

New to Confident

This is to thank the Cobbs Quay Berth Holder Association (CQBHA) for the confidence and experience that the club has given us as a family to use our boat. This is our boating journey so far.

We initially visited Poole/Bournemouth to purchase a holiday home in the summer of 2007. We meet up friends in Poole Harbour and they took us out on their boat. After numerous nights of discussion between me and my wife (Sue), with many nights looking on the internet at boats, I managed to persuade Sue to let me buy a boat, so we visited the Southampton boat show.

At the boat show in 2007 we ordered a new 34 foot motor boat and at this point neither of us had ever driven a boat or looked at a chart. We also had a young family with two boys aged two and five. We could not have been any less experienced and also we had to cope with potty training a young boy while returning to the marina under a bridge then berthing!

After taking delivery of the boat for the first year we went to Studland Bay and Yarmouth by ourselves and thus generally making a mess of berthing etc. The next year, being 2008, we went to the boat show and part exchanged the boat for a new 38 foot motor boat. This made me more determined to use the new boat.

Then in 2009 I saw a notice in the marina about the CQBHA and the program. I decided that I want to join and cross the channel. This resulted in a discussion with Sue. Sue decided that it was best if I went across the channel for the first time with my mates. To experience the CQBHA and also Sue did not want to take the children on the first



channel crossing. So I invited three mates, none of them had been on a boat before, and we met with the CQBHA fellow skippers on the Thursday night for the first time and we went to Cherbourg on the Friday morning. We had a great time and we were looked after by the CQBHA. We explain that I was concerned about berthing in Cherbourg and it was our first crossing. When arrived at Cherbourg we followed the other boats into the marina. We berthed last and had an army of boaters to help us due to the wind being stronger than forecast.



went to
This

cruising
in a
channel

We also had help to berth the boat when we returned to Cobbs Quay marina.

The help and support that we have been given by the CQBHA has given me confidence and in turn after more cruises gave Sue the confidence to use the boat more and trust in the experience of the CQBHA.

We have now visited the following places with CQBHA which we would have not visited without cruising in company:
UK: Island Harbour - IOW, Ocean Village – Southampton, Dartmouth River, Torquay, Brixham, Weymouth, Lymington
France : Cherbourg, St Vaast, Ouistreem, Caen
Guernsey : St Peters Port

We have also made many new and very good friends from our experiences with CQBHA. This has helped us to enjoy our boating and thus get more use out of the boat. We have enjoyed mixing with our fellow boaters and the children have always been made very welcome.

I would recommend that if you want to cross the channel, visit marinas in the UK or just make good fellow boating friends that you should consider joining and cruising with CQBHA. Our involvement with CQBHA has made a huge difference to my family using our boat. It has increased our experience and boating skills. I am sure that if you join and venture on the cruises it will add to your experience and make your boating more enjoyable.

I look forward to next years cruising program and thanks again.

Regards

David
Jay Jay