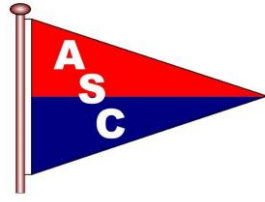


Ashlett Sailing Club



Annual Report 2023



**Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd. Company Number 07252021
Ashlett Creek, Fawley, Southampton SO45 1DT**



Commodore – Chris Brown

Dear members,

Well, 2023 is not quite over but in Sailing terms it is drawing to a close and we are getting close to our 2023 AGM.

I try to recap on the year that has preceded us, and I try to think back as to some outstanding event that may have occurred but unlike other years it has been a year of gradual improvement and that is no bad thing.

I think our biggest improvement visually was the upgrading of the Clubhouse with fresh décor and new furniture which has certainly transformed it into a Club to be proud of.

I thought it was about time we had a clubhouse where we could relax and enjoy each other's company as I have always thought the location and views, we have are really special. I am sure that now the Autumn and Winter are approaching we will have one or two functions where we can take full advantage of our wonderful setting.



The Boat Hoist has gone from strength to strength, and it is hard to imagine the Club not having its own means of Launching and Recovering our own boats. Last year's lift out went well, and it is all welcome revenue for the club and a considerable saving to the Individuals that wish to Winter ashore, we already have up to twenty boats coming ashore this winter maybe more. Just to remind members that the upgrading of the Boat/Car park has enabled the Club to maximise the use of its land and again bring more revenue to the Club.



The intention is to improve the grounds every year and you will have seen that we have as well as attended to potholes further upgraded the Boat Park with more scalplings.



Moorings you may have noticed have also featured high on the improvements list and through out the year there has been a continuous effort to empty the Creek of old mooring tackle and re-lay decent moorings again maximising the spaces adjacent to the deep-water channels, the Club has supplied all the blocks, chain and mooring buoys allowing us to bring our moorings up to a uniform safe standard. The block lifter has never been so busy and has really come in to its own. The work is still on going and we hope to lay more moorings between now and the start of the next

sailing season. Eventually we will conclude that we will have a limit and that limit will be where there will be serious waiting lists.

Dredging I think will be an ongoing thing for the foreseeable future and having the Creek dredged last year by our Landlord Esso Ltd has benefited us massively, so it would be a waste if we allowed all that good work to silt back up again. Apart where the edges of the dredged area (Polygon) have collapsed I don't think there has been too much silting up. I have applied and got a Dredging exemption to remove up to 500 cu/metres of spoil 3 times a year and to this end we are employing a Company to power wash out the dredged areas in a couple of weeks' time.

The company in question have been used by other Clubs in the area including Marchwood and I feel this may well be the way forward with our silting up issues.

Future Projects The biggest issue that we have is that of upgrading the toilets and indeed eventually the Clubhouse and this unfortunately has been on hold whilst we negotiate a lease extension, unfortunately the Landlord has included

some stipulations regarding maintaining the Creek which we are at present in discussion with Esso Ltd. I am hopeful we will have an agreeable solution in the not too distant future. Once this is resolved we will sit back down and review where we want to go with the Club and how we will achieve this. To this end we have tried to be prudent and put funding to one side and this will reflect in our end of year accounts.

It is the intention to put Club Fees up in the coming year and I am sure someone will ask why are you putting fees up when you are also saving money in the bank and my answer is quite straight forward "we need to survive".

Our biggest asset is you our Members, especially those of you who volunteer. Be it for the Committee or to help in work parties of any description or just come down and give your time up for the odd job around the place. So the only way our Club will survive is by this mentality continuing and to date we get a fair few volunteers but there are one or two members who have no intention of helping and I would ask you to reconsider as the only reason we have such low fees is mainly due to the self help mentality the Club has and also the generosity of our landlord by giving us a peppercorn rent.

As I say the AGM is just around the corner and the lists will go up for volunteers to join the Committee and I know full well there will not be a race for members to put up their names but to rely on the existing Committee members to stay so again I would encourage you to offer your services for the good and benefit of the Club maybe if you don't want to sit on the Committee be an assistant to a Committee Member.

