



# NEWSLETTER

## Hold the press!



We are super-excited to announce that both The Dutchess and Skipper Swede have finally passed the Yacht Master Instructor exam!

After a 2 day prep course in a freezing cold and snow-ridden Hamble, we did the YMI reassessment course. Needless to say, it was a very intense few days but all the hard work paid off as we are now both qualified YMI's. This is an achievement that we've been looking forward to accomplish for some time and it enables us to teach and coach even further up the RYA scheme. Also, The Dutchess is taking the role of Chief Instructor for Greek Sails Poros Yachting Academy during 2018!



Some pictures of current events!

## PYA inspection



It's that time of the year again! At the end of March, the RYA inspector is coming to Poros to do the annual recognition of our training centre. As most of the updates for the school were taken care of last winter (update of manuals, training almanac, student learning plans etc) there has only been a few items to tick off the list on the office side of things. New Cat C first aid kits has been stocked and some policies revised. To finalise all preparations, Melina Mercouri, the training yacht, is currently being equipped and fitted to conform to standards.

## YMI in Hamble, Solent, UK



We are happy to say that we are comfortably used to Mediterranean climates...



The morning before exam start. The level of disbelief is at a 100%



You must be a complete nutter to go sailing in this...



Re-frozen slush (i.e. ice) on the sprayhood



Mind your step on the pontoon!



And it just kept on coming! After meeting the rest of the crew at the office, the boat was completely covered in snow. Luckily we have some hard core sleeping bags to keep us warm!



A very exhausted but happy couple, moments after the verdict: "We passed!"

## Red Sparrow progress

During February and March, we were obviously quite busy with preparing for the YMI assessment and didn't really have the time to do any work on Red Sparrow. However, a friend of ours have been very busy and completed a total re-build of the keel along with the majority of the damage on the hull.

The lifting crane in the yard is (apparently!) inoperational, but as soon as this is working the keel will be put back in, the hull painted and the deck areas epoxied. Shortly after that, Red Sparrow should be able to go back to where she belongs - in the water! More pictures and stories on the progress of this to follow.