

Sailing Secretary's Report 2021

All the Sailing committee meetings were held on Zoom and were well attended. Chris Grosscurth has done a great job as Race Captain, and I thank him for his encouragement and patience and coping with all the technical bits of racing. I am grateful to Pete Harrison who has volunteered to take over from him. Derek Jackman has also decided to retire, and I thank him for his enthusiasm, unfailing support of the Solo fleet and of sailing in general. We welcome Mark Perrow, who is taking Derek's place as fleet captain Solos.

Because of Covid we did not get round to trying some of the ideas we had thought of in 2019, like applying personal handicaps. We also had no Pursuit races. The enthusiasm for Blue Flag sessions fell off markedly once everyone was back at work and school.

However, the racing was well attended with an average fleet of 18.5 boats, which matches the turn out in 2019 which was the best for some years before that. This included several windy days when very few sailed. There were similar numbers in the fast and classic fleets. It was great to see the slow fleet swelled with many young sailors starting to race. The success of the training programme has certainly paid dividends in the increased numbers of youth sailors. We much appreciate the efforts that Drew and Liz have put into this area. Sadly, we did not see too many adult Novices showing an interest in racing. A special thanks goes to Helen Green for offering so many novices the opportunity to take part in racing by crewing for her.

The combined long-distance races with DQSC worked well and were much enjoyed by all who took part, even though the winds were very light on both days. Ian Barnett showed a clean pair of heels on both days. The management went smoothly, the extra safety boats gave much better safety cover and the greater number of sailors taking part improved the racing. The same format has been agreed for 2022. Sadly, we lost the Bass Cup – many of us were away for the event. I hope we can manage to regain it next year!

The Open meetings were all well attended (average 27 boats) and the excellent organisation, much of it on line, and friendly reception was appreciated by the visitors.

We shall look forward to the Tea Bar returning to full strength in the future. Volunteers are always needed here, and it is a good opportunity to meet people and become involved, without needing to know anything about sailing.

Next year we have a full schedule of racing planned including two Pursuits and two long distance races. By popular request we have brought back two week end long events on May 1/2nd and on the Jubilee week end. Dinghy Week is on the 1-5th August with five racing days.

Of course, all this activity does require support of volunteers to man the safety boats and run the races. I thank all those who have done their duties and particularly the many who have done **more** than their fair share. The 2022 programme is displayed

on the Sloop wall so you can see what is planned. Flag It Up will let you know when the duties have been put onto Dutyman in the New Year. We intend to run more training courses for Race Officers and Safety Boat drivers in the Spring so you can learn more about the roles then or you can volunteer to be Assistant Race Officer or assistant in a Safety Boat to watch how it is done.

Even if you feel you lack skill for a specific role, do volunteer to help during the Snowflake or Frozen Toe. This is an excellent opportunity to take part and learn about racing without needing any particular skills. You only need to be able to write quickly and read numbers if you volunteer on Cyclone. You will even be under cover and get a hot drink and sandwiches! We are always very grateful to everyone who volunteers.

All in all, this has been a successful year on the sailing front with several members making their mark outside the club. Thomas Knight, performing well in his Optimist at various open meetings and being selected for the area squad, which is a great achievement.

At home CYC sailors did well, with some great results in the Topper 4.2 fleet with Nicholas Anderson coming 3rd, the Optimist Open we had Thomas Knight in 10th.

We had a good showing of CYC sailors in the Solo Open and the Laser 2000 Open. In the Laser Open we had some fantastic sailing from CYC sailors, in the 4.7 we had 1st Ethan Sparkes and 2nd Lottie Cheeseman and then in the Standard fleet it was CYC sailors taking the first 4 places, 1st Julian Watkins, 2nd James Perry 3rd Wayne Williams 4th Tommy Perkins.

CYC sailors also went travelling with a 3rd for Chris Grosscurth and Emma Yorke in their Dragon, Lucy Boreham 7th in the Europe Nationals, Lucy Boreham & Richard Anderton 3rd sailing their RS400 at Ullswater, Roger Millett showing form at various Hadron Open meetings coming 3rd at the Open meeting at Deben, Phil Allen came 3rd in the IC Southern Area Championship at Poole, Charlie Porter did well in a large Laser fleet during Harbour race week and Nick and I won the DQSC Regatta medium handicap fleet.

Thank you to all members of the sailing committee for your support. Finally, I give special thanks to Karen whose unfailing patience, good humour, determination, and much appreciated encouragement has seen me and us through tricky and uncharted waters.

I hand over to Meryl with great confidence that we can look forward to a more normal and very successful year in the next 12 months.

Biddy Colbourne