

Jan/Feb 2026 – EDITION 006

Welcome to the first Aquila of the year and the first Aquila of the new committee. It is our plan to send out monthly Aquila Light newsletters, informing you of upcoming events and club information. Also, a quarterly full Aquilla which will have updates on completed race series and members editorials, so please get your thinking hats on. This is technically an Aquila Lite, but I feel there is additional information to impart on you, so please bear with its length.

COMMODORE



For your sins you voted me into post as Commodore. I will work hard to support the club over the next two years, and help it continue growing from strength to strength. Most of you know me, but for those who say, “Justin who?” I

joined the club in 2018, along with my boy Matthew. We already sailed Mirror dinghies off the beach in the village but had no formal sailing qualifications. Given my parents met at Pevensey bay Sailing Club, and my grandfather was one of the original members, it seemed fitting Matt and I should join PBSC. We enrolled on the RYA L1 & L2 course, under the instruction of David and Bill Bracey. We purchased a Laser Stratos during the course and took it with us to SailCamp that same year. While at camp David Bracey taught us how to use its asymmetric spinnaker and we were signed off on our L2 that week.

Roll forward a couple of years and I joined the ExCom, immediately becoming Sailing Secretary. After a couple of seasons I became Vice Commodore for two years until you mad fools agreed to have me as your Commodore.

You will hopefully see me about the club most weekends, often wandering around with a hammer or screwdriver in hand fixing club boats, or cleaning out traps on the men’s urinals...

I’m not of course the only person taking on a new role within the Committee. We welcome Duncan Tanner back to the Committee as Vice Commodore, Dave Boniface back as Rear Commodore and Andy Cumming has stepped up from a Lay Person to Honorary Secretary. We had to say goodbye to Gary

Pearson who held the mantle of Commodore for the last two years and warm goodbye to Sarah Pullen who stepped down from Honorary Secretary.

We are currently in our closed season, but that doesn’t mean the club is all shut up. David Boniface has been organising Work Parties every Sunday, please do spare some time to come along for a morning and help paint some walls, fill some potholes and other jobs Dave will have lined up.

Talking of potholes, the state of the driveway hasn’t escaped the attention of the ExCom, especially those who have low riding cars. The ongoing maintenance is hard work, however having the driveway upgraded is very expensive. It is a real balancing act trying to decide how we spend the club’s funds. Money spent on the road, is money not spent on the clubhouse, its facilities and club boats. If anybody has a spare £45,000 we could provide a whole new road surface... We will continue discussing the options at the ExCom meetings and try to find a suitable solution. If we were to upgrade the road ourselves, it would require a team of committed volunteers, willing to possibly put in a full week’s work, operating machinery, wheelbarrows and shovels.

The winter storms really took a toll on the beachhead, the Environmental Agency has done a good job of rebuilding the beach bank, but to protect our haul out rope from their lorries they have buried the rope under several tons of beach. We are assured this will be uncovered in time for start of the sailing season.

SOCIALS UPCOMING EVENTS Feb – May 2026

Fitting Out Supper Saturday 21 March this event marks the start of the sailing season. The bar will be open from 5.30pm please Bring-A-Dish to share for the buffet.

Easter Egg Hunt Sunday 5 April. On and off the water fun for all!

Open Day Saturday 2nd May, Member’s BBQ afterwards, The Bar open all evening. Members help will be needed, with taster sails and showing visitors around the club.

The Long Weekender 23-25 May. Join us for a weekend of sailing, camping and fun! Chilli Night on the Saturday. All members welcome.

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There will be lots of other events throughout the season, keep up to date via the PBSC website calendar and future editions of Aquila.

SAILING CALENDAR

Matt Fowler has completed the Sailing Calendar and it is available to view on the PBSC website. The sailing season kicks off on Good Friday and there will be a full schedule of sailing over the Bank holiday weekend. The Calendar is subject to change, so do keep checking it.

Matt will be opening the Duties spreadsheet in the next couple of weeks. We will email you when it is open with instructions on how to log in and how to choose your duty dates. There will be a short window to choose dates that best suit you, after which Matt will allocate remaining duties, and it will be your own responsibility to find someone else to cover your allocated duty.

The Calendar also details the full 2026 Social and Training schedule.

TRAINING & MEETINGS

- **First Aid Course** Saturday 28 February bookable on WebCollect.
- **Instructors Meeting** Saturday 7 March.
- **OOD & Timekeeper discussion** Thursday 26 March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. This will be an informal discussion to help allay anyone's fears of volunteering to try the OOD and/or Timekeeper roles. No need to book, just come along. We may even provide pizza as a bribe to come along. If you have been a sailing member for a few years, you really ought to consider upskilling and trying Officer Of the Day. The discussion will help with that.
- **Boat Prep** Saturday 28 March. Come along Saturday morning and get help raising your mast, replacing any broken fittings, and getting your boat ready for the start of the season. Don't be the only member with your mast still down mid-season...
- **Powerboat Refresher** 11 April. Bookable on WebCollect (free/no charge)
- **RYA Powerboat L1&L2** 9 May 2026. Bookable on WebCollect.

INTRODUCTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Vice Commodore – Duncan Tanner



Most of you know me, but for those who don't, I am Duncan; your new Vice Commodore. I have been on the committee before, so I have a vague sense of how it all works.

I started sailing when I was a toddler. My Dad was (still is) a keen sailor and dumped me in the front of a Heron, with my Gran at the helm, whilst he blasted around in his Fireball. As Gran and I both got older, we changed places and she sat in the front and I helmed. I have fond memories of that boat even now, as I sailed it most weekends for over ten years.

As teenager I got an Enterprise, as well as an OK, and again had that pair of boats for over ten years. I also spent a season in a 420 and a couple of winters in lasers (training with the British Youth Squad, or whatever it was called in those days), but never really got on with either of those boats. There were a lot of Merlin Rockets at our club, Cookham Reach Sailing Club, located on the Thames, and I spent a fair bit of time in the front of Merlin's.

In my 20's, I started crewing on yachts, initially round the buoys on the Solent, but then got involved in offshore racing, then 2 handed offshore racing. I also did a few long delivery trips, which were something a bit different, but all good time on the water.

Then, when children came along, I found that all those invitations to crew dried up if I asked if I could bring a couple of toddlers with me. By this time I had long since sold the dinghies and in reality, having children meant that I took a break from sailing. With hindsight, that did me a world of good. I had been sailing constantly, virtually every weekend of the year, for my whole life and I was ready for a break.

Quite some time ago, I am not going to try and work out exactly how long ago, but both my children were aged in single figures (they are now young adults), a friend at work was moving to Hong Kong to run our new office there. He had an old laser 2 and wanted to get rid of it, and to cut a long story short it landed up

AQUILALITE



See

with me. By now, I had moved from the Thames Valley to Polegate, the kids were old enough to pop into the front of a boat, so it was time to check out all the local sailing clubs. I have been a member of PBSC ever since.

The Laser2 is long gone. I have an RS400 now (reminds me of a Merlin Rocket) and a Hadron H2. (Before then a Blaze). Next year, I am going to try and do a few events if time permits, but I also said that about this year. I will try and be at the club most weekends, although I do have other hobbies outside of sailing, so I will also try not to be at the sailing club both days of any given weekend.

As well as Vice Commodore, I am also part of your safety boat instructor team.

If any member, has any question about any aspect of the club, feel free to grab hold of me when you see me at the club, or otherwise contact me on vice.commodore@pbsc.org.uk. I may not know the answer to your question, but if that is the case, I will know someone who can find out. I will try and respond promptly, but I do have, like many members, a demanding job so at busy times, I may not respond to e-mail straight away.

Youth Sailing Co-Ordinator – Ash Scarff



I am the youth sailing coordinator for the club, helping to make sure as many of our young members as possible can get out on the water. The aim is for them to have fun learning to sail and to develop their sailing and racing skills, experience and

knowledge. We have enjoyed terrific sailing seasons at the club in recent years with youth sailing going from strength to strength and growing in popularity. A huge credit to everyone involved in running and supporting youth sailing.

I started sailing as child in our family Mirror dinghy before progressing to racing National 12s then Fireballs. We joined PBSC as a family 5 years ago and haven't looked back. You'll find me at the club most Saturdays, and on Sundays racing when I can.

you on the beach.

Membership Secretary – Lucy Potterton



Hi, my name is Lucy and I am the Membership Secretary of Pevensy Bay Sailing Club. I've been a member here for nearly 20 years, we came on a day visit from Hastings Sailing Club, and never left!

After our day's visit, we drove out of the club towing our Hobie Cat back to Hastings and I said to my husband, "I feel like we're leaving our family behind", so we joined up straight away. Twenty years later, we have a few more boats, I am on the committee, my son is on the Youth Sailing Program and husband is the Club Boat Bosun, so you could say we are heavily involved, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

You will find me all round the club, from the beach to the bar, in the water and on the water, so please do come up and say hello or if you have any questions about membership or the club in general, please don't hesitate to ask me. Happy sailing!

USEFUL INFORMATION

WhatsApp The membership currently have a number of WhatsApp groups, often duplicating posts and information. Ash Scarff has set up a PBSC WhatsApp 'Community' which brings together all the individual groups. When it goes live you will be able to see all the other groups available and chose which ones you want to join. The membership form now incorporates a Yes/No permissions tick box. When you next make a purchase on WebCollect, you may be forced to review your membership form and select Yes/No.

ExCom Minutes can be viewed on the website via the **About** dropdown then **Committee & AGM Minutes**. The password is detailed on the email this Aquila was attached to.

Entrance Gate Please keep the Entrance Gate closed. This stops unauthorised access and helps keep the club grounds and our boats secure. You hopefully already know the gate code, but it is also detailed on the email this Aquila was attached to.