

KEEPING EASTERN REGION SAILORS INFORMED

LONG SERVING REGIONAL SECRETARY RETIRES

Robin Hill-Sanders has retired after 13 years as RYA Eastern Regional Secretary. One of the longest serving of the RYA regional secretaries.

“It’s time I handed on to someone younger with fresh ideas and better IT skills,” said 76-year-old Robin.

“I am grateful to the RYA for allowing me the opportunity to do what I enjoyed and which at the same time enabled me to give back something to the sport which has given me so much pleasure in the past. I needed something to keep the ‘little grey cells’ busy in retirement!”

Robin’s last job before retirement was as an administrative officer in a large banking establishment.

“I can’t think of a better training for the regional secretary’s job, though I did have to learn touch typing which, at 63 and being the oldest in the class by at least 40, years was a bit testing. It has been a real pleasure to work with committee members and I shall miss it all,” he added.

“I wish my successor Jim well and hope he enjoys his time with the quill pen as much as I have.”

Robin was Commodore of Blackwater Sailing Club before joining the Regional Committee as BACSPA representative in 1992. He was elected regional secretary in 1995 and received the prestigious RYA Regional Award in 2004 in recognition of his services to sailing, the RYA and the Region.

RYA East Chairman Chris Edwards said: “Robin has been an exemplary secretary; he’s been the hub of the whole region, the point of contact with RYA HQ at Hamble for clubs as well as the committee, distributing correspondence, queries and information. His knowledge of the workings of the RYA is second to none.



Robin Hill-Sanders receives the prestigious RYA Regional Award for his services, from RYA President HRH The Princess Royal.

“Since I became Chairman early in 2006 Robin has guided me and provided an invaluable level of support whilst continuing to be the tower of strength for the Region. Every personal member and affiliated club owes him a great debt of gratitude and will join me in wishing him a long and enjoyable retirement.”

Meet the new RYA East Regional Secretary, Jim Ensom on page 4

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BUZZ AT LONDON BOAT SHOW

There was a definite buzz in the air at this year's London Boat Show at Excel. Preview day appeared quite busy, and numbers on the Saturday and Sunday were notably up on the previous year. The following days things quietened down again.

Most stand holders reported a steady flow of business and enquiries.

This was all in contrast to the Earl's Court Boat Show held a month earlier when the noticeable lack of visitors led to a number of stands shutting up shop early.

In all some 8,000 people attended on the first day – Preview Day – the most expensive day and slightly down on the same day last year. On the first Saturday over 16,000 people attended (24 per cent up) and on the Sunday 14,500 (19 per cent up).

The busiest stands were the chandlers, electronics, chart makers, sail makers and of course the new boats. But the core of the show was undoubtedly the main stage in the North Hall, with its fashion shows, displays of acrobatics and technical lectures. Another popular feature was the safe anchoring rig, which had many an old salt nodding in memory of failed attempts to anchor.

There were a number of sailing yachts making their debut at the show; one of the most popular was on the Northshore stand where the new Southerly 32 was attracting some serious numbers. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the show. Around 20 of these boats had been sold before the show, but orders were coming in at two more a day!

Designed by Stephen Jones to fit neatly into a 10m mooring slot or marina berth yet contain the room and facilities of a much larger vessel, the British designed and built 32 looks set to take on the big boys from mainland Europe.

Certainly with its lift-keel and lifting twin rudders and capable of making some pretty fast sea passages and crawling up some of the shallowest creeks, it should be a popular boat on the East Coast.

Another new boat likely to attract a strong following, especially among family cruisers who fancy a spot of round the cans racing is the Elan 450.

Designed by Rob Humphries and built in Slovenia it's aimed squarely at the cruiser/racer skipper. With its open transom, wide stern, and long water line this three double-cabin is fast and comfortable.



Extra flush-fitted deck hatches and lights give the saloon an airy feel. Twin rudders should ensure total control whatever the conditions.

Firmly aimed at the family cruiser, the new Legend 45DS built by Hunters of America, claims to be the most comfortable boat of its size.

Over 200 of Bavaria's new 38 and 40 additions to their cruising range of yachts were sold off the plans before the first had even been built!

