

Commodores Report 2020-2021

Summary of 2020 season

Considering last year we saw two national lockdowns and many restrictions in between, you would think that this summary would read, nothing happened, but surprisingly that's not the case, as soon as we were able to get back onto the water after the first national lockdown and Anglian water lifted the closure we were back, social sailing and trying to find new ways to compete against others.

We have tried New Digital apps that actually track your course using your mobile phone, this allows you to set a course and race against your opponent's at different times and days, which works really well considering it's in it's early days and is being enhanced all the time.

As soon as we could we were back up and running mini race series which were well supported, not only by competitors but by people stepping up to the mark and taking their turn in the race box, which was a steep learning curve for many of us and gave us a better understanding on how a race day is actually run & what's involved. I'd like to thank all for their commitment and help with everything they did to help.

As for open meetings and other events these all had to be dropped which is unfortunate as we had so many plans for the season.

I do believe we made the most of what turned out to be an absolute unprecedented year.

Racing

We did what we could when we could & how we could. We did complete the Wednesday evening pursuit races & we did run mini race series throughout the summer. but when it came to the winter series, well that just became the crowning glory of the year with more visiting sailors than we've had for a long time, so many entries that we found it was necessary to split the fleets into three starts, phantoms, solos, and handicapped, and on more than one occasion we saw nearly 30 boats taken to the water, which I think if we had been allowed to run the frostbite series we could have seen 30 to 40 boats on the water which for a small club like ours is amazing.

Social events

Well social events just didn't exist this season for obvious reasons.

Membership

I believe that new members uptake has been really good this year. Anya will be highlighting this in her report later. We have certainly had plenty of enquiries and showing people around the club when possible, obviously social distancing.

Financial

With a testing year with no income as such, apart from membership and the winter series the club, I believe has done ok but I'll leave that to Ian to highlight in his report in a minute.

Infrastructure

Not much to report here, just the replacement of the front door which looks absolutely brilliant and will save Mick time not having to paint and realigning the old wooden one.

Committee

Normally each year we give out a trophy to the outstanding member of the year, well this year although I haven't got a trophy for you I would like to show appreciation to the whole committee. It's not the easiest job at the best of times but last year was off the chart.

And special thank you to Mechelle & Ian who were thrown in at the deep end from day one right as the pandemic started.

We have still been holding meetings every month albeit via zoom which was a big learning curve for some of us. It has been somewhat of a challenging year & a lot of hard work to say the least.

The committee is going to change a bit this year (that is if you are all in agreement). Ian is bowing out from his role as treasurer with Michelle taking his place. Alison is coming in as secretary & Matt is joining us as a general committee member.

Thank you both for coming forward to help.

Plans for coming season

Looking forward this year it is going to be a real job to make any kind of plans, because as we know things seem to be changing all the time (for the better we hope). We have put in place dates for the solo open, the National 12 fest and I do believe a couple of training weekends for the optimists. I also know the Phantoms are itching to hold an open as soon as possible as well. But who knows what's going to happen, all we can do is hope.

One thing I would like to do as soon as we get the opportunity to do so is run the Grand Tour, which I was hoping to run at Christmas as a charitable event, unfortunately this had to be cancelled, but I do think it would be a good opportunity for everybody to get onto the water to race or just take the Grand Tour of the reservoir at their leisure not only in sailing dinghies but in kayaks & canoes as well. I do believe that this year is going to be a good year for the club once we can get back on the water and I do believe that this year is the year that Ardleigh can really flourish by doing what we do best ,having fun on the water.

And finally a big thank you to ALL OF YOU for supporting the club through what has been a testing year.

THANK YOU