

DARTMOUTH YACHT CLUB - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Commodores Report 2023/2024

It has been a year of change and consolidation which I trust will lead to progress in the year to come and in subsequent years. Clubs in general and Yacht Clubs in particular are having a difficult time in the current climate not entirely due to the current economic conditions. In financial terms we have had a difficult time in the summer due to bad weather and reduced visitor numbers. We did have a very successful August and the best Regatta week on record. We have introduced some significant changes to the way we operate which I expect to bear fruit in the coming year.

I must first of all welcome our new Club Manager Wendy Beard who joined the Club in September and comes to us with a wealth of experience in the hospitality sector most recently at the Royal Western Yacht Club in Plymouth. She has made a very positive start and I am sure we all wish her well in undertaking what can be a very taxing role.

As Members may be aware early this year we created a new Trading Company as a wholly owned subsidiary of Dartmouth Sailing Club (Holdings) Ltd this was done in order to preserve the Clubs status as a CASC. These new arrangements whilst advantageous do lead to a range of issues. In order to support Wendy we have created a new Finance and General Purposes Committee which will oversee all the trading and financial operations of the Club.

An important ingredient of our trading is the outside space which we have used for some years on the Embankment I can report that we have secured a 3 year licence to use the area from March 2023 and we have improved the furniture and other facilities which will be an ongoing project.

We have adjusted our catering arrangements which continue to be under review and started regular Music nights on a Friday which are proving popular and successful. We successfully participated in the Music and Food Festivals and of course the Regatta all important events in Dartmouth. The rugby both 6 Nations and World Cup proved very popular. I must also mention the New Years Day Swim which was again despite the weather very well attended by a wide range of mad men and women.

I can also report that our Membership numbers have been close to an all time high. Both sailing and kayaking in particular have had very successful seasons. I must congratulate our Rear Commodore Kayaking Karen

McDermott for running a very successful operation on the water for both enjoyment and training. In addition to running the sailing side including power boat and other training courses our Vice Commodore Gareth Thorpe does a great job during the Regatta and all year round with a huge range of duties.

We have a number of staff who work incredibly hard at times and I must thank them all for the wonderful effort which they put in. The same applies to Committee and other Members who work hard and support the Club throughout the year.

I must now report on matters affecting Members given the difficult financial position of the Club in the Autumn following a disappointing summer we reluctantly decided that we should reduce the Member discount to 10% in line with that offered in some other local establishments. We have also reviewed the annual subscription which has not changed since 2015. We have concluded that it should be increased in line with the Consumer Price Index which will result in the Membership for a couple increasing to £125 per annum with proportional increases for other types of Membership from March this year.

I must now return to the Management of the Club following the AGM. On the financial side this will be the responsibility of the new Committee to which I referred earlier. They will of course report to the Main Committee. As a result whilst I will remain as Commodore I will be resigning as a Director of Dartmouth Sailing Club (Holdings) Ltd and DYC (Trading) Ltd. I will no longer be directly involved in the day to day running of the Club. This will give me the opportunity to concentrate much more on the sailing, waterborne activities and social events of the Club which are of course the fundamental purpose for the existence of the Club.

Finally I hope all Members have a great year of waterborne and other fun. I look forward to welcoming you all to the Club on a regular basis.

Anthony Baker
Commodore