

SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB



NEWSLETTER

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THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A few words from our new Chairman Owen Poppett

Thank you to those of you who managed to make it to the Annual General Meeting at Shoreham, I know we are all very busy both at work and at home making it difficult to get to evening meetings.

To be voted in as Chair of SPOSC was a proud moment for me. During the past year Anne Darling has worked hard ensuring the best interests of the club were promoted during committee meetings, with the Sussex Police Sports Association and by recruiting new members. I would like to thank Anne for her efforts over the past year which was recognised by the presentation of The Commodores Shield for services to the club at the AGM. I wish her well with whatever she decides to do on her retirement.

In 2006 Alan Costello introduced me to sailing on his Jeanneau one design "Red Machine", I soon started crewing on Wednesday evening races out of Sovereign Harbour. Our current Commodore Dusty Miller then told me about the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club, since then I have tried to get on two or three of the SPOSC charters each year. In 2009, under the tutelage of a very patient Alwyn Evans, I passed my Day Skipper practical and was then mentored by Dusty to be a skipper for SPOSC. For the past few years I have arranged the Frostbite trip which has grown and this year will involve three boats with 21 members taking to the water. I have recently passed my Yachtmaster theory and am hoping to take the practical exam later this year.

During the coming year the insurance situation needs to be resolved, I anticipate that this will remain an annual cost which we will need to plan how to fund. Sailing is not a low risk sport and we encourage all our members to ensure that they are appropriately insured.

SPOSC is always evolving with stalwart members taking a step back and new members joining. I believe that training and mentoring is an important aspect of SPOSC, without this investment the club will be left unable to run trips. It's also good for personal development to improve our knowledge and skills.

There are a lot of new members that have joined over the past couple of years. I am keen that as a section we promote training and look at increasing the opportunities for members to get afloat. I am also very aware that a number of members, including some of our founder members, may not want to sail for a week at a time. I hope that by the end of the year we will have found alternative ways of providing opportunities for them to sail. I look forward to the year ahead with SPOSC and to meeting many of you on the water..



Editorial Note

Please remember that this is your magazine and should reflect your views and experiences for the benefit of other members. If you have any comment, articles or photographs you feel are appropriate for inclusion then please forward them to me, terryclothier@hotmail.com for publication.

The opinions expressed in articles within Scuttlebutt are those of the individual only and not necessarily those of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.



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2015 AGM Report by Terry Clothier

The cold, dark February night did nothing to diminish the warmth of welcome at the Sussex Yacht Club Headquarters, Shoreham Harbour where the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club held its' 2015 Annual General Meeting. After a brilliant sailing year with many new members joining the club and many sea miles covered it was perhaps a little disappointing to see only seventeen members, including the committee, representing the Club. However those that were there were enthusiastic, appreciative of the facilities on offer and the Committee's efforts over the past year.

Following straight on from the Committee meeting the AGM opened with Chair Anne Darling recounting the events and many successes of the year. The amended Club Rules were circulated and accepted without dissent as was the new Risk Assessment. Copies of both of these documents are appended to this Scuttlebutt or can be viewed on the website. The main purpose of both documents is to ensure the

safety of all ventures undertaken by the club, they are essential reading for all potential skippers and crew.

The Treasurer's report, as presented by Alwyn Evans reveals a Club in a strong financial position, pending grants from the Sussex Police Sports Association being well placed to fund a variety of voyages as well as enabling SPOSC to represent the Force in the year's National Race Series, PSUK 2015, as well as other sporting events. Alwyn requests that payments to the club be made now where possible by direct transfer rather than cheques. Cash is not an acceptable alternative.

Club Trophy's were awarded as decided during the previous Committee meeting and went to; Commodores Shield - Anne Darling for her commitment and dedication during the previous twelve months as Club Chair; Scuttlebutt Trophy - Brian Donald - for his excellent article on the 2014 PSUK National and World Championships, published in Scuttlebutt 170 on the 5th August; Roger Dice Trophy - Terry Clothier, for producing and

publishing 'Scuttlebutt' currently circulated to more than four thousand potential readers and, in one case going National on the Police Sailing website; www.policessailing.org.uk

The Portobello Cup, normally issued for RYA Qualification achievement had no nominations and was not issued this year.

