

AGM 2023– Rear Commodore’s Report

The role of Rear Commodore continues to keep me busy, and as I prepare to close out my second year in the role, I take pride in knowing that, as many have done before me, I’m making a difference and directly contributing to the ongoing running of our great sailing club.

It’s fair to say that after a steep period of learning in my first year, the majority of ongoing servicing and maintenance items have now settled into a more regular cadence, and I’ve been able to give more time and thought to our future, looking at the infrastructure, energy and sustainability.

The cost of energy continues to be an ongoing concern for everyone, and it is no different for CVLSC. As a club we rely heavily on electricity and our facilities consume nearly double that of an average family home. In addition, our gas is shipped in several times a year, and not only is this expensive, but it is even more damaging to the environment as the gas is delivered to the club by road.

Working with specialist contractors I hope be able to develop plans that will allow ongoing investment over the coming years, with the long-term aim of having a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly club for future generations to enjoy. Initiatives are likely to include, improving the insulation throughout the building, replacing the aging roof membrane. installation of Solar PV and battery storage, replacing gas space and water heaters with air-source heat pumps or similar as well as making sure we continue to invest in more energy efficient appliances and lighting.

As in my 2022 report, I’ll avoid listing the many items that I’ve tackled over the course of the year, but I will draw attention to a few of the most notable ones.

Galley Improvements – It’s unlikely to have escaped attention, but earlier this year we made some improvements to the galley and servery area. With fresh plaster, paint and new lighting, Ben and Antonia now have a cleaner and brighter environment to keep us fed. I hope you’ll agree that the new servery looks fantastic and is a pleasant upgrade to the old display fridges. The new servery houses some modern efficient fridges and freezers that will help with our energy usage.

Lighting – We now have modern energy efficient LED lighting in many areas of the club including the main club room, bar and garage. The hope is that these will reduce energy usage and also prove to be more reliable than the old florescent tubes they replaced.

Inclusive Changing Room – Earlier this year the shower in the garage was converted into an inclusive shower / changing room. This is an initial step towards providing changing facilities that offer more privacy than is available elsewhere in the club.

Pontoon – Although plans were already in motion to replace the aging rib pontoon, an unseasonal storm back in April left us with no choice. After years of abuse from storms and choppy waters, the old concrete structure broke in half and was swiftly taken out of service for safety reasons. We now have a new plastic structure which uses the same system as the Flying Fifteen pontoon. The new Pontoon has a much smaller draft, so should require less adjustment over the course of the year as the lake level changes and is less likely to crash into the bottom of the lake as a result.

Finally I’d like to finish up by thanking all members of the general committee for their trust, support and hard work over the past year.

Jon Elmes

Rear Commodore