

# SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

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## A LETTER FROM THE COMMODORE

Dear Members,

Once again Terry has pulled together an informative Scuttlebutt.

Since the last Scuttlebutt SPOSC have had the Annual General Meeting, run the Frostbite cruise, entered the Fire Service Challenge Regatta, a long passage trip and run a training course for Competent Crew and Yacht Master.

This edition contains details of the Annual General Meeting, an update on the Frostbite Cruise by Ron Nevitt, who was on one of the three boats that took part and an article about the Fire Service Challenge Regatta in which Alwyn skilfully helmed us to respectable results.

Frostbite was a great opportunity to get members on the water and we had a good take up filling three boats. All had a great week and I hope that a future Scuttlebutt will carry an article by some new members who enjoyed Frostbite.

I am aware that many of you have been on private sailing trips, it's always good to read about members adventures so please feel free to write an article about your trip and send it to Terry for Scuttlebutt, photo's add so much to an article.

Enjoy this edition, I hope to see more of you on SPOSC trips during the remainder of the year and wish you all fair winds.

Owen Poplett.



### 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](mailto: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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## The Club AGM 2016



The Committee, the usual retired stalwarts and a representative from the Dinghy Section masked a relatively disappointing attendance at this

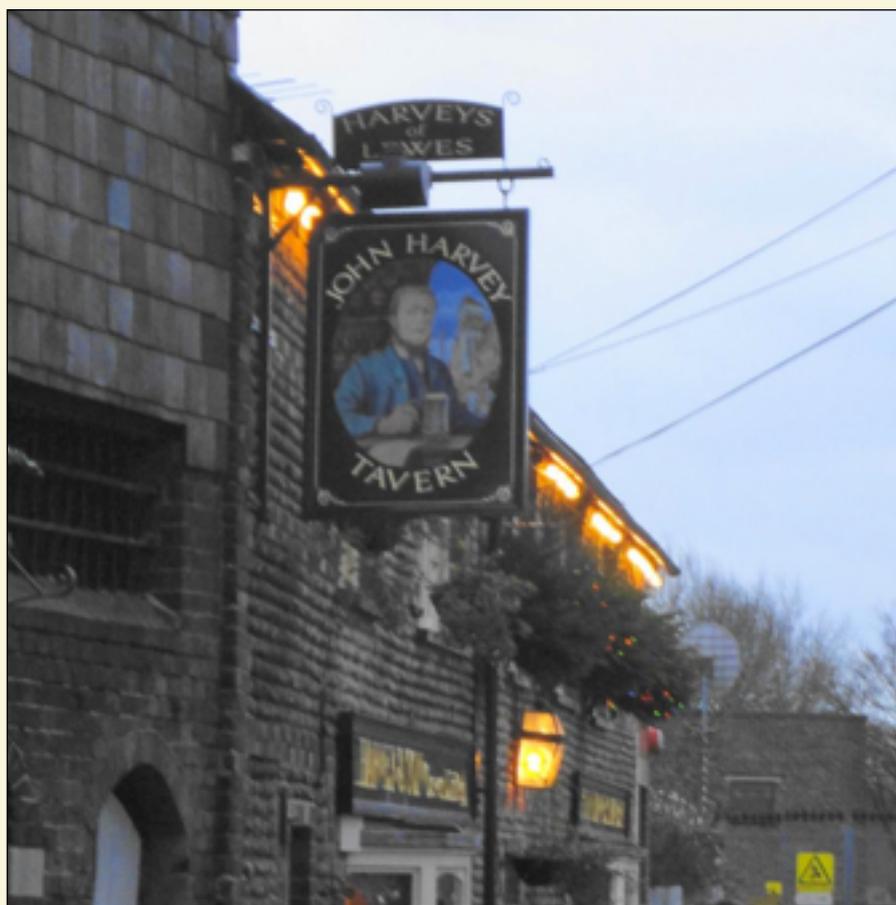
years AGM. Business was conducted briskly and efficiently with the official minutes following on pages 5 to 10 of this publication. The Club remains in good shape financially and all look forward to a full programme for the coming season.

