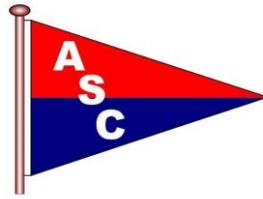


Ashlett Sailing Club



Annual Report 2021



Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd. Company Number 07252021

Ashlett Creek, Fawley, Southampton SO45 1DT



Commodore – Chris Brown

Dear Members

Well practically a year has gone by since the last AGM and I feel we have achieved most things we set out to do.

We have managed to buy our hoist and actually put it in to working practice, you may remember that we had the opportunity to bring out a dozen or so boats for an early spring clean and scrub up which allowed us to create a hoist team and give us plenty of practise in readiness for the Winterisation Programme. However, before we could do this we had a considerable amount of work in preparing the ground to allow the hoist to operate safely. The Club



in certain areas has looked a mess for a long time and had become a bit of a dumping ground so with the arrival of the hoist this was the perfect opportunity to sort this out. First of all we widened the gates and the road in order to allow the hoist to travel around a one way system. This has worked really well and we are able to pick up and drop off boats en-route. Whilst the contractors were in we took advantage of repairing and scraping off our car park as well as tidying up and re profiling the entrance road.

The second phase of the operation has been the clearing the area to the left and right as you come over the cattle grid and recovering back some of the land that has been lost over the years.



Before



After

I am grateful to all the members that have helped in removing the tonnes of dumped waste, lorry wheels, tyres and scrap from these areas which by the way has not been cheap as a lot of it was classed as commercial waste. These areas have now been re-laid, strengthened and it has increased our capacity for boat storage, car parking and are no longer an eyesore.



The intention is to also enhance the outside of the sailing club with new fencing, more trees and create a wind barrier, basically make the sailing club more functional but also pleasant to look at.

Our next big project will be the replacement of our old, damp toilets and showers. Over the years they have taken a lot of maintenance to keep them in a reasonable state of repair so it is about time we started to think about a modern replacement. Thanks to Phil and his team for the early planning – read more in his report.

Many thanks to Debs and Bob for organising the pursuit race in June, sadly we only managed one.

Thanks to all the committee members for their contributions, especially to Sam for getting social activities going in difficult circumstances and to all those who contributed to a most successful regatta.

Finally what about the coming year? Hopefully a year of getting back to the new normality and getting used to Covid being around but allowing us to get on with our lives. I hope that we can continue to improve the Club without losing any of its charm, I look forward to meeting the new



members I have yet to meet and hopefully we can do that at the Christmas dinner that is being planned. I will stand for Commodore for one more year and hopefully retain most of the present committee but in order for this Club to function and survive for the future we need fresh faces on the Committee, maybe you will consider what you can do for the Club and what role you might play in the future.

Safe Sailing.



Secretary – Jim Hopwood

Due to the Covid pandemic we held a virtual AGM in March; many thanks to Dick Pizey for arranging the technology. 62 members attended and the event was considered a success. Committee meetings continued to be held by Zoom until August when we felt able to have our first face-to-face meeting since April last year. Neil continues to attend by Zoom from London proving that in this age of virtual meetings, e-mail and WhatsApp distance is no reason not to stand for the committee.

A review of our marine trades insurance confirmed that Navigators and General are the most appropriate providers but we did manage to knock £100 off the premium. It is a requirement that we ensure all moorings are inspected annually and a record kept – expect to see a new form with your membership renewal next year.

We have just heard that Southern Water's plan to build a desalination plant close to the club has been abandoned following a consultation exercise. Maybe our submission helped them decide!

In order to keep your personal data secure and comply with the General Data Protection Regulations we have removed the membership list previously kept by the club house phone. In order to ensure that we can still contact you quickly in an emergency all committee members have the up-to-date list of members, boat names and phone numbers. Six members have agreed to their phone numbers being put on the notice board. If you see a problem, like a boat adrift, call one of them or any committee member on site and they will contact the relevant member. In addition, there is a paper copy in the locked filing cabinet.





Treasurer – Sharon Geary Harwood

For several years it seems we have been unable to bring the full accounts of the club to the AGM for the members to have a look at. The change in the reporting dates will mean that we avoid the busiest time of year for accountants and will be able to bring the full accounts to future AGMs for the information of the members.

Another compelling reason is that the busiest time of year at the club, membership renewal time also coincided with the AGM and the possible election of new members to the Committee. Taking on the role of Treasurer time would be a real process of catch up and learning on the job. With the change in dates any new incumbent has a bedding in period in which to become familiar with the processes before the onslaught of the new season.

The details of the 2020 accounts are in the appendix. Below is an overview of the current, 2021, financial situation.

