

Commodore's AGM Report on 2017/18

I have very much enjoyed my 2 year term as your Commodore and it has been an honour to represent our still growing membership – we ended our financial year with 115 more members than we had at the start, a trend that has, I am delighted to say, continued. None of what I am about to say could have happened without an amazing group of Committee Members and Volunteers working hard to organise all the on- and off-water activities and keep the roof over our heads; we owe them all a huge vote of thanks.

We have certainly had a busy year, with purchases and refurbishments both on and off the water, funded by the increase in membership, very gratefully received donations and some equally welcomed grant funding from the DHNA and Sport England. The clubhouse's kitchen has a new floor and walls, whilst the toilets and showers have been greatly improved. We have increased our dinghy fleet, bought a new club motor boat, RIB Safety Boat and Dinghy Trailer. The increase in the number of boats and a second safety boat has enabled us to double the number of junior participants on Saturdays. Our Tuesday evening Club Dinghy Sails have continued to prove very popular with all ages and the introduction of Monthly Day Sails has been welcomed by our Cruising Group. More members are getting afloat in our extensive range of canoes and kayaks and the SUPs are also in regular use. Now with two motor boats that members can use, more have been able to enjoy days out on our beautiful river. The increase of activity by Juniors is particularly pleasing, with 4 teenagers gaining their RYA Assistant Instructor qualification in the summer, with plans to progress to Dinghy Instructor later in 2019. RYA Training has continued with Power Boat qualifications still as popular as ever.

Helping to run the Sailing side of the Royal Regatta, as always, means a lot of work by a number of volunteers both ashore and afloat and it has been pleasing to see many more tasks taken on by DYC members. Cups were won by a select number of members, but it gave me special pride to present a young DYC member with the Silver Salver for the Best Under 12 Helm.

Whilst members have been busy on the water, there has also been a lot going on in the clubhouse. Our Bar and Catering continue to be very popular with members and their guests, with particular highlights being our Crab Festival Lunch and Sunday Carveries. The Social Committee have organised a number of highly enjoyable events to suit all tastes from fun & laughter evenings to the formal events such as my Commodore's Dinner and New Year's Eve.

The DYC is a members club and as such members are expected to get involved in whatever way they can, be it looking after/cleaning our motor boats, leading on Family Sailing Week, acting as the DYC Rep on the town's Regatta Committee, producing a Newsletter, joining a committee or any one of a number of other opportunities. So whatever talents, time and interests you have, please think seriously about how you can help support your club, even if it is in a small way.

Regarding financial matters, the Accounts, fully explained in The Treasurer's Report, show we actually made a small loss. However, the huge rise in membership, greatly increased waterborne activity and much improved cash flow position point to a very different story

and one we should all be proud of. In line with our Not for Profit CASC status (Community Amateur Sports Club), we have correctly reinvested all funds in the club's facilities/activities. My Committee and I are immensely proud of our commitment to being a CASC and the way in which we offer all sections of our community the opportunity to get out on the water, either via low cost membership and training, free access to craft or our bursary scheme.

The increase in membership and the club's general vitality in all areas are the culmination of work by not only the current Committee but many past Committee members and Commodores, sadly 2 of whom we lost this year. I leave my post with every confidence in the Committee and know that they will continue to serve us all with diligence and enthusiasm.

Recently, I came across Alister Harbord's AGM speech written at the end of his second term as Commodore and I would like to conclude with the same words he did – Fair winds and calm seas to you all.

Kate Brown