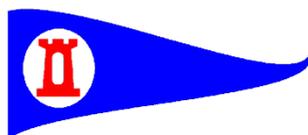


# SAUNDERSFOOT SAILING CLUB



THE HARBOUR, SAUNDERSFOOT,  
PEMBROKESHIRE, SA69 9HE

Telephone: 01834 812492

14<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Dear Member

The holding of the AGM has been on the Committee's minds for a while. Could we hold a fair and realistic AGM for members via a virtual meeting? We concluded that there will be frustration for many especially if they have no camera link or are hard of hearing. How a chair would manage to ensure everyone has a say or count votes is problematic. It could be shambolic and lead to unhappy membership. The committee has reluctantly decided not to proceed with the AGM until circumstances permit.

**This is an unprecedented move as the club rules state that there must be at least one General Meeting in any calendar year, held between October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>. However, the times are challenging and the safety of the members is our first concern. We hope that members understand.**

**Your membership will run until 1 April 2021 as a thank you for your support through 2020. If you have also paid for dinghy, tender or kayak storage for 2020 the fee paid will cover you until you renew your membership on 1 April 2021. The club is seeking to appoint a new Membership Secretary (see announcement below) and we ask that you do not make membership renewals in January; please wait until the spring when a new Membership Secretary will be in place and familiar with the procedures, which are currently under review. The committee will advise of any changes in the New Year.**

At the beginning of the year the Committee looked like this:

Commodore	vacant
Dinghy Captain	Paul Griffiths
Treasurer	Jim Nettleship
General Secretary	Martin Andrews
Membership Secretary	John Mammatt
Principal Training Officer	Jo Musson
Bosun	Mick Lightwood
Sailing Secretary and chair of meetings	Keith Jones
Social Secretary	vacant
Cruiser Captain	Tom Eyre
House Manager	Caretaker role by Mel Kemp Gabi Slaughter, Phil Thomas
Kayak Representative	Jo Musson
Rowing Representative	Mel Kemp
Committee Member	Dave Hannam
Committee Member	Dave Plester

## Report to members November 2020

The committee appointed Jo Musson as Principal Training Officer and Sam Underwood remained as Press Secretary. A welcome addition to our committee is Steve Roblin. Steve was invited to join the committee and now represents the paddlers (paddle boards and kayaks).

In her address to members at the AGM in 2019 our outgoing commodore, Nina Mammatt said “This small bunch of volunteers have kept the boats afloat, the building up and the finances healthy despite the ever growing problems we face. It will be of no surprise to anyone here that we have a growing crisis with finding volunteers. This has a constant impact on those of us that do volunteer, and we face the prospect, as a club, of burning out our most reliable members”.

The Committee no longer includes Mick Lightwood and Jim Nettleship, both hard working, reliable and conscientious committee members, who have stepped down. A big thank you to Gabi Slaughter and Dave Hannam for stepping into the vacant roles of Treasurer and Bo'sun so ably.

At the end of this month John Mammatt and Keith Jones, both of whom have made significant contributions to the club, are also stepping down. Nina, our immediate past Commodore, has reluctantly said her involvement will be less in the future. Such valuable committee members are like gold dust and will be sorely missed. Mel Kemp volunteered to take on the new and very important role of Covid Officer. Mel, David Plester and others have worked hard to produce the risk assessments that have been published and are under review regularly as the law and other factors change rapidly.

**The Committee cares about the survival and development of the club and so do the Trustees who actively encourage and support us. With your involvement we can do more than simply keep the club ticking over. The social gatherings are the heart of any healthy club as testified by some of our web site photographs and memories. Those gatherings don't have to be from a by gone golden age. Covid 19 has muddied the waters but is not the cause of the club's plight. Make a difference and make it now. Come forward and you can play your part. You will find a friendly and helpful bunch who will provide support and training for any role you feel capable of taking on.**

We desperately need a Membership Secretary. John Mammatt will be pleased to talk through what the role involves with anyone interested. Please get in touch, you don't need to live locally. Several of the Committee do and report to the Membership Secretary about the situation in the dinghy/tender park. There are online means of communication and virtual meetings to help us through.