They have a lighter interior, achieved by the use of real wood and more windows and deck lights. Bavaria is celebrating 30 years of mass production boatbuilding this year.

A cruiser racer that comes with an impressive list of options is the Beneteau First 45. Shallow keels, deep keels, a racing version with up-rated rig, a well-appointed cruising version and a 'grand prix' version with all-carbon rig.

The Guinness stand at Excel is a good barometer of attendance. This was lunchtime on the first Saturday. (Earl's Court was empty!)

Light oak below increases the airiness of the saloon and there are two double staterooms aft and two separate heads and showers.

Among the dinghies on show was Laser's newest concept boat, the Bug. At once a pram dinghy capable of ferrying four adults ashore, or a sporty little sailing dinghy with a standard and a race rig, it will no doubt attract a good deal of attention at Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace.

East Coast catamaran builder Broadblue had a scale model of the new Broadblue 500, which is going into production this month. Hulls are being moulded by Cair Paravel at Colchester and furnished and fitted by Goodchild's at Burgh Castle.



Most popular boat in the show?
Southerly's 32 attracted a continuous stream of visitors.

DINGHY SHOW SET FOR RECORD

The 2008 RYA Dinghy Sailing Show taking place at Alexandra Palace, London on Saturday 1st and Sunday, March 2, promises to be bigger and better than ever. This highly popular and informative show, with its mix of stands, demonstrations and technical workshops, is expected to attract thousands of dinghy enthusiasts from all over Britain.

The Dinghy Sailing Show is the only show in the world dedicated exclusively to dinghy sailors and the 2008 event is shaping up to be a real show stopper. This year's show, organised by the RYA in association with Yachts and Yachting and Suzuki, will feature over 100 dinghies from all over the world.

Come along and meet the RYA's Beijing 2008 nominees before they head off to battle for Olympic medals including Laser sailor Paul Goodison and 49er skiff sailors Stevie Morrison and Ben Rhodes.

Hear from top instructors and coaches from the world of dinghy sailing, including Hugh Styles and renowned sailing author Grahame Forshaw giving expert advice and providing answers to your questions.



Also on show will be some of the latest dinghy designs and innovations, as well as all the kit and equipment essential for any dinghy sailor.

Learn from a plethora of top instructors and coaches, get answers to your questions and find out how you can improve your sailing. There's plenty for youngsters too, with treasure hunts, colouring competitions and remote control model yacht racing.

Jenny Curry, Dinghy Sailing Show event organiser said: "This year's show is shaping up to be the best yet. Being the only show dedicated exclusively to dinghy sailors it really is an essential for any dinghy sailor's diary."

The Dinghy Sailing Show is a grassroots show run for enthusiasts, it provides a national showcase for RYA affiliated class associations and clubs; allows suppliers of dinghies and relevant equipment to exhibit their products to dinghy sailors, and raises the enthusiasm and participation of dinghy sailors through a programme of lectures, seminars and demonstrations.

The first show, called 'The Build Your Own Dinghy Exhibition and Conference', took place in 1952. By 1965 the show had moved to Crystal Palace, changed its name to 'The London Dinghy Exhibition' and gained the active backing of the RYA, before coming under full RYA control in 1983.

From 1996 to 2004 the show, now held at Alexandra Palace, was known as the 'Sailboat and Windsurf Show'. In 2004 the show title changed to the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show, as it is known today, to reflect the show's focus on dinghies.

For all the latest show information, tickets and to find out what's in store, visit www.dinghysailingshow.org.uk.

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE MONEY

Save money and beat the queues by buying your tickets in advance. Tickets cost just £10.50 for adults / £9.00 for RYA members. Youngsters go free on Sunday and child tickets on Saturday cost only £5.00 (5-16 years), £4.00 for junior RYA members. Tickets will also be available on the door – prices are, adult £12.50, child £6.25.

For tickets and entry in to the holiday prize draw call the ticket hotline on 0845 345 0424 or book online now at; www.dinghysailingshow.org.uk.



WIN A FREE HOLIDAY

Tickets for the 2008 RYA Dinghy Sailing Show are now available online and thanks to the show's newest sponsor, Crystal Active, anyone who purchases a ticket before the show will have the chance to win a fantastic family activity holiday worth £2000 at one of Crystal Active's beach clubs in either, Greece, Turkey or Croatia.