### Club awards went to;

- Commodore's Shield - Alwyn Evans
  - Roger Dice Trophy - Dave Frey
  - Scuttlebutt Trophy - Brian Donald
  - Portobello Cup - Dusty Miller
- Congratulations to them all.



With thanks to John Harvey of Lewes, for welcoming the SPOSC 2016 AGM at it's warm and comfortable premises.



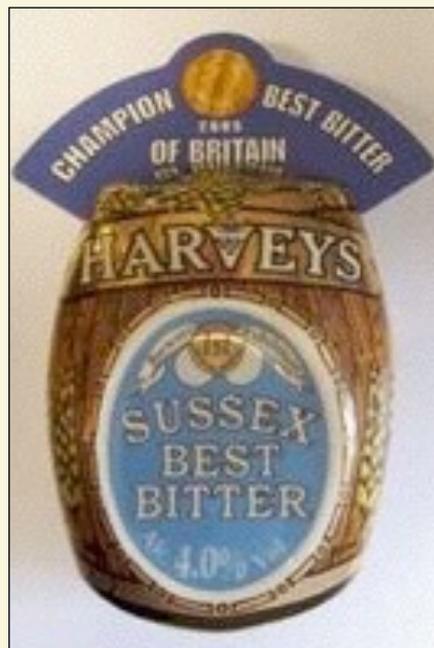
*You are always assured a friendly welcome at The John Harvey Tavern. A traditional pub with a rustic feel in the heart of the historic town of Lewes, situated opposite Harvey's Brewery and next to the River Ouse.*

*The John Harvey Tavern attracts a variety of customers of all ages with regulars, work colleagues, family, friends and visitors all soaking up the warm atmosphere over a meal or just a sociable drink.*

*The bar boasts wooden beams, a log burner and wine vats, where you can tuck yourself away for a cosy chat. There is also the History Room, with pictures of Cliffe High Street dating back to c.1800.*

*Upstairs there is a restaurant/function room, with projector and screen, which can cater for up to 70 people.*

*Enjoy our homemade food available lunchtimes and evenings. Our bar features quality ales direct from Harveys Brewery, including the Championship winning Best Bitter, and a host of seasonal ales, cider, wines and spirits.*



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## Frostbite 2016 by Ron Nevitt

After a bitterly cold week building up to this year's Frostbite Rally, six of the SPOSC's more senior members met up on the Commodore Sailing's pontoon at Gosport Marina late in the afternoon of Sunday 6th March. The six comprised of Dusty Miller {Skipper}, Graham Castell {First Mate}, Alaine Jacquet, Brian Donald, Dave Cherry and myself, Ron Nevitt. Our allocated yacht was Adelaide Star, a well used 2002 registered Bavaria 44.

Three yachts had been chartered for the event - another 44 footer, Emerald Star and a 38 footer. They were crewed at various times during the week by Penny Furtado, Owen Poplett, Ann Darling, Bob Trevis, Richard Bates, Lee Floyd, Dave Mallon, Alan Ward, Andrew Standing, Kevin Claxton, Mick Burkinshaw, Chris Gillings and Tim Mottram.

It was generally felt after a lengthy hand over and briefing session that a visit to the Anchor pub at Gosport was a more favourable choice than attempting to get to West Cowes before the pubs stopped serving food on the Island.

So it was an early start on Monday that the crew of Adelaide Star set sail for any port in the western Solent. Winds were good and mainly from a northerly direction and we were soon in Osborne Bay carrying out 'man overboard' drills with each of the

crew taking turns on the helm. We then practiced our 'hove to' manoeuvres, taking advantage of the calm benefits to have lunch 'on the hoof'. During the afternoon we further practiced our manoeuvres as far west as Hurst Castle before heading back east and into Lymington River. A berth at Berthon Marina was followed by use of the excellent heads facilities and then by a hot meal prepared on board by Graham. The crews of the other two boats were then joined by ours at a local hostelry.