I have let it be known I would like to stand down after nearly 5 years as I feel it is time for someone else to take over the reins but as you can imagine not much of a rush to date, I won't let the Club down and I won't leave an empty chair but I would love to mentor someone for the task ahead, I'll say no more. The Club in my view has gone from strength to strength and has yet again improved not just physically but financially and I hope you agree that it is in no small measure to the hard work of your Committee and I would like to thank them one and all.

Chris Brown



Treasurer – Ade Lumb

- Financial report. Income / expenditure 2022 v 2021

Account	2022	2021
Turnover		
Joining Fee	1,965.00	2,040.00
Family Membership	2,880.00	2,340.00
Single Membership	7,205.44	4,668.75
Senior Membership	2,163.75	13,031.05
Senior Family	751.87	607.50
Social Membership	48.75	60.00
Student Membership	31.87	22.50
Canoe in boathouse	720.00	680.00
Mooring fee - Water	6,875.44	5,412.75
Mooring Fee - North	3,771.94	2,952.00
Mooring Fee - South	7,115.81	4,466.25
Compound Boat and Trailer	11,729.14	9,259.51
Hardstanding Boat and Trailer	1,876.87	(587.55)
Sailing Dinghy in Compound	350.00	270.00
Tender	1,360.00	1,210.00
Inflatable In boathouse	990.00	720.00
Wooden Boat in boat house	88.00	80.00
Mast Rack	60.00	60.00
Lift In/Out Boat hoist	7,165.00	5,180.00
Tractor/trailer use	220.00	560.00
Regatta	2,077.75	1,518.00
Social Income	0.00	334.51
Christmas Meal	50.00	575.00
Visitors Fees	439.00	451.50
Donations	10.00	110.00
Interest Income	0.00	344.09
Total Turnover	44,898.95	33,596.06
Cost of Sales		
Cost of Goods Sold	(1,149.65)	0.00
Purchases	2,540.50	0.00
Total Cost of Sales	1,390.85	0.00
Gross Profit	43,508.10	33,596.06

Administrative Costs

Audit & Accountancy fees	1,326.96	950.40	
Bank Fees	240.00	140.60	
Bin - Rubbish bin empty	2,235.28	2,018.84	
Block lifter running costs	612.08	0.00	
Boat Hoist Expenses	162.00	344.54	
CCTV	497.34	0.00	
Charitable Donations	0.00	248.51	
Cleaning	3,782.96	2,606.43	
Clubhouse maintenance	944.86	1,001.17	
Clubhouse Misc	561.14	598.19	
Corporation Tax	0.00	0.00	
Depreciation Expense	45,718.94	17,434.64	See note below
Entertainment - 0%	42.59	0.00	
Fuel - Outboards	0.00	49.53	
General Expenses	3,702.75	133.31	
Health and Safety	2,494.86	0.00	
Insurance	2,521.93	1,839.56	
IT Software and Consumables	0.00	464.06	
Light, Power, Heating	3,517.51	1,942.81	
Moorings	4,478.26	2,211.35	
Clubhouse revamp	1,122.00	0.00	
Operating Lease Payments	0.00	0.00	
Pontoon Expenses	0.00	0.00	
Portacabin refurbishment	125.98	0.00	
Postage, Freight & Courier	0.00	128.64	
Printing & Stationery	91.36	415.48	
Professional Fees	35.00	0.00	
Rates	0.00	0.00	
Regalia Purchases	1,010.29	0.00	
Regatta Expense	1,452.50	1,819.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	2,128.72	2,029.96	
Site Maintenance - Compound	2,342.90	19,773.84	
Site Maintenance - Outside Compound	430.30	5,381.10	
Subscriptions	568.75	573.75	
Telephone & Internet	878.16	699.94	
Tractor running costs	6,347.79	2,274.40	
Waste Disposal	1,659.48	1,905.00	
Water rates	573.67	1,251.02	
Total Administrative Costs	91,606.36	68,236.07	
Operating Profit	(48,098.26)	(34,640.01)	
Operating Profit Ignoring Depreciation	(2,379.32)	(17,205.37)	
Other Income			
Regalia (Clothing) Sold	550.00	233.00	
Total Other Income	550.00	233.00	

The reason that 2022 Depretiation is so high compaired to 2021 is that we reviewed our assett register to match all assets the club has in all areas. As the value of assets was greatly increased the resultant anual depreciation was higher. Depreciation is a book keeping exersise and does not effect the income and expenditure of the club.

