

COMMODORE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

Once again it is the time of year to draft my report for the past year, it has flown by - in these inflationary times, strangely, time is the ingredient getting less.

During the summer period it is always a pleasure to welcome back our visiting members. I trust that they will enjoy and appreciate the wonderful facility, and location of the Club.

It is our aim to continually improve what we have to offer our members. This year the new balcony on the West side of the club looks good and offers a superb sitting area to watch the sun go down, and for those who wish to eat or feed the family when crabbing there will be BBQs every Friday and Saturday from July 15th until August 27.

My thanks to the manager, and the staff both regular, and seasonal who provide such an efficient and cheerful service.

I would encourage you to visit the web site: www.newportboatclub.co.uk for the Sailing Calendar and social events. Social events are also on the notice board and Sailing Calendars are available at the bar.

Life continues to change with more and more bureaucracy. It is important to conform with legislation and of course health and safety. This does not happen by chance and we should all be indebted to committee members who give so freely of their time. Like watching ducks swimming it appears effortless, but there is a lot of paddling out of sight. As usual we have to elect new Officers and some Committee members this year as they retire on rotation. Nomination forms for election to the committee are posted on the notice board and I would encourage members to consider making themselves available for election. Closing date is August 10.

This year from 15th July until August 27th the Commodore's lounge will be open to non-members from 4.30 until 10.30. Any additional income will help the club finances remain healthy, to finance our reason for being, namely promoting water activities.

This year we have a new longboat. The rowers are out training throughout the year, but the hugely successful ladies crew are taking some time out, so our loss provides an opportunity for enthusiastic youngsters to fill their shoes.

It is hoped that the sailing will be less troubled by the weather than last year but it pleasing to report we managed our usual summer programme of races with many competitors of mixed ability racing to win one of our numerous (twenty-eight!) trophies. A great effort. Of course we can't run these races without substantial support from Duty Officers, Race Officers and their assistants and Safety Boat helms and their crews. I am pleased to say that the safety boat fleet is in good order, so that even in windy weather the races are conducted safely. And while speaking of our racing programme we must not forget the substantial administrative effort involved – ably conducted by our S&B Secretary and Chair and all who contributed to the Calendar.

At the time of writing work continues on the new sewerage outfall at Cwm. It is scheduled to be completed, weather permitting, before the start of the sailing races. There are buoyed obstructions at Cwm so extra care is needed and members need to satisfy themselves the channel is clear before navigating.

The kayakers continue to increase in number, there are now 63 members. This group is very proactive, with regular coaching sessions in the estuary and Crymych pool. Safety issues are also high on the agenda. The group outings offer a social gathering and an opportunity for the less confident to feel supported.

As well as sailing boats, kayaks and the longboats there seems to have been an increase in the number of Ribs afloat and as ever, the fleet of motor boats head off to search for fish off Carreg Edrwuy every tide with some members making trips further afield. It is good to see so many folk enjoying themselves on the water in their different ways.

Members will be pleased to learn we have responded to last year's request for wiFi facilities at the Club. You will find an excellent signal in the Nevern Room but a rather patchy signal in the Commodore's Lounge. However, please do not use laptops in the Members' (downstairs) bar.

To conclude on a sad note, a number of our members have passed away during the year. It is not possible to name everyone, but I will mention Dick Rowbotham (ex Commodore), Sue Potts wife of George Potts (ex Commodore) and herself always a willing volunteer and Ted Parker, husband of Betty Parker (ex Commodore). Our sympathy goes out to their family and friends.

Hywel Williams, Commodore 27 June 2011.