

# SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB  
& DINGHY SAILING CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

<b>AGM Issue</b> <i>Don't miss the Boat - support your club by attending the AGM</i>	<b>PSUK 2023</b> <i>Information on this year's PSUK race from the Commodore</i> <b>Page 2</b>	<b>SPOSC</b> <i>AGM Agenda and Officers Reports for the year</i> <b>Pages 3 - 7</b>	<b>SPDSC</b> <i>AGM Agenda and Officers Reports for the year</i> <b>Pages 8 - 10</b>
---	---	---	--

### AGM 2023 ISSUE

The AGM of the SPOSC will take place on Tuesday the 7th February, 2023. From 7pm to 9pm at the John Harvey Tavern, Bear Yard, Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2AN.

The official business of agreeing the reports, voting in officers of the club and the annual awards will be dealt with expeditiously, to allow members the opportunity to socialise with the opportunity to put your name down for charters in the 2023 Sailing Calendar. The reports from the Commodore, Secretary and Treasurer will be circulated prior to the meeting.

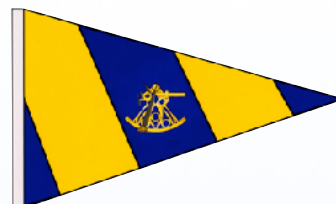
Once they have been circulated, please read the documents carefully and submit any questions you may have relating to the reports to the Commodore before 7 January 2023. The committee will then send out responses to any questions raised. (These will not be discussed at the meeting, they will be accepted as read by all members in advance and just proposed and seconded at the meeting).

If you have any other questions relating the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club that you were intending to ask at the AGM, please send them to the Commodore before 7 January 2023 to enable the committee to respond.

Any requests for inclusion under agenda item "Any Other Business" must be received by the Commodore (Owen Poplett), before 7 January 2023. It is hoped that by shortening the meeting and creating a social event that more members will make the effort to attend. The committee work hard to ensure that SPOSC provides what the members want but we can only do so if the members support the committee and let them know what you the members want from the club.

*Kevin Claxton*

Secretary  
Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club



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



# SCUTTLEBUTT

## PSUK 2023

Dear Members,  
The new sailing season is virtually upon us.

***The PSUK Sailing Offshore  
Championships will be held between  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October and Friday 13<sup>th</sup>  
October 2023 in the Solent.***



The boats will be matched 37' yachts equipped with Asymmetric spinnakers chartered from Fairview Sailing. During the week Cowes will be used as a base with the Island Sailing Club managing the races.

Using the smaller Fairview boats with asymmetric spinnakers the sailing should be easier than the Sunsail boats were.

If you would like to be part of the Sussex crew please let me know before Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 so I know if we have sufficient to enter a team.

It is anticipated the cost to members will be £20 per day plus £1 per day for the lifeboat. This may increase due to increased charter costs but will be decided before you are asked to commit to the trip.

This is a great event to take part in with a little bit of competitiveness and an opportunity to meet and socialise with our colleagues from around the UK.

If you are a serving officer or member of staff and this is your first trip with SPOSC your first two days will be free.

I await your expressions of interest.  
Owen Poppett  
Surrey & Sussex Major Crime Review Team  
Specialist Crime Operations  
Mobile: 07901670721



# SCUTTLEBUTT



**Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club Annual General Meeting  
19.00hrs Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 John Harvey Tavern,  
Bear Yard, Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2AN**

## **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence. –
2. Minutes of previous AGM to be agreed. - Due to COVID restrictions there was only a virtual AGM with no minutes held.
3. Matters arising from minutes.
4. Commodore's report - To be accepted.
5. Secretary's report – To be accepted.
6. Treasurer's report – To be accepted
7. Election of committee:
  - 7.1 Commodore – Owen Poplett – No other nominations
  - 7.2 Assistant Secretary – Peter Ewen – No other nominations
  - 7.3 Treasurer – Alwyn Evans - No other nominations
8. AOB – None notified to the Commodore by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
9. Close of official business.
10. Presentation of Trophies. Commodores Shield, Roger Dice Trophy, Scuttlebutt Trophy, Portobello Cup.
11. Opening of crew lists for future events.

