

## THE OCC STRENGTHENS LINKS WITH THE RCC PILOTAGE FOUNDATION

### George Curtis

*(In 2002, whilst in Fiji, George Curtis was unable to find Beth Bushnell's award-winning notes on Vanuatu on the web. On returning to the UK he volunteered to put the OCC's existing paper-based cruising information online, and has been involved in publishing the Club's cruising information ever since.*

*For a number of years this ran on a separate website – the Cruising Information Community (CIC) – but this is to be closed shortly, to reduce the cost and management overheads of running two sites. George has therefore spent the past year moving information about the least frequently cruised areas onto the Forum section of the OCC website. He has also led negotiations with the RCC Pilotage Foundation, so that a more formal route to publication is made available to those OCC members who would like to use it.)*

One of the founding objectives of the Ocean Cruising Club is 'to collect information likely to be of use to members and to arrange for such information to be available to members...'

The OCC's store of cruising information is now held on the Forum on the Club's website. The Forum provides an excellent platform to search for any information that might be there, but does not, at a glance, show what is actually available for an ocean passage or for a particular area of the world. There is also a great wealth of cruising information held on members' websites, but again we lack information as to what is available. Despite the advance of technology, many of us like to browse through a printed volume or scan a map of our proposed route and sample the reports on possible destinations. Fortunately a number of OCC members also seem to enjoy recording pilotage and shore-based information.

On behalf of the OCC, I have been in discussions with the Royal Cruising Club and the RCC Pilotage Foundation to allow OCC members to benefit from and contribute to the RCC Pilotage Foundation (RCCPF), and to encourage more OCC members to consider volunteering as RCCPF author/editors. The objectives of our discussions are:

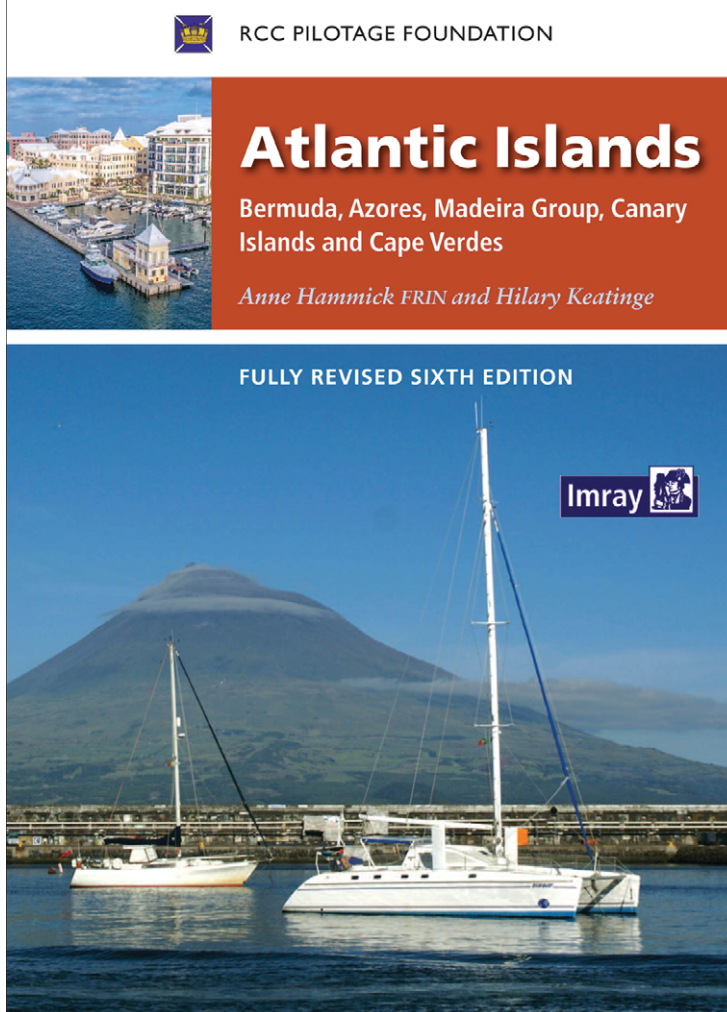
- For members of the RCC and the OCC to benefit from cruising information gathered by both clubs, enabled by an exchange of information between the two.
- For members of the OCC to have access to the RCCPF's management and publishing expertise if they would like to have their cruising information published. This could be either as a contributor to existing publications, or as author/editor of a new publication if a need is recognised – for example, for a particular region where good pilotage coverage is sparse.
- For RCCPF editors to have access to OCC cruising information when seeking information about specific parts of the world. Permission will be sought from originators before any information from the OCC sites is included in any RCCPF publication.