Buy your 2008 Dinghy Sailing Show tickets before 26th February 2008 and you will automatically be entered in the free prize draw to win a family holiday for four to one of Crystal Active's beach clubs.

The prize consists of a seven-night holiday, including flights, transfers and accommodation, together with a full water sports programme and plenty of activities for all the family to enjoy.

When you're not out on the water sailing, windsurfing or kayaking, you can get active on land too, with yoga and fitness classes, mountain biking and tennis.

Tuition and kit are all included so you can be as active as you like!

Crystal Active Beach holidays are particularly good for families and all the Club Active hotels offer short transfers, a child-friendly menu, family rooms, crèche and brilliant youngster clubs for ages 5-12 years.

For tickets and entry in to the holiday prize draw call the ticket hotline on 0845 345 0424.

TOP YACHTSMAN AWARDS YOUNG WINNERS

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston won this year's Raymarine/YJA Yachtsman of the Year award – making it a double for the boys, following Laurence Greenough taking the title of Raymarine Young Sailor of the Year.

Sir Robin was presented with the coveted award by Lady Pippa Blake. The awards ceremony, was held at The Painted Hall, The Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Finalists for the coveted title included World and Pre-Olympic Champions Sarah Ayton, Sarah Webb and Pippa Wilson, Geoff Holt and Mike Golding.

Raymarine Young Sailor of the Year award went to 12 year old Laurence Greenough from Plymouth, for his courage and determination in overcoming adversity. After losing a leg in a boating accident he was back sailing in just two months in an unmodified boat, and is now part of the South West Topper Zone Squad.

Eastern Region winner, Katrina Curtis also received her award from Sir Robin, and then (third from right) posed with all the Young Sailor of the Year award winners on the Raymarine stand (below).



JIM ENSOM TAKES OVER



Jim Ensom, secretary of Stour SC based at Manningtree takes over as our new Regional Secretary.

Jim has worked as a radio and television journalist for the BBC since 1981. He has produced and presented programmes for BBC Radio Kent, BBC Essex, BBC Radio Suffolk and the East Anglian regional evening programme.

He has a special interest in disaster management and communicating through a crisis and has written widely on this subject for a number of global publications.

He regularly lectures on the lessons of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, the Brighton Bomb, the Paddington rail smash and the Kegworth air crash, among other disasters.

Since 1995, he has travelled extensively as a crisis management and business continuity consultant. He is Editor of Globalcontinuity.com, the global business continuity forum and intelligence portal. He's a media trainer, advising senior level staff on appearances in the media.

In recent years, he has been advising local authorities throughout Europe on the subject of food safety, traceability and communication. He has advised the Spanish and Chilean governments on food safety.

He is a regular crew member on a number of yachts and has navigated from Biscay to St Petersburg. He lives in Manningtree.

SELF-REGULATE TAX ON DIESEL SAYS RYA

The RYA is advocating a system of self regulation in its submission on behalf of recreational boaters to the Government's consultation on the future of waterside diesel pricing.

The proposal is that boat owners would continue to purchase red diesel at the rebated rate but would declare and pay the additional duty periodically. It claims that if a system of collecting the dues from suppliers was implemented then supplies would become scarce.

"Our overriding consideration throughout the red diesel debate has been safety; securing the ongoing availability of marine diesel throughout the UK," says Neil Northmore, RYA Government Affairs Adviser. "The self regulation system, we believe, offers the

best system in terms of safety because it will safeguard the supply and availability of red diesel throughout Britain.

"We know that suppliers in remote or rural areas, such as Scotland and the south west of England, have indicated that they would not sell red diesel to private recreational craft because they do not want to be burdened with the cost and bureaucracy involved in recording every sale to private recreational craft."

The RYA has also called for a reduction in the proposed rate of duty payable by recreational boaters on red diesel to the EU minimum rate. Current plans are to tax red diesel at the full, road fuel rate of duty of 54.68ppl.

