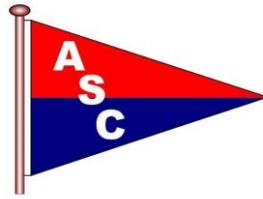


Ashlett Sailing Club



Annual Report 2020



Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd. Company Number 07252021

Ashlett Creek, Fawley, Southampton SO45 1DT



Commodore – Chris Brown

Dear Members

Another year goes by but what a strange one for us all, who would have guessed how this would have affected us both personally and boating wise.

I would like to start off by thanking my Committee for a great job under really strained and stressful circumstances.

It has been a year of reflection as we as a club have lost a good few members past and present including Pete Hall and Mike Malone both ex Commodores as well as Friends and Mentors to me and many others. However time doesn't stand still and we have had a lot of new Members join the club. Some I have met and some I haven't but I would like to give you all a warm welcome and who knows we might even get the chance of socializing be it on shore or out on the water.

So what have we been up to, well I suppose we tried to carry on the work from the previous year which included all the annual inspections and continuance of Projects, the main one being the Jetty. A big thank you must go to Phil Crossland whose perseverance was unbelievable, finding his way through more red tape than you can imagine. I don't want to be critical of the all the agencies that were involved and needed satisfying about our erecting a new jetty but you would have thought we were proposing to build a bridge to Southampton.

Needless to say permission was eventually granted and Niccols Engineering came in and built a great Jetty out of locally sourced New Forest Oak, it's amazing how much we missed having a jetty not only is it something to aim at , hang off but it is also a Tidal Height Gauge.

In the background we have been arranging the build of the new Boat Hoist which is under construction at Townsend Engineering Bridport, I am hopeful by the time you read this it should be on site and we will be undertaking

commissioning trials. Having our own Hoist will allow us to be that bit more independent and not reliant on hiring a Crane at great expense to our members. It also allows us to have a great deal of flexibility as to when we bring boats ashore and how we conduct our Winterisation. This will be in my view a lot safer and we can start to wean ourselves off the home made trailers.

I will mention Dredging but I am not holding my breath but there is still the outside chance that Esso will include the ASC working areas ie around the slip and pontoon areas when they do their Capitol Dredge in the second quarter of this year, if and when we hear anything we will get it into the Newsletter.

Our focus now in conjunction with the Hoist is to finish off this Club Year by improving our roads, carpark and gate widening.

The next major Project on the horizon is to improve the Toilet and Shower arrangements and so this new Club Year from April onwards will be more about planning and ideas with the hope of implementing it in the following year 2022.

I will finish off if I dare by once again mentioning Sailing and Socializing, I sincerely hope at some point in the not too distant future we can get going as a Club again so let's keep our fingers crossed.

Finally I would like to say thank you to all the unsung heroes who help around the Club, the work parties, the Flowers (Sam) the security patrols you know who you are, Thank You.

Stay Safe



Secretary – Jim Hopwood

According to the rules:

“The Company Secretary shall be responsible for summoning Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings. He shall also be responsible for publishing the agenda, keeping the minutes of all Club meetings and dealing with incoming and outgoing correspondence. He shall publish copies of minutes of meetings on the Clubhouse notice board and shall file copies of minutes in the Clubhouse. He shall ensure that the Club Constitution and Rules are kept up to date. He shall also make the correct returns to Companies House.”
All done, although with the Clubhouse closed minutes can be found on the website.

Plus:

The Club insurance was increased to cover new equipment and ‘employer’s liability’ added. Although we have no employees this is recommended to cover any liability to members taking part in work parties or other activities on behalf of the Club.

Director’s liability insurance moved to a new underwriter at reduced cost.

Arranged secure storage for 3 Testwood Lakes Sailability dinghies following break-ins and vandalism at the Lakes.

Near the end of the year we had a visit from the Coastguard and Maritime Agency to test the operation of our Port Waste Management Plan. A team of three seemed rather large for so small an operation but they explained they had done the refinery in the morning and stayed in the area to do us in the afternoon! Everything was in order.

