

SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB
& DINGHY SAILING CLUB



NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year

Here's hoping for a happy and certainly healthier New Year for all & a return to the water

Scuttlebutt 2021

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2021 AGM EDITION

Welcome to the latest edition of Scuttlebutt which includes the SPOSC annual reports from myself, the Treasurer Alwyn Evans and the Secretary Kevin Claxton.

The AGM for SPDSC is being looked at and the relevant reports will be published in a future edition of Scuttlebutt.

The past year has been a complete washout for SPOSC and while individual SPDSC members have managed to get afloat in dinghies there have been no police events. If you did attend any events please do prepare a short write up for Terry with photos if available. I suspect it may be sometime before sailing returns to some semblance of order so articles for Scuttlebutt are always gratefully received by our editor and you never know you could be awarded the sought after Scuttlebutt Trophy!

Looking forward, having left the EU there will be changes for any one sailing to France, the Channel Islands or leaving the twelve mile limit of our territorial waters. We will research the new requirements and update members before SPOSC trips resume.

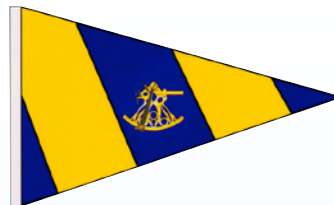
We look forward to the continued vaccine rollout and return to normality sometime soon.

Training can still progress, please contact Alwyn Evans as per his email and the last Scuttlebutt if you are interested in courses.

I look forward to seeing you on the water later this year, until then stay safe and well.

Owen Poplett

Commodore
SPOSC



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 or Dinghy Sailing Clubs. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.



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Flotilla Sailing in the Ionian by Sharon Ford

After a pretty decent summer sailing our own 22ft boat out of Newhaven, we were very lucky to book a last minute flotilla in Oct 2020 to Lefkas, Greece.



We chartered a 33ft yacht. On arrival the staff were very friendly and spent time going over the boat and the usual safety briefing.

We started our first Flotilla experience at Lefkas Marina and got some food supplies from the mini-market there. Expensive but as you'll find out so glad that we did as our first night we faced minimal supplies. We took our own tea, coffee and chocolate from the UK the other bits we purchased locally.

"The first day was strong winds and after sailing a short distance on full sail, made the decision to take the sail down rather than reef in due to being unfamiliar with the yacht. This turned out to be a good decision, as a little later on, with me at the wheel and Mark making a cup of tea, we suddenly hit a heavy squall that caused the



boat to suddenly heel right over and spin round due to the force of the rain.

Mark quickly took the wheel while I used his Navionics navigation app to guide us to the nearest shelter. The shelter was a welcome sight as the 5 boats sailed in to safety with every sailor dripping wet in every orifice. All laughing and joking as half an hour later the sun was back shining again but reminiscing it really was quite scary. (a little tip, take your handheld radio with you as difficult to hear the cabin radio when the winds are gusting)



The rest of the week was an absolute joy, with varying weather conditions that made for some good sailing as well as some sunbathing, and lovely harbours where we spent the colder evenings. I have to say the



rest of the flotilla were a lovely group, and each day when we moored up was followed by sharing experiences and a well-deserved beer.. or two!

I learned so much from being able to observe so many other boats and seeing how their sails were trimmed etc.

We stayed twice at Sivota which is a lovely harbour with a nice choice of restaurants and cafes.

On our free sailing day where we can choose our own destination to stay, we headed for Abelike, which was the most beautiful setting to spend the evening. We took our dinghy ashore and made a short



walk to a harbour called Vathi, where we came across a lovely bar playing good music, where it would have been rude not to have stopped for refreshment. However, after getting comfortable with good service and an even better view, we drank more than we planned

We had the experience of free swing line overnight in a beautiful cove, with a bow anchor, and stern to with lazy lines. We cooked and ate aboard the boat, lunched near caves, took the dinghy to the beach to explore a few bars, swam, had vast waters with no one near us much of the time. It was beautiful and everything we hoped for and more.

For your first, or more if you decide you like it, I cannot recommend a Flotilla enough especially at the start or end of the season as its much less busy then. I can honestly say I had the best holiday of my life and we have booked up to go again at the start of the season in May 2021.

Sharon Ford



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DINGHY SECTION

Dinghy Sailing at Bexhill Sailing Club by Dusty Miller

To say it was difficult sailing during these Covid times is no doubt an understatement. However, it was not impossible and during the summer months we did return to something like normality.

The RYA has been immensely helpful to Sailing and Yacht Clubs giving expert advice regarding the Covid restrictions and requirements to the management teams of Clubs. It is to the RYA website most clubs went, and by who were urged to set up Covid Steering Groups to deal with all aspects of sailing to make it safe for their members.

As a member of Bexhill Sailing Club, and like many sailing organisations, we received constant information fed from our management team dealing with all aspects of Covid to enable Club activities to continue relating many subjects including Entry and Exit to the Club, the Bar, Rescue Boat sanitisation and a host of other sanitisation aspects.