2023 Activities

- Opened high interest Savings account.
- All accounts are up to date without any outstanding Debtors or Creditors.
- We have changed our Accountants to Thompson MK for easier communication.
- New broadband contract making savings of circa £328 per year.
- Changed waste disposal company to make big savings and reduced admin. Thanks to Julie Brown for dealing with this.
- For information our Electricity tariff with Scottish power is fixed until March 2025
- Your committee has decided to increase membership and services fees for 2024/25 to keep up with inflation and build up funds for future projects. Last year 5% increase on membership only, this year 6% on membership and 12% on services (Mooring Compound space, boat house spaces etc.)

Financial Position at 1st October 2023 (year end is 31st December)	
Cash at bank Current A/c	£26,125
Cash at bank Savings A/c (Interest on savings A/c to date £1565)	£66,565
Forecast income (Autumn Liftout)	£4,400
Less returnable Key Deposits	£8,725
Total available Funds	£105,815
Less	
Running costs prior to membership renewal year end (5 months)	£10,000
Planned expenditure, Bed levelling & Further Roadway repairs	£13,500
Clubhouse & Toilets project reserves	£70,000
Balance in hand	£12,315



Secretary – Jim Hopwood

It has been another quiet year from a secretarial perspective.

Apart from the routine production of agendas and minutes we now produce a regular newsletter. I try to keep to one a month to avoid annoying you but we often seem to need a mid-month update.

I also handle our relations with various authorities and suppliers:

- Kept our Companies House records up to date as directors came and went and filed the annual Confirmation Statement.
- Updated our Port Waste Management Plan and prepared for a Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspection only to have the inspector agree we are exempt and don't need one.
- Renewed our Marine Trades insurance which covers all club activities including use of the boat lifter, pursuit races and members taking part in work parties.





Bosun and Vice-Commodore – Simon Lovelock

This has been an interesting and enjoyable first year as bosun, finding my feet and getting to grips with various club equipment.

As bosun, I keep an general eye on the work boats, dinghies, block lifter, boat hoist, tractors, power washers, outboards, mowers, strimmer's and bosun store equipment.

Here are a few examples of this year's activities so far:-

- Block lifter winch pendant control fitted.
- Block lifter petrol water pump purchased.
- Equipment inventory and maintenance schedule produced.
- Redrafted 'Safe System of Work' procedures.
- Regularly restock supplies of petrol & diesel.
- Organised repair of Pico dinghy rudder (thanks to Karl)
- Pump out work boats and repair manual bilge pump.
- Oil, grease and refuel tractors and work boats.
- Serviced boat hoist, grease bearings, slides and ram ends.
- Serviced blue tractor.
- Serviced petrol power washer.
- Replaced power washer high pressure hose.
- Replaced both strimmer's and service / replace mowers.
- Organised LOLER inspections and purchase certified lifting equipment.
- Regular member of the boat hoist and block lifter teams...





Membership – Adrian Barnes

Membership remains steady and around the 215 mark. We have had an increase in people asking to store boats, but not want to be active members of the club, these applications are rejected in order to maintain the ethos of the club as a self-help sailing club.

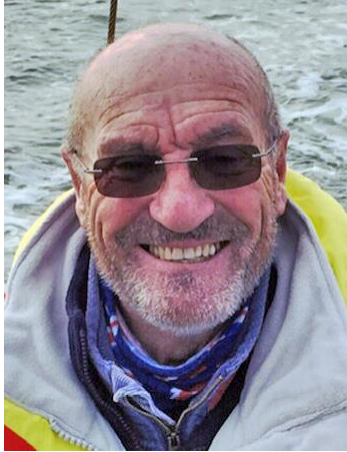
I have had approval from the committee to move membership to a web-based system, as used by many other sailing clubs. The chosen system is called 'Webcollect' and work is ongoing to roll it out before the next renewal period.