And we even managed to go sailing once or twice!





Treasurer – Sharon Geary Harwood

This is my first year as your Treasurer, and one which threw me in at the deep end, not only with the Pandemic, but also with getting the accounts onto a Xero, a recognised accounting programme which is easy to operate, and will benefit the club long term.

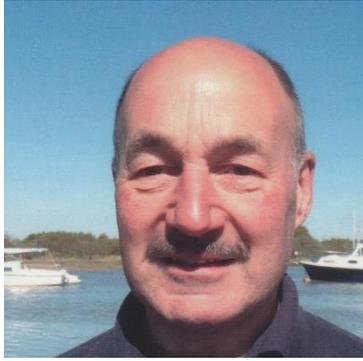
So, for the 2021/22 season, you will notice that the only difference is that rather than calculating your own amount to pay, I will input all the information into the accounts and you will receive an invoice from me, with details of how to pay.

Although this past year has been difficult and we have not been able to enjoy the club as much as we would all like too, finances are in a good condition and you can find the details in the accounts that are included elsewhere in this Report.

We have been able to fund the installation of the new jetty, and the boat hoist will be with us late spring, when we will also be working on several other projects such as repairs to the car park and road way. We have been able to achieve this with no need to increase the membership or facilities fees for the 2021 season.

Thanks go to the fellow committee members for their time, but also to the many volunteers who help with work parties.

Roll on the Sunday coffee mornings and socials which we have all missed.



Bosun and Vice-Commodore – Merv Griffiths

It is much easier writing an annual report when you have a busy year at the club, but much harder with restrictions at every turn. At the beginning of the year, the club was looking at a bright season, with a lot of projects on the list to be started and completed, well as we all know things this year didn't go exactly to plan, but progress was made -----the big project completed being the new jetty after a long wait.

The Rascal Workboat was brought ashore and work commenced on maintenance and repair, the hard part was removing many years of hard antifouling now starting to flake, this



took a concerted effort from a work party. I was going to bring the old blue workboat ashore next but that will now have to wait until better times, although it did get a new bilge pump, even though it has a full cover the heavy rain still gets underneath requiring a pump out now and again.

The recently acquired Massy Ferguson tractor has proved a good asset and will prove its worth even more with the new boat hoist on order. The old blue ford tractor is obviously feeling jealous as it "started " to play up the starter motor had to be removed and

overhauled. Then one day I noticed the rear offside tyre flat on introducing air back into it the whole rim gave out due to the rusty shoulder, so a new tyre and rim were purchased and fitted, this tractor has seen a lot of use in clearing the old pontoons along the banks each side of the cattle grid, again large work parties are again responsible for this over several days. Member Tom Hatch has been a stalwart in helping with all the heavy steel cutting up and disposing of.

Myself and Keith, the mooring master, did make some forages out to moorings but social distancing is difficult on the block lifter and small dinghy, so limited work was achieved.



Again, towards the end of the year, the oyster dredger fishing boats have again cut loose our navigation buoys. One I did manage to retrieve from the sedge a large port hand buoy spotted by Geoge a committee member. Luckily, I brought ashore the two green Starboard hand buoys to be refurbished before they could be cut. The two temporary green fenders put out instead are now down to one. Apart from piling in steel posts like ABP what can we do? [answers on an e-mail to the secretary etc] I might add we have asked ABP -- trinity house -- police for assistance to no avail, maybe we should approach Esso?