## Report to members November 2020

The Officers of the Club from 30<sup>th</sup> November and willing to remain until the next AGM are:

1.	Commodore	<b>Vacant</b>
2.	General Secretary	Martin Andrews
3.	Treasurer	Gabi Slaughter
4.	Dinghy Captain	Paul Griffiths
5.	Membership Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>
6.	Bosun	Dave Hannam
7.	Sail Training Principal	Jo Musson
8.	Social Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>
9.	Cruiser Captain	Tom Eyre
10.	House Manager	<b>Vacant</b>
	(Caretaker role by Mel Kemp Gabi Slaughter, Phil Thomas)	
11.	Rowing Representative	Phil Thomas
12.	Kayak and Paddle Board Rep	Steve Roblin
13.	Sailing Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>
14.	Covid Officer	Mel Kemp

Your Committee, with the benefit of your views, is planning to spend the Covid 19 grant monies to best use. This will include investment in our clubs boats, additional storage, repairs and alterations to the club house, especially the changing rooms, to make them fit and safe for the uncertain future.

It is almost a year ago that Rolfe John the club president passed away after a long battle with illness. In his address at Rolfe's funeral John Griffiths referred to Rolfe's love of life whether in the workplace, home, walking his beloved dog Meghan or sailing, and especially chatting to people. John like those of us who knew him well remembers someone always willing to help and always positive. His contribution to the club was immense. He fulfilled many roles, including race officer, Commodore and Treasurer and was a regular in the club house. He had a great sense of fun and even persuaded 3 current club members to perform the Full Monty. Sadly, this was before the days of Facebook or YouTube! He is missed by family and friends alike.

Treasurer's report and accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – see attached

If you have any questions about the accounts please address them to [treasurer@saundersfootsailingclub.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@saundersfootsailingclub.org.uk).

If you have any questions or comment on anything else please address them to [secretary@saundersfootsailingclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@saundersfootsailingclub.org.uk).

### **Paddle Boarding and Kayaks**

Hopefully from Easter 2021 we can look at coordinating a few friendly and informal paddling outings for Kayaks and SUPs from Saundersfoot and possibly an away day or 2 to other coast or river destinations as well. Our aim is to be inclusive and friendly and all ages and abilities are welcome. It may also be possible to try out a kayak or SUP if you don't yet have your own and introductory lessons or tips can be provided if required. This is open to all members. Please let us know if you may be interested and we can add you to the communications list for next year.

## **Sail Training**

2020 has been an exceptional year in many ways, the significant restrictions on sailing have meant that unfortunately we haven't been able to deliver any training. We are ensuring that all of the club boats are well prepared for 2021 when we hope to do some training for existing and new members.

We have invested in a new doublehanded training boat, the RS Vision, which was generously offered to the club by one of our regular sailors Steve Hinksman at a very reasonable price. The RS Vision will be a valuable asset to the club in particular for training adults and we would like to thank Steve for offering the club the opportunity to purchase the boat. It has been a significant period of time now since the sale of the wayfarer and the club has missed the extra adult training boat. The RS Vision will allow more adults (also suitable for teenagers to sail) to learn to sail and develop their skills at the club.

We are also exploring with the headmaster of Saundersfoot primary school how we might help him in his aim to be one of the first "beach schools" in Wales. Outline thoughts include providing experience to year 5 and 6 pupils in sea safety, sailing, kayaking, paddle-boarding and basic level Powerboat training. Such skills are the way forward in helping the beach school kids become water safety. This will involve working with other providers such as Llanion Cove and Good Trails. An exciting development which will hopefully attract not only new young sailors but local families to the club.

The training team are also interested in pursuing the purchase of a Rigiflex or Janneau with a 20hp engine to act as the main training boat. These boats are light weight for launching and recovery but can also live on a mooring when required (it would need a bulge pump fitted for long term mooring). They are robust vessels and virtually indestructible. The addition of this type of boat to the club fleet would be useful for teaching tiller steered powerboat handling making the club training more appropriate for yacht members/owners who might want to develop their tender handling skills.

## **Cruisers**

The message from our Cruiser captain is "This year has been a strange one as the yachting season started very late year because of the restrictions but the Saundersfoot based yachts at Neyland have made the most of it. We achieved a lot of sail this year as we weren't able to holiday abroad. This included multiple day sail's to Dale and out to the islands and even a 10 day sailing trip the Scilly Isles. They were amazing and a great place to visit with loads of island to explore with white Sandy beaches. Hopefully, next year I want to organise more sailing trip to different places in company and hopefully do some yacht training as well! See you on the water in 2021 for an amazing season!! Stay safe all!"