# SCUTTLEBUTT

**A separate meeting room has not yet been booked. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP. If enough members will be attending, a room will be booked.**

## Nominations

Nominations for Commodore, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer are required this year. The current Commodore, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer are willing to stand for a further term if nominated. Please submit any other nominations with the name of who seconds the nomination before 7 January 2023.

There are spaces for co-opted positions on the committee either as standalone committee members or as area reps. Please email the Commodore if you would like to join the committee.

If you wish to nominate a willing volunteer or wish to volunteer for these posts, please email [owen.poplett@sussex.police.uk](mailto:owen.poplett@sussex.police.uk)

Not all flag officers are for re-election at the AGM. Several existing officers are willing to stand. Area reps or co-opted members will make up the other committee positions.

Officer	Current	Willing To Stand From 2019
Commodore	Owen Poplett	Yes
Vice Commodore	Alwyn Evans	Not for re-election this year
Secretary	Kevin Claxton	Not for re-election this year
Assistant Secretary	Peter Ewen	Yes
Treasurer	Alwyn Evans	Yes
Assistant Treasurer	Anne Darling	Not for re-election this year
HQ Rep		Volunteer required
West Rep		Volunteer required
East Rep	Owen Poplett	Volunteered
Brighton & Hove Rep	Richard Bates	Volunteered
Special Constabulary	Anne Darling	Volunteered



Kevin Claxton  
Secretary  
Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club

# SCUTTLEBUTT

## Commodores Report

Dear Members,

Where has the year gone!

Well at last we have had a year of sailing. This year we had the Frostbite in April, the early summer cruise in May, the mid-summer cruise in July and the PSUK Offshore Nationals in October where we came second. In one of the races, we were the only boat to complete the course! This was largely due to Alwyn's skill and knowledge of the waters.

In 2023 we plan to run the same trips but may need to move the dates of some of them. If you are a skipper and would like to run one of these trips or an additional trip, please let me know.

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.

Dusty has created a new Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club Facebook group, if you are on Facebook please join as you will get update notifications.

Hopefully you have all now had four COVID jabs and are staying COVID free or at least not being unwell with it. Due to COVID the committee imposed various restrictions for the club charters, including one person per cabin.

Unfortunately, that is just not sustainable. With increasing charter costs and decreasing funding we will have to return to two to a cabin for 2023.

The Sussex Police Sports Association carried out a survey of sporting sections, following the survey the SPSA decided sections needed to make greater efforts to involve serving officers and staff. Those sections made up predominantly of retired members would need to take a reduction in funding. The Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club has been advised that we are one of the sections that will have a reduced grant in 2023. At this time, we do not know how much of a reduction it will be. I will continue to work closely with the SPSA to try to minimise any reduction in grant.

I do agree with the SPSA that more needs to be done to involve serving officers and staff, a club is not sustainable if we do not gain new younger members. Due to being a member of SPOSC I have been involved with the SPSA and until COVID was giving the SPSA presentation to new recruits with Kevin COOMBES who runs the go kart section. The presentations stopped due to COVID, but we are resuming them on 11th January 2023. SPOSC did receive interest from several new recruits, but their first three years make it difficult for them to take part in our activities.

The SPOSC committee have agreed that new members who are serving officers and staff, will be offered their first two days of their first charter free.

Dependant on the next grant the SPOSC committee will decide on the daily rate for our trips. This may have to be applied after Frostbite.

If you are a serving officer or member of staff, please ensure you play your part by spreading the word of the great experiences and pleasure sailing provides, show people the website, tell them stories, point out they can learn and gain qualifications that will enable them to charter independently of SPOSC. We need new younger skippers to take the club forward.

Finally, your committee has worked hard in and out of meetings to maintain the club. I hope you will all join me in thanking them all for giving up their time for the club.

Owen Poplett

**Commodore, Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club.**



# SCUTTLEBUTT



## **Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club Secretary's Report 2022-23**

Dear SPOSC Members,

Well, another year has passed, and I am pleased to provide this Secretaries report covering the last year, to the AGM of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club. This year, I am fully supportive of there being an ACTUAL AGM meeting, and I hope to see as many people as possible at the meeting on 7 February.

Yes, this last year has been different in that we have tried to put the pandemic behind us. At this time last year, we set ourselves the target of actually delivering some sailing opportunities during the year, and I am pleased that we managed to achieve that. (I don't want to steal the Commodore's thunder, so I will leave that there for him to comment on!)

