



Aquila Newsletter



Pevensey Bay Sailing Club

Old Martello Road Pevensey Bay East Sussex BN24 6DX



WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR..... WITH LOADS OF SAILING!!



Commodore's Communiqué

December 2021

David Boniface



Commodore@pbsc.org.uk

Well the sailing is done for another year for most of us, apart from a few hardy souls who venture inland to break the ice on inland ponds to fulfil their desire to sail. Not for me I have to say as I've always needed a break from a sport to regenerate enthusiasm and it's not for the Club as we need time to plan, rebuild, sort out and reconsider what we do and how we do it. The sailing program is already well under way with many new ideas being considered, building projects planned, social program drafted, boat park reorganisation well under way, to mention a few!

We mentioned in the last Aquila that we would need your help throughout the winter, when running work parties. We make no apology for mentioning it again!



Throughout the winter period we will be looking to run regular working parties to try to catch up with the time lost to lockdowns in the last two years. At this stage we have to assume that we will be able to work at the club and so we will be calling on your help to undertake some of the work, particularly when it comes to sorting out boats in the Boat Park and equipment stored in the member's containers. This is your opportunity to show off those latent skills that you possess, such as carpentry, building, gardening, decorating, cleaning, roadwork, fencing and more! I won't elaborate on this further as Goff writes something about planned work later in this Aquila.

AGM

As you will obviously know, the Executive Committee felt that we could not hold the AGM as planned, on 5th December, due to the increase in cases of Covid amongst the members, and insufficient time to rearrange it as a virtual meeting. This is now rescheduled, to be held on-line, on Sunday 16th January, 7:30 pm. You will receive notification of this shortly along with the reports submitted by the Club Officers.





Membership Secretary

Duncan Tanner 
membership@pbbc.org.uk

Membership figures.

The Club is now up to 167 memberships. By “memberships” we refer to all the types of membership that we offer with this ranging from single person membership to Family groups. The total number of members is fairly difficult to sort out, but is well beyond the figure quoted above.

To put this into context, this compares to 125 members last year and 138 in 2019. The trend before then had been a steadily decreasing membership, so this is a significant turn round and possibly a silver lining due to Covid?

2022 Subscriptions

There will be a subscription increase of approximately 2.5% (to the nearest pound) for 2022, as agreed by the committee. This is well below the rate of inflation, however you wish to measure it and the club costs are going up considerably in most areas. It would not be prudent to leave membership fees unchanged.

2022 Renewals

I will not be sending paper hard copy renewals to every member this year. It is time consuming and expensive and not many people used them last year. I will be e-mailing membership forms in due course, they will be available on the website to download and there will be some printed in the race box. If anyone requests that I print a form out and send it to them I will do so, but they will not be sent unless requested.

Change to student membership.

The current student membership is positioned in price half way between full adult and cadet and is meant for those who are still in full time education, but are too old to be cadets. We are now changing this to a “student and young person” membership and as such is available to full time students of any age (including those on apprenticeship schemes) on 1st January of the membership year, as well as those under the age of 25 years on 1st January of that membership year.





Sailing

James Allerton

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The closed season is now upon us, and with some of our members heading inland to sail, others may be wishing to develop new skills or brush up on those that haven't needed to be used recently. With this in mind we have a couple of closed season activities lined up for members. Places are limited for each of these sessions so please book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made by following the link and using the booking form <https://forms.gle/nViX8xhGmtC9jJjo7>

Rules and Rights of Way for Beginners - Saturday 22nd January 2:30pm

Mike Chapman will be holding a rules and rights of way session at the clubhouse. Open to all, this will be a fun and interactive session aimed at beginners and juniors who want to start racing or are looking to improve their basic understanding of the racing rules.

Starting at 2:30pm the session will be based around the RYA's racing charter which ensures that racing is fair, welcoming and enjoyable for all, provides a framework for all-round enjoyment, and encourages lifelong sailboat racing.

The session will take the form of an open and interactive discussion and will cover the following topics:

- The racing charter - how to race fairly
- International collision regulations
- Flags and starting signals





Sailing

Power Boat Essentials - Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March

If you are a powerboat crew who is looking to progress towards their RYA Power Boat Level 2 certificate, or you are a new member who needs to learn the ropes before volunteering for a safety boat crew duty, then this is the session for you!

Due to the time of year, this session will be entirely land-based so even if it's cold and wet the session will run in the clubhouse with plenty of cups of tea and cake!

Our powerboat trainers will cover a range of topics including the following areas:

Preparatory to PB2

Intro to the role of Safety Boat crew and helm

Clothing/personal prep for on the water

Introduction to boats

The boats and normal uses

Equipment on board

Preparation of our boats

Equipment required for laying a course

Role of the Safety Boats on the water

Power Boat Level 2 Refresher/Safety Boat certificate preparation - Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th March

If you already have your RYA Power Boat Level 2, are a little rusty (as we all are after the winter!), want to improve your knowledge or are looking to progress towards your RYA Safety Boat certificate, then this is the session for you!

Due to the time of year, this session will more than likely be land-based, although if conditions allow boats may go afloat.