The Webcollect system will be embedded in our own website and is secure and data compliant, each member will be able to see their own account, as membership secretary, I will have an overall view as will the treasurer in order to view payments made. The boathouse master, moorings master and compound master, will be able to see any interaction on their areas. All payments for memberships, boat spaces etc., as well as regalia will be able to go through the system. Obviously, there will be more information nearer the roll out time and plenty of opportunity to see the system in action. However, in effect it is, at its most simplistic, simply an online form to fill in.

I appreciate that there are some members who do not like to use the internet, or computers for that matter, so I will hold the usual sign up clinics in the clubhouse during the renewal period, so that I can sign members up to the system.

One huge advantage of this system is that it is dynamic - at the moment if someone sells or buys a boat, for example, we only know about it by word of mouth, if we are lucky. With this system the information can be uploaded by the member and everything kept up to date. If someone adds a kayak to the boathouse the master system is updated straight away and the treasurer can keep abreast of any invoices that are needed.

If anyone has any burning question, please feel free to drop me a line and I will be happy to answer as best as I can, otherwise we can look forward to the implementation of the new system before March next year.



Maintenance and Boat Lifter – Alan Morrison

A busy year for general maintenance this year including the redecorating and refurbishment of our clubhouse, giving it a new lease of life and making it a very comfortable and relaxing place to sit and chat with our members old and new. The Sunday coffee mornings are always

busy now, with some of our new lady members baking the most delicious cakes and donating them to the clubhouse.

I have also been involved with the fitting of new light timer switches in the boat shed, and the fitting of our new pontoon security gate.



I'm also involved in the club's social activities, organising the catering for our social events, such as cheese and wine, fish and chips, and Christmas dinner evenings including the annual regatta, making a small profit for donation to the RNLI.

My other job is organising the boat lifting parties for the retrieving and launching of boats throughout the year and organising the main winter lift out, which involves the siting of up to around twenty-six vessels all around our hard

standing area. We are always looking for supporting crew members to get involved with these tasks, so please get involved and offer us a hand if you have any spare time.



Finally, I would like to thank all those who have been involved throughout the year in helping out with all the above work. We couldn't have done it without you.





Carl Sharman – Creek Master

As this is the first year, we have had a Creek Master at Ashlett, I am happy to have taken this position.

We have had Trinity House and ABP involved in checking our marker buoys into the creek, we have changed a few markers, and all is satisfied.

In my weekly and daily duties, I go out and check all our boats on the moorings, making sure the mooring lines are secure and the boats haven't been interfered with.

Over this winter period all navigation buoys coming into the creek will be painted,

After having the creek dredged with great success, we are going to have some bed leveling done in the Autumn after lift-out so we can keep on top of our silting.

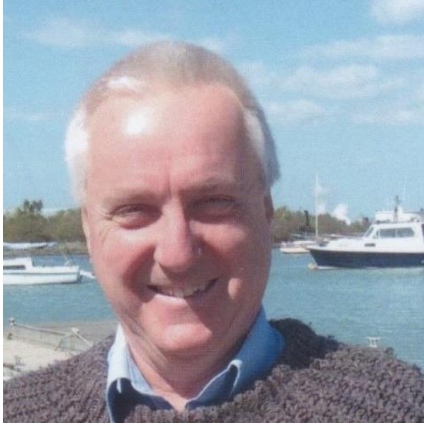
We are looking to put new navigation posts in the creek after bed levelling to help visitors negotiate the creek.

I closely liaise with the Mooring Master Keith, to also help with moorings in the creek. I am here to help our members, when at all possible, with boats breaking loose or running aground, (Please Note: I do have a full-time job but I can always assist when possible).



Can all members note that the speed restriction in the creek is 3 knots, to keep the wash down and be vigilant of small kayaks and paddle boards.

Moorings – Keith Guy Gibbens



The relaying of all the creek moorings is almost complete. Redundant moorings have been removed and the creek looks more professional and clutter free. A chart of the areas will soon be in place, thanks to Barry. A list of all berth holders will be displayed with the chart. Thanks to all those who have helped with this mammoth task.

