

Despite the original intention of the CEC sailors to meet up with the Windfall Yachts at Ouistreham for a joint rally, we had to concede defeat in this aim and outflank French bureaucracy by making a landfall to the east of their security zone at the charming port and market town of Dives-sur-Mer.

This was the first CEC visit to the new marina complex at Dives which is nestled between Dives town and the sandy beaches of Houlgate and the numerous watering holes of Cabourg. All three areas were enthusiastically explored by various crew members.

Two CEC yachts made the tally, *Hirondelle* skippered by Roger Hyde and crewed by his psychiatrist brother Keith, and *Seagrim* skippered by Jim Robertson and crewed by Ross Dagleish and Martin Hadley. Roger was originally to be joined by Robin but Whittle but unfortunately he had to pull out at the last minute

However, in the event, four engineers to one psychiatrist seemed to provide a good balance.

*Hirondelle* sailed direct to Dives but the crew of *Seagrim* under way some two days in advance found time to visit the gastronomic delights of the Hotel France et Fuchias in St Vaast-la-Hogue on route.

Mooring outside the security zone proved to be beneficial as we were able to move around freely outside the security cordons as they shadowed the movements of the many Heads of State and Government Ministers present

Driving a hired car, we visited many sites off documented individual acts of heroism with an excellent narrative provided by Ross gleaned from a comprehensive historic guide.

At Pegasus Bridge, as engineers, we felt comfortably at home watching carpenters and painters frantically trying to complete the new replica of a Horsa Glider less than 24 hours before Prince Charles was due to officially unveil it.

Access to Arromanches itself was only allowed along the beach on the day of the practice landing. There was an array of period military hardware on view brought ashore by landing craft, including one of the few remaining working Churchill tanks.

Out of the various group hostelry visits the Saturday night meal at the excellent restaurant 'Chez le Bougnat' must count as our formal nay Bohemian get together.

Unlike for D Day 60 years before the weather was favourable for the entire trip with sunburn being the norm

### Smeaton Trophy and Telford Goblet

Both the above trophies were won by Quartet sailed by Jaames Blackburn and Paul Todd by virtue of there excellent performance in the IRC Handicap Class finishing 18<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 543 starters. This is the first time both the Smeaton Trophy and Telford Goblet have been won by the same yacht. Peter Hunter in Frolic were runners up for the Whale Trophy for Cornish Shrimpers.

### Autumn Rally.

This was held at Island Harbour up the Medina River in the Isle of Wight. The boats attending were Witchcraft, Roy Peel who had made the journey all the way up from the River Dart; Shaker Too, Don Wade; Mad Gem, George Lyons; Hirondelle, Roger Hyde; Mary Lou Martin Hadley and G Wiz, Mike Keane. Roy and June Peel very generously invited all the fleet some 17 of us, on board his beautiful boat, Witchcraft, for pre-dinner drinks and starting rather damp and cold we made the most of it until it was time to go ashore to dinner at the Bijou Restaurant. There are few more enjoyable things than sitting comfortably in a boat just talking.

The dinner was excellent and we all went to bed greatly cheered.

### Voyage Vaches.

History decrees that this rally should be held in Cowes on the first Saturday in December but in 2004 we had to change the date to the 27<sup>th</sup> November in order to accommodate an ISC function. We had the usual good turnout of members and friends.. This rally is about meeting old friends and this year we were especially pleased to welcome again Hubert and Jean Jenkins [ Novak] who had travelled from Cardiff for the dinner, Sepha Wood [Tehari] and our loyal supporters John and Mary Wood. I am pleased to be able to report that all caught their ferries back to the mainland. We were also pleased to welcome Robin Whittle's brother David and his wife Patsy, who sailed over in Malkin. Other stalworts who sailed over were Alec Leggatt single handed in Dreamer and Roger Hyde crewed by Robin in Hirondelle.

## GOLF

### THOMAS TELFORD TROPHY 2004

The Thomas Telford Cup was held at Moor Park on 2004. It was highly successful and won by Yorkshire Local Association.