Some of the topics that will be covered will include:

Role of Safety Boat helm, crew and Race Officer

Usual operating area afloat, tides, depth, weather conditions etc

Recap on Power Boat Level 2

Preparation of boats and equipment, including end of session/day procedures

Role and operation of Safety Boats - club activities/racing

Launch/recovery process – trailer/beach

Giving assistance – when/what/how/methods

Emergency Incident Plan

Course setting and mark Laying



Caught on Camera!



Capsize Caught on Camera

Emma and Max's article about starting sailing from the different perspectives of adult and cadet in the October issue of Aquila, had me thinking about the contrasting delight youngsters find in tipping over in a boat, as opposed to the fear some of us later starters, speaking of myself, face on learning to sail.

It reminded me of one public capsizing of mine which ended up in the middle of a window display in a photography shop in Salcombe, Devon. Experienced sailing friends had introduced me to the incredible fun of a week's sailing at regattas in different parts of the country. This was my second regatta, and I was pretty inexperienced. Luckily, the RS 200's started 5 minutes before my fleet (medium handicap) so, if I kept Lynne Ratcliffe in sight, I could locate the start line. I usually had no idea where it was. And I would then attempt to start 5 minutes later with the rest of my fleet - Enterprises, Solos, Larks, Phantoms and various other boat, including the odd fellow Europe sailor.

Apart from the squalls, currents, tides, dead wind patches and the number of boats on the water of all types, moored, ferries, sightseeing boats, cruisers, yachts, and couple of hundred or more dinghies taking part in the Salcombe Regatta, coming from all directions, there was the added terror of the Official Photographer, keen to take photos of every participant. See below! For obvious reasons, I was not aware that this photo had been taken, until one of my friends spotted it in the shop window, recognising my hat! I could not be persuaded at the time to buy a copy, embarrassed I suppose by my failure to stay upright. But later I relented. It was one of several capsizes that week, 3 in the space of about 100 metres one time I think!

The point is, that week was sailing heaven despite the capsizes, as have all the sailing weeks away, been. So don't let fear of capsizing hold you back. There are always experienced sailors on the beach to advise and discuss conditions with you, a kindly Safety Boat on the water to keep an eye on you, and help you get back upright if needed. And there is no shame in coming back in sooner than you planned.

So now you know why I wear a bright coloured hat sailing. I am not going to be missed when I go in! But no photographs please.

Sarah Pullen



From the Rear!

Rear Commodore House Report

Dear Members

2021 season is drawing to a close and I am please to advise that the clubhouse and associated land and facilities have survived another year without falling down or being washed away.

Some of you may have noticed small projects and repairs being undertaken throughout the year. These have included new signs to the club boundary entrances, Wet Bar refurbishment, external decoration, outside hot showers, new club (builders) container, electrical testing and repair and new galley equipment to name a few.

These jobs, along with other minor repairs, have been undertaken and completed in accordance with the capital expenditure programme set out to the committee at the start of the year. Several projects are planned for next year with capital expenditure already earmarked by the committee to facilitate these.

In order to complete these the club will once again call for assistance from its membership and notice of work parties will be made in the New Year. On this note I would like to thank all those members who have contributed to helping out around the club this year. Particular thanks to Ken, Goff and Ant for all their assistance.

Some of you may have noticed projects and construction work taking place on the clubs boundaries. The new house at Seahaven has been built on the access road without any significant disruption to the club. Its owners, Mr & Mrs Bell, have been very helpful in ensuring the club was not hindered during this project. Increased activity in the local caravan park market has included change of ownership to the adjoining caravan park and an alteration in their strategy. I would like to reassure the membership that the committee keeps a keen interest in these matters in order to ensure the assets and operation of the sailing club are protected. On this note we have been liaising closely with Grey Towers (who own the space directly to the side and rear of the club) and we are in the process of completing an overhaul of the boundary fence between our properties. New signs highlighting ownership of the club land and risk to people accessing this land have been erected at the common entry points. This was done partly in anticipation of the new costal access path after consultation with Natural England who have chosen a route across the front of the clubhouse on the beach as their preferred route along this section of the coastline.

Once again many thanks for all your contributions, apart from whoever keeps hitting the high level entry barrier. There are only so many times we can bend that back into shape.





Contribution from a younger sailor

Laser Sailing

My second season in my laser has been an enjoyable one so far.

Earlier in the summer I participated in the Federation Cup, a competition between sailing clubs from Newhaven to Hastings. A group of us went, hoping to compete in the Junior category, but we were placed into the adult section because the Laser Radial 'isn't a youth boat'. Nevertheless, we tried our best and I won the highest placed visiting boat with 6th overall, out of around 30 boats. The results proved to be very unreliable, however, with obviously incorrect results recorded, which left me wondering how we all would have scored had they been better recorded. Despite this, it was an enjoyable day with exciting racing (for me at least) and tight starts.

More recently, I competed in the Cadet Cup, and was helped out by weather cancelling the event for the day I couldn't attend. I just about managed to beat Matt Pollard to win, albeit only just. For the second year in a row, we were separated by just one point in the final standings.