- For the RCCPF to be able to request information from OCC members and Port Officers when seeking people with knowledge of specific areas, and to seek assistance from OCC members in the management and publication process.

The RCC Pilotage Foundation came into being in 1976, when an American RCC member, Dr Fred Ellis, indicated that he wished to make a gift to the Club in memory of his father. The Foundation was established with a charitable objective which was, and remains: 'to advance the education of the public in the science and practice of navigation'. It was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2005, and is a registered charity which is fortunate to have The National Hydrographer as its Patron. The overall management of the Foundation is overseen by Trustees appointed by the Royal Cruising Club, with day-to-day operations undertaken by members of the Executive. Most of the management of the Foundation is done on a voluntary basis.

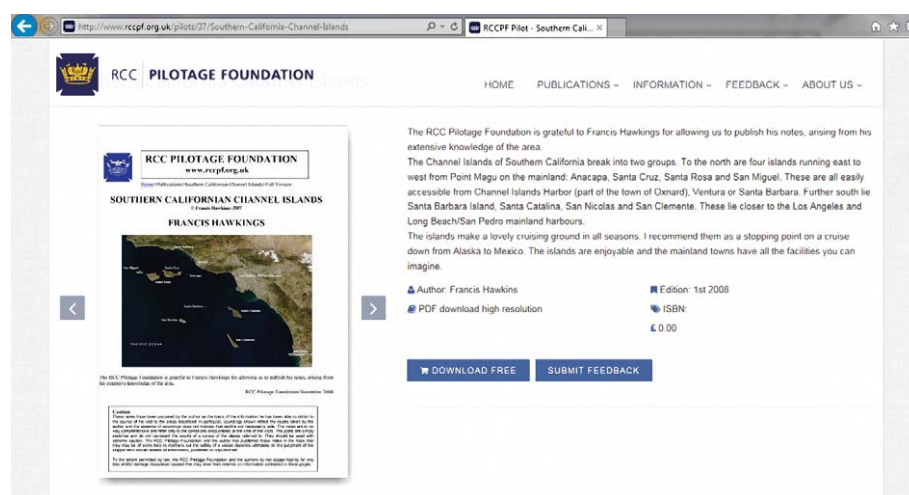
The Foundation collects and researches written, photographic and chart information relating to small boat pilotage, navigation and operation, climate and weather conditions, including information from remote areas of the world where other sources of information are scarce or non-existent. The Foundation then publishes this information in the form of conventional printed pilot books and, increasingly, also in the form of downloads, e-books

*The RCC Pilotage Foundation is best known for its high quality printed books. The cover photo for the new edition of Atlantic Islands was taken by OCC member and Advertising Manager Mike Downing*



and other media. Annual updates and supplements to all the printed books are available as free downloads on the website at [www.rccpf.org.uk](http://www.rccpf.org.uk).