Congratulations to Trophy Holders;

- Commodore's Shield; Anne Darling
- Scuttlebutt Trophy; Brian Donald
- Roger Dice Trophy; Terry Clothier



Thanks also to our generous hosts, the Sussex Yacht Club, Shoreham, who once again provided an appropriate meeting room and full club facilities. I especially thank the smiling and efficient bar staff who put up with us so amiably.

Frostbite Charter 2015

Three 38 foot yachts have already been identified and paid for. It runs from Sunday 15th to Friday 20th March. Whole or half week available.

Firefighters Challenge

*27th to 30th April, 2015
If you are interested contact Secretary Dave Frey. There are currently no plans to have a Support Boat for this event*

JUST SOME OF THE YEARS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SCUTTLEBUTT

2015 AGM Report (continued)

Club Insurance and the old chestnut of damage excess costs was raised again and has been extensively researched by Commodore 'Dusty' Miller and Owen Poplett. It has still not been satisfactorily concluded. Research for a happy ending continues, while a temporary fix with the option of insurance being offered to Skippers and Crew for each charter caused some lively debate. No doubt there will be more on this subject as it seems the SPSA insurance does not cover any of the activities in which we as a club are involved.

Election of Officers was the next item on the agenda, with the bombshell announcement that Anne Darling was standing down for personal reasons. This news was received with dismay by those on the floor as Anne has been a very popular Chair and done a splendid job. Owen Poplett was nominated as successor and duly elected. With no other nomination Anne Darling agreed to stand as Vice Chair and was also elected. Dave Frey (in his absence) and Alwyn Evans remain in position as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Their Assistants being Colin Jaques and Alain Jacquet.

Alan Haffenden announced that he was standing down as West Area Representative after giving many, many, many years of service to the SPOSC. Well done Alan! Naturally he could not be replaced.

Chairman Owen Poplett requests that members who have not already done so return the new membership forms to him as soon as possible. Thank you.



The 2015 PSUK

The 2015 PSUK National Race Championships will take place along the Hampshire and Dorset Coast between the 18th and 22nd May. Organised this year by Cleveland Police yachts are Beneteau 37's supplied by

Fairview Sailing so once again there will be a matched fleet. The organiser is Cleveland Skipper, Tony Riordan who can be contacted on;

tonyriordan@hotmail.com



Former Chair Anne Darling at the top of her sailing career

Editor's note!

It is only proper at this juncture that I record thanks to our outgoing Chair Anne Darling for what has been a spectacular and memorable year for the club. With forty four new members, passages to Cherbourg and Guernsey as well as the usual Solent adventures including the 'PSUK National and World Championships then being the highest placed visiting boat in the October Met Open series the Club has prospered. The Rules have been updated and a new Risk Assessment been prepared. We also gave £150 to the RNLI from crew member contributions. Not forgetting either the return of Scuttlebutt!

Anne's dynamic and enthusiastic approach has been a great asset to the Club as well as being highly infectious to all who came within her reach. Fortunately she remains in post as Vice-Chair for the time being, so hasn't totally escaped...

Scuttlebutt does of course also welcome our new Chairman Owen Poplett, a long standing SPOSC member, who I have no doubt will be a worthy successor and a steady hand at the Club's helm.

Terry Clothier

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB

RULES

These Rules have been formulated after much discussion and debate. They have been accepted by general consensus at the Annual General Meeting of the Club in January 1996 (amended in January 1998, January 2007, January 2010, February 2011 & February 2015). All persons undertaking activities which have been organised, approved or sponsored by the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club shall be bound by them.

1. NAME

The section of the Sussex Police Sports Association known as the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club shall hereinafter be referred to as the 'Club'.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Club shall be to encourage and train members to sail in offshore waters with a view to participation in cruising, racing and social sailing within the calendar of the SPOSC.

3. MANAGEMENT

- I. The 'Officers' of the Committee shall consist of - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Webmaster. The remainder of the Committee will be formed from the elected area 'Representatives'.
- II. Re-election of the 'Officers' and 'Representatives' shall take place at each Annual General Meeting. If an officer retires or resigns from the Committee a temporary appointment may be made at a Special Committee meeting.
- III. The AGM will be held each year, before the end of the financial year and members will be given at least 21 days notice of the date. Only full members may vote at the AGM.
- IV. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year, one of which shall be after the AGM. The other shall be at a time considered to be most appropriate by a general consensus of Committee members.
- V. A quorum for a meeting shall be three Committee members.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- I. Full membership
 - a) Is open to Sussex Police officers, staff and all employees of the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner, or
 - b) Employees of the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner who have retired* from the Sussex Police and who pay subscriptions to Sussex Police Sports Association or the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.
 - c) Full members shall normally be the only members entitled to hold office and have voting rights.
 - d) A current list of members shall be kept by the Assistant Secretary.