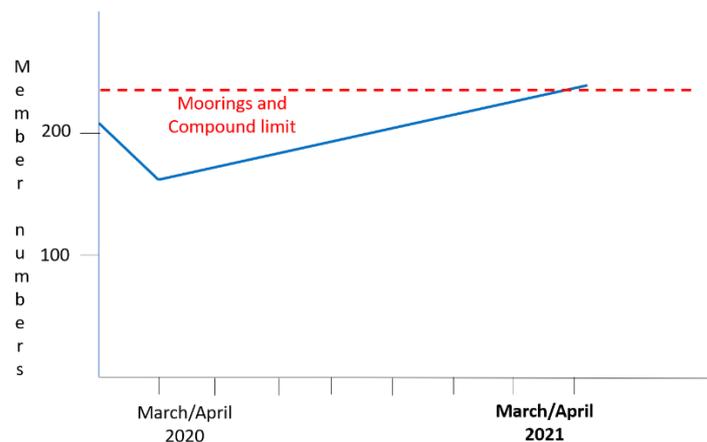


Membership and Communications – Dick Pizey

- Membership

Having ended last season with just over 200 members, during the renewal period and over the year we lost quite a number of them, which initially was a cause for a little concern. Happily, in spite of the situation the country found itself in, enquiries continued to roll in and we have ended the year with a small increase in numbers to 207.

In fact, the increase has created pressure on the key facilities at the club – places in the Compound and Moorings. There is now a waiting list for Moorings and at the time of writing the Compound has a single space remaining.



Keith and Martin, together with the rest of the Committee will be conducting a review to ensure best use is being made of the available space for active members of the club.

Last season's renewals were complicated by the pandemic and offering staggered payments caused difficulties with accounting and confirmation, so this year we will be starting the process earlier to allow you more time to complete the paperwork and submit it. Details of how the Membership and Facilities renewals will work will be coming out in a special Newsletter.

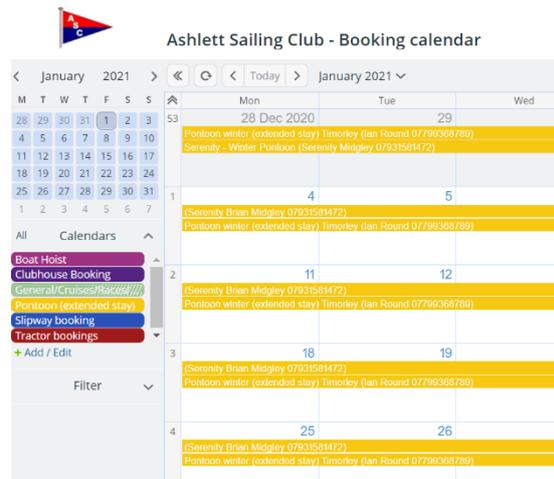
- Website

The website is proving a great success – all of the new members have used it to make initial contact. Many visitors have made use of it to request mooring or navigation details before booking in and thank us, on departure.

The one area that has been disappointing is the Forum which didn't receive many visits or use so it has now been mothballed.

- On line Calendar/Booking system

This was introduced this year to replace the paper-based system that wasn't suitable given our geographically spread membership. From the number of entries that appear it seems to have bedded in well – I would encourage downloading the app and using the link you will find on the website to give direct access and avoid having to go through the website – (Details in the Members area of the website).



The online system now covers bookings for use of – slipway launch and recovery (of any craft), tractor, clubhouse, long term pontoon stays and will be expanded to include hoist use (to avoid congestion on the slipway).

- Newsletter

The monthly Newsletter is timed to be published just after each Committee meeting to ensure you are as up to date as possible. Readership seems to be fairly constant at about 75% which, although allowing for Family memberships, still suggests that a number of members do not read it and therefore may miss important information about what is happening at their club.

Occasionally, due to some important information you should be aware of - the passing of a member for example, I will send out a special letter but I am aware of email fatigue, so try to minimise these.

Conclusion

The club is in a healthy position in terms of membership. Communications methods to members are in place and work will be done to encourage members to make use of them, particularly when we are able to start arranging social events, both on and off the water.





Projects – Phil Crossland

Jetty

As our Creek and surrounding area are covered by a number of restrictive orders including an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) A RAMSAR (A wetland site of International Importance). and a SAC (Solent Maritime - Special Area of Conservation) three certificates had to be obtained.



