

DYC Commodores Report for the AGM on 30th January 2020

It is not easy to report on this year for reasons which I am sure all can understand. There are however one or two highlights which I will come too but first may I thank all Members for their forbearance during this difficult period which is without precedent in my experience. I must also thank all of our staff for their flexibility and hard work whenever required. The same thanks also go to all Committee Members and volunteers.

There have been a number of surprises this year, one being how well the membership numbers held up with the Club and river being closed for significant periods. Based on the latest information in my possession the total number of Club members is 1,332 which I believe may be a record number.

The second and important surprise is the strong financial position of the Club and in this regard I would commend to you the Treasurers excellent and very detailed report. As a result of all that has happen this year we should be able to move forward in 2021 with confidence once the Covid restrictions are lifted.

Waterborne activities have been limited although kayaking has flourished under the supervision of Tim Freeman. RYA Power Boat courses have also been conducted very successfully along with other shore based RYA courses under Gareth Thorpe all to the great benefit of members. It should also be noted that we passed an RYA inspection in the autumn with flying colours so that we can continue to offer RYA approved courses.

This year for the first time we were able to gain permission for the operation of external seating on South Embankment together with other businesses along the Embankment. This has proven to be an outstanding success for the Club and indeed the whole town. We have joined with other businesses to form the Embankment Business Group to promote the continued use and improvement of the Embankment. I trust that our efforts will be successful in persuading the Authorities to continue and expand the use of the Embankment which is so important for the vitality and economy of both the Club and the town.

The other major project for the Club in this year will be the refurbishment of the first floor to provide a high quality apartment for holiday letting. This project is subject to the receipt of planning permission and to the Committee being satisfied with the funding that is available. On both counts I am hopeful that we will be in a position to proceed in the spring but there are a range of uncertainties to be resolved. If successful the project should secure the financial future of the Club into the medium term.

A number of Committee members are standing down this year and I would like to offer my thanks for their contributions over many years. I would particularly like to mention Allan Smith who whilst remaining on the Committee and continuing to handle all IT matters is standing down as Vice Commodore. I am sure that all members would wish to thank him for an enormous contribution to which I would like to add my personal thanks for his great support during my first year as Commodore.

Another sad loss will be our long serving President Don Campbell who is also standing down after the AGM my deepest thanks go to him for all the support and hard work over the years. I understand that he will be moving away from Dartmouth and I am sure every

club member wishes him all the very best in the future. I hope that he will come and visit us whenever possible.

It only remains for me to wish all Members a very happy, bright and above all healthy 2021

Anthony Baker
Commodore