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II. Associate Membership

- a) Associate membership may be granted at the discretion of the Committee to serving or retired* Police officers and staff of other forces, who apply for such, upon payment of the due subscription to the Sussex Police Sports Association or the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.
- b) May be granted to partners and children** of full or associate members upon payment of the due subscription to the Sussex Police Sports Association or the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.
- c) May be granted at the discretion of the Committee to former and serving members of the Special Constabulary upon payment of the due subscription to the Sussex Police Sports Association or the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.
- d) Shall be granted to former members of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club, who continue to provide a service to the club but do not benefit by participating in any subsidised club event and do not pay subscriptions to the Sussex Police Sports Association or the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.
- e) A current list of associate members shall be kept by the Assistant Secretary.

III. Honorary Membership

- a) Shall be limited to not more than five persons, shall be subject to the approval of the Committee, and shall be granted at each AGM to persons duly proposed, seconded and confirmed by no less than two thirds of the membership present and voting.
- b) A current list of honorary members shall be kept by the Assistant Secretary.

**The term retired shall be taken to mean a person who is in receipt of a pension or gratuity from the relevant Police Authority.*

***Child members will be aged eighteen years and above unless in exceptional circumstances which are approved by the Committee.*

5. AFFILIATION

The Club shall be affiliated to such governing bodies, associations and societies as shall be deemed appropriate by the Committee.

6. GENERAL CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

- I. Members shall conduct themselves in a proper, seamanlike manner at all times.
- II. If in the opinion of the Committee, the conduct* of any member is considered to be contrary to the interests of the Club or any such conduct is likely to bring discredit upon the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club and therefore the Sussex Police, the Committee may;
 - a) Caution said member in writing.
 - b) Suspend any such member for any period they may think appropriate.
 - c) Strike said persons name from the register of members.

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III. Where members are guests of another Yacht Club they shall respect the rules of the said Yacht Club or they will automatically fall within the scope of Rule 6 (II) above.

IV. When a vessel is under charter to the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club the designated skipper shall have total responsibility for that vessel and crew. By the same token that 'skipper' shall have total authority over the use of that vessel, and the crew of that vessel both on board and ashore, in respect of the safety of the vessel. All members should bear in mind that their conduct reflects on their fellow crewmen, the Club and ultimately the Sussex Police.

*Any member accused of such conduct shall have the opportunity to mitigate his actions at a meeting of the Committee, - at which at least three Officers of the Committee shall attend.

7. PAYMENTS

I. There is no subscription to the SPOSC

II. All charter payments are made to supplement the charter fee for individual boats. These payments will be made to the Treasurer Account in advance and is repayable at the discretion of the Committee.

III. All members are to be aware that when chartering a vessel the crew may be liable to provide a deposit to cover any insurance excess required by the chartering company.

IV. A skipper arranging a charter must consult with the Treasurer to ensure that the cost of the potential charter is within the annual budget of SPOSC.

V. All members are advised to ensure they have adequate personal insurance when undertaking a charter organised by SPOSC.

8. FINANCE

I. The amount of the SPOSC charter contributions will be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

II. The Committee shall control the funds of the Club and act as trustees for all its' property. The Treasurer of the Club shall hold to the credit of the Club all its' monies received and the funds shall be vested in the Club.

III. The accounts shall be made up at the 31st March each year and kept in accordance with the rules of the parent Association - Sussex Police Sports Association.

IV. The final decision as to Club charters rests with the Committee.

9. MINUTES & RECORDS

The Secretary shall keep correct minutes of all meetings which shall be published to the membership.

10. ALTERATION TO RULES

Alteration to an existing Rule shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting, and notice of the proposed alteration shall be given to the Secretary in writing not less than 14 days before the meeting.

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11.INTERPRETATION

Interpretation of the Rules shall rest only with the Committee.

