



BABBACOMBE CORINTHIAN SAILING CLUB COMMODORES NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020



Well I've finally got around to writing this Newsletter so welcome to the forthcoming 2020 sailing season.

Coronavirus

I'm sorry to have to mention this but I'm sure you will all understand that we are not immune as a Club from its impact. Our plans for the Rugby Six Nations have already been curtailed and we are seeing some of our room bookings cancelled. As a Club we are focusing our cleaning on making sure, as far as possible, our surfaces are clean, we give you a clean glass each time at the bar and we will get some hand sanitizer for the Club as soon as we can! The situation is obviously very fluid at the moment with Government and NHS advice being updated daily/weekly so we will be taking our lead from those sources.

If we do have to change plans, cancel events and close the Club we will give you as much notice as possible but please bear with us as things will, I suspect, change at short notice.

And now on to more usual stuff

Membership

We already have a significant number of renewals and only a few confirmations of non-renewal, which is a great position to be in. Many of you have used MemberMoJo (MMJ) to renew, with the greater proportion of payments being made by PayPal. As this is the first time we have been through a MMJ renewal cycle we have identified a few "features" and we will be looking to avoid these next year. Importantly over the last month or so we have already had over twenty new members so may I welcome you all to BCSC and I hope you enjoy your time with us.

May I also add that the fact that MMJ has worked so smoothly is a testament to the hard work Andy Probert and Lyn Mark have put in, ably supported by Marguerite Aspinall, so thank you.

We have also seen our first Family and Student members as well, following the changes to the Membership classes agreed at last year's AGM.

I have also arranged to issue this Newsletter to our members who are still to renew. I would appreciate it if you have chosen not to renew that you could let us know and, also the reason and may I take this opportunity to thank you and wish you well in the future.

If you do intend to be part of our Sailing season can I please ask you to complete your renewal by the end of March so we may include you in our plans going forward.

Sailing Matters

We have kicked off the sailing season with our weekly talks at the Top Club House on Tuesday evenings. The first two, the introductory 'All Aboard' and 'Disabled Sailing Association' were both well attended (especially the first one with over 60 people so it was standing room only!) Please make every effort to come along to the rest so we can get the season off to a flying start.

There is a specific talk aimed at our Juniors on **31st March** so can I ask all you parents to ensure they have renewed and bring your children (our Juniors) along to this talk. We can then start to get everyone involved well before the start of 'OnBoard', which commences on 22nd May.

Our other Kestral has now been sold as well as one of the Laser 2000s, and the monies raised will be recycled to buy other dinghies so we can meet the demand of our growing band of sailors. Steve has, in fact, already tracked down and bought a new (second hand) laser and rigs.

A great deal of work has been undertaken down on the beach over the winter period and we have two Rags 'n Rigg'n sessions planned to get us ready for the start of sailing – one this **Sunday 15th March** and one the following Sunday both starting around 9.30 am. Please get down and help for a couple of hours if you can.

Can I also mention all the hard work Stuart Moon in particular, and others have put in on the beach, to improve the boat park and importantly in completing a host of minor repairs and refurbs to many of our club dinghies.

Don't forget **Discover Sailing** (previously PTBO) is on **9th May** so it's a chance for your family and friends to try out sailing with a free taster session. Look out for announcements and details nearer the time. It is also Cliff Railway Day so there will be lots going on, on Oddicombe Beach, so come along and make a day of it.

Lastly, for this section I know I said set a date in your diaries for the BCSC Regatta, unfortunately we have had to move it so it's now happening on 18th/19th July. Our original date clashed with the Oddicombe Ukelele Festival and with a large marquee across the promenade our Regatta might just have got in the way or vice versa!

Beach Club House Regeneration

Matters on the regeneration front are still moving slowly, we have had a couple of iterations of draft revised plans and I am hoping we are moving closer to a "final" design which can be shared with you all. We will then be taking the plans to Torbay Council for planning permission and starting both grant applications and the initial canvassing of potential builders.

We recently met with our RYA representative to get their advice and input/support and are starting to formulate grants bids for Sport England and Viridor plus investigating a host of other links and potential grants. Some of you have already provided me with some other grant organisations, and, as always, if members want to help or just let me know of grant bodies and companies please get in touch.

Top Club House

After what feels like a few hectic months up to Christmas and then Burns Night, we have for a variety of reasons, paused on a few of the food related events over the last six weeks or so. We are currently back on for 21st March with a Curry Night and this is being provided by some external caterers so please see the website, flyers etc for details and you can even book and pay for tickets on line through your MMJ Membership page/store, it's that easy. Subject to changes the cut-off date for tickets is Wednesday 18th March.

It's our At Home and Vice Commodores Reception the week after on 28th March. As before please come along with your plate of food (as it's a Bring a Plate event) to help us mark the official start of the new sailing season and to say hello to members from other sailing clubs around Torbay.

Looking to the future we are planning a celebration for the VE Day 75th Anniversary weekend May 8th-10th. Details to be finalised but currently under discussion

are a themed quiz, a Piper, a "forties" meal and a film, so please look out for details in due course.

We have now installed the new AVR (audio visual receiver for you non techies) so once we've learnt how it works, we are hoping it will improve the all-round sound etc., especially on film nights. We have also bought a new PA mic to go with it and the AVR even has Bluetooth for those of you who have music on your phones etc. (I will be the final arbiter of the type of music you can play!!!).

We have found that the Dragons Breath "guest" ale has been really successful so will be looking at introducing another one over the next month or two, please look out for it when you come into the Top Club House and give it a try.

Lastly now we know there will be no additional duty rises from the Chancellor on drinks we will be looking at our bar prices (all the suppliers have or are increasing theirs) to see if we have to make any changes. I'm hoping that we will not need to make general across the board increases and will do our best to minimise any increases for what will now be the third year running.

Finally, if you take any photos of our events – sailing or landbased don't forget to share them and we can even put some of them into our gallery on the website.

That's all folks and see you all soon,

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