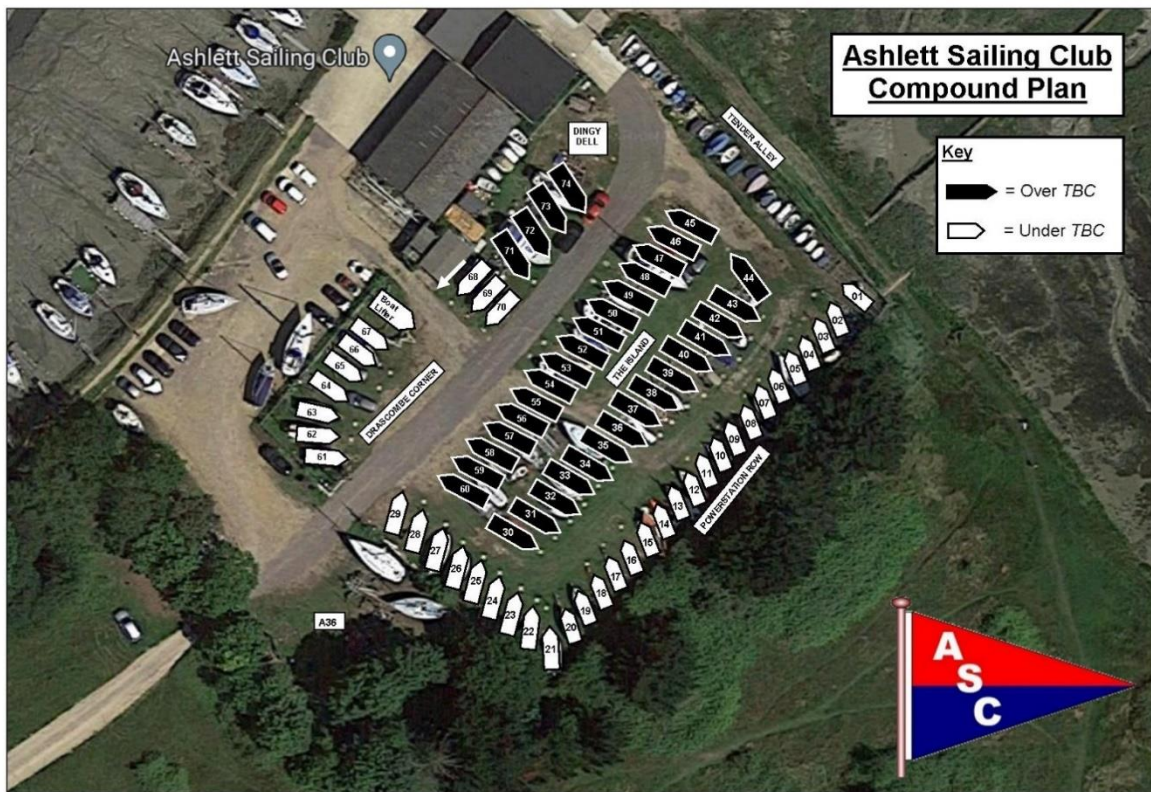




Compound- Barry Andrew

I took over the compound from John Lavers who now lives on the Isle of Wight and pops over from time to time to lend a hand.

My first task was to identify who owned what in the compound. I have finally managed to track down ownership of all of the boats and trailers which took a long time, as a number of boats and trailers were not marked and some boats didn't even have a name on them! So as a gentle reminder, can all members who have any equipment in the compound, please ensure it is clearly marked up. If any member is looking to store any boat in the compound, please keep me informed so I can locate you a space and not an occupied members space who may not be in the compound at the time! I have made a new Compound Plan which will be displayed in the Club House and the Bosuns Office for reference.



I have simplified the numbering system of the entire compound from no 1 to 74 with the ultimate aim of repositioning the boats into a herringbone configuration to aid boat movements etc and maximise the space and income



for the club. To achieve this, can all members please make sure we have a copy of keys for any wheel or hitch locks for your trailers in the compound clearly marked with your name and the boat's name.

We have created an area called Dinghy Dell within the compound, and numbers of the dinghies are increasing which is good to see. If anyone else would like a space for a dinghy, please ask.