12.REQUIREMENT FOR BOAT SAFETY

- I. The Committee will authorise and appoint skippers for Club charters.
- II. All seaborne activities subsidised by, or organised in the name of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club shall be skippered by RYA qualified and certificated members.
- III. RYA Day Skippers in the Solent will be confined to Day Sailing yachts maximum length 15 metres and within 20 miles of the departure port. (RYA & MCA Guidance).
- IV. RYA/MCA Certificate of Competence Yachtmaster Coastal Skippers are competent to undertake any coastal passages within 20 miles of a safe haven.
- V. RYA/MCA Certificate of Competence Yachtmaster Offshore Skippers are competent to undertake any passage during which the yacht is no more than 150 miles from any safe haven.
- VI. All of the above passages will have as a First Mate a member who has as a minimum RYA Day Skipper qualification.
- VII. Proposed charters by RYA Day Skippers outside III above will be decided by the Committee taking into account experience, familiarity of sailing area and proposed itinerary.
- VIII. All boats chartered or used in the name of the Club shall be sailed in accordance with all Laws and Rules laid down for the safe passage of vessels upon the seas, channels, waterways and harbours of the U.K. and Europe. All research into such Laws and Rules shall be the responsibility of the Skipper. A passage plan shall be prepared by the Skipper in accordance with SoLaS Regulations.
- IX. All Skipper undertaking water based activity organised in the name of Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club shall ensure a risk assessment is carried out prior to the activity. The SPOSC Risk Assessment form will be part of the Skippers briefing and must be signed by all crew on the charter prior to departure. The Skipper will return the signed form to the Club Secretary who will retain all signed forms. The Skipper will also endorse the form as to whether any damage/injury was caused to the charter yacht or crew, or any third party or vessel, in which case a separate report will be submitted to the Committee. The Secretary will bring all such reports to the attention of the Committee.
- X. Members of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club and their guests and visitors use the boats, moorings and other facilities provided at their own risk and agree to, and accept, the following limitations of liability;

Each member acknowledges that the Committee members and others organising or helping to organise Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club (SPOSC) events do so voluntarily and to that extent permitted by law neither they, nor the SPOSC Committee, nor the SPOSC can in any circumstances be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage to an owner, member, their crew, guests, vessel or equipment whether through negligence or otherwise of any member, organiser, helper or third party. The safety and management of any vessel, its' equipment and crew is the responsibility of the Skipper. No SPOSC event shall be considered a training event unless it is specifically designated as such.

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Each Skipper in a SPOSC event must assess for themselves whether the event is within their capabilities and whether or not their personal safety or that of their crew could be endangered. By participating in a SPOSC event, each Skipper warrants that their vessel and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise during the course of the event and that the boat carries appropriate third party insurance. The participation of any other vessel in an event shall not relieve other participants of their responsibilities. Members, their crews and their guests take part in SPOSC events entirely at their own risk and on the understanding that they indemnify the SPOSC, Committee members and others organising or helping to organise the event for any death, injury, loss or damage to themselves, family, crew, guests or vessel. By inviting crew or guests to participate in an event organised by the Club, the sponsoring member warrants that their attention has been drawn to these limitations. Participation in any SPOSC activity is always on the basis of the SPOSC Constitution and Rules.

13.NATIONAL POLICE CHAMPIONSHIP RACING

- I. The 'Skipper' of the race boat shall be chosen by the Committee.
- II. The elected 'Skipper' shall then chose his crew.
- III. The organising and application for SPSA grant of the Force (Police Championships) boat shall be the responsibility of the Skipper of the boat.

14.FLAG OFFICERS

- I. The Club currently has one Flag Officer - The Commodore.

(February, 2015)

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB

RISK ASSESSMENT



SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

All SPOSC RYA Qualified Skippers & Mates must ensure they comply with SoLaS Part V & all crew are briefed with this Risk Assessment & any other matters that are relevant to the particular craft in use or passage planned. Alwyn Evans 07/2014