- We started the financial year with £64,038 carried over from the previous year's business.
- With the exception of new members, the bulk of the Membership and facilities fees for the 2021/2022 season came in in April providing £46,157 income to the club.
- With additional income of £5,253 from new members along with income from visitors, tractor fees etc.
- This gave us a total membership and additional income of £51,410
- As a committee we have agreed that we should keep one years running costs in reserve – this is approximately £12,000
- We are also required by the club constitution to keep key monies separate from the main accounts – this amounts to £8,000 of the total.
- During the year we have pursued several projects at a cost of £36,641 (including the balance for the hoist)
- Day to day running costs of the club for the season are £10,622
- With additional cost of £8,479 for maintenance of equipment and premises
- We also have agreed additional ground work and electric fit out which total £13,000
- Budget of day to day running costs for the club until 31.3.22 is £5,000
- We have also allocated £15,000 towards our next major project – replacement of the toilets and showers at the club.
- This leaves us with £6,706 disposable income until the 2022/2023 seasons Membership and Facilities fees are due.

This season we have adopted a financial accounting package Xero, which is a commonly used software and is the preferred option of our accountants. It has taken a little time to iron out processes and procedures, but I am confident we have now established a workflow that suits both the accountant and ourselves.

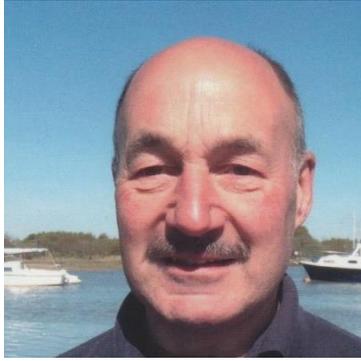
The Application for Membership and Facilities renewals will be sent out at the beginning of March and applicants will be invoiced for the amounts required. In addition, we plan to attend several Sunday Coffee mornings during that month at which renewals can be made in person if required.



June Pursuit Race

Covid Coffee Morning





Bosun and Vice-Commodore – Merv Griffiths

This has been a short but busy year. Main activities since April:

- Lifted and moved a couple of boats on land to gain familiarity before using the hoist to launch and recover.
- Leaking Hydraulic snap connectors replaced on ford tractor bucket hydraulic line.
- New fuel Lift pump fitted to Massey Tractor, which has also reduced one of the bad oil leaks, a new battery has also been fitted to this tractor.
- Recruited and trained more teams to operate the boat hoist.
- Original green navigation buoys now back on station. Many thanks to Brian Cornelius and helpers for doing this and bringing the temporary buoys ashore.
- Several lengths of chain replaced on unused and neglected moorings so they can be reallocated.
- The Massey tractor was transported away to a tractor dealer where a full service was carried out and a new uprated hydraulic pump fitted to give more power to the Boat Hoist lifting rams. Now working much better.
- Fitted a new trailer hitch release cable to the Massey tractor as the original one was very stiff.
- Agri Tractor services will be fitting a new handbrake cable to the Massey when they can source one. Unavailable in UK, have located one in France.
- Used the block lifter to raise and reposition a member's mooring for ease of access. Thanks to him for turning up to help – lets hope this is the new normal!
- Diesel supplies replenished as needed.



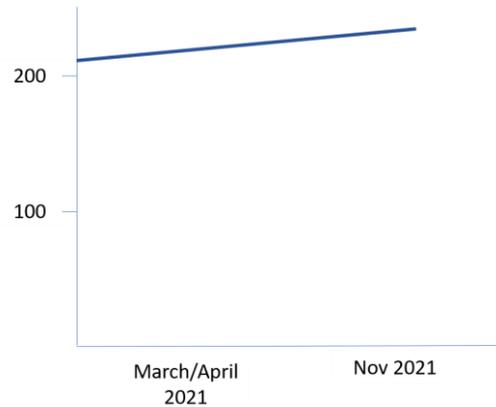


Membership and Communications – Dick Pizey

- Membership

In spite of the turmoil of the past year the membership of the club remains very healthy. We have, sadly, lost a few stalwarts of the club but we continue to attract new members who have a variety of water-based interests. The number of members now stands at 210

As I reported last AGM the increase has created pressure on the key facilities at the club – places in the Compound and Moorings. Keith and Martin have been able to manage the increase by clearances of dumped items in the Compound and judicious management of moorings to reduce waiting as much as possible – however space is becoming tight.