The RYA's full response to consultation is available on www.rya.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boat owners on the Broads face an 11 per cent hike in tolls this spring following further cutbacks in Government support for the Broads Authority. This compares with a 12 per cent increase demanded by the EA and a 13.5 per cent hike by British Waterways in its inland river, charges. Charges for visiting yachts will rise by the same amount.

Bradwell Coastguard Rescue Team rescued a lost bait digger from treacherous mud flats recently after thick fog closed in. They used a powerful searchlight to help the lost man locate himself then lead him to safety, avoiding the dangerous saltings and rills amongst the mud flats and marshes. HM Coastguard warns anglers and sailors tempted to come ashore on the flats not to do so in bad weather conditions or poor visibility.

Early winter storms have lead to a repositioning of the West Knoll Buoy (G unlit) to a new position of: 51° 58.446 N - 001° 23.667 E. This follows substantial bank movements this winter, which also caused damage to the buoy's topmark. The Woodbridge Haven remains in its present position of 51° 58.200N - 01° 23.850E, as does the Mid Knoll (R can) at 51° 58.742N - 01° 23.466E.

This year's annual survey will be carried out in February (instead of late March) to enable new sketch plans for the entrance to be produced in time for Easter.

Sailors and yachtsmen who get into difficulties off the N and E coast of Norfolk are assured of even faster help from the lifeboat service, with the delivery just before Christmas of a new Tamar Class, 16m 32-tonne lifeboat at Cromer. With a top speed of 25 knots even in atrocious conditions and a working range of 250 miles, the new boat, to be officially named *The Lester* in the spring is the eighth of her class to go on station. Each boat costs £2.5M.

ISAF RULE AGAINST OLYMPIC SPIRIT

The controversial decisions by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) Council not to include a modern high performance dinghy for women, to drop the multihull event and introduced a match racing format for the women's keelboat event, at the 2012 Olympic Games were not taken in the best interests of the sport of sailing throughout the world, says the RYA.

It is calling for ISAF to review its decision on the three grounds: that the decisions weaken sailing and do not

comply with International Olympic Committee (IOC) guidelines; that fewer nations and young sailors will come into the sport of sailing, and, that an amendment to the previously agreed voting procedure was hasty, resulting in a flawed process.

The RYA is demanding that ISAF refrains from nominating the list of events for 2012 to the IOC on March 18, and instead reconsiders its voting process and events decision at its meeting in May 2008.

WINDFARM HORROR REVEALED

When the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) announced it was consulting on the future release of a further round of wind, oil and gas structures and oil/gas storage installations offshore, the installation of 7,000 wind turbines off the East Coast came a step nearer.

The implications for recreational boating will depend on the final location and type of development being proposed. According to recent figures, 25GW of wind produced energy equates to well over 4000 wind turbines based on a 6MW turbine, which is the largest

currently being used. Most existing turbines generate in the range of 2 to 4MW, which substantially increases the number of turbines.

The RYA warns, that development within territorial waters may affect UK cruising routes and those beyond may well affect international cruising routes. The Government report is available at http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/downloads/Offshore_Energy_SEA_Scoping.pdf.

Comments on the report can be logged by email to environment@rya.org.uk.

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YACHTING CAUGHT UP IN ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN

The Government's proposed introduction of e-Boarder controls as a means of keeping illegal immigrants out of the country could have serious repercussions for East Coast yachtsmen for whom a quick trip across to Calais or Ostend for a weekend almost on the spur of the moment is traditional.

In a nutshell, from 2010, under the Government's new £1.2bn e-Borders scheme, leisure boaters will be required to submit detailed passenger, service and crew data in advance of their departure to and from the UK. Apparently this is to be done through a web form or electronic file upload.

Apart from a general feeling of "not more regulation" several readers have commented that they don't have email access on their boats!

Stuart Carruthers, RYA Cruising Manager said: "Quite what the impact

will be on recreational boating is unclear at the moment. Government has put forward no proposals on how the system and its operation might be applied to us. What is clear, from meetings the RYA has had with the e-Borders Team, is that Government does not understand fully how fundamentally different recreational boating is to commercial airlines and shipping and therefore how the security processes could be implemented and policed".

