

Annual General Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## Incoming Commodore's Address

As Incoming Commodore, having served for many years on your Committee and a member since 1988, I am delighted to take this opportunity to present some of our plans for the coming year to round off our AGM. Here are a few of the highlights on which your Committee will be working in 2013.

1. **Membership:** due to Open Days, club members' energetic efforts on our sail and powerboat training programme and judicious advertising in local facilities and sports websites, we have managed to keep the Membership broadly the same at 135 for last year with approximately 15% active in regular sailing. This is not uncommon in small inland clubs, however, the plan is to increase this to 200 by the end of 2014; and raise the 15% active to 25% active. We are also responding positively to approaches from Essex Fire & Rescue Service and the Army for block membership.
2. **Website:** The website, although very eye catching, looks out of date with, for example, the Committee, AGM minutes and race results on the front page relating to 2010; also it is not clear how to get to the new Members Site. We are working to update the main website to make it a bit more current as the public "front page" (i.e. changing it to mostly non date specific items) but with seamless hotlinks to the relevant sections of the new site for current items. The software for both the original site and the new one has recently been updated and offers more exciting facilities such as video, photo-strips, manuals etc. and this will be the next task in our online presence.
3. **Security:** as we have had items stolen from the boat park and a joyriding incident involving the potential theft of one of the Scouts' boats, we have greatly improved the security of the site by commissioning new fences for the north end of an expanded dinghy park and gates to match those of the Reservoir Works (over £7k of capital expenditure but with a 25 year guarantee). We now intend to complete weldmesh barriers on the south entrance wood fences and extend the physical barrier behind UERC boatyard up to the Ardleigh Reservoir fence. Nevertheless Members are reminded not to keep portable items in their boats such as rudders, daggerboards, sails etc.
4. **Sailing:** this remains the core purpose of the Club and we are delighted with the enthusiasm of, particularly, our junior sailors who are developing well and are the future of our club.
  - a. **Racing:** although a small but keen band of regular racers continue to compete for the series trophies, we are keen to attract more novices into racing. Therefore, we are running a Start to Race series supported by the RYA from Sundays 14, 21 & 28 April and continuing on Friday Evenings to 31 May. The Bank Holiday Plate races will also be made more attractive to those new to racing
  - b. **Training:** will continue to be developed on Sunday afternoons after Easter until October. We will be supporting individuals to gain RYA instructing qualifications and are aiming to gain RYA Accredited Training Centre status for Powerboats in 2013; and Dinghies in 2014
  - c. **Cruising:** often felt by the participants as the forgotten sailors, we hope to develop a wider range of semi-organised Saturday afternoons and advertise these on the Calendar with support from experienced sailors and evening barbeques.
5. **Budget:** in order to plan effectively for the future and to seek a long term viability, profile and vibrancy, we increasingly have to plan and justify expenditure on an annual and longer basis for SportEngland; ActiveEssex, Tendring Council and other public bodies. Also there are occasions when expenditure needs to be undertaken to take advantage of discounts or tight deadlines or even breakages or health and safety and in these cases retrospective authorisation has to be made.
  - a. **Section Budgets:** for the future, we are proposing to set up section budgets and budget holders based on the track record we have from last year (e.g. Galley, Premises, Sailing/club boats, Rescue craft, Training etc.)

- b. **Process:** these budget holders will present their plans for expenditure to be approved by the Committee. They can then spend according to the plan without further authorisation but subject to, say, a £200 maximum spend, a periodic review by the Committee and, possibly, a budget scrutiny sub committee, and an Annual Report to become part of the AGM.
  - c. **Distribution:** £30k is the base capital reserve (originally notionally for a replacement clubhouse roof at some time in the future) with £5-10k each for maintaining/renewing **Safety Boats and equipment**; the **Club Fleet** of 12 craft (including the 3 new Argos bought with the Sport England lottery grant of £10k) and **related sailing expenditure** (marks, etc); and finally **premises/galley** related refurbishment/renewal. This pretty much accounts for what will be identified in future as the Capital Account and we are in the process of moving the base fund into a higher interest, longer term access fund. RYA has posted advice on the level of base funds etc and we will be drawing on this as we move to representing the capital fund and revenue accounts more appropriately. We had to identify these areas of capital expenditure when we bid for the SportEngland/Lottery award as they would have questioned why we needed £10k for new boats when we could have bought a whole fleet with our reserves.
6. **Constitution:** we have become aware from the minor revisions in December 2011 and work since that the Club's Constitution is somewhat out-of-date (originally written in 2008) and needs aligning to the current RYA Model Constitution and advice. A working party will be set up to do this and bring amendments to a SGM during the year and that this should happen periodically in the future to ensure the Club responds to changes in current best practice protocols and the law. As part of this updating, we will need to change our Trustees to relate to the new Constitution.
7. **Development Plan:** RYA, SportEngland and Active Essex all have copies of our detailed development plan and are supporting us extensively in promotion our sport and the facilities available at Arleigh. We are planning for a £50k SportEngland bid to expand and update the Clubhouse (specifically a dedicated training room and improved changing rooms including disabled and baby changing/family room). We are frequently meet and are in correspondence with the RYA Eastern Region Development Officer and our local Club Development Officer based at Alton Water as well as the Reservoir Authorities and Anglian Water.

These are the main developments envisaged for 2013, please feel free to make your views known to your Committee and we look forward to seeing you at the Club and in promoting our excellent sport for the benefit of all interested in Water Sports.



Commodore Elect 2013-2014