I said last year that the pandemic has been difficult for the Committee, however we are still taking positive steps to move forward. I will say that personally there is still progress to be made. Additionally, things are still difficult for some, so it's not always going to be easy to persuade folks to join us out on the water. However, we are looking forward, as usual.

As I said, it isn't all perfect – our committee meetings have been few over the last year, but that has not impacted on the sailing that we wanted to deliver. Additionally, members will be aware that they will not have received as many editions of 'Scuttlebutt' during the last year. This has been for good (but personal) reasons. However again, we hope to deliver something better moving forward.

I am sure that the Commodore makes reference to club membership and the issue of 'recruitment'. We acknowledge that some members may be disengaged, and it is difficult for us 'grey' retired chaps to impact on recruitment where it is really needed – with serving officers & staff. As Secretary I urge all (but particularly younger members), to discuss the benefits of the club with any Sussex Police colleagues who may be interested.

I am pleased to continue to serve on the Committee, a group which I know is dealing with challenges in front of us but is also determined to move the club forward. As always, I stress the very positive benefits of SPOSC membership, and hope to see you all soon, both at the AGM and 'on the water'.

'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy New Year', Kevin Claxton

**Secretary, Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club**

## Don't miss the boat - Support your club at the AGM

# SCUTTLEBUTT

## **SPOSC Treasurers Report 2022-23**

*I have once again the pleasure of presenting the Treasurers Report to the Committee and all Members for our sailing season of 2022-23.*

*With the easing of Covid lockdowns and restrictions hopefully we have returned to some normality in the past year, and this has improved life for all of us.*

*Sailing wise this has allowed us to return to some form of original sailing arrangements for 2022 albeit we maintained single occupancy cabins. Although this gave confidence for members to resume sailing it did affect our chartering costs and the number of members, we could get afloat on one yacht.*

*2022 season allowed the Club to arrange 4 Charters, 3 being cruising and one PSUK Championships event. All these took place in the Solent and down to Poole.*

*Frostbite took place in April and although 2 yachts were originally booked to cater for the number of members who originally intended to go Covid, and other issues reduced the charter to one yacht.*

*May saw 6 members head to the West Country from the Hamble but were prevented from going further than Poole due to the weather.*

*July saw another 6 members charter from the Hamble to Poole and back.*

*In October the Police Sailing Championships took place in the Solent. Despite ten forces initially expressing interest in the event on the day of the race only 5 boats crossed the start line. Four days of racing took place in the Solent with the Sussex entry attaining 2nd place overall.*

*For several years now, with the agreement of SPSA, SPOSC has accrued a separate £5000 security fund 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 2023-4 season will remain unchanged at £100 per each member.*

*The Committee are continually seeking new ideas to encourage members and new members to start or resume sailing with the Club. For 2023 season the club will offer all new members a free two-day sail as an introduction to sailing with the Club.*

*Club finances are still 'buoyant' in as much we have monies remaining from this season which will enable us to secure deposits on yachts for the forthcoming 2023 Sailing calendar.*

*Sussex Chief Constable and the SPSA are reviewing the financial procedures and allocation of Section funds for 2023 and beyond. We have already been advised this may impact on the amount of funding we receive annually. If so, later in 2023 SPOSC Committee may have to review its financial position to consider any changes.*

*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.*

*Hopefully we can look forward to enjoying some really good sailing for 2023 with a convivial meal and few beers on board or ashore.*

*Alwyn Evans*

**Treasurer and Vice Commander Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club**



**Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club**  
**Annual General Meeting 2022/23**

Meeting to be held 7:00pm at 'John Harvey Tavern, Lewes' 01/02/23

**Agenda**

1. Attendees: Richard Bates, Phil Mears, Dusty Miller, Bob Trevis, Claire Trevis, Justin Pollard.
2. Apologies: Nicola Palmer
3. Minutes of last AGM: No minutes to be agreed.
4. a. Report from Chairman:  
b. Report from Treasurer:  
c. Report from Membership Secretary:  
d. Report from Fleet Captain – Pevensey Bay: e. Report from Fleet Captain – Lancing:
5. Election of Officers and Committee:
6. Fleet Locations and maintenance:
7. Sailing Dates 2023
8. AOB (at the discretion of the Chair)



## **SPDSC (East) AGM Report**

As you know, the East side of SPDSC has a Laser 2000 at Pevensey Bay Sailing Club. The boat is very good condition with a recent new set of sails, new launching trolley and new mast. The control lines and foils are also in good condition; however the boat would benefit from a new spinnaker halyard. The cover is tired but should last another season. The boat holds a prime spot in the boatyard which is chargeable at £50 per year. There is £27 charge for the road trailer storage. Both of which have been paid for 2023.