- 1, An MMO licence (Marine Management Organisation).
 - 2, An agreed Notice of excluded risk activity from the Environment Agency.
 3. A Works Consent Order from The Harbour Master at Associated British Ports, Southampton.
- But not before convincing multiple interested professional organisations including Natural England, RSPB etc etc. that the Jetty, materials and construction methods would not in any way have an

adverse effect on each of a whole series of previously recorded aspects of water quality, including tidal flow, the creatures within and above, breeding, the land adjoining the shore and other orders designed for improvement (e.g. mud toxicity etc). There were a further list of over 20 other orders on the Creek !

Prior to the Licence being agreed we had to make a formal 28 day public notification, this included making the plans, methodology, and applications available for inspection via local media and the village council.

This involved lengthy applications, notifications and technical assessments to the above three, together with HM Coastguard.



The costs of the applications were covered in the 2020 AGM.

The Jetty was constructed by a local company who used traditional English Green Oak obtained locally from the Beaulieu Estate for the main structure and bearers with Balau grooved hardwood decking and all secured by marine grade stainless steel fittings.



The total cost of the jetty was £26,790 with small additional extras to cover additional planking on the seaward side to make this more useful, and an electricity supply to the Navigation light which was fitted thanks to the generosity of club member Tom Hatch. The water supply was provided and fitted free of charge by the constructors.

CCTV

Since installation the CCTV has suffered teething problems which have now been fixed. We have also installed recording equipment which should make it more useful in detecting intruders. Instructions for recovering recordings are in the Club House.

The system is currently the subject of a review to make it more efficient and possibly cover more mooring areas.

Mast Quay

A tender has been accepted for renovation of the Mast Quay to make it much more user friendly. This has been delayed by the Covid pandemic and is expected to take place in the New Year.

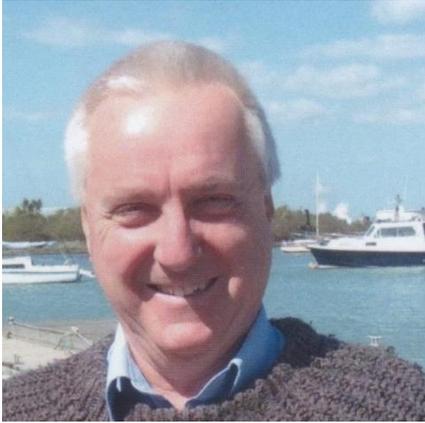


Boat House – Neil Howarth

Last year I fitted robust casters to the canoe / kayak rack, to enable it to be moved for special events, or if somebody wishes to do some work in the boathouse.

This year, I am going to number all the dinghy racks and have a look at the club sailing dinghies when restrictions are lifted.

There are plans to replace the vice in the corner once it has been restored to health.



Moorings – Keith Guy Gibbens

Due to Covid restrictions, most of 2020 saw less mooring refurbishment than was hoped!

Some work, however, was accomplished.

The seven new moorings that had been laid the previous year, were completed and allocated to members.

Six midstream moorings were serviced with new chains, shackles and buoys. Most of these required the blocks to be lifted.

There are five moorings on my list to be repaired or renewed.

No space has been identified for new moorings to be laid although we may be able to squeeze one in somewhere!

There is a waiting list of six but moorings on the North and South banks and Fore and Aft moorings become available as members vacate them.

I make every effort to help find moorings for new members and for members wishing to change to a mooring more suitable for their needs.

Please note that all boat changes should be reported to the Mooring Officer to make sure the new vessel will still be suitable for the space provided.

Please also note that it is your responsibility to maintain your allocated mooring in serviceable condition.

We will assist if you need advice or help.