### **Coppet Week**

We had to cancel this year's event in late March due to the pandemic. We are hoping to be able to host Coppet week in 2021 in some format. We shall be making contingency plans for this over the winter while reviewing the rapidly changing situation in regard to Covid 19. If people are able to travel, then we will have to consider whether we can put on this event as normal or in a reduced way. Manning a Committee boat and safety boats under the current restrictions and social distancing requirements would be challenging! We may proceed with the sailing side even if the clubhouse remains closed.

### **Rowing 2020 and the future**

The message from our Rowing members is "High hopes and expectations but sadly no rowing .... pesky Covid! We have tried to comply with the ever changing regulations, but then get hit by another set of restrictions so sadly it seems 2020 has been a year of sea swimming and wistful watching the beautiful sea from ashore.

We would like to thank SSC for their donation to help with the purchase of our new (2nd hand) quad .... so 2021 we are ready for you! We very much hope that we will be able to use the clubhouse and restart the indoor erging (rowing machines) at some point over the winter".

The Wiseman's Bridge Rowers members are fully integrated. They play a crucial part in the running of the club that would be a poorer place without them. The Committee was delighted to help with the purchase of the quad bike.

If you have somehow missed the press announcements you will be delighted to hear that Saundersfoot will be host to the following major events. Andrew Richards, who many of you will know, is Chairman of Welsh Rowing and at the forefront of the organising committee for:

2021

- 19-20 June - Welsh Rowing Coastal Championships & Beach Sprint Finals

2022

- 6-10 October - World Rowing Coastal Championships
- 13-17 October - World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals

The club will be prominently involved. The test event with the first full course layout that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October involved club members using our dory and Zodiac. The boats set out six buoys allowing the lads on the water to practice the exercise, improve techniques and timings etc. The club is proud to be involved in such prestigious events that are a showcase for the community and the club.

### **Dinghy Activity**

We continued "sailing informally" without a safety boat during June, July and August and with the clubhouse and changing rooms closed. Dinghy Captain Paul Griffiths arranged the Autumn series starting on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Organised racing events with safety cover had not met the legislation earlier in the year. The final race had to be cancelled due to lockdown. The changing rooms and clubhouse remain closed.

Paul is hoping to have some club sailing again next year and will prepare a sailing programme for 2021 over the winter which might have to be in a similar style to the recent Autumn series - we might need to train more of the dinghy sailors who may have previously been restricted to safety boat duties to run club races.

### **Bo'sun**

At the start of the year never thought it would be this hard and I would end up being the Bosun! Mick will be very hard to follow. Thank you to the Wednesday crew and all who have helped. Between us we have managed to get two safety boats on the water. The Flyer will be back. When this new lockdown is over will start to get her ready for next year. I just hope that we can have a better year in 2021. We will not be doing anything at the club from the middle of December till the middle of February. To all members your club needs you so any help would be welcome. Just pop down any Wednesday morning from about 9 am to approx midday.

### **Harbour Revision Order**

Saundersfoot Harbour is one of over 100 trust ports in the UK. A Trust Port is an independent statutory body, not owned by any individual or group, but controlled by a local independent board. The Trust Port of Saundersfoot is governed by the *2011 Harbour Order* which defines the port limits, what they can or cannot do, and how they govern themselves in terms of appointing its Commissioners and conducting its affairs. As part of the new Harbour Order 2011, the Trust Port Commissioners formed an Advisory Body with representation from the Community Council, the Chamber of Tourism, the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and Saundersfoot sailing club.

A draft Harbour Revision (Constitution) Order 2020 was released and Welsh Government sort comment by the end of July. The order contains quite radical proposals for change, including the composition of the advisory committee. As far as the Club is concerned we would no longer have a direct appointment to the Advisory Committee. We are pleased to report that representations from the above mentioned, RYA Cymru wales and the Advisory Committee have resulted in amendments to the draft order. As a consequence, the Commissioners accept that the clauses in the 2011 order dealing with the Advisory Committee should remain as they are, without amendment. In other words, we retain the right to have a direct appointment to the Advisory Committee. A positive outcome. Many thanks to John Griffiths, the club representative on the Advisory Committee and John Hollies, who prepared our response to the revision order.