It cannot be underestimated the work that went on to ensure we were all safe.

The advice also contributed to groups of members being able to charter two Bavaria 44 yachts in the Solent for a week.

At the Club there were no showers and initially no access could be gained to the changing rooms. Single handed sailors did take to the water and subsequently something like normal developed in August.

Keeping the members engaged and informed was a priority of the management team. The summer weather bought out all the sailors who had been starved of being on the water. There started some fantastic sailing – no matter what weather – at every opportunity but accompanied by appropriate advice.....

What a start to August!

Thank you to all of you who helped run and sailed in this year's Regatta, whilst it was slightly different to previous years it was still

great to see so many people enjoying the weather both on and off the water. Some great pictures were taken byplease contact him directly if you would like any copies

In the next few weeks, we have Sea-week (17th – 21st), the sailing schedule is on the website and in the clubhouse, please sign up for duties on the board in the club lounge, we are still trying to figure out how a BBQ can work but will certainly try and have something on the Friday, including an annual boat burning.

More good news, following the government and RYA advice we are now able to sail mixed household, double handed boats, the responsibility as to how you do this will be in accordance with the previous advice please see attached document from the RYA including their suggested steps to take. We will continue to endeavour to keep the clubhouse Covid secure and would ask you all to continue to follow the current Bexhill Sailing Club guidelines when in the building.

Commodore – Covid Steering Group

Competitive sailing returned on August 9 with two races, back-to-back, in excellent conditions. Some 21 boats went out for the first race, with three different starts for different classes.

In the Asymmetric Fleet, line honours went to the Commodore/Vice Commodore pair Michael Copeman and Nicola Palmer, ahead of Dusty Miller and Andy Bullen, both in RS 400s.

Nicola Palmer is a member of the SPDSC and a patrol officer at Hastings. She is currently the Commodore of Bexhill Sailing Club. On the water she and her crew are very quick, both being experienced sailors who have taken part in



National events. No doubt this is the reason she usually beats me on the water.

One of the many aspects of the Covid Restrictions was that the Club circulated details of the RYA Virtual Regatta Link which gives everyone the opportunity to test their sailing skills without getting wet. It also became apparent that there are many other websites where sailors can for free take part not only in sailing but also Sail Training in all its aspects for yachts and dinghies alike.

The RYA launched its own online Spring Class Championship and Virtual Regatta.



We are currently in Tier 4, complete Lockdown at the Sailing Club, so it is back to the Virtual sailing for a while. In any event it is a little cool to be on the water now. There is no doubt lots to be learnt about sailing on the internet. Often for free, many sites give you sailing knowledge tests and quizzes that increase your information about sailing.

The Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club has connections with Bexhill, Pevensey and Lancing Sailing Clubs and should you wish to enhance your sailing skills or indeed learn to sail in 2021 please check out the website at spdsc.weebly.com which details who to contact should you wish to sail at these Clubs.

Dusty Miller



Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club

Annual General Meeting 2021 Commodores Report

Dear Members,

The past year has not been the best of years for anyone, some of you have had the virus and come out the other end, sadly we may know of others less fortunate.

The virus halted Frostbite just as plans were well under way. The first trip of the season was not to be. Despite our best hopes, group sport was stopped for the rest of the year. It would have been impossible to organise charters and remain safe. We also have to remember who we are and have a duty to lead by example.

As we now approach the Annual General Meeting we must continue to put safety first and adhere to COVID rules. A virtual AGM is our only option. The committee have continued to discuss topics throughout the year and are pleased to receive any suggestions from members to improve the club as we look forward.

The committee have agreed to extend the discretionary training subsidies for 2021 to include theory courses as well as practical courses. Please contact Alwyn Evans for details.

I would like to thank Terry Clothier for continuing to produce interesting Scuttlebutt editions and Dusty Miller for continually updating the clubs website which is looking highly professional. They rely on your contributions, your stories and your photos to continue to provide engaging articles for our members so please keep them coming. Just because we are not sailing doesn't mean you don't have anything to contribute, it could be your sorting out photos during lockdown and find some of an old trip which could go on the website. To ease the cabin fever of lockdown you could write an article of a previous trip or a technical article on how to do something, the articles can be serious or humorous, and a mix is always good. Please do send any contributions to Terry, if it's got photos or illustrations even better. If it's just photos liaise with Dusty as to the best way of getting them to him.

I hope you will all join me in thanking all the committee members for their continued commitment to the club, especially to Alwyn and Kevin who as Treasurer and Secretary have the bulk of the work to do.

Please all stay safe so we can resume sailing as soon as COVID is under control. I look forward to seeing you on the water in safer times.

Owen Poplett

Commodore

Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.

