



Errwood Sailing Club

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Welcome

Whilst we have been under the cloud of the COVID-19 restrictions with the club closed to sailing for quite a while it is great to see restrictions starting to be lifted. The club are actively reviewing the situation to allow sailing to start again, albeit under the preventative measures of social distancing and keeping safe. We wish everyone well and hope they stay safe, fit and healthy during these difficult times.

The following activities have had to be cancelled: Spring Fair, Push the Boat Out and the Errwood DYS (alternative date is being sought). The Southport 12 hour race has also been cancelled. Other events will be dependent on how things pan out.

The Committee have set-up RYA virtual regattas for a bit of alternative on-line entertainment and an e-mail was sent out with the details. The DYS have this up and running for the younger sailor and if anyone is interested please let me know.

There has been plenty of activity since the last Newsletter (which was in the middle of last summer!) and it was been great to see lots of sailing in the latter half of the year, with the Junior Club flourishing, and quite a few training courses running.

The results of the RYA Club Members' Satisfaction Survey 2019 are on the board in the club house (for when you are allowed in!).

The rota for a more formal system of providing routine safety cover is still under development. Hopefully there will be more news soon.

The committee are keeping an eye on the club and while all looks fine on dry land water levels are falling and the pontoons will need to be moved soon.

I trust you are all looking forward to your sailing (I certainly am) and if there is anything I or the Committee can do to please let us know.

Chris Davis, Editor.

Commodore's Report

Last year was a busy year starting with Commodore's Day on 1st January running through to the autumn.

Errwood has been full for most of the year and we have managed to do lots of activities including our 50 boats celebration challenge – of which we got very close if you include paddle boards, power boats and of course Ron was helming his very own Enterprise. James did a fabulous video of the day – if anyone would like a copy please let me know and I can arrange to send it.

Club Member of the Year was Sara Carnwell for her ongoing help throughout the year, taking the lead in arranging our Ladies Day events and assistance with the Kids' Club.

Many thanks to the Committee for all their efforts throughout the year and also to all the other members who volunteer their time for a wide range of activities. More help is always welcome, just speak to a member of the Committee, and in particular we looking for new Committee members to look after new members and Estates.

All the best for your 2020 sailing (when we get back out on the water) and if you have any questions or comments please let me, or any Committee Member know.



Alex Novacki, Commodore



Errwood Sailing Club

AGM

The club AGM was held on Sunday 15th December and attended by the Committee and 22 members. Whilst the minutes will be issued later, I have summarised the key elements below.

Several administrative items were covered:

- They included the arrangements for new Trustees. The previous trustees (ex-members) have resigned and so the club rules have changed so that the current Commodore and Treasurer will become Trustees by default whenever the existing Trustees resign.
- The club rules have been changed so that if the club is wound up the assets will be distributed either to existing sailing clubs, sporting organisations or the RYA. The current rules stated that assets will go back to the members however this has precluded access to certain grants that would have been beneficial.
- The new arrangements for the Duty Person were passed. This is expected to be rolled out for the start of general sailing in the Spring.
- Currently the rule book and constitution are combined. They will be separated. RYA model constitution will be used.
- The club rules have been amended to make paddle boarding easier and so we expect more activity in this area.

Many thanks to Peter Griffiths who donated his Enterprise as he is unable to sail it due to his bad back – we wish him well and a speedy recovery. Also thanks to Sachin for a Topper sail.

It is worth noting that the club has been rented out a few times to raise additional income. Events have included fell running, a film shoot and raft building as part of corporate team building.

Congratulations to Sarah Cornwell who was awarded Club Person of the year for her help over the year, particularly the Ladies Days, and her overall enthusiasm.

An Assistant Secretary was sought to help Simon Coley and Sarah Cornwell volunteered – thanks.

Membership numbers remain good and there is a slight increase on last year. There was a good conversion rate on interest from the Buxton Spring Fair through Push the Boat Out and into membership (and then onto training courses).

The finances are looking healthy and at the time the bank balance stood at £26,408 (or £21,172 after the £5,200 is spent on a replacement powerboat). There will be 2% increase on membership fees (the existing discounts (£25 for early payment and £10 for work party) will remain).

The Bosun has been busy working to clean up the boat park. There is a sticker system for boats to indicate who has paid, there is a scheme to moving unused boats up the boat park and increase space for members and to include the extra demand for space from Toddbrook (see below).

Our new social secretary is looking to ensure we have at least one event a month at the club (the food provided after the meeting was excellent, so expectations are high!). Events planned include: Commodore's Day (held), Quiz and chilli night, Easter egg hunt (missed that one), Great British bake-off, summer party, boat familiarisation day, boat gear swap, fish and chip supper and a work party. If anyone has any other ideas, please do not hesitate to contact Kim.

Since last summer we have been hosting Toddbrook Sailing Club and this will continue until the dam has been repaired and they have water again. Toddbrook now have a group membership and have registered Errwood as their second water with the RYA and we are looking to produce an integrated calendar next year.

The presence of Toddbrook should mean more sailing for members and their group membership fees will help to offset the costs of the new security.