## The next day

promised stronger winds but still from a generally northerly direction. The first part of the Western Solent was slow because we were battling the tide but we were able to negotiate the entrance to Newtown Creek. After a motor round the inside one of the crew spotted a seal sitting on the mud flats of the harbour sitting upright looking around - probably looking for a mate. Having enjoyed this experience we then motored back into the Solent and raised both sails. We made our way across to Southampton Water where we sailed on

a broad reach as far as the Liner berths with the wind increasing and shifting more to the west, signaling a change to come.

We continued the 'sporting sail' achieving 10 knots regularly southwards back down Southampton Water until we reached the Hamble River. We then carefully negotiated the sharp turn to port as it was now low water springs. We continued up the river as far as Swanwick Marina where for the first time ever we berthed to await the approaching storm which had been well forecasted.

Another exceptionally comfortable Marina allowed us to enjoy a fine home cooked meal and luxurious facilities before we settled down for the imminent storm due to pass through in the early hours.



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would find sufficient water across the bar, so we carefully travelled the tortuous well marked channel until we entered the harbour which has a wide expanse of sufficient water to make it a useful Harbour to visit. However we didn't want to stay until the next high water and would prefer to leave on this tide - so we did and again the careful planning and steering made the event pleasant and straightforward.



The next day we calculated that the low pressure had passed through leaving us a window of opportunity to make our way back to Portsmouth so as to drop off A.J. before even stronger gale force winds were due to blow up accompanied this time by heavy rain. Again

the planning was sound and we were safely berthed at Gosport in good time for A.J. to depart and Graham, Brian and Dave to visit 'Wetherspoon's The Star' in Gosport for the afternoon whilst the weather did its worst.

The next day was planned so as to take advantage of high water at 12.00 hrs and we headed towards Bembridge. A check with the depth gauge told us our draft of 1.95cm



After watching Sir Ben Ainsley practicing out towards Nab Tower we then made our way westwards back down the Eastern Solent, across into the Western Solent and into Beaulieu River. All the time the wind was dropping but on the motor up to Buckler's Hard another cunning plan was hatched. We decided we could cut the engine and using just the Genoa sail the whole distance of the meandering River back to the Western Solent. Apart from a brush with a group of noisy louts we enjoyed the tranquility and were in wonder at the varied wildlife. There followed a great couple of hours tacking and gybing in the Western Solent before we headed into The Medina and safely onto a berth in West Cowes Yacht Haven where another

'run ashore' saw us enjoy a few more beers at the Island S.C. and the Anchor pub followed by a Rock and Roll concert by the talented youth of the Isle of Wight during an 'Open Mike' session in the back room of The Anchor.

The next day after a foggy start the sun burned through and without any wind we motored gently back to Gosport where we disembarked after saying our goodbyes, tired and happy at all we had managed to achieve during the week. The weather had thrown a lot at us - cold, strong winds, light winds, fog and sunshine but the general view was it had all made for a great week's sailing in excellent company.



Photo's by Kevin Claxton

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## **Minutes of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 1930hrs on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at John Harvey Tavern. Lewes**

The meeting was opened by Owen Poplett the Chair at 1930hrs.

In the absence of a Secretary Penny Furtado took the minutes.

Those present Owen Poplett, Dusty Miller, Alwyn Evans, Anne Darling, Richard Bates, Lenny Wheeler, Chris Gillings, Brian Donald, Graham Castelle, Colin Jaques, Kevin Claxton, Stuart Hedges, Dave Cherry, Frank Hooper, John Batley, Terry Clothier, Geoff Randle.

### **Apologies for absence.**

Alan Haffenden, Mandy Moon, Alan Costello, Tim Mottram, Freya Carter, Mike Tagg, Andrew Standing, Phil Mears, Lee Floyd, Zoe Dawes, Elisa Ratusniak

### **Minutes of the previous meeting Matters arising**

Read through and no matters arising. They were proposed as an accurate reflection of the meeting by Richard Bates, seconded by, Frank Hooper and all those present voted in favour.

### **Chairs Report and Secretary's report**

Chairs and Secretary's Report OP – attached.