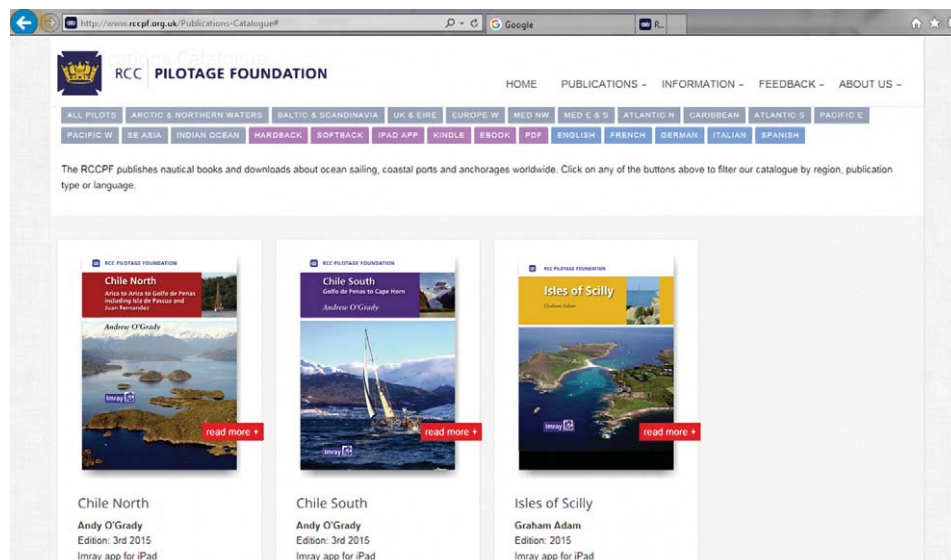
Formal guides are currently available for: *Arctic and Northern Waters* (covering Faroe, Iceland, Greenland and the North East and North West Passages); *Scandinavia*, including *Norway* and *The Baltic Sea and its Approaches*; *Atlantic Europe*, including *Isles of Scilly* (a separate volume), *Channel Islands*, *Cherbourg Peninsula and North Brittany*, *Atlantic France*, *Atlantic Spain and Portugal*; the Mediterranean, including *Mediterranean Spain*, *Islas Baleares*, *Corsica and Sardinia*, *The Black Sea and North Africa*; the North Atlantic, including *The Atlantic Crossing Guide*, *Atlantic Islands*, *North Africa and West Africa*; the South Atlantic, South America and Antarctica, including *Brazil*, *Argentina*, *Chile*, *South Atlantic Islands* and the *Antarctic Peninsula*; the Pacific Ocean, including the *Pacific Crossing Guide*, the *Aleutians*, and *Fiji-Lau*; and *South East Asia*.



### ***A free downloadable e-pilot is available for the Southern Californian Islands***

The creation of new RCC Pilotage Foundation publications and updates to existing publications is only made possible through the supply of information from around the world by generous-minded yachtsmen and women, and the dedicated work of authors and editors. The Foundation welcomes pilotage information in all forms, and OCC members are encouraged to send corrections, amendments and updates to the RCCPF Information Manager at [info@rccpf.org.uk](mailto:info@rccpf.org.uk). For further details visit the feedback page of the Pilotage Foundation website – [www.rccpf.org.uk/Provide-Feedback](http://www.rccpf.org.uk/Provide-Feedback).

OCC members are encouraged to come forward as possible authors, editors or contributors for any of the above areas, but in particular for the Balearic Islands, Corsica and Sardinia, and North Africa where the current authors are no longer available. In addition there is a need for editors/authors to cover the following areas, which are under discussion for possible new publications: The Indian Ocean, Labrador/ Newfoundland/ Baffin, Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, and Fiji-Lau. New areas are likely to be served at first by individual reports, which will be published on the RCCPF website and on the OCC Forum. As these proliferate they will progress to e-books or printed volumes.



### *Imray Apps for i-Pad are a relatively recent innovation*

The size of the job is what the editor/author makes it! They need to be good writers and researchers and collaborative networkers. They may not be commercially published writers before they are commissioned by the Pilotage Foundation, but will probably have contributed to magazines or journals such as *Flying Fish* or may have a blog or website. What is important is enthusiasm about their book area, cruising knowledge of that area, and their use of plans (chartlets) and photographs to inform the reader. The named person is the overall manager of the published information under that title. They will actively research, both on and off the water. They will provide the main focus on passage planning, navigation and pilotage, but also a broader perspective of the relative joys (or perhaps frustrations) of sailing those waters. They tend to do it for the love of it and not with the expectation of much financial reward – it is usually work of high satisfaction but low remuneration!

In summary, OCC Members are encouraged to make use of the information already held by the Pilotage Foundation, and to make additions to it so that their experience may contribute to the safety and enjoyment of navigators following in their wakes. Should a more fulfilling – and demanding – role as an author/ editor appeal, contact the Director of the Pilotage Foundation at [director@rccpf.org.uk](mailto:director@rccpf.org.uk).



Cruising has two pleasures. One is to go out in wider waters from a sheltered place. The other is to go into a sheltered place from wider waters.

Howard Bloomfield