



BABBACOMBE CORINTHIAN SAILING CLUB COMMODORES NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021



At last, I hear you say, or maybe not, in any case believe it not here's our latest Newsletter.

As ever, can I welcome all the new members who have joined over the last weeks and months. I trust you are enjoying your time with us and realise what a good decision you made in joining BCSC.

Our numbers continue to increase, so much so that we had to buy another batch of membership cards! For all our new members please don't be shy in telling us if you think we can improve by giving us your suggestions to make the Club even more enjoyable for everyone.

Can I also thank you all for bearing with us as we managed with the Covid restrictions. We are lifting a further restriction as GC have decided to re-introduce the use of members cards over the bar from 1st December. Partly this was because with so many new members some of our bar staff don't know who you are!

As well as re opening the Club to guests we have now re affiliated BCSC to the Disabled Sailing Association, Cary Park Tennis Club, Babbacombe Bowling Club, the local Rotary and Sunrise groups, The 10th Torbay (Babbacombe) Sea Scout Group, Friends Around the Bay and Over 60s Meet Up Group. So, if you see even more new faces, they could be from one of our affiliated groups.

A new General Committee

With the AGM last month came a new General Committee with some old and new faces. Whilst you have to put up with me for another year, we have a new Vice Commodore in Neil Mander and had a new Rear Commodore in Marilyn Lilley. Sadly, as I told you recently, Marilyn has decided to step down. So, if you really want to help and get involved in running the Club, especially the Top Club and social side please come and talk to me.

We'll issue the AGM minutes soon, in the meantime the rest of General Committee is:

President -Neil Spacagna
Immediate Past Commodore – David Homer
Treasurer – Lyn Mark

GC members are Marguerite Aspinall (also Membership Secretary), Mike Ives, Rob Robinson, Nicki Spalding, Rowena Doble, Andy Probert and two new members Shelly Jamous and John Gilbert.

Sailing and kayaking

Steve Norman's final act as Vice Commodore was to host the Prize Giving Evening at the end of October and it was great to see all the sailors, instructors and volunteers getting their recognition. As well as the group photos already on the website we'll be getting all the other photos from the night on shortly.

As we move towards winter we are already thinking about next season and have set a start date of 26th March, so please look out over the next month or two for a new 2022 sailing calendar. Before all that activity Guy is offering two RYA theory courses in Essential Navigation and Day Skipper in January. Having completed both courses with Guy I can say they are really good, instructive and interesting and good value.

One of the items we are having to plan for, and complete over the winter period, is making sure all our safety boats and the ATV are in good working order and for those of you in the know, they're not! We have some costly repairs and refurbs to make, and Neil is starting to organise those so we're ready for next season when I hope we will see all our old and new sailors back on the water.

Lastly, on the water side we now have an active Kayak group (led by Sarah Davey and ably assisted by Rob Robinson and Rowena Doble). The group have met for a start-up session with a presentation by Keiran of Sea Kayaks Torbay. and a talk on weather (from Neil Mander) on what to look out for. Sarah also organised a couple of taster sessions with Keiran which I hear have gone down well and there's some more formal training sessions now being arranged.

Top Club and Social

It's been great to see so many of you coming into the Top Club for a quiet (!) drink, the ever-popular quiz, the Friday Draw (£200 still up for grabs as I write this), the monthly film with Fish & Chips or

the “always” sold out food evenings. So far we’ve had Paella (Spanish), Greek, French and Italian. Next up, rather than using the Golf Club for the annual dinner, we’ve decided to make hold a Christmas meal at the Club so “posh and bling up” and get ready for 11th December. If you count this one as English and Burns Night in January (watch out for the announcements), clearly Scottish, you can see we are working our way around Western Europe!

The final Top Club matter concerns the bar. Can I please remind you all that we are a licenced premises and like pubs etc. we have to run our bar operations from a legal and commercial stance. So, can I please ask you to not bring your own drinks on to the premises. We have a reasonably wide range, are open to changing or adding to this where there is sufficient demand, so we don’t end up wasting it and costing us all money. On that subject bottles Dartmoor IPA is now available and mulled wine will be on sale from 1st December.

I have thanked the sailing volunteers and the same goes for the bar volunteers, the Club couldn’t do without you. I know many of the new members have said you’d be interested in helping so we will be following this up with you shortly.

Beach Club House Redevelopment

We’ve previously reported that General Committee, and Sailing and House Committee members, took the decision to defer our plans to start the Beach Club House regen work.

Covid impeded our progress across the board in terms of gaining the OK under the terms of our Lease, which is a precursor to submitting our applications for planning permission and building control approval. With the Council advising that planning applications can take up to four months it meant we just couldn’t get to a point early enough to be able to tender for the work and allow the successful Contractor to start in October 21. This meant we were in severe danger of eating well into next year’s sailing season and I only want us to be able to blame the weather for lost sailing not ourselves. Also, whilst we have reserved funds for a large part of the expected cost the availability of grants currently are focused, understandably, on Covid recovery activity. It is a disappointment as we realise the Beach Club House facilities are not the best, to say the least!

We have pressed on and the application for planning permission was submitted and validated in October so it’s moving forwards (slowly). As we have a large number of new members I am attaching the current design and I believe the scheme is worth waiting for and will provide BCSC with a refurbished Club House and facilities to take us forward for the next 35 – 40 years in line with our lease.

Finance and Fund Raising

From March 2020 our financial position was supported by the Covid grants available via Torbay Council. These finished in April and our Accounts show the impact of being closed, in terms of our income, especially at the Top Club.

Things have, and are, steadily improving for us. With this background and our need for additional funds for the Beach Regen we have embarked on a year of fund-raising activity.

This started with a somewhat unexpected amount being “awarded” by the Co-op Community Fund after a year’s shopping by yourselves. The £4000+ we have received is going towards two new dinghies for the sailing side. The Co-op have chosen BCSC again for another year’s Community Fund – so keep shopping!

Fundraising will include the food and other events, prize draws etc. as well as Crowd Funding. If you’d like to help with any of this, please talk to Lyn and if you can’t help directly please just buy your event and draw tickets so we can raise a bit of the shortfall ourselves and show grant bodies we are serious about our plans and the Club’s members support us.

And finally, it just remains for me to mention all the hard work that goes on by a few people behind the scenes e.g. membership, finance, techie website and Facebook and the Officers and Committee members – thank you folks.

That’s it for now and as usual if you’ve got this far thanks for reading my ramblings and I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks and Christmas period.

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On fundraising, please choose to support us at the Co-Op using this link [BCSC](#); If you are already supporting us, thank you but please reconnect your link to the Co-Op to support us again this year. For on line shopping go through Easy Fundraising using this link [BCSC](#); I booked my holiday yesterday and raised £47.21 for the club. Both of these are at no cost to yourselves, but we earn as you spend 😊