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Annual General Meeting 2021 Secretaries Report

Dear All

Can anyone remember what a yacht actually looks like? I'm sure I am not alone in yearning to get out on the water. However the inability to organise any sailing has meant that the need to hold Committee meetings has not been large, and as a result meetings have been few as we all take protective measures. The impacts of the virus we are all dealing with on a daily basis has had a considerable impact for me. At work I am dealing with it on a daily basis, planning and coordinating the response at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the hospitals at Hastings and Eastbourne, as well as impacted community healthcare. Additionally I caught the virus in March, and having narrowly avoided hospital then, I stupidly caught pneumonia in September. This resulted in 2 weeks stay at in hospital in Eastbourne, and ongoing treatment with a slow but continuous recovery. Personal issues aside, I crave two things: some sailing and a decent holiday! Currently of course, there is little if any chance of either!

As club secretary, I remain committed to the club. Being fortunate as I am one of the few who has now benefited from vaccination, I am clear that brighter days do lay ahead. However the progress towards more normal life is of course, vague and unclear. So, we wait. I am sure that we will be chartering boats and hoisting the main into a warm force 5 in days ahead, later this year. I hope that all members are equally awaiting those brighter days ahead, whilst playing their part in defeating the virus - even if that is restricted to complying with the rules and helping friends and family. Now is not the time for 'adventures on the high seas', alas! But they will return, and when they do, I am happy to play my part in organising and taking minutes at the meetings, and progressing plans to get us all back out on the water. I hope to see you all soon, but in the meantime, take care of yourselves, and those around you.

Best wishes to all.

Kevin Claxton

Secretary

Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.

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SPOSC Treasurers Report 2020-21

To all members, I do hope that you and your families have managed to stay safe and healthy during these challenging Covid times and continue to do so.

I started sailing with SPOSC in 1985 and became Treasurer in 1995. Glad to say I've never before had to submit a Treasurers Report such as this years.

In last years Report I commented that despite Brexit the Clubs finances were in a healthy position. This year with the UK 'Brexit Deal' the Clubs finances are still in a healthy position! (Could be because we haven't spent anything!)

Unfortunately the pandemic has prevented Club Charters or RYA Training taking place during our 2020-21 calendar. This is likely to continue to impact on what we can and can not do as a Club in the coming year.

Should transmission and infection rates become controllable and decrease, Government Covid restrictions relax and permit sailing in groups, then we are in a position to finance SPOSC Charters or RYA Training and would hope to do so.

Well we've got to have something to look forward to haven't we!

Our income for this financial year has been £1000 of our usual SPSA annual grant and we have had no expenditure.

At the time of writing this report I am also submitting the applications for our SPSA Grants for 2021-22. It is unknown at this time what SPSA funding will be available for the coming year.

For this financial year and in order to expand the training opportunities and refresher training for members to take the Club forward to its future activities, the Committee have agreed to offer increased subsidy towards training on RYA Shorebased & Practical Courses. This information was circulated to all members by email and Scuttlebutt in December 2020.

Alwyn Evans

Vice Commodore & Treasurer

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SPOSC

Minutes of an Annual General Meeting Held at Sussex Yacht Club at 7pm Tuesday 11th Feb 2020

Welcome

Alwyn Evans, Kevin Claxton, Owen Poplett, Terry Clothier, Anne Darling, Pete Ewen, Sharon Ford, Mark Ford, Mike Tagg, Richard Bates.

1 Apologies

Paul (Dusty) Miller, Steve Fairmainer, Phil Russell, Pete Kennett, Frank Hooper, Alan Haffenden, Bob Trevis, Phil Mears, Roy Jackson, Jonny Walker, Cathryn Pedersen, Graham Castell, Lenny Wheeler, Dave Cherry.

2 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM (Tuesday 12th Feb 2019) were read and acknowledged

3 Matters Arising

There were no actions arising

4 Commodore's Report

Report prepared by Owen Poplett was read to the meeting

5 Secretary's Report

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Report prepared by Kevin Claxton was read to the meeting

6 Treasurer's Report

Report prepared by Alwyn Evans was read to the meeting

7 Election of Committee

Vice Commodore	Alwyn Evans	– No other nominations
Secretary	Kevin Claxton	- No other nominations
Assistant Treasurer	Anne Darling	- No other nominations

Alwyn Evans Kevin Claxton and Anne Darling were therefore duly re-elected.

8 AOB

Cruising & Racing

The notice of the race for the PSUK meeting has come out for 20th September. Sussex is waiting to hear if we have been allocated a boat.

9 Close of Business

10 Presentation of Trophies

Roger Dice	– Graham Castell,
Scuttlebutt	– Brendan Wyatt
Commodore's Trophy	- Lenny Wheeler
Portobello Cup	- Not Awarded

The winners were congratulated on their achievement.

Meeting Ends

A big thank you to those of you who made the effort to attend the AGM. I hope you enjoyed the buffet with the opportunity to have a catch up and talk about the forthcoming season, even though those plans are now in tatters! I will give much more notice of the date of the next AGM in the hope that more of you will be able to come along.

Owen Poplett Commodore