

AGM 2023– Vice Commodore’s Report

Introduction

Ladies & Gentlemen, Friends & On Water Adversaries - Having being privileged to grow up at Chew It is always an honour to be part of Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club, Both on and off the water.

It is with pride that we are granted the stewardship of such a unique expanse of water and that we are able to offer so much to many different people and organisations across our community.

Chew is Unique and for me its been very rewarding to work with such a fabulous and enthusiastic team over the last year. I hope you continue to support the club in whatever capacity possible – be it Sailing or Socially, volunteer or helper you are truly valued.

On the water we have a multitude of different sailing groups – Not just racing of course ! – Cruising, Learning to Sail or Improve sailing skills – all are on offer at the Club.

I look thru the Calendar and am always amazed at the amount of activities and events all of which are delivered with enthusiasm, professionalism and on a voluntary basis.

Appreciation & Recognition

Therefore I shall continue to recognise and highlight some of those people helping promote and deliver, but who don’t always stand out.

Youth & Juniors

With the departure of Mikey we initially stalled somewhat off the water, however this year we have seen Chew Crew bounce back into action with a really successful set of well-run Summer Sundays followed by development of the youth across the regional Topper & Feva training circuits and now into autumn training sessions at Chew. Stephanie, Ruth & Angus have been instrumental in taking the Youth and Junior section forward – however it remains all of our responsibility to support and enable; the space, time and resources to continue the journey of our future CVLSC sailors.

It was also great to see so many of the younger sailors joining the recent Barts Bash event at the club.

It goes without saying that the success of Chew Crew expands past the organisers into Parents and Helpers alongside the support provided by the Bosun Team in keeping our boats on the water. These are truly unsung heroes dealing with a multitude of projects and improvements.

Training

Learning to sail is not just for the Youth, there are many people including families wanting to join and learn to sail as we saw on our Discover Sailing Days. This is a great way of connecting with the non sailing community. Likewise we also have the Pay and Play sessions where new members can improve or progress. Behind the scenes another hero – Dave Orme who is our Principal Training officer / Instructor who has been spearheading the training for many years.

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We also as a club benefit from the great work of Jeff Stafford who ensures we are all competent and capable of operating the Ribs, by running PB training for club members & groups throughout the year.

Boat Upkeep

Mending things that Break can be a full time job. Looking after our fleet of, Sailing boats Oppy's, Teras, Fevas & Quests is no small undertaking – hats off to our team of Dinghy Boat Bosuns - Dave, David, Chris, Andrew, Rob & Alan. Big thanks for your ongoing support.

We should also mention Steve's stewardship over the many years and the now handover of the Power Boat Bosuns role to John. I must say John had little time to get his feet under the table before jumping into action as our beloved Committee boat fell victim to the summer storms ending up on the Damn. An insurance mans write off ! - Suffice it to say when needs must Chew always sheets in and comes up to the mark fast – Aligning the committee, finding and sourcing a replacement then kitting it out – no mean feat. John and team are endeavouring to have the replacement Boat ready in October. The boat is smaller and more manoeuvrable than the previous one, easier to get in and out of the water. We also look to locate the winter mooring in a more sheltered position.

Groups

CLADS / Schools / Unis / Police

CLADS with the direction of Steve Nash – offering Trimaran sailing alongside other equipped dinghy's. Help always appreciated as demand continues growing.

Schools continue to benefit from Chew with Clifton, Millfield, Sidcot & Priory to name a few all now offering sailing at Chew across a range of ages.

Universities also very active with both Bristol and Bath offering Term Time Sailing and Team racing in their own boats. The club also extended the hire opportunities for our own boats to the clubs to include Unis during term time.

Last but not least – The Police group who continue to support us at Chew on the sailing side and continue to help us with the Open events we run at chew. Thks Jeff.

Cruising

At Anchor in the middle of the Lake having a picnic or screaming down a reach from one end of the lake to another we are focussed at Chew to offer many aspects of sailing for our members. What better way to Chill out and escape the “world of screens” than in a boat in the middle of chew.

Simon our Cruising rep has been active this year in his wayfarer not only at Chew but along the Coast of Devon and Cornwall. We continue to focus also to provide to both people who want to Race and those who also prefer not to.

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Racing

On the water our members thrive, be it on the club line, at Open Meetings Nationals or for some at World Championships. Truly a magnificent set of ambassadors! Our members have travelled as far as Australia and continue to compete at the highest level in some of the most demanding conditions. Its fantastic for us to sail against you guys at the top of your sport.

At home we finished the year with Chris Meredith taking the coveted Tap Trophy on Boxing Day in his Solo and a keenly contested New years day John Jarrett trophy falling to the dynamic Rob Higgins in his Musto Skiff.

The winter series saw Colin, Conventional Fleet, Andy J, Chris G in the Solos with Russ & Julian bringing home the F/F & Dru Townsend in the Lasers.

The intrepid amongst us saw a well fought Frostbite series with Colin in his Finn take the Conventional H/Cap fleet with Tom RS 100 taking the W/L Asymmetric. In the Fleets - Pete heading up the Lasers and Chris Meredith edging the Solo's.