	HAZARD	PERSONS AT RISK	IS RISK ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED	FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE RISK
1	Drowning from falling overboard	All persons on board yacht	Full safety briefing to be given to crew by skipper prior to departure, including man overboard recovery procedures, use of lifejackets, jackstays and harnesses demonstrated. Best practice for moving around carrying out activities on deck explained and practically demonstrated. Life jackets to be worn at all times.	General Conditions to all Sections on Page 1, 2 & 3 Risks remaining with the yacht's equipment are inherent risks found on all sailing vessels. Sailing is potentially a dangerous sport & therefore all taking part must ensure that they are aware of the risks.
2	Injury from the boom	All persons on board yacht	Skipper to explain dangers of being within striking distance of the boom or mainsheet along with potential dangers & safe practices of downwind sailing.	
3	Hypothermia & Sea Sickness	All persons on board yacht	Skipper to ensure all crew have suitable clothing for weather conditions. Skipper to regularly monitor their crews' welfare in cold/ inclement weather conditions including prevention and onset of sea sickness. Comprehensive first aid kit and manual is carried on board charter yachts, which details treatment and procedures. Survival bags for treatment of hypothermia are part of a chartered yachts inventory.	Charterers Insurance does not cover personal injury. All crew members are advised to ensure they have adequate Personal Insurance.
4	Injuries from running rigging, rope-work & winches	All persons on board yacht	Skippers to give instruction to their crew regarding proper use and potential dangers. Operation and correct use of winches, clutches and jammers practically demonstrated.	SPOSC Skippers should be fully aware of their duty of care to themselves & to their crews.

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	HAZARD	PERSONS AT RISK	IS RISK ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED	FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE RISK
5	Injuries from falling down companionway & hatches	All persons on board yacht	Skipper to give instruction regarding proper use of hatches. Proper use & hazards of falling in the companionway area emphasized. All deck hatches are to be kept closed whilst at sea	Crew members should be reminded that they have a responsibility for their own safety & that of others.
6	Fire, Gas leaks & explosion	All persons on board yacht	Skipper to give instruction to crew regarding on board fire drill along with use of gas & smoke detection system, location & use of fire extinguishers showing all fire exit routes.	General Conditions Applicable to all Sections as on Page 1
7	Abandonment	All persons on board yacht	Skipper to give adequate briefing on safe working practices for abandonment prior to departure.	
8	Injuries by engine belts, pulleys & burns from exhaust & cooling system	All persons on board yacht	Skippers to brief crew on the dangers. Instructions to be given where appropriate. No inappropriate clothing to be worn.	
9	Hot water & food burns	All persons on board yacht	Skippers to explain hazards of using cookers at sea. Wearing waterproof trousers when cooking at sea to avoid burns.	
10	Slipping or tripping on pontoon or deck	All persons on board yacht	Sailing shoes or similar high grip shoes should be worn by all on board. Potential hazards pointed out.	
11	Contaminated food or water	All persons on board yacht	All crew to maintain hygiene standards. Washing hands before handling food, clean galley, surfaces and utensils, correct preparation & storage of food stuffs.	

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	HAZARD	PERSONS AT RISK	IS RISK ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED	FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE RISK
12	Falling from mast	All persons on board yacht	Bosun's chair to be checked before use. 2 halyards must be attached. 1 to chair & 1 to harness with a crew member operating each line. Safe working practices to be explained.	
13	Extreme physical effort (anchor work etc.)	All persons on board yacht	Physical work to be shared. Best practices for lifting/pulling explained and practically demonstrated	
14	Pre existing medical condition (epileptic, angina etc.)	Those with pre existing medical conditions	All onboard must make the Skipper aware of any pre existing medical condition & treatment required. The Skipper has final say in cases where he/she decides that a crew member is not fit to go to sea. Crew members also have a responsibility not to endanger themselves or others by going to sea unless they are fit enough to participate in the type of passage planned	

SoLaS Part V for Pleasure Craft is reproduced in this section on our website from the drop down menu





SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

SURNAME:
FIRST NAMES:
ADDRESS: (include postcode)
HOME TEL:
MOBILE TEL:
EMAIL:
POSTING:
DIVISION:
WORK TEL:
WORK MOB:
SAILING QUALIFICATIONS:
SAILING EXPERIENCE:
OTHER INFORMATION:
MEMBERSHIP FEES: PAID MONTHLY AT SOURCE / PAID ANNUALLY <small>Delete as appropriate</small>

BOAT OWNED Type Length Name Call Sign
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I have read and agree to be bound by the Rules of the SPOSC (Available at http://sposc.weebly.com/) Signed

**Please complete form and return by post or e-mail to Club Chairman Owen Poplett;
owen.poplett@sussex.pnn.police.uk**