Winners -	Yorkshire -	John Tirrile (18) David James (10) John Goundry (16) Trevor Haigh (13)	184 points
Second -	Northern Counties -	Paul Musgrove (7) Clive Oliphant (5) Andy Jackson (2) Les Johnstone (11)	183 points
Third -	South West -	Bob Giles (10) Brian Daniel (13) Peter Roger (9) Steve Spicer (11)	171 points

### INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

Morning Foursome -	Edward Bill (9) Tom Bill (18)	73 points
Afternoon Singles -	Scott Quaich - Clive Oliphant (5) (SCRATCH)	33 points
Handicap -	Neil Dixon (9) Peter Rogers (9) John Goundry (16)	33 points 33 points 33 points

Barry Staynes  
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# THOMAS TELFORD TROPHY 2004

MOOR PARK GOLF CLUB

## PRIZE LIST

Event	Winner		
<b>Spot Prizes</b>			
Longest drive at 16th	<b>Andy Jackson</b>	<i>Northern Counties</i>	
Nearest the pin at 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Peter Rogers</b>	<i>South West</i>	
<b>Foursomes Prizes</b>			
Third	<b>Andy Ward Ian Lilley</b>	<i>East Midlands</i>	<b>36pts</b>
Second	<b>Paul Musgrave Clive Oliphant</b>	<i>Northern Counties</i>	<b>39pts</b>
First	<b>Tom Bill Edward Bill</b>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<b>40pts</b>
<b>Individual Prizes</b>			
Third	<b>John Goundry</b>	<i>Yorkshire</i>	<b>33pts</b>
Second	<b>Peter Rogers</b>	<i>South West</i>	<b>33pts</b>
First	<b>Neil Dixon</b>	<i>East Midlands</i>	<b>33pts</b>
<b>Scott Quaich * 'Scratch'</b>	<b>Clive Oliphant</b>	<i>Northern Counties</i>	
<b>The Past Captain's Balls</b>	<b>David Swan</b>	<i>Chilterns</i>	
The lowest points overall	<b>Jerry Cutter</b>	<i>Wales</i>	
<b>Team Prizes</b>			
Third	<b>South West</b>		<b>171pts</b>
Second	<b>Northern Counties</b>		<b>183pts</b>
First	<b>Yorkshire</b>		<b>184pts</b>
<b>Winners of the Thomas Telford Trophy for 2004</b>			

### Other prizes

**Best player in Sponsors Team**

**Paul Martin**

**Best Veteran**

**Chilterns Veterans Salver Peter Platt-Higgins - Southern**

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## CIVIL ENGINEERS' CLUB: REPORT OF ANNUAL BRUNEL TROPHY CONTRACT BRIDGE COMPETITION 2004

The Civil Engineers' Bridge Club runs the annual competition for the Brunel Trophy, which was presented to the club by Travers Morgan in 1990. It is an all-day multiple teams-of-four event held in the opulent surroundings of Great George Street. The bridge is played in a friendly atmosphere and all classes of players are catered for. In the evening there is a dinner at which all the good hands can be replayed and all the bad ones forgotten!

This year's competition was held in the Council Room at Great George Street on 8 October 2004 and six teams entered. Many players had played before and so it was good to meet with old friends but there were also a number of new players whom we hope to see again next year.

The winners were a team called Unity, which comprised mainly former BT staff. They were Sheila Dobbins, Anita Freeman, Roy Cooper and Bryan Pinto. Congratulations to the winners and well played all the other players.

After the bridge there was an evening dinner in the nearby Sorriso restaurant for players and friends, which was also well attended.

Peter Richardson  
Contract Bridge Secretary  
Civil Engineers' Club

## EGYPT

There was a proposal by a member in Egypt for a visit to temples in Sinai in 2004, but this came to nothing

However if you find yourself in Egypt and want to join a Sinai Stumble to be on the ground and expeditioning during the 18th through to the 24th March. Where and how not yet determined, as there is no Plan A as yet, but should include sun, sand, sea and some rocks and nights under the stars. Anyone interested in participating?

## MOTORING

### SILVERSTONE

Do get the date of Tuesday 5th July 2005 into your diaries

There will be a visit and talk on Developments at Silverstone Circuit

The Grand Prix is on the following Sunday, so there may be a lot of activity on the infield and in the paddock while we are there

Speakers: Jane Lock-Smith of Cube Design Limited  
Alex Hooton, Chief Executive of BRDC

A visit to the £4.2 million Silverstone Innovation Centre that is part of the site upgrade going on at the Silverstone circuit.

A talk by architect Jane Lock-Smith of Cube Design Ltd, who designed the Silverstone Innovation Centre and are the lead architectural consultant for the Silverstone Technology Park master plan.

A talk by Alex Hooton, Chief Executive of the British Racing Drivers Club, about developments at Silverstone, including plans for remodelling the circuit.

### BRANDS HATCH

Another date for your diary is in the week ending 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

This is the date for the inaugural A1 Grand Prix Racing race at Brands Hatch.

We are planning a visit and talk at Brands Hatch, possibly on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005

## MISSION STATEMENT

The objectives of the Club are:-

- i. to promote social and sporting activities amongst civil engineers and their families
- ii. to give retired Members of the Institution the opportunity for maintaining friendships established during their professional life to enhance the image of the Civil Engineer through the organisation of major events