

March 2026 – EDITION

COMMODORE



Welcome to the March edition of Aquila.

We have been busy over the closed season, fitting new wine/beer cooler fridges to the bar and bar store. We have fitted extractors behind the

fridges to try and keep them running cooler and last longer. We have fitted new shelving in the bar store and Keith Vercoe has fitted timer switches to the hot water tank immersion heaters, to manage our energy consumption more efficiently.

We have a window company coming out to repair the leak on the patio doors. Our own best efforts to resolve the problem were unsuccessful, so we are calling back the original installers. The benefit being their work will come with a guarantee. The water ingress caused damage to the hardboard under the vinyl flooring just inside the patio doors. Once the leak is fixed, we will have to relay the vinyl in that area, so until then please be careful when using the patio doors.

You will recall at the AGM, we spoke of seeking a grant for a new roof and solar panels. Gary Pearson, Andrew Hebron, Duncan Tanner and Nicki Webber have invested an immense amount of work drafting specifications, obtaining quotations and preparing the grant application. At the time of writing we are putting the final touches on the application. If successful, we stand to receive a grant of up to 80% of the cost of the works. This will significantly improve the building's roof covering and insulation, and reduce our carbon footprint and energy consumption. The PV panels will massively reduce our energy bill. Such savings will allow us to spend more of our funds on sailing equipment and social activities and hopefully help us keep our membership fees affordable. While we are quietly optimistic of a successful application, nothing is guaranteed until the money is safely in the bank. If you have extra fingers to cross, please do so.

Because Weir Wood Sailing Club sadly closed, PBSC were the beneficiary of a sum of money after their accounts were settled. Adrian Peckham also secured a kind donation from Kee Safety Ltd, a Safety

Equipment Supplier he works with. Kee Safety made a donation a few years back, so we are very grateful they have done so again. With only a little club funds, two donations allowed us to purchase new boats for the Sailing School. Ash Scarff worked his magic at the RYA Dinghy Show and secured a great deal on two brand new Fusion double handed dinghies. The boats have been delivered and can be sailed both single or double handed. They are vast improvement on the Picos, we currently use. The boats will be available to the sailing school, newly qualified members and all other members, for a small hire charge.

I mentioned last month about the WhatsApp community, as you are brought into the main group, take a look at what other groups available and request access. The Website and Aquila will remain the official place to be informed of all club matters, but the WhatsApp community will add another valuable method of keeping updated on club sailing and social events.

This is meant to be an Aquila Lite, so I will move swiftly on to Social...

SOCIALS UPCOMING EVENTS Feb – May 2026

Social Secretary – Lesley Corke

Fitting Out Supper Saturday 21 March this event marks the start of the sailing season. The bar will be open from 5.30pm. If you would like to eat, please *Bring-a-Dish* to share for the buffet. The purpose of the evening is to dust off your social cobwebs, reengage with your PBSC friends and get excited about the forthcoming sailing and social season.

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.

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 UPCOMING EVENTS

Sailing Secretary - Matt Fowler:

Our 2026 sailing season is fast approaching. Please find below the key sailing dates for March and April:

Saturday 28 March – 11:00 Boat Preparation Day

Get help assembling your boat and completing any essential last-minute maintenance before the season begins.

3–6 April – Easter Bank Holiday Weekend Series

- **Friday & Monday:** Bank Holiday Series racing
- **Saturday:** A more fun event for all ages, a relaxed handicap race – the return of the ever popular Cadbury's Creme Egg races, where you have to collect a chocolate egg from the safetyboat each lap of the race.
- **Sunday:** The Easter Egg Trophy – come along for some racing and another chance to win some chocolate!

Thursday 23 April – 18:30

Women on the Water & Improvers sessions return

If you are interested in taking part, please come along, or speak to Dave Boniface or Emma Laurens, or join the WhatsApp group for further information.

TRAINING & MEETINGS

- **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 theDay. The discussion will help with that.
- **Powerboat Refresher** 11 April. Bookable on WebCollect (free/no charge)
- **RYA Powerboat L1&L2** 9 May 2026. Bookable on WebCollect.

The instructors meeting was held on 7 March. Chief Sailing Instructor David Bracey reports "it was a

productive and fruitful day, where we explored ways to develop new adult sailors, helping those who have completed Level 1&2 feel supported, inspired, and excited to become lifelong members of our club."

INTRODUCTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Rear Commodore – David Boniface



Well here I am again! Back on the committee in another Commodore role. This time as Rear. After three years as Commodore I should have run a lot faster in the other direction, but they caught me! I must be mad!!! 18

months without a Rear, after Goff had to step down, and we have a bit of catching up to do. We have a lot of projects on the go and a fair bit of general maintenance to do, but we are making progress and hope to have the Club ready for the start of the sailing season.

The Rear commodore's role includes anything relating to the building and grounds. As you can imagine, the list of tasks is pretty endless but luckily we have a number of members who are willing, and very able, to help out when needed. I do feel sorry for them however, when they turn up week after week to the working parties and I thank them wholeheartedly for their efforts so far this year. We have had nine opportunities to work on the Club so far this year and there are three weekends left before sailing starts, so please make an effort to come and help.

Once Sunday sailing has started we will only be able to work on Saturdays and a couple of weeks after that, only mid-week. If you are able to lend a hand mid-week please let me know.

Notification of future working parties will be posted on Facebook and the WhatsApp Community.

SAFEGUARDING



Lyn Brocklehurst is our Safeguarding Officer. With Lyn's assistance we have updated our safeguarding policy and safeguarding page on the PBSC website. We have added a QR code for anyone needing to make a safeguarding

referral. And included a Changing Room Guidelines poster.

Changing Room Guidelines

Be mindful that there are children and young people around!
Keep your swimming costumes and shorts on when you shower.

PRIVACY

Don't be alone in the changing rooms!
If you are an adult, make sure you are with another adult if there are children and young people present who are not in your care.

SAFETY

Respect people's privacy
Do not use any devices with recording or camera technology.

RESPECT

If you have concerns, tell us!
If you notice something that doesn't look right or makes you feel uncomfortable speak to a person in charge.

SPEAK UP

Club Welfare Contact :
Lyn Brocklehurst
Safeguarding@PBSC.org.uk

Referral form QR code

RYA

Anyone with a safeguarding concern, or needing information can use the above QR code, or follow this link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhcVNqkWXWLAOa2d8MIHnMK_KIZG1CDqvE7BKZC5GMjr12WQ/viewform

or contact Lyn via Safeguarding@PBSC.org.uk

With the sailing season about to restart, and the Long Weekender fast approaching there will be children and young people using the club's changing rooms and facilities. Please be mindful of children getting changed. Please do not take mobile phones into the changing rooms, instead use the lockers provided under the staircase.

Please also be aware that persons under 18yrs old have to be supervised and have a 'responsible adult' at the club, at all times. While we all need to look out for each other and challenge or report anything we see that is not appropriate, it is the role of the responsible adult to monitor the behaviour and safety of the child in their care. Before agreeing to be a responsible adult for another person's child, please be aware of the role you will be committing yourself to undertake.

USEFUL INFORMATION

PBSC Sailing and
Social Calendar 2026

Scan me!

www.PBSC.org.uk/Calendar

You will see these QR code posters dotted around the club. Scanning these QR codes will take you directly to the latest Club Calendar, where you can check Race Series information, start times and Social Events.

Keep checking the club Calendar to ensure you are up to date as to the club events.

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.