Opened with acknowledgements and thanks for the services of Dave Frey, Anne Darling, Alain Jacquet and Dusty Miller for their roles in previous roles as Secretary, Chair/Vice Chair, Assistant Treasurer and Commodore

Cruising report – summaries were provided in relation to the trips throughout the previous year and touched on the 2016 Calendar

Thanks were given to Terry Clothier and Dusty Miller for their work on Scuttlebutt and the Website. Not forgetting thanks to the committee for keeping the club running. A Full Copy of the Chairs report is attached.

### **Financial report AE**

The clubs finances are in a healthy state and we can look forward to a good sailing season.

Financially the club commenced 2015 season with;

- Balance of £177 carried forward from previous season
- £1860 SPSA grant for year 2015 –16
- £1925 in members charter contributions & Associate fees
- Charters totalled £3169.00
- Club Insurance £618.00
- Our RNLI donation this year from the £1 member's contribution will be £150.
- Racing Balance £216 c/f from previous year
- Racing Grant was £2600
- Members contributions £1000.

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We have been able to pay for the 2016 Frostbite charters from 2015 funds and also deposit & race entry for 2016 UKFSC

*The current cost of sailing with the club is £25 per day and financially there is no reason to increase this at this time*

## **Rule Changes.**

The changes were discussed and passed

## **Existing Rule.**

### **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.

## **Proposed Rule Changes.**

### **3. MANAGEMENT**

- i. General Committee:** The Club will be managed by a General Committee elected by Members every two years at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will be composed of 6 'Officers', supported with Area Representatives, who all 'report' to the General Committee and have the following roles & responsibilities.

**Commodore:** Principle Flag Officer and Member of the Committee. Sets the direction for the Club. Can vote on committee matters. Has a casting vote at the Annual General Meeting and Committee Meetings in the event of equal votes for and against a decision,

(In effect the previous Chairperson)

**Vice Commodore:** Second in Command and Member of the Committee. Deputises for Commodore in their absence. Can vote on committee matters.

(In effect the previous Assistant Chairperson).

**Secretary:** Member of the Committee. Responsible for all Club records, maintaining all Club legal documentation, Can vote on committee matters.

**Assistant Secretary:** Member of the Committee. Assistant and deputises for the Secretary in above functions. Can vote on committee matters.

**Treasurer:** Member of the Committee. Responsible for all Club finances. Can vote on committee matters.

**Assistant Treasurer:** Member of the Committee. Assistant and deputises for the Treasurer. Can vote on committee matters.

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**Area Representatives:** Members of the Committee. Elected by the Committee. Can vote on committee matters.

In the event of one person holding two or more of the officer posts on the Committee, that person will have one vote not a vote for each post held.

**Other Key Roles: (non General Committee)**

**Web Master\*:** Responsible for the management and updating of the Club web site.

**Training\*:** Responsible for advising and promoting training within the Club.

**Scuttlebutt Editor\*:** Responsible for the editing and publishing of the Club publication.

\*The above 'Key Roles' may be undertaken by a Member of the Committee as an ancillary responsibility, or a non-Committee member.

- ii. Election of the 'Officers' and 'Representatives' of the General Committee shall take place every two years at the Annual General Meeting. If an officer retires or resigns from the Committee between two Annual General Meetings, the committee may co-opt a member to sit as that officer with full voting rights, without the need for an Annual General Meeting, but the post must then be put for election at the first Annual General Meeting following the vacancy arising.
- iii. The Annual General Meeting will be held each year, before the end of the financial year and the Secretary will issue a notice to members not less than 45 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, of those Committee Officers standing for re-election, forthcoming vacancies and inviting applications from members for election as a Committee Officer. Nominations should be returned to the Secretary not less than 31 days prior to the Annual General Meeting and these will be circulated by the Secretary together with Notice of Annual General Meeting and Agenda at least 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

**Proposal to delete existing rule 14.**

**14. FLAG OFFICERS**

- i The Club currently has one Flag Officer - The Commodore.
- ii He/she has no voting rights.
- iii The office of 'Commodore' shall be filled by offering the post to a person decided upon by the Full Committee.

DM made reference to the Position of Commodore and his feeling that there should still be someone independent and separate to the committee in the position of Commodore. Following discussion it was agreed that this tradition stemmed from historic guidelines laid down by past Chief Constables and the majority felt that any sensitive matters should and could be dealt by the members and the committee.