The last weekend of August was a busy one for me, as I not only raced in the club championships but also competed in the Laser Open in Hastings. The open went reasonably well, considering it was my first laser class open, but 7th overall (4th radial) was slightly disappointing. Whilst I appeared to have decent speed compared to the other radials, a capsizing in both the first and second race put me further back than I would have liked. I believe otherwise I could have been fighting for fifth overall.

The club championships were held over the following Sunday and Monday. I did really well on Sunday morning, taking two second places, but the afternoon wasn't as successful, with two fourth places. However, it could have been higher if not for a boat problem in the third race costing me time. On Monday the conditions were a bit windier, and I struggled more, but still finished well enough for third overall, which I am very pleased with.

Michael Tanner





Boat Park

The audit of the boat park has now been completed, approximately eight more 'abandoned' boats have been identified and will, as before, be notified to members via email and the clubs Facebook and website pages and claims of ownership invited.

We have also been able to identify additional boat park spaces which has allowed us to clear the backlog of members awaiting a space. We still have a few spaces available for anyone who still needs a space

There are a lot of trollies and trailers in the north east corner of the boat park and, while a few have identified owners, most do not. In January we aim to line up all the trollies and trailers along the eastern fence and invite members to identify which trollies/trailers they own, and label them with their name and boat., within a 6 week timescale. After six weeks, any trollies/trailers not identified will follow the same process as for abandoned boats i.e sold or otherwise disposed of.

If you own any of these trailers/trollies, and have the time, it would be helpful if you could label them before we line them up, as it saves work.....

Goff

Volunteers needed

The sailing season has now come to a close, and our minds have turned to jobs that need to be undertaken around the clubhouse and grounds before next season. These include repairing the road into the club, improving the north boundary fence, replacing and adding new tie-downs, painting the clubhouse inside and out etc. We need members to help with these activities so, if you would like to volunteer, please email Goff Brooks at goffbrooks1@gmail.com, indicating whether you are able to help at weekends, during the week, or both.

When we have dates for particular activities we will email volunteers confirm availability



Abandoned Boats

In early November we notified all club members that we had identified a number of boats which we had classed as 'abandoned' i.e., we could not identify ownership. This process resulted in three boats being claimed and our membership records amended accordingly. Three ex-members have also asked if we could find new owners for their boats, with any monies received to go to the club.

If any members are interested in making offers for any of the boats identified on the following pages they are invited to do so by contacting Goff Brooks, emailing him at goffbrooks1@gmail.com."



Abandoned Boats



Selling on behalf of a former member. A Dart 15, unused for several years, but in reasonable condition. Mast, boom, foils, sails etc available and comes with a very good trailer. Fibreglass hulls. Owner has said it is a 1994 boat.



Minisail bare hull for sale.



Abandoned Boats



Topper Topaz, blue hull in reasonable condition, on a combi trailer. Boom, no mast or foils.



Topper, white hull only – no fittings, rigging, sails, or foils.



Laser 1. Sail No 68669. Red hull, cream deck. Trolley, sail (condition unknown), mast and boom. Rudder, tiller, no centreboard . Black cover.



Abandoned Boats



Chrysler Man of war, being sold by an ex member, any proceeds going to the club. This is an American boat, built in the late 1970's. It is of fibreglass construction and has a one-piece mast, a boom, and aluminium centreboard, rudder and tiller. We also have a sail for it, with battens. It is on a trolley. It could be an interesting restoration project!

Merlin Rocket, being sold on behalf of an ex-member with any proceeds going to the club.

While generally in reasonable condition, the boat has been standing unused for two years. It has a red wooden hull with a varnished wood deck. The rear starboard quarter of the gunnels have some damage due to water penetration. It has a trolley and trailer, mast, boom, rigging, some trapeze lines, sails, all foils. I understand that the Merlin is quite an advanced sail, or it could be an interesting restoration project.



Abandoned Boats



Canoe and windsurf board for sale, make etc unknown, condition poor.

Topper Topaz, faded blue hull, boom, sail, no foils. No trolley/trailer.



Galley

Caterer Required

As you know Tina has done a fantastic job keeping us fed throughout most of the sailing season, often stepping in when the caterer we had organised was unable to fulfil the commitment. In addition to this she has not taken any personal payment for her efforts, ploughing all her taking back into the Club. For her efforts we are extremely grateful.

Unfortunately Tina is unable to continue running the galley next year and so the ExCom is having to consider alternatives. In the past we have had a series of professional caterers take on the contract, but it is clearly very seasonal work and completely reliant on the weather and as such not a commercially attractive proposition. At the height of the season the galley can be extremely busy, but on wet and windy days takings can be very slim. There is opportunity to build up a regular clientele.

Ideally we need someone who would look on this as a bit of a hobby which earns them some extra money; excellent pay on good days but poor on others. Perhaps someone who is in early retirement. Perhaps someone who only works part time, but they would need to be available Saturday and Sunday throughout the sailing season. To be honest it couldn't be a sailor as the galley needs to be open whenever we sail.

If you know of anyone that would be suitable for this post please point them in direction of the Commodore.

Email commodore@pbsc.org.uk

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