We are in the process of tidying up all the Tenders in Tender Alley and recently had a work party which was well attended. I would like to thank all the members who gave up a few hours of their time on a Saturday morning (obviously the tide was out) to achieve this and were rewarded with Alan Morrison's famous Bacon Rolls! Being a self-help club it's good to get involved and I would recommend this is especially useful for new members to get to know people within the Club.



We have recently bought some new equipment to help us keep the general areas of the compound and site tidy, keeping the grass cut and vegetation under control.

We have managed to clear up the compound and a number of old trailers and equipment have been removed to make the compound a tidy, clean area, so please keep your area clean and tidy and the grass cut.

Compound improvements - We currently have a quote to install some new roadways within the compound and it is envisaged that this will be undertaken early next year. We have recently changed our broadband package with BT, however, we need to ensure that we have a reasonable broadband speed and stability on the line before improving our CCTV camera system, so please be patient. If anyone is having difficulties logging into the cameras on their mobile phone, let me know and I will assist.

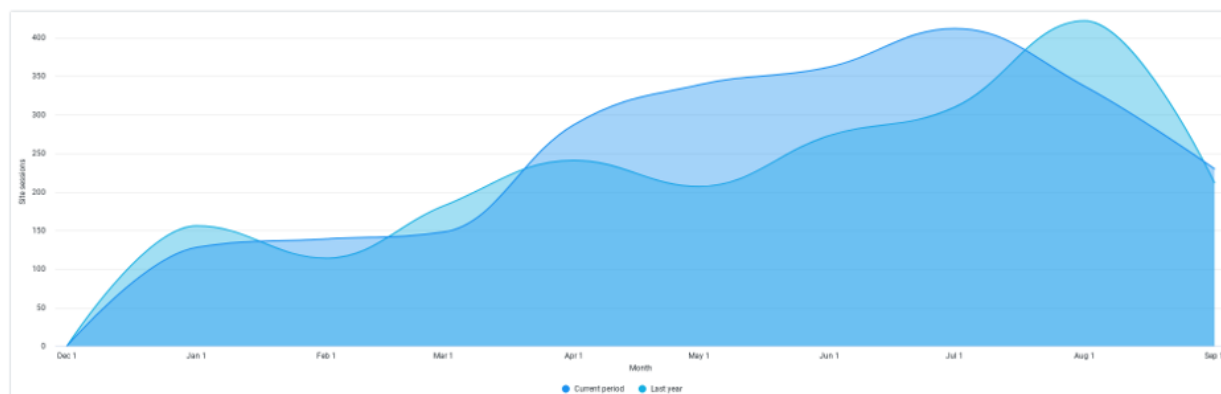
If any member would like to offer any assistance in helping to look after the compound, please feel free in contacting me. I will be holding future work parties when required with information listed on the club's newsletter. Lastly, I would personally like to thank all members that have assisted me with any of the tasks and help I have received in and around the compound.



Website - Dick Pizey

The website is still pulling in traffic and enquiries and the number of visits is very similar to the previous year for the most part but with a significant increase in the early to mid-summer (recovery from Covid?) as can be seen from the image below. It is probably time for a re

vamp for the site so please send images of the creek, sailing, people having fun to ashlettwebsite@gmail.com. If anyone has ideas for improvements or is keen to take it on I will help the process but happy to continue if no one is champing at the bit.





Pontoon and Slip – Dave Waters

The slip is now cleaned regularly making it safer and cleaner to use. A new security gate has been fitted to the pontoon access way.

Winter lay-up on the pontoon was a success and will be repeated this year starting on the 11th November.



Boat House – Neil Howarth

The Boat House continues to be well used. We currently have one vacancy in the dinghy racks in the boathouse, the kayak rack is full. Thanks to Tom for restoring the vice which is available for members to use. I enjoyed decorating the boathouse for the regatta with a great deal of help from the members, so thank you all for your assistance. We kept the fairy lights for next year as well!



Regatta

Regatta day was wet and windy and clashed with the Jolly Sailor's go-cart races but despite that and an unexpectedly high tide the Ashlett spirit ensured everyone had a good time. The umbrella race took on a whole new meaning, the boat jumble, safely in the dry, proved unusually popular and the Calshot lifeboat visit attracted young and old alike.





Round the Island Cruise – Sue Doyle



I was keen to get people out sailing as to me there didn't seem much going on!!