GR referred to the role being a senior officer dating back to the years when all sections had to have an ACPO rank or at least Ch Supt as their figure head but this was no longer the case and it made sense to change the role of the Commodore.

All the rule changes were proposed by Frank Hooper, seconded by GR, 16 voted in favour, non voted against and 2 abstained.

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## Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club consideration to merge with SPOSC

**RB** explained that the dinghy club hadn't voted for a merger but had voted to for the Chair to approach the Chair of SPOSC to see whether there was scope for discussion about possible merger or collaboration of the two sections.

**OP** confirmed this had already been raised at committee and voted against. The issue was opened to the meeting for consideration, there was much discussion and input from a number of members which revolved around, were there any benefits to SPOSC and the potential risk of the SPSA grant being reduced if SPOSC and SPDSCL became one sporting section. There was concern that if merged into one section the section would only be able to submit one grant request to SPSA plus the racing grant which is put in as a grant for PSUK.

**RB** was invited to propose his motion, no one present was prepared to second the motion therefore there was no vote.

**Final conclusion a merger would not be considered by SPOSC, but collaboration was to be encouraged especially with regards to insurance matters and promotion of the Dinghy club through Scuttlebutt. The principle reason for a merger being unsuitable was financial, as indicated by Dave Gaylor, SPSA, had advised the real likelihood of only one grant being honoured as compared to the current numbers of grants.**

## Election of committee

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Commodore</b>           | Owen Poplett proposed by Dave Mallon, seconded by Elisa Ratusniak.  |
| <b>Vice Commodore</b>      | Alwyn Evans proposed by FH, seconded by CG.                         |
| <b>Secretary</b>           | Penny Furtado proposed by Kevin Claxton, seconded by Chris Gillings |
| <b>Assistant Secretary</b> | Colin Jacques – Willing to remain, no other nominations             |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Alwyn Evans – Willing to remain, no other nominations               |
| <b>Assistant Treasurer</b> | Anne Darling proposed by CG, seconded by BD.                        |

There being no other nominations the meeting agreed the posts.

## Skippers

Not raised as discussed in the Pre AGM committee meeting, OP is to approach skippers on a one to one basis to attempt to establish what may be hindering Skippers stepping up to arrange Charters.

## Future events

Racing calendar referred to. Fire Service Sailing Challenge in April, one boat entered skippered by AE. Met Open will be taking place in October.

## Any other business

PSUK will not be happening in 2016 but there is PSUK in 2017 so SPOSC need to think ahead.

## Awards:

**Commodores Shield:** for outstanding seamanship, commitment to the club and enthusiasm to learning awarded to Alwyn Evans.

**Roger Dice Trophy:** for service to the club – Dave Frey

**Scuttlebutt Trophy:** for the best or most prolific writer of the year – Brian Donald.

**Portobello Cup:** for training achievement awarded to Dusty Miller for passing his Coastal Skipper assessment.

The meeting was closed at 21.00hrs.

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## SPOSC Chair's Annual Report

### Annual General Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.

Welcome to the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club's Annual General Meeting 2016.

The past year has seen your committee actively looking for ways to support the membership get on the water and enjoy sailing at an affordable price and develop their skills.

The year started off with the traditional Frostbite cruise between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March, three boats took part, two for whole week crews and one for split week crews, twenty three members were able to enjoy some good sailing and experience entering Gosport into a ferocious ebbing tide due to the solar eclipse.

The next event was the United Kingdom Firefighters Sailing Challenge in April. We entered a crew of seven skippered by Alwyn. Twenty six Teams entered the regatta, which was held in the Solent between Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015. There was some close quarters racing during the seven races between the competitive teams and Alwyn Skippered Sussex to a highly commendable 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Sussex were unable to enter a team into the PSUK due to the availability of suitable skippers. In the end only three forces entered with the Met and Cleveland entering two boats each. There will not be a 2016 PSUK.

Lennie and Graham tried to run an owners rally but they were the only two boats and were unable to get sufficient crew. This may have been down to a communication issue as it transpired that the membership were unaware of the trip.