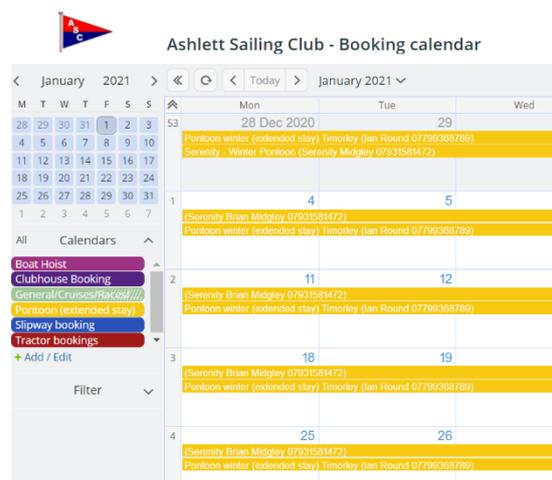
- Website

The website continues to attract visitors, both repeat visits from club members as well as many interested parties from external sources – as in previous years 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 to thank us, on departure.

- On line Calendar/Booking system

This seems to have integrated itself into day to day use at the club – indeed with other facilities coming on-line it is being used more and more.

The online system now covers bookings for use of – slipway launch and recovery (of any craft), tractor, clubhouse, the boat hoist, long term pontoon stays.



- 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 and 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 arranging social events, both on and off the water.



Club House – Sam Henley Smith

It's been wonderful to fully reopen the clubhouse after the strange year we have all had.

Thank you so much to all you lovely members for adhering to the measures we had to have in place over the last year. Thankfully we are now using the facilities freely again! If you've attended any of the Sunday coffee mornings during the gradual opening-up phase then a big thank you for putting up with me literally policing the numbers and chucking you out onto the veranda with your coffee and cake when necessary. We've had a laugh haven't we?!





We've returned to the coffee rota on the board in the club house for anyone to sign up to host the Sunday coffee mornings. Please join us.... you will have a fun morning! Thanks to Phillip, Paul, Jackie, Karen and Sue for their recent hosting.

Thank you so much to everyone who made cakes for the Regatta ... and to the wonderful helpers on the day. We raised a total of £248.51 for the RNLi thanks to all your efforts and to the generous loan of Ray Mead's Ice Cream Machine, complete with supplies!!

Thank you to Claire for helping me keep the flower boats tidy, and to Rachel for all her diligent cleaning, which has been increased as we reopened after COVID..





Projects – Phil Crossland

Anyone who has used our toilet shower facilities will know how cold, damp, and uninviting they are. With this in mind a decision was made for upgrading them.

I have a great small team from the committee and club members who represent, users, construction expertise and a huge wealth of common sense and innovative ideas. We set design parameters around the following:-

Disabled access

Much more efficient use of the utility services

Future proof design

Nitrogen Neutral

Aesthetically pleasing design which compliments the Clubhouse.

Access from the Clubhouse and non flooding.

Preference for locally supplied materials

A safe secure underfloor waste catchment tank

At the time of writing we have moved towards the following - This comes with a rider that this is the very early stages of a long term project. In order to achieve the most cost effective and user-friendly building each of these points will be constantly reviewed, amended, and upgraded.

The original idea was to provide a disabled ramp, but under current legislation this would have been exceptionally long and interfered with the current steps to the veranda, spoiling the lines of the frontal aspect of the building yet costing around the same price as an outdoor lift.

We had hoped to remove the roof, and lower the walls of the current building to the same level as the Clubhouse and put the new building on top. This was found to be impractical due to a number of reasons including unstable lime bricks which would not last for the duration of the new build. In view of this the current thoughts are to knock the building flat, and the new premises be mounted at the same height but a smaller footprint with a much more efficient use of internal space.

We are hoping to incorporate a single yard toilet, this would be via a separate access from the yard. The main facilities access would be via the Clubhouse to separate secure, easy clean, warm, well ventilated cubicles each containing toilet, wet shower, hand basin and running from a carbon efficient eco-friendly system. There would also be a disabled toilet and utility/storeroom.

Work has also taken place to examine what foundations already exist, whether they are up to the standards required and if not then how would we improve them.

Several suppliers have already been spoken with and their capabilities researched. Although different layout ideas and construction methods are under discussion, no decisions have been made as to the final design.

Once the design, fittings, fixtures, and methods of ecological heating, power, ventilation and waste management, preferred suppliers, and final costings are agreed by the main Club

committee this will be taken to a structural engineer for checking, and amendments made where necessary. Checks will be made with the local authority to see whether any special permits or authorisations are required. If agreeable the building will then commence. We will of course be keeping our landlords (Esso) updated and involved in relation to our final decisions.

