

SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB
& DINGHY SAILING CLUB



NEWSLETTER

AGM Issue 2022

A welcome and explanation of the reason for a virtual AGM this year.

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S.P.O.S.C. 2022 A.G.M. ISSUE

Dear Members,

Welcome to this edition of Scuttlebutt.

This is the virtual 2022 AGM of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club. When planning the AGM, the Omicron variant had recently hit our shores. Cases were soaring and at that time uncertainty as to the efficacy of the vaccine to protect against it and whether it would be harmful as previous variants. To protect members and to protect against hiring a venue then having to cancel at the last minute, the decision was made to hold a virtual AGM.

Enclosed in this edition, you will find the annual reports from the Commodore, Secretary and Treasurer.

Due to the difficulties of voting there will be no change in the officers of the club. If you wish to discuss this, please contact me by the email or telephone number below. The committee consists of the Officers of The Club and co-opted members. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the committee.

It is important that members can raise queries at an AGM which is not as easy with a virtual AGM as there is not the flow of discussions that would normally be held. If any member has a query about any of the reports or the accounts there will be a twenty-one-day period following circulation to members of this edition of Scuttlebutt before the AGM is signed off as completed. Please address any queries to me.

Because Scuttlebutt is available to non-members via the website, the annual accounts have not been included. The accounts have been sent to the Sussex Police Sports Association and verified. Any member who wishes to know further financial information can contact me.

Finally, if you have any suggestions with regards to club affairs, sailing opportunities, charters, or courses, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing many of you out on the water in 2022..

Owen Poplett. Commodore

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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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Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.

Commodores Annual Report.

Annual General Meeting 2022.

Dear Members,

Well yet another year when I have little to write about! The great news is that charters are back up and running with the first being the last week of April, a rather late Frostbite.

In the pipeline so far is another cruise in May and the PSUK in October. If any Skippers want to run a charter, please contact me.

I hope you have been entertained by the editions of Scuttlebutt put together so well by Terry Clothier and perusing the website which looks very professional and kept meticulously updated by Dusty Miller. I would like to give a very big thank you to both Terry and Dusty for all the hours they give up producing such excellent publications. Thank you also to all those who have contributed articles.

We have set in place minor changes to charters and accommodation to try to prevent any outbreaks of COVID. Despite the government removing the legal restrictions, SPOSC will continue to take precautions to protect our members and to try to prevent curtailment of trips.

Finally, your committee has continued working for you during COVID looking at ways to try to ensure charters can continue, securing funding for the club and generally ensuring the club continues to provide opportunities for you the members to enjoy sailing cheaply. I hope you will all join me in thanking them all for giving up their time for the club.

Owen Poplett. Commodore

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Secretary's Report 2021-22

As Secretary, I am pleased to provide this Secretaries report to the Annual General Meeting of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club. I understand that (as with last year), the Committee is reporting to members via 'Scuttlebutt' to complete our required AGM process. This is instead of an actual meeting, due to the pandemic, which has continued to frustrate our activities over the last year again. This obviously isn't ideal, and it isn't where we would like to be.

Against our wishes, the pandemic has very much frustrated the activities of the club generally, and also very much the Committee, over the last year. As a Committee member it has been a difficult two years, (as some will recall I mentioned a year ago!) However together with my colleagues on the Committee, we remain positive. Our view is that we must (along with the rest of society), now adapt and learn to live with Covid, as we look forward to the coming year and the future.

I won't steal the Commodore's news, but we do now intend to try and get sailing this year! As a Committee member and club skipper, I very much intend to play my part in that. However we acknowledge that some will have concerns and also that some members may be disengaged. As Secretary I would therefore urge you to contact colleague members or the Committee to discuss any concerns you may have, and also to mention the club to any like-minded Sussex Police colleagues you may be aware of, who may like to get involved.

Of course, I must be honest and acknowledge that during the last year, the Secretaries duties have, as mentioned, not amounted to much. However I remain 'fully engaged'. We had a meeting last week (via MS Teams), and I like all of your Committee, I am very much looking forward!

I am therefore pleased to participate in moving the club forward. In doing so, I would stress the benefits of club membership (both sporting and social) to all of our 'older' sea-dogs and also to any prospective new members you may know. I hope to see established and new members on a yacht, in the coming year.

Kind regards, and 'Happy New Year',

Kevin Claxton. Secretary

Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club

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SPOSC Treasurers Report 2021-22

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. The NHS Vaccination programme and current drop in infections show positive signs that we can cautiously plan charters for the coming season.

Reflecting back on last years Treasures Report I was concerned then about the brief details I had to report due to the inactivity of the SPOSC Cruising & Racing Calendar during that season forced upon us by COVID.

My quote from last years report was,

'It will be my greatest pleasure next year to write my Report in more positive tones recounting possible and hopefully! the numerous charters and events we have had throughout the year!'

Well I have to admit I got that completely wrong!

Sadly I am disappointed once again to say that I have very little to report on our last years charter activity.

But hoorah hoorah! The future is looking bright and with a burst of activity and support from members we can go sailing again! Get those SPOSC T-shirts out, find those silly sailing hats, sun faded shorts and smelly deck shoes! 'The 'whiff' of salt and ozone is in the air and fair winds, the sea beckons us all to go sailing once more!'

Generous increased RYA Training subsidies were offered to all members in an effort to maintain everyone's theory/practical skills and knowledge but there was limited response to this offer with only one member undertaking a RYA Coastal Practical Refresher Course. Several members are arranging to complete their RYA One Day Diesel Course.

A 5 day SPOSC Coastal Passage Charter was arranged for September 2021 but for variety of reasons, COVID etc, shortage of crew meant that we had to defer the charter to 2022.

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The Committee met recently to agree a charter programme for 2022, which includes Skipper refresher training, Frostbite and mid year charters. These will be circulated when skippers confirmed and circulated to all members.

At the time of writing it is hopeful that the annual Law Enforcement Griffin Regatta will take place in the Autumn. For a variety of reasons this will be divided and in effect the old PSUK Regatta reinstated. Should there be enough support for this to go ahead, then SPOSC will enter a team.

A substantial rise in Charter prices has taken place over the last two years. We have maintained regular contact with and furnished updates to the SPSA in ways that we are seeking to 'kick start' our sailing calendar and encourage members to start or resume sailing with the Club. The SPSA supports us in this initiative and has generously allocated us £4000 towards this programme.

In agreement with the SPSA, SPOSC has accrued a separate £5000 security fund in order to pay all our own refundable security deposits when chartering.

Rule 7 of the Club rules require the Committee at each AGM to 'set a cap' to limit the liability that each crew member may be liable for. SPOSC will then pay the balance of any damage up to the excess. The figure for 2021-22 will remain unchanged at £100 per each member.

I encourage all members to support your SPOSC and the events it arranges on your behalf in the coming season. These Sailing activities allow us to maintain our grants from the SPSA. Also if you have work colleagues who are interested in trying sailing, irrespective of their previous experiences or concerns, get them to come on a charter or speak with any Committee member regarding further details and events.

So I wish the best of health to everyone and that you and your families stay safe and well.

I look forward to seeing and sailing with you on the water this season, enjoying perhaps a few beers and trying really hard, even harder than I said last year, to recall the fun times we have had on past SPOSC charters.

Alwyn Evans

Treasurer and Vice Commander Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club

