

Commodores report for AGM Nov 2021

Fellow Members,

It has been another challenging year but as we know every challenge in life is both an opportunity and a threat; while the pandemic has been difficult for everyone your club has taken the opportunity to redecorate and rejuvenate the clubhouse and grounds, changed our IT supplier and offering, carefully considered our moorings strategy, and tried to be as community minded and agile to circumstance as we could. I am pleased to report that the limited company and your yacht club remain in good standing and good financial health.

In my view the most important thing about our yacht club is its people and the community we create. Our club is defined by and run by an amazing group of volunteers to whom we all owe so much. I'm very lucky to have inherited a very strong committee who make the club look and feel the way it does. Some committee members are moving on having made a huge contribution and others are joining our band; running this club is very much a team sport and I am very grateful to them all.

Clubhouse and grounds

Steve Dennis has organised and maintained the clubhouse, grounds and facilities to the highest standard. I'm delighted that Steve Hopley has joined the team in the role of bosun which is a great support to Steve but also to Dave Wheatley with the cadet boats. The running of the bar and the cleaning of the clubhouse are relentless tasks smoothly managed by Con O'Connor and his team. This year they have again run the bar into a healthy profit. The committee have resolved to investigate replacing the old oil boiler with an electric system comprising an electric boiler and solar panels and possibly the need for three phase electricity. This project is still at the planning stage but makes financial sense in the medium term and is in line with our aspiration to move away from fossil fuels and be as green as possible. Unfortunately, our plans to refresh the causeway have stalled with the MMO but Libby Gawith continues to keep this under review and is pressuring them to make progress when she can. Mick Flanagan has looked after our dinghy park and the Boatwatch scheme runs smoothly with the technical scrutiny of Martin Worth.

Social and sailing

Jill Trew and her team have run a very impressive social schedule over the past 12 months with online winter talks which were surprisingly well attended, and a very sociable summer programme. The Landulph Celebrates day in July was a huge success and demonstrated our collaboration with the Parish and the village and strengthen our bonds within our local community. The regatta this year, organised by our outgoing sailing officer James Gent, was very well attended and much appreciated by visitors and locals alike. We had had a very muted affair in 2020 due to the pandemic and everybody was ready for a good party. I'm very sorry to report the retirement of James as our sailing officer. He has run a series of fantastic regattas and we will miss him greatly. I believe that we will have another volunteer for the role of sailing officer soon in time to organise the regatta in 2022. The biweekly Wednesday night white sail challenge has been well attended and, as in previous years, administered by Tony Head. Tony will present the White Sail race results after the AGM but we would like to thank him for his unwavering support to the club. This autumn we are also running a biweekly dinghy race series which is proving a provisional success.

Barge and moorings

As you know the income of the club is very largely reliant on the moorings operation which is run by the moorings officer administering the 150 moorings, and the barge master organising a team of people to service the moorings in November every year. John Davis retired as commodore and

immediately took over as barge master to support our long-suffering assistant bargemaster Charles Evans. Will Davis took over from Chris Bowyer as moorings officer after the last AGM but it became increasingly apparent that this is a particularly onerous job and virtually impossible to do at the same time as having a family life and a full time job. This has reinforced the view of the 2017 committee that it is necessary to divide the existing mooring officer responsibility into three separate interlocking jobs. I'm therefore pleased to report that Nick Keene has volunteered to replace Will and additionally we are going to have Justin Butler starting in a new role of River Manager who will deal with visitors' moorings and urgent queries afloat, and Simon Clewes in the new role of Foreshore Manager with responsibility for the foreshore, toast racks and engine sheds. I would particularly like to thank Will for his hard work running the mooring operation over the past 12 months. To simplify the task of managing the mooring servicing, and to mutualise the cost to tackle owners, we will be introducing a flat mooring consumable fee which will be charged to tackle owners and is already incorporated into the mooring rental fee for non-owners.

Administration

We have continued with committee meetings on Zoom and this has proven very successful. It makes the committee meetings more efficient and mercifully quicker, and I hope that we continue with this format for administrative meetings in future. It also allows committee members to attend these meeting from their homes further afield, or indeed their boats while away cruising, or caravans in North Cornwall which is very modern and inclusive! I am particularly grateful for the steadying hand of Ian Oram our club secretary and Peter Plume our membership secretary. Their corporate memory and fastidious knowledge and adherence to the club rules and processes is invaluable. With the guidance of our new IT manager Tim Bell we have successfully migrated the database from our old supplier to the new system Sailing Club Manager. I hope that we will iron out the remaining knowledge gaps with the new system in the very near future. Janet Stone has kept a firm grip on the club's finances and steered us through another accounting cycle and the ongoing COVID uncertainty. I'm pleased to report that the club remains in a good financial position.

Training

Dave Wheatley and Clarissa Newell and their team of helpers and safety boat drivers have enthusiastically run a very successful cadet season this year despite the difficulties of COVID 19. Although very few of our cadets become adult members because they fledge and fly away to make lives elsewhere, I hope that we instil in them a love for the water in general and this place in particular. I suspect that they will ultimately be our longest legacy.

And finally, I would remind members to make sure that everything is safely stowed for the winter with boats ashore or firmly secured. If your boat is left afloat please make regular inspections during the winter to avoid sinking. We advise that tenders are removed from the foreshore and toast racks to prevent them being damaged by storms and to allow us to manage the bank and the hedges. I wish you all fair winds for the 2022 season.

Mac Armstrong, Commodore.
October 2021