Key issues for ongoing discussion between the RYA and the e-Borders Team include monitoring blue water international trips, intra-UK trips where yachts leave territorial waters before making a UK landfall; who is responsible for reporting; what sanctions will be imposed; will we have to use designated ports of entry, and monitoring non-UK yachts.

WAVE ENERGY TRIALS ON EAST COAST

Trident Energy Ltd, of Southend, Essex, pioneer of wave power energy generation, has applied for permission to install an experimental test rig to produce energy from wave power off the East Coast. Their plan involves anchoring an 80t, 17m² by 8m high by 10m draft platform, at 52°17'.9N 01°46'.5E (six miles ESE of Southwold Harbour entrance close to a chartered dredging area).

The platform will be held by 12 anchors; the superstructure will be painted yellow, will be fitted with a light beacon, an AIS beacon and carry St Andrew's crosses on top of the towers. The equipment will be in position for a year and the exercise will cost £700,000.

Steel floats attached to the rig use the wave motion to drive on-board linear generators. It claims that over 100MW of energy can be produced from a 1.5 kilometre square wave farm – enough to supply 62,000 homes.

Meanwhile energy giant Npower has won its appeal to place 10 wind turbines on farmland at Bradwell. The Planning Inspector stated that though this would mean a major change to the appearance of the Dengie Peninsula, he was satisfied that the essential character of the area would not be lost. The wind farm will power up to 10,000 local homes, and the turbines will stand 121 metres tall on farmland to the south of St Peter's Chapel, and will be clearly seen from as far away as the North Kent Coast.

EXCELSIOR TRUST IS 25

The *Excelsior* Trust is 25 years old this year. Set up by John Wylson to look after the *Excelsior*, the last working sail trawler built in Lowestoft in 1921, the Trust aims to raise the funds to reengine the vessel, and to refit the Excelsior Yard as a historic marine heritage centre.

The Trust maintains her in full working condition and employs her skipper and crew. Two years ago, to increase her use, the Excelsior Trust linked up with the Cirdan Sailing Trust

Excelsior is a Lowestoft fishing smack with a gaff ketch rig, 33 metres long (including spars) with a beam of 5.9 metres. She worked as a commercial fishing trawler until 1936, when she was converted to a motor coaster and sailed around the fjords of Norway until John Wylson bought her in 1972.

Excelsior was fully restored in 1989 and is widely acclaimed for its unique standard of authenticity. *Excelsior* is one of a small number of traditional sailing trawlers remaining in the UK, the only sailing trawler that can still tow a traditional full size trawl.

Since 1989, *Excelsior* has operated as a sail training vessel providing off-



shore voyages for young people.; since 2005 under the flag of The Cirdan Sailing Trust, providing a greater number of young people with the opportunity for self-development through the experience of living and working aboard a traditional sailing vessel.



North Foreland Lighthouse now has an AIS transmitter. The Lighthouse, at 51°22'.494N 01° 26".705E has the MMSI number of 992351020. Vessels carrying AIS receivers will see the number, title, position and bearing and distance from the observing vessel.

Work started on replacing the old low-water access pontoon off the Hard at West Mersea in mid-January. The new pontoon costing between £200,000 and £300,000, will make landing at all stages of the tide easier and safer.

CONFERENCE REMINDERS

The Eastern Region Race Management Conference, combining judging, umpiring and race management, is on Saturday, February 9, 2008 starting at 09.30. The venue is Royal Harwich Yacht Club, Woolverstone, near Ipswich.

Details from Edwin Buckley, Regional Race Management Training Coordinator on 07768 003453 or email: edwin@edwinbuckley.co.uk. Also from Trevor Lewis, Regional Rules Advisor, on 01603 621126 or email: trevorlewis@trevorlewisnorwich.freeserve.co.uk.

Applications should be in by January 30 to ensure a space.

The South-East Region of RYA is holding a Cruising Seminar on Saturday February 2 at Chipstead SC, near Sevenoaks. Members of RYA East are invited to attend.

Entitled "Freedom of the Seas, Despite...." speakers include both Stuart Carruthers, RYA Cruising Manager and Gus Lewis, RYA Legal Manager; Nick Beer, Principal Inspector of MIAB on lessons from *Ouzo*.

