

Commodore's Report to the AGM 10 11 2022 rev 2 - Girton Sailing Club.

Welcome to all those members who have turned out this evening.

Our club has gone from strength to strength in 2022, in spite of ongoing Pandemic risks, in the most part thanks to the continued efforts of our amazing volunteers, and not least to a loyal and growing club membership of all ages.

Special thanks, on my retirement from the Commodore's position follow in no particular order:

First thanks to Trevor Mapleston, our President Elect, who has overseen and helped organise our volunteer RYA qualified training Lead Senior Instructors, Instructors and volunteer assistants to train members and other local community individuals to award levels in powerboat, sailing, sailability skills and awareness awards, for no less than 100 people in 2022! This has greatly enhanced our community standing, our membership and the committees' respect for him and also our wealth of committed coaching volunteers. Thank you Trevor.

Second thanks to Robin Wright and Chis Bull, who have together ensured the club is a safe, aptly documented and well versed place for inclusion to all members and groups of our club and local community visitors. Their efforts, along with the many volunteers, in concert with our Training Principal, Trevor, have, I believe, done the club proud in excelling in our CASC status. Thank you Robin and Chris.

Thirdly, thanks so much to Pam Plummer, not only our hard working club Treasurer from early 2022 onwards, but also our Saturday Cruising and Improving group Lead, plus lately our youth Saturday sailing, Lead also. Pam is an inspirational 'manager of opportunity' to members within the club. She is greatly appreciated, along with John Plummer, and the host of fantastic supporting volunteers who help her to deliver her essential enhancements to Girton SC's water-sports life. Thank you Pam.

Fourth I want to shout out for our powerboat Instructors and volunteers at Girton SC. Our fantastic team, which we are so lucky to have within our club, is led by Chief Powerboat Instructor Steve Hawksworth, supported by Instructors, Mannie Bradley, Adam Middleton, Robin Wright and Trevor. Not only does their team support our club's Sailing Race Open meetings to the highest standards, but they provide much welcomed training club support and revenue each year by running powerboat courses at all levels, to support our club needs and those of other clubs and the wider sailing and local community, so many thanks indeed Steve, and the team.

Onto my thanks for our club's Tuesday Group. Some in this group actively help on committee, but their assistance in the general life and well being of our club and local community cannot be underestimated. The Tuesday group form the bedrock of most of the extra volunteering that our little club achieves. Be it introductory sessions for young local school children, or essential assistance for local disabled individuals and groups, plus extra RYA certified sailing courses. Many of the marvellous people in this group not only enable and support, but make these things happen. Thanks so much to all you wonderful members.

My final thanks are reserved for some of my colleagues on committee these last few years, who have assisted me in relatively modest improvements to our club.

My special thanks to Marcus Shaw, who assisted me, in addition to his own onerous Bosun duties, in fitting the (water side) new hot water boiler to make our showers good for purpose, hopefully for many years to come. Also thanks to Marcus for assisting, along with Mike Forster, on committee, on late night duty, to get the new male WCs up to the current reasonably acceptable level, now as good or better than any club I visit on the Supernova Open circuit.

I thank everyone on committee for all their help in my tenure as Commodore, but above all I wish to thank Eddie Johnson.

Everyone Knows Eddie, club sailing Champion of many years, and stalwart warm and entertaining club barman, always willing to serve a beer, even half dressed with his boat still to put away.

Impeccable in his account keeping, thoughtful and considerate in his event provision, to ensure little or no waste.

But that is the tip of the Iceburg where Ed is concerned, although he doesn't self promote, so I will thank him for us.

It was Eddie who researched the best and most affordable method of improving and maintaining our Southern entrance, and organising delivery of the road stone, and turning out at every work party, to oversee how it would be applied and profiled by Marcus in the tractor with Ed's researched and sourced box cutter.

It was Eddie who organised and oversaw the fun weekend events, raft races and Commodore's cup every year I have been Commodore.

It was Eddie on Bonfire Nights, who put the info. out there and made sure it all went off well for our members, along with fantastic assistance from Marcus, Chris, and others.

And countless other times I can't begin to remember, for the enjoyment of our members and excellent advice to me, so although he never sought it, thanks so much our barman and one who is so much more, Ed, you are fantastic, Thank you!

We will soon be finalising our provisional events schedule for 2023. I defer to Paul Burton, our current and hopefully continuing expert events co-ordinator to report further on the clubs' racing and sailing engagement this year.

As we all know flooding may well occur again later this year / early next year, but the club has robust plans in place to deal with this eventuality.

Although I am stepping down at this AGM as your Commodore, I will, with your permission, continue to serve on committee. I am still seeking to gain planning permission for development of our land, for the benefit of our groups and members alike. The committee will keep members informed of this project going forward.

The committee has proposed motions for our AGM to consider in 2023.

One is concerned with membership prices, which others will detail.

The main one is that our Club President is to be Trevor Mappleston.

Trevor has served the club, it's members and our local community as a volunteer member and RYA Training Principal for over 25 years (or is it over 30 Trev?)

For much of that time he has also been a steady voice of reason on our committee.

I therefore request that the membership approve the motion and ratify the committee's considered choice in a vote later this evening.

Please present any questions any member may have?

Tony Bleasdale
Girton Sailing Club Commodore.