In 2020 I took the Laser 2000 to Chichester for a week of sailing and camping with PBSC, if available, I may well do the same again this year. The estuaries around Bosham, Thorney Island, Dell Key are lovely places to sail. Trying to sail against a rising tide, out to sea from Hayling Island sailing club is a real challenge, I highly recommend taking the boat there. In 2021 PCSO Paul Umney took the boat to Chichester Camp, also. Last year the boat was not used at the sailing camp but I used it number of times, taking out Police staff on PBSC Ice-Cream cruises and sail training. I also used the boat on the PBSC Open Day. Talking of open days, PBSC will be holding its open day at the beginning of May, possibly the King's Coronation bank holiday weekend. Do come along and visit the club, there will be a number of boats set up for taster sails.

Last season I offered a number of Police staff the opportunity to take refresher sailing trips, they had initially contacted me asking about the boat and its availability. We agreed dates we were both available but unfortunately bad weather or shift changes stopped that happening.

My offer remains open to take members of Sussex Police out for taster sailing sessions, or to refresh their skills before taking the boat out for themselves.

The boat is available for use by any Sussex Police officers and staff and retired members, who have completed their Level 1 & Level 2 and subscribe to the Sports and Social Club.

This year we have a new member Tony Mottram, who will no doubt be making good use of the boat when the season restarts.

I urge members to use the boats, they are a fantastic resource, ready and waiting a dip in the sea.

*Justin Pollard*

## **SPDSC (West) AGM Report.**

Two boats remain at Lancing Sailing Club, the single handed Laser and also the Laser 2000. Overall the situation at Lancing is that there are currently only two SPDSC members actively sailing at Lancing both of which have their own boats and as a consequence both SPDSC boats do not get regular use. Lancing membership will be expected soon and boat storage will be £63 for the Laser and £91 for the 2000.

Of note and for consideration LSC did show interest in buying the Laser 2000 should SPDSC consider selling. This was only an expression of interest and not taken any further.

Lancing SC remains a very competitive price for membership and club boats are available to members at minimal charge. Training is expected to continue but will be more focused on improving sailing standards as opposed to those people starting and with no sailing experience.

Both boats remain in overall good condition

The Laser 2000 was used twice, once at Lancing in preparation for use at the Police Nationals and then for the Police National Event at Chew Valley itself. The new sails remain in excellent condition and I have managed to store them rolled indoors at the sailing club. The cover remains serviceable (6/10) and the foils and ropes all good (7/10). The trolley overall is ok. However the axles which the wheels rotate have corroded badly. Previously the wheels were prevented from rotating by the corrosion which have since come away which now causes the wheels to “wobble” as the axle. Is no longer big enough for the trolley wheels. Ideally new axles could be welded to the frame of the trolley but I anticipate that the frame of rot trolley has corroded and will not take a weld.

The single handed Laser soldiers on, I used it on several occasions 2021 and 2022. However this won't be the case now I have a single handed boat of my own and I anticipate its use will be minimal moving forward. The repair completed at Bexhill remains solid. Since a replacement centreboard brake, bung and housing the boat is again watertight. The toes taps gave way and have been replaced and have been refitted with a system whereby you can adjust toe strap length whilst afloat. The new outhaul loop at the Cunningham has also made the rigging process and use of the outhaul much better. The sail doesn't get any younger and is probably a 5/10 but still serviceable but with signs of wear and also some staining. The cover however has failed at the rear 1/4 and transom area. It was a cheap cover which initially shrank and then was not up to the strain when put over the boat. The boat currently holds a bottom rack so has a boat above so whilst not being used the cover is not urgent. If it loses its premium spot it will need a cover. The trolley is fine.

All the best,

**Bob Trevis**