Some people in the smaller boats expressed an interest in an ADVENTURE, ie sailing all the way round the Isle of Wight, in one go.

So I scoured the ABP tide table for a suitable date.

The aim was not to have to leave too horribly early in the morning and to be back before dark.

The 9th of July meant we could leave at 6am on second high water and return by about 7pm. Aiming to be at the Needles at 9am, low water, would give us 3hrs with a 2kt fair tide to get there. Plenty. A good fair tide would then take us to Bembridge by 2\3 o'clock when it would turn fair down the East Solent. Simps!!

Initially 10 boats signed up which was great, ranging from the 31' Snowgoose to the Drascombe Charlotte. In the end 8 set off.

We were lucky we weren't stormed off, on the contrary the worry was so little wind. Most boats had to motor a lot of the way down the West Solent



Unfortunately. But the last thing we all wanted to do was motor all the way round.

At the Needles, from the comfort of Snowgoose, where Carl and Karen had kindly offer me a ride, I radioed all the participants to see if they had got there and wished to carry on.



They did. So we set off for St Catherines Point, some on the inside track and some outside. A breeze picked up from the southwest and we had at least 2kts of fair tide. I had anticipated that we would get at least 9 miles advantage on the trip.



Al and Simon gave me kittens scooting close round the lighthouse as Snowgoose took the strong tide outside and out around the St Catherines overfalls. Kingfisher seemed to disappear over the southern horizon and we couldn't contact him. Charlotte kept up very well and we could always see the little tanned sail. We made good time and crossed round to Bembridge after a beautiful sail round Ventnor and Sandown.

Everyone except Kingfisher checked in at Bembridge and we slipped between

No Mansland fort and the Island. Carefully skirting Ryde sands we crossed to nearer the mainland side to a brisk close reach to Ashlett where we arrived about HW. I counted them all out, and I counted them all back in!! Phew.

Then off to the Jolly for dinner!

Thanks to everyone who took part and a special thanks to Carl and Karen for taking me along.



Pursuit Races and SWSA – Debs Bowles

The 2023 season started well with Andy Sutton's Condor winning the first pursuit race of the season. The Martin Lucas trophy was presented to Andy and his crew Ash Woods.

The second race was to be held in July and one of those many storms that hit the country in that month meant the race was cancelled. The winds were indeed in excess of 40 Knots that day! The third and final race



was planned for September and although many boats made it out to the start an absence of one of the vital ingredients- wind- meant unfortunately the event had to be abandoned so everyone headed on in for the BBQ and merriment ashore! The Peter Lee trophy was awarded to Sam's Lucky girl, who turned out for both events and was the highest placed boat.

We have had dinghies join us, which has been good to see and we are building up handicaps for them ready for next season!

These days are opportunities for all members to visit the club and it has been great to see lots of people enjoying the water and all Ashlett has to offer. The BBQ's following the pursuit races have been lively occasions with lots of stories, food and the odd beer or two being shared.

These events only happen because of the support and help from club members who undertake tasks such as manning the clubhouse, organising and cooking the BBQ, driving the launch... Our thanks go to everyone who has helped this year.

We have enjoyed organising these events and look forward to 2024!

SWSA (Southampton Water Sailing Association) 2023 Report

This year has been a good year for Ashlett boats, who are flying the flag for the club and taking part in the many events SWSA offers. The evening series, single handed race and weekend events have all been hugely successful and enjoyed by all. The passage races were affected by varying weather conditions and not all went according to



schedule. The Cowes-Folly Race/Rally was a successful event with an enjoyable meal at the Folly with entertainment from one of the local bands and dancing on the table (one of the Folly's trademarks I believe). The Nab tower race was highly contested and again another popular event.

I am pleased to report that John and Ann's Martine took everyone by storm in the Nab Tower race and were the winners! And Tearaway sailed by Bob, Debs and Simon Lovelock, won the evening series. So all in all a good result for Ashlett.

Our attention is now turning to 2024 and we are busy planning next year's programme. Any suggestions or thoughts are welcome! We are especially keen to ensure that they are of interest to Ashlett members and members are able to take part if they wish.

Deborah Boles and Bob Gardner