



BABBACOMBE CORINTHIAN SAILING CLUB COMMODORES NEWSLETTER MAY 2020



COMMODORE UPDATE

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well. I am sure you will have seen our recent email regarding the current position and that both clubhouses remain closed with any organised on-water activities continuing to be suspended (more info below).

To be ready for the next phases of any possible relaxed rules Risk Assessments are currently being undertaken (more info below) on both clubhouses to identify what we can do and when, and what needs to be put in place to safeguard you, our members, in line with Government regulations. It would assist this work if any members could advise us what they think we could do to make you feel safe in returning to the Club and all its activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers working for the club during this lockdown and I thought it might be a useful time to tell you what we/they have been doing.

- Our Treasurer has been looking at how to save the club money during this time, looking at the grants available and ensuring utilities are reduced where possible. We have a good idea of our outgoings over the coming months, so we are planning accordingly.
- Our Rear Commodore has been tidying up the bar area and ensuring, where possible, stock can be saved, unfortunately like many clubs and pubs we did lose a substantial amount of draught beer in already opened casks.
- Our Vice Commodore has been overseeing the refurbishment of club boats and the beach clubhouse, whilst obviously adhering to Government guidelines. There are some photos at the end of this newsletter, and I think we may now have the best looking Pico fleet in the Bay.
- We have started to hold our Committee meetings online and our first General Committee meeting was a success. The Rear Commodore will be holding his House Committee tonight and a Sailing Committee meeting is imminent.

Now for a couple of requests please:

There is some software available to hold Virtual Racing (eSailing) and whilst we have managed to register, our skills are limited so if there is any member or members children who could help us set this up please let me know.

Similarly, I know there are people holding quizzes with their friends but is there anyone who would like to help organise our Thursday quiz online, again please let me know.

We would ask that whilst we are all in this slightly reduced state of lockdown and shopping from home that you could do so through Easy Fundraising. This would help to raise some much-needed funds at no cost to yourselves. If you are already doing this, thank you

Easy Fundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/babbacombecsc/>

Some of our members have been posting on Facebook showing how much the Sunday bar snacks are missed as well as just meeting up over a quiet (?) drink. However, on current guidance it looks to be a long way off before we can open the bar again. There may be things we can do in the interim and as we've said above, we are working on plans and options to restart activities and re-open the club when the restrictions are eased further and eventually lifted.

Please also be aware that the BCSC reputation within the local community is reflected by all our actions around our Club Houses and we ask all members to take this into account.

We will keep you updated on all our progress and in the meantime can I please remind you to respect and follow all guidelines from the Government, RNLI and RYA but above all stay safe.



COVID-19, BCSC and Sailing

As many of you know the Government guidance on 'accessing green spaces' was updated earlier this week and came into force on 13th May. This is potentially positive news for the resumption of some of our activities. The revised guidance is:

"All forms of water sports practised on open waterways, including sailing, windsurfing,

canoeing, rowing, kayaking, surfing, paddle-boarding and the use of privately-owned motorised craft (in line with the guidance issued by the relevant navigation authority) are allowed."

So, for BCSC members

- you are now able to use your own boats/kayaks.

But please note the following restrictions to this use:

- As you may only meet with one person outside of your household and that even then you must keep 2 metres apart. This will most likely restrict members to activities with members of their own household unless their boat is large enough to maintain social distance with one other person.
- There will be no club provided safety boat cover so we strongly advise that you are satisfied that both yourself and your boat can easily handle the conditions as if you were to get into difficulty the RNLI and Coastguard would have to risk their own safety for you.
- If you do put to sea, we advise that you take your own waterproof handheld radio with you.
- BCSC will not yet be able to offer organised Club activities, be that racing or training as the requirements for social distancing does not make this practical.
- Club boats and equipment, principally the BCSC owned dinghies, will not be available for use.
- The beach clubhouse is closed, no facilities may be used.

So, to repeat the message from our recent email whilst, on the surface, this sounds like good news for sailors and boat/kayak owners there is still a long way to go before organised club activities can be resumed.

The RYA have also issued guidelines for returning to sailing activities which are summarised as

- We should always follow Government advice. The COVID-19 preventative measures are vital to protecting health and wellbeing and to minimising pressure on frontline services.
- We will, as a boating community, take a considerate and conservative approach.
- Be mindful of the potential impact that you could have on other water users and do not place unnecessary extra strain on the RNLI and emergency services.
- Help to minimise risk by taking an extra conservative approach to your boating.

The RYA have recommended that given the huge number and variety of sailing clubs in the UK, each club should create their own COVID recovery plan and develop new COVID best practice policies and procedures, based on both government and RYA guidelines, to support ongoing operations when the club resumes sailing activities.

To this end the Officers and Committees are undertaking a thorough risk analysis so that major risks can be properly identified and addressed in our recovery plan, policies, and procedures.

Risks will include how we responsibly manage

- social distancing guidelines given our reliance on changing facilities,
- safety boat cover and the ability to safely launch and
- recovery of boats.

Our prime concern in everything we plan will, of course, be the safety and health of our sailing and volunteer members. If you have any views or comments please let us know.

Finally, in view of all of the above we need to be clear that the bottom clubhouse will be shut and no sailing sessions scheduled for the foreseeable future whilst we are undertaking this analysis and until we receive further government guidance.

Additionally, as a responsible club, we would advise that we cannot recommend that anyone ventures onto the water by themselves.



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