David Darbyshire, chairman of the RYA Cruising and Government Affairs Committee will be gazing into his crystal ball with a look at the future for cruising, and Katherine Rowberry will update delegates on the RYA Green Blue scheme.

For those of us for whom the increase in shipping, closure of yacht routes and the imposition of wind farms in the Thames Estuary are anathema, then Capt. Roy Stanbrook, PLA Harbourmaster and yachtsman may have some answers.

The conference starts at 09.15 hrs and closes at 1700 hrs. Tickets are £17.50 (£15 to RYA Personal Members – take your membership card).

Bradwell Outdoor Centre is staging a Senior Instructor course between August 1 - 4, at a cost of £380 including accommodation; an RYA Powerboat Instructor course from February 20-22 at £295, and an RYA Dinghy Instructor course from March 31 - April 5 at £370/£425. Further information or to book a place go to: info.bradwelloutdoors@essexcc.gov.uk or call 01621 776256.

RYA NEWS is a page dedicated to bringing the latest regional and national in-depth news to members via *Anglia Afloat*, the new glossy boating magazine for the East Coast. Published bi-monthly it covers all forms of water sport from the Wash to the Thames, the coast to the MI corridor. For details contact Garth Cooper on garthword@btinternet.com.

RYA RACE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR 16th-17th February 2008 West Mersea Yacht Club

A 2 day course working towards the RYA Regional and National Race Management qualifications. Including work on race operations, starting and finishing procedures, flags and courses.

Contact Edwin Buckley for details by telephone on 07768 003453 or email edwin@edwinbuckley.co.uk

PRACTICAL PUBLICATIONS FOR THE NEW SEASON

The RYA Boat Handling for Sportsboats and RIBs DVD is written and presented by Jon Mendez, author of the best-selling RYA Start Powerboating and a former RYA Chief Powerboat Instructor.

Aimed at newcomers to powerboating, students taking a RYA Powerboat Course or those wanting to update and perfect their boat handling skills it costs £9.95 from chandlers, bookshops and online at www.rya.org.uk/shop.



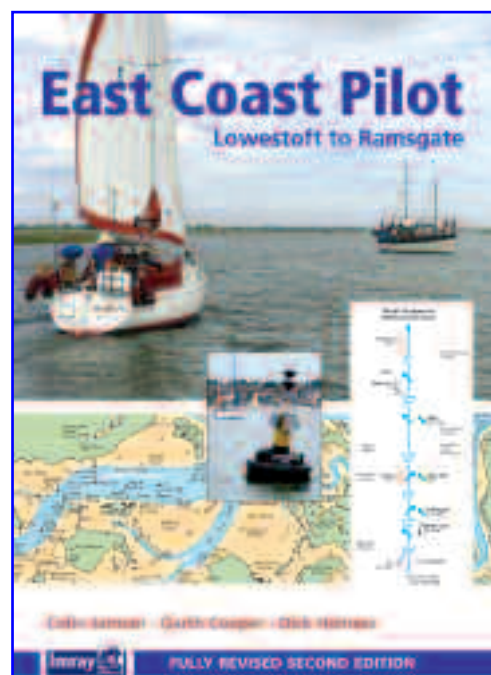
This new DVD is especially of interest to those who use their boats for fun, fishing, waterskiing, wakeboarding and diving. The visual guide provides step-by-step on water instruction from getting started to driving at speed.

The second edition of East Coast Pilot, the definitive guide to pilotage between Lowestoft and Ramsgate and the Thames as far as St Kat's, was launched by publisher Imray at the London Boat Show.

This new version contains a wealth of updated information, new charts and aerial pictures by Patrick Roach as well as deck-level pictures by the authors, and introduces a team of Honorary Port Pilots who will help keep the authors and users up to date with changes in their patches.

Updates can be downloaded from its companion website, www.eastcoastpilot.com or accessed through the link to our website www.ryaeast.org.

East Coast Pilot costs £19.95 from chandlers or can be ordered direct from the website. Watch out for a further couple of East Coast inspired books from the same publisher in the spring.



Clubs who would like to find out how it was done can book a presentation by the three authors, Colin Jarman, Garth Cooper and Dick Holness, via www.eastcoastpilot.com.

WHO'S WHO AT RYA EAST

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