Colin continued his success in Spring and Summer series, Andy J battled and shared the honours with Brother Steve, whilst Russ & Julian landed the Spring and John + Pete the Summer series in the F/F's.

In the Spring for Fleets Chris M continued his winning ways in the Solo and Chris Sunderland was triumphant in the Lasers however Steve Penfold jumped ahead in thee Summer and Pete Sherwin returned to head the Lasers.

With The longer nights we enjoyed a wonderful evening series. 59 boats competed for the A handicap, 22 B Handicap and a massive 59 lasers tussled at the marks to win the record of the longest chain for water at the mark.

Out on Top was surprisingly the traditional classes – Flying Fifteens going strong with the top 3 in A Handicap – Tim and Jo finally taking the honours from Bill and Josh, hotly followed by Russ and Julian.

B Handicap Chris M made another triumph leading home from Ruth and then Dave. Jake picked up the Laser crown from Julian and Pete.

	H/Cap Conv	H/Cap W/L	Solos	F/F	Lasers
Winter 22	Colin (Finn)	Andy J (RS 100)	Chris G	Russ + Julian	Dru T
Frostbite	Colin (Finn)	Tom (RS 100)	Chris M	-	Pete S
Spring*	Colin (Finn)	Andy J (RS 100)	Chris M	Russ + Julian	Chris S
Summer	Colin (Finn)	Steve J (RS 100)	Steve P	John + Pete	Pete S

	A HCAP	B HCAP	Lasers
Wed Eve	Tim & Jo (FF)	Chris M (Solo)	Jake (laser)

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Trophy's were well spread this year across all our classes, great to see the Red Sails of Adam Broughton taking home the John Jarret and the Barts Bash trophy's. Rob Higgins zooming home in the Skiff on New Years Day and Chris Meredith continuing his success with the Tap Trophy and Commodores cup in the Solo. The Summer Regattas went to Tim in the F/F and Julian in the Laser. The coveted age trophy's fell to John Smalley and grandson Harry, whilst Ruth & Nick grabbed one with the 200. Steve Jones headed the Steve Morris Trophy in the RS 100.

Tap Trophy (22)	Chris M	Solo
Resolution Trophy	Rob Higgins	Musto Skiff
John Jarett Trophy	Adam + Max	Mirror
Commodores Cup	Chris M	Solo
Summer Regatta (A)	Tim J	F/F
Summer Regatta (B)	Julian C	Laser
Steve Morris Trophy	Steve J	RS 100
Age Trophy's	John + Harry	Mirror
Age Trophy's	Ruth + Nick	RS 200
Barts Bash	Adam + Max	Mirror

All this does not take place without a strong set of RO's ARO's, OOD's and Rescue Crew. So first off a really big thank you for all those who have endured the bashing of a Force 6 and those who have been challenged with the frustrations of the complete calm.

Our RO's are truly a great success and I would like to single out Rob Mitchell for his sterling Services as Principal RO – Rob stands down this year and I would like to offer my gratitude on behalf of you for all his efforts and support. He certainly is a real PRO !

Next to taking part there is another layer of activity in creating the results. - Often with the wrong boat type, sail number or even no sail number Bill does a really fantastic job in getting the SailCore system set up for us to use. Thanks Bill for all the help.

So What do we do with all this data ? – well the team analyse the numbers and look at the results & PY's and compare our yardsticks against the great lakes. – This year sadly we did this and the team changed the Mirror PY numbers ! so I guess I need to loose some weight or find a smaller crew if I'm to challenge!

This Coming Year

Our Slipway improvements projects are still planned, however water levels mean we won't action this unfortunately in 2023. New flags are expected for the buoy's and improved moorings for the Committee boat. New handheld radios have also been provided for better comms on water to shore. We continue with Steve Turners upgrade programme to the Ribs

On the Water - We will revamp the Champions League, consider how to get more people racing on Sunday afternoons and inject one of the trophy races into a Wednesday evening.

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We will continue to look at the fleets, as the Asymmetric grow - to ensure we have a fair and challenging series on Sundays. We will also continue to limit the number of Open Meetings and give preference to those classes sailed here at Chew.

Summary

Continue with your sharing and thoughts please, continue to grab me between land and boat or in the club after. I might not be able to solve everything but at least I can listen. If you would like to join the sailing committee, please do let me know – we have many areas in which you can help, both on and of the water.

A big thanks to those who make things happen.. I know many times we have trials and issues, the Pontoon, Walk-Ashore, Winch, Tractor, Ribs and Committee boat to name a few. The strength of the club is not just on the Water – that’s for sure. We often just turn up and its all sorted! Thanks to those who keep contributing.

Finally a real Special mention to our Sailing Secretary James Williams, he is one of the main reasons things happen smoothly on the sailing front. He does all the hard-work (not me) and he still finds time to sail too. James its fantastic having you around.

Paul Nichols

Vice Commodore