Alwyn ran a long passage trip which this year sailed to Dartmouth, with it has to be said some very fair winds.

There was no Met Open in October.

There was the potential to run additional charters but available skippers prevented them taking place.

As can be seen the club again ran several trips for its members, there were some trips missed out but others added to the traditional calendar. The important point is that members got out on the water and enjoyed some great sailing and socialising. I hope during 2016 SPOSC will provide opportunities for many of our members to enjoy affordable sailing and the opportunities to improve their own skills. The first trip of 2016 will be Frostbite which is being run between 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March. The cost to members for the charter will be £125 for the full five days which demonstrates that the club is continuing to provide members with the opportunity to sail at incredibly cheap prices, an equivalent trip booked independently would be in the region of £500 per person. If anyone would still like to come on the trip please see me after the meeting.

Your management committee has again been busy this year with changes being drafted to the rules that were not looked at previously, with a view to ensuring that the issues that arose at last year's AGM do not occur again in the future. The club is fairly buoyant at this time so SPOSC will extend its members sailing subsidies to include practical RYA courses to assist members to improve their skills and abilities with a view to using their qualifications to support the club. There were a number of other issues discussed either in committee or by email prior to a meeting. Other topics covered were skipper's availability for running charters. Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Clubs wish for SPOSC to consider a merger and the 2016 sailing calendar.

If there are areas of the club you would like the committee to look at or charters you wish to see run then please contact any of the committee members so we can plan for you.

I hope you have all kept abreast with the club's activities through Scuttlebutt and the website. Both of these publications take considerable time to prepare especially with the website having had a complete make over. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of all the membership the editor of Scuttlebutt Terry Clothier and for the website Dusty Miller for the time and effort they put into those publications for you the members.

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I would like to say a big thank you to the members of the committee who give up their own time to keep the club running for you the members. They have all been very supportive during the year and I thank them for that too.

Unfortunately this year there are some resignations from the committee and our flag officer. I would like say a few words of thanks to them all.

Firstly to Dave Frey who has been the club's Secretary for a number of years and a very active member of both the racing and cruising aspects of the club. Dave is coming towards the end of his service, he has a number of plans for changes in his private and work life. Unfortunately these have made it difficult for Dave to carry on as Secretary. Dave did a sterling job in his role covering the general secretarial duties, liaising with Police Sport UK, other national bodies and managing the Racing Section finances. I know you the members will join me in saying thank you to Dave for his services to SPOSC and wishing him well in the future. I hope Dave will still find the time to race and cruise with the club.

Anne Darling discovered sailing and threw herself in at the deep end gaining as much experience as she could racing and cruising. Anne became Chair but then had to stand down at short notice after her first term when she retired and was offered a position with British Airways. Despite having to cope with the chore of jetting off to hot sunny climes each week she remains an active member. Anne remained on the committee as Vice Chair. During her term as Chair Anne's enthusiasm revitalised the committee encouraging it to be much more active. Anne's enthusiasm has also resulted in a number of new members joining the club and taking part in club events. Due to her travelling schedule Anne no longer feels able to give the committee the time she would like to invest. We wish her well in her new career and look forward to seeing her on SPOSC trips in the future.

Alain Jacquet has transferred to the British Transport Police and has therefore had to resign as Assistant Treasurer. I would like to thank Alain as he stepped up to the mark to stand on the committee when he had not been in the club that long. He was as enthusiastic in committee as he is on the water. I wish him well with BTP and look forward to sailing with him as he is remaining as an associate member of SPOSC.

Dusty Miller our Commodore has also decided to stand down as he has a busy year planned with his family. Dusty has been a stalwart of the club for a number of years and has held various positions on the committee. As Commodore he has provided sound advice and added useful alternative viewpoints during debates. He will continue to be as active as ever on the water, where I hope he will continue to mentor new members in the way that he mentored me and many others over the years, providing a wealth of experience and good advice. Again I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his services to the club over the years and wish him well for 2016.

Finally I hope you all have a great 2016 with many days on the water in good company with some terrific sailing.

Owen Poppett

SPOSC Chair.

