

## COMMODORE'S REPORT 2020

What a year this has been but I think your Committee has grasped the difficulties and created opportunities.

We began the year with no inkling of what was to fall upon us, we were looking forward to the luxury of a refurbished clubhouse, a satisfying sailing season and a Hog Roast as a new innovation for the Regatta. However, 'Lockdown' obliged us to close the clubhouse and your Committee has agonised over many other difficult decisions, sadly for our Cadet Officer, Clarissa Newall, Cadet activity had to be cancelled.

A number of planned social events were also cancelled but this gave us the opportunity to proceed at pace with the redecoration of the clubhouse. Mac Armstrong and his 'creative team' and Steve Dennis (alongside his many other tasks) managed the project to a successful on-budget conclusion. I hope that you will have seen the video we distributed showing the stunning result achieved - we look forward to the day when members can gather there again.

Pete Plume, our Membership Secretary, keeps us mindful of our members needs and, despite Covid-19, has been busy admitting a healthy number of new members.

A number of activities did continue despite 'the virus'; Con and Allen ran a Covid-19 compliant, outside bar on the club lawn throughout the summer (supported by the contactless method of payment which Janet Stone introduced). Martin Worth has supported members undertaking Boatwatch despite access to the clubhouse being denied them and Mick Flanagan has kept a watchful eye over the Dinghy Park.

Throughout the season a gratifyingly large and friendly group enjoyed the White Sail Challenge, thanks to the organisation of Tony Head and Clare Tagg. Thanks are also due to James Gent and Clare who ran a well supported end-of-year Regatta though, sadly, with no shoreside component. And, by the time that you read this, I hope that the Club will have continued its tradition of holding Trafalgar Night celebrations - this year by Zoom.

A note about our finances. The need to shut down activities led the Committee to swiftly approve a compensatory and substantial relief of Membership fees in 2021. Our Mooring fees are already low due to the fact that our mooring maintenance is carried out in-house thanks to the continuing services of Charles Evans, our Bargemaster and his team of Bargees. We are hopeful but by no means certain that Covid-19 restrictions will not frustrate this year's service. Our Treasurer, Janet, has kept a professional and vigilant eye on our finances and seized the opportunity to apply for a Business Support Grant from Cornwall Council.

Just before lockdown, we began negotiations with the Duchy regarding our lease of the mooring patch and I think that the doom and gloom at that time helped us to successfully negotiate a reduction in our rent. These negotiations blossomed into a brand-new combined fundus and causeway lease covering the next 24 years.

With certainty about our leases, the Causeway Working Party has made great progress. Libby Gawith is moving ahead with obtaining permissions and I hope that work will soon commence on a significant restoration of the surface - something that mooring holders have wanted for some time.

Chris Bowyer has run our moorings operation with a gratifyingly low vacancy rate and has brought into operation our policy to move to a position where 100% of moorings are rented, including the moorings off the Spaniards quay.

One of our concerns is about the number of boats on our mooring patch which appear seriously neglected. For new applicants for moorings, Chris is now asking for information on the condition of their boat including a photograph and a copy of the insurance certificate. In line with our new lease from the Duchy, we have recently added to the 'Mooring Holders Obligations' section of the Moorings Bye-Laws a requirement that members keep their boats in a good and seaworthy condition.

Social distancing requirements have led to virtual Committee meetings and our ever vigilant secretary and webmaster, Ian Oram, has run these with consummate skill and efficiency; I have benefitted greatly from his advice.

It has been far from easy for Jill, our Social Secretary, to put on events but she has invented and written the 'Tidings' you will have received to

keep you abreast of what is going on and she hopes that you will support a Zoomed Winter Talks Series - whether she is allowed, with the help of her sous chefs, to repeat the hugely successful pre-talk suppers of last year we await advice.

Dave Wheatley, our RYA Principal, ensured that we passed our annual inspection and kept us all abreast of RYA advice and webinars.

I think you will agree that a big vote of thanks is due to **all** Officers and Managers of the Club without whose continuing hard work and dedication the Club would fossilise and fail.

This brings me to my appeal for volunteers from the membership to fill vacant posts and to consider relieving some of our longstanding Officers and Managers of their roles. We need a Bosun, a Sailing Officer, secretarial assistance and a Rear Commodore and our Moorings Officer would welcome the knowledge that the cavalry of his replacement was coming. If you feel that you might be able to help the Club in any of these roles please contact any of the Officers.

Finally, as I conclude my term as Commodore, I would like to express my sincere and deep thanks especially to the Committee but also to all Club members who have made my term stimulating and enjoyable. Your Club is friendly and inclusive, supportive of those with limited experience, encourages participation and relies on volunteering.

There is much that I have left undone and I hope that you will support the new Commodore, Mac Armstrong, both to maintain these admirable qualities and to drive the Club to future success.

John Davis, Commodore.