

TROY

TIMES



Commodore's Comments

The summer has passed with the memory of sunny days and warm water beginning to fade. Autumn has brought rain and stronger winds, to the delight of some and a touch of sadness to others.

You'll be aware that the government continues to change the law and guidelines, often with little notice. Although sailing is regarded as one of the safer sports and there are almost no restrictions to on the water activities, we do need to comply with restrictions around the site. So while members can use the lake for free sailing at any time and we are now able to offer limited racing on a Sunday, there remain restrictions on how we can use the club house, these are described later and we always keep them up to date on the website so you can easily refer to them.

Most importantly we are required by law to record all visits to the club. More details on this later.

We have now welcomed some 60 new members who joined us from Aldenham Sailing Club. There are also about a dozen people that have joined the club from other places. I hope to meet you all at the club at some point. Please do not be shy about introducing yourself and asking for any help that you need, or offering suggestions on how the club could work better. I am very pleased to see that so many of you are already taking every opportunity to make use of the lake. More than 35 helms have taken part in the racing we have organised and every Sunday the cruising activity at the club has continued long after I have finished racing. It is all very pleasing to see.

Off the water there has been considerable activity to improve the site. In part this was necessary to accommodate the many boats that the new members wished to bring on to the site. I think that we have found spaces for everyone, but we are continuing to try and improve matters. Another positive event is the granting of planning permission for the workshop.

The boys of Haberdashers' School have done a wonderful job of clearing Alcatraz and work is progressing to make this a useful space. Another development has been the Friday Gardening Club, where some members have been making a regular commitment to helping keep the vegetation under control. This has improved the appearance of the club grounds and some of the trees around the lake are receiving attention This group have also done some other maintenance around the club. This has included improving the step free access to the club house. If you would like to join in the regular activity the team would be delighted to see you, but please contact Pete Tobin before attending so we can ensure compliance with government requirements.



We have held a couple of Extraordinary General Meetings. The first was a very short socially distanced meeting at the club which put into place rules to allow us to hold general meetings on-line. The second, involving more than 30 people, approved changing the membership fees. You will see these fees next time you renew your membership.

Peter de Schulthess

Sadly Peter de Schulthess passed away on the evening of 1st October. As many of you will know he had been waiting for a heart transplant for some time and finally underwent a transplant operation on Wednesday 30th September. Unfortunately, that operation did not go well and Peter was unable to recover from it. He passed away peacefully with his wife, Alexia, and sons Thomas and Alex by his side in hospital.

Peter was an incredibly enthusiastic member and participated fully in the life of the club, despite his illness. He was a valued part of the training team offering shore-based theory lessons to students as part of their training as he was unable to go onto the water. A life-long sailor himself, his encouragement has seen Thomas and Alex go from strength to strength in their RS Feva in recent months and set a firm foundation in the sport for the future. He had recently offered to assist the club by taking up a role on the committee.

A genuine, friendly man, always ready to help others, he will be sorely missed by all.



Paul Johnson

Each year the RYA Volunteer awards recognise the outstanding contributions and the exceptional dedication to boating made by volunteers throughout the UK. Traditionally taking place at an awards ceremony in London, they are given to recipients nominated by