Errwood Sailing Club

Security

There were two break-ins this year. In the summer the SeaPro and Quicksilver were stolen whilst a couple of months ago people broke into the upstairs of the club house where they stole some VHF radios from the Rangers the club's state-of-the-art till (empty). Fortunately, this was all that was taken, and the damage was restricted to that caused on entry (and a vain attempt to break into the key safe on the wall).

As a result of these two break-ins there has been a review of security arrangements. Whilst there has always been an alarm system it has been upgraded and will now be turned on. The upgrades have created two alarm zones: the upstairs clubhouse and the storage areas (containers, garage etc). Details of how to access the club will be sent out later in the year.

In addition, security cameras have been installed, with internet access, window grilles and an upgraded gate will be installed.

Fortunately, the insurance paid out for the power boats in full and a new Quicksilver has been bought (with a lightweight trailer!). The rib will not be replaced until all the security upgrades have all been installed.

The club ran many training courses over the year (30 Youth, 30 Level 1, 6 Seamanship, 8 Power Level 1, 17 Power Level 2 and 5 Safety Boat). There were three courses which were hampered by atrocious weather however the others were all successfully completed. Last year the autumn courses were hampered by low water levels whilst this year the loss of the power boats mean some were cancelled. Normal service will be resumed in the Spring.

In addition, the RYA On-board scheme has been a great success with the first-time introduction of ninety-seven sailors over the year (cubs, scouts, sea cadets, junior club etc.).

Other training points include:

- The club are planning to run a club safety boat course. This will not be the RYA course but will be focussed on what is needed to support the club activities a (the RYA Safety Boat course will still be available).
- We now have 4 windsurfing instructors.
- Next year we will have instructors with the Start Racing endorsement and so will be able to provide this module.
- The club is looking to increase the use of Assistant Instructors (who will need a RYA sailing module to participate). This will be a local scheme and a valuable introduction for those members who want to get more involved and/or become RYA Instructors.

EFFC Update

ESC has a lease from United Utilities for unlimited (24 hour) access to the water and the land we use. We own the building. Errwood Fly Fishing Club (EFFC) have lease to fish from the shore and have access to the toilets, carpark and lake access. Group membership. They store a boat on site for stocking.

EFFC have asked to fish from boats. ESC raised concerns about potential conflicts with sailing and United Utilities asked ESC for due consideration.

ESC have proposed that EFFC can fish from the water on four days a year. Effectively the club will be renting out the water, at a cost to be agreed (where the fee is the benefit realised by the club). There would be no sailing on those days and ESC not responsible for activities on those days.

It was noted that the ESC rules prohibit fishing.

The club are working with EFFC to reach agreement and continue the great relationship we have the fisherman – the club thanked them for their support.



Errwood Sailing Club

Upcoming Events (On hold pending lifting of COVID-19 restrictions)

Training

Training will start again when the COVID-19 virus restrictions are lifted.

Congratulations to Dave O'Donnell, Jamie Fisher and Chris Davis who have passed their Start Racing Instructor endorsement in March. This means the club can provide the RYA Start Racing module for anyone who is interested.

If anyone has any specific training requirements, please contact Dave Wakelin or David O'Donnell and they will add you to the list. Please feel free to discuss individual training requirements with Dave or any of the club instructors so that tailored support can be provided.



Ladies Days 2019

The first Ladies Day was held early in the year and was open to all female members and female partners of members, with the aim of increasing participation from this group. Ladies had a lovely day sailing, riding in the safety boat or just chilling by the water, followed by afternoon tea with scones and jam.

The success of the initial event led to the club deciding that Ladies Day would become a regular event and would be held on the first Saturday of every month.

The days grew in popularity with kind support from Committee members with rescue, rigging club boats and helping to launch and recover boats. Many thanks go to Mandy for providing support in the Galley and to all ladies that brought a delicious cake to share. Toddbrook ladies joined the days later in the year which increased the numbers on the water and the variety of cakes!! Mandy even ventured out of the Galley and on to the water, sailing the Wensom. The last Ladies Day of the season was held in October with plans to start again as soon as we are released!

I look forward to seeing all the Errwood Sailing Club and Toddbrook ladies again in the near future.

Keep safe.

Sarah Carnwell.





Errwood Sailing Club

Travelling Sailors

At the AGM Mike Latham gave an update on the activities of Errwood's travelling sailors. The last 12 months have seen these sailing nomads competing at many regattas and winning trophies. This is great publicity for the club and we should all be proud of their achievements.

We have Sachin who is part of the RYA Topper North Regional Training Group and Dan Johnson and Ben Latham who compete nationally in a Fireball and borrowed a 505 for one regatta.

Congratulations are in order for Lydia Barber who won the DYS Senior trophy in her Laser Radial.

Keep up the good work!



Racing

Racing will start when the travel restrictions are lifted. It is planned to have racing every Sunday with Errwood and Toddbrook sharing the organisational responsibilities.

Committee Members

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Many thanks to all those who contributed to this newsletter. If anyone has anything they would like to see in the next edition, please let me know.

Keep safe.

Chris Davis. Newsletter Editor and DYS Representative.
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