Pound – Martin Lucas

It has been a long slow year with the COVID-19 going around but I have been tidying the compound up and making it a safer place. During a brief respite in the summer paving slabs were dug in with the help of members to mark each space. We also managed with the help of a work party to move one of the tender racks widen the gates in preparation for the boat lifter and had a big clear up inside and outside the compound.

Thanks to all who helped, the scrap metal fetched £.....for the funds.



We found room for some new members in the compound, this was done by some old trailers being taken out during the clear up.

I will be continuing when we are allowed back and sort out the tender rack to which I ask all members with a tenders or trailers to make sure they are clearly marked.





Maintenance – George Fabling



Pontoon and Slip – Dave Waters

This year my team of helpers refurbished the pontoon gangway and piles, kept the slipway clean and dug in several mooring blocks.

Many thanks to Ben Waters, Ryan Waters, Jayde Harris, Duncan Christie, Phil Crossland, Trevor Ennion, Jay Webb, Ron Howe, Peter Butt, Ben Waters and Chris Edwards.

As there is no lift-out this year, winter mooring has been arranged on the pontoon for those who need it.



Club House – Sam Henley Smith

Back in the summer when things seemed to be opening up Sam volunteered to take charge of the Club House. Resurgent Covid 19 prevented its use for most of the rest of the year but she refurbished the flower boats and hanging baskets and kept everything looking good.

Better luck next year!





Southampton Water Sailing Association Season 2020

Debs Bowles

Despite Covid, SWSA managed to operate a full programme of events. Although many were restricted and socially distanced, in line with the Covid regulations, the enthusiasm and turnout for events was high.

Ashlett boats continue to fly the flag high for Ashlett. There have been two boats from Ashlett competing regularly in all events (Martine, sailed by John Bigg and Anne Osman and Enigma, sailed by Bob Gardner and Deborah Boles). I am pleased to say both boats have been battling for 1st and 2nd places in nearly every series. Just like the Americas cup, every race counts. The battle for 1st and 2nd place was fought up to and depended on the result in the last race of each series. In the weekend Series, which takes place off Hythe sailing Club, Martine, pipped Enigma and took first place. The evening series saw a reversal of roles, with Enigma taking first place and Martine 2ⁿ. The passage series was won by Martine and the single handed race, with Bob Gardner at the helm, saw Enigma take the honours of 1st place.

The combined races and rallies have been a success, with one to Yarmouth and another to Bembridge. Whilst these events didn't have the large social gatherings of previous years, we nevertheless managed a socially distanced BBQ at Yarmouth and socially distanced meal out at one of the local yacht clubs in Bembridge. It's always good to meet and chat with members from other clubs.

2021

Ashlett remains very much part of the SWSA organisation taking an active role in decisions made. We are working hard to timetable and organise events to try to help with the tidal difficulty Ashlett boats experience. Boats can moor overnight at Warsash sailing club and also Hythe Sailing Club have said that Ashlett boats can moor there overnight for the purpose of taking part in SWSA events. Also if boats moor at the end of the pontoon this usually extends the time on they can get out and back. Hopefully with future dredging plans for the club, this will further improve opportunities for Ashlett boats.

We have a full programme of events lined up for next season, which include both racing and non competitive events. We think there is something for everyone and like all, we are hoping that the COVID situation improves and enables them to take place. One, which excites us, is a team race and we are very much hoping to raise a team from Ashlett.

For those that don't know, Southampton Water Sailing Association is a group formed by and run by sailing clubs that sail on Southampton Water, of which Ashlett is one. They represent the interests of the clubs at a range of institutions from ABP meetings to the RYA. They also aim to provide a programme of events for their member clubs to take part in, that enables more interclub participation that supplements what each individual club can offer its members. More information about the role of SWSA can be found on the ASC website.

SWSA is a very friendly organisation whose events are ideal for beginners and newcomers to racing and sailing. We are always happy to talk to members about what we do and for members to join us on our boat to get a flavour of what it is like and build confidence to enter their own boat.

Do come and join us in 2021!



Enigma and Martine in the single-handed race.