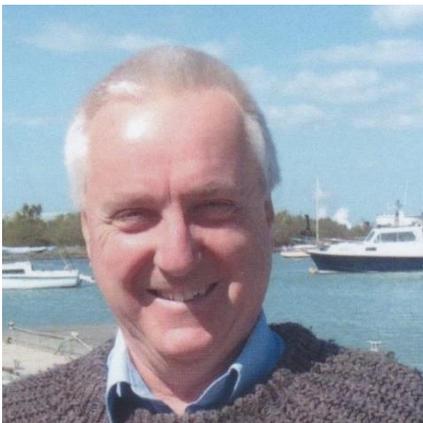
This is a long term project, perhaps taking up to two and a half years. We have completed a huge amount of initial research, which has allowed the small design team to make an initial presentation to the committee so our Club now has an insight into what is required, the maximum costings range, together with the beginnings of a direction from which to base and adopt future decisions.

My thanks in particular go to the team I have worked with namely committee members Sam Henley-Smith, Neil Howarth and club members with construction expertise Paul Hosey, Ray Mead, and Steve Rush. My best wishes go to them and the person replacing me who will carry this demanding and fascinating project forward.



Boat House – Neil Howarth

Boathouse is steady as she goes. Both kayak/canoe and dinghy racks are full. I was pleased with the way the casters worked on the canoe rack, which made setting up for the regatta much easier. Thank you to all those who helped clean and decorate the boathouse, as well as packing down clear after the regatta. The club's Toppers were both used at the regatta and are seaworthy for anyone who fancies getting their feet wet for a change!



Moorings – Keith Guy Gibbens

When possible this year some progress was made with the updating of creek moorings with a number identified for refurbishment.

Unfortunately the block lifter stayed in storage throughout the last couple of years of lockdown so no progress was made during that time! I have, however, assigned 3 moorings to new members and am in the happy position of having no one waiting for creek moorings.

I'm hoping this winter and spring to complete the refurbishment of the old East bank moorings, this will leave us in good shape.



Pound – Martin Lucas

There's certainly been a few changes over the last year. The grounds have been developed to gain space and to help with the boat hoist. You can see there is better access: Where there are three roads in the compound, by the end of the year there will be just two, wider than before, making it easier to manoeuvre your boats in their spaces.

There has been a fantastic turn out for all the work parties. I wish I could name you all, as without your help it would have taken so much longer! We've cut up the old trailers, mown the grass and hacked back the weeds/brambles for the alternative path.

The ground under the tender rack has been levelled, so it is becoming more user friendly - almost ready for the paving slabs for marking to go in.

All the sleepers/ wood has been found and put in one place. All the spaces in the compound now have a paving slab, ready for marking.



There is now a Biffa bin on site for empty antifouling tins. This has solved the longstanding problem of members putting them in the general waste bin. Please use it!

All this team effort has made the compound a clean and safe place for everyone to enjoy.





Maintenance – George Fabling

Maintenance tasks many and varied carried out in all areas of the club including security of premises, water and electrical services, building and gate maintenance, taking part in work parties, vessel movements and storage.

New hoses and fittings have been provided but he connectors seem to go walkabout – please replace them after use.



Pontoon and Slip – Dave Waters

The pontoon continues to be well used.

The slip has been cleaned regularly and is much safer to use as a result.





Regatta Fun - there are many more pictures on the website.



Southampton Water Sailing Association Season 2021 - Deborah Bowles

Martine has done a great job this season, flying the flag for Ashlett Sailing Club. Martine, a trimaran, sailed by John, Ann and sometimes grandson, have collected a number of first places in the evening series, weekend series and passage races. Overall, they are the WINNERS of the passage race series- Congratulations to them and we look forward to celebrating their achievement at the prize giving at Hythe Sailing Club in

November.

SWSA has run a full programme of events this year, evening racing off Netley, weekend racing and a single-handed race at Hythe Sailing Club and finally a number of passage races. A good turn- out was seen throughout the season, with 20 boats taking part in the evening racing. Due to COVID it was not possible to have the planned social events and some of the planned variations on the standard races. Martine has sailed from Ashlett to take part in most of the events and whilst tide is an issue for Ashlett boats, we are hoping that: dredging; using the deeper water part of the main pontoon; offers from Hythe sailing club and Warsash for boats taking part in swsa events to overnight with them, will make the events more accessible for Ashlett boats.

The final passage race/rally to Yarmouth was a great success. There was a good mix of boats racing and rallying, with 15 boats taking part. We are pleased that three crews from Ashlett joined in. We enjoyed drinks on the pontoon and then migrated to the barbecue area where we enjoyed an evening of 'fine dining'!

We are busy planning next year's programme and hope to see more of you join us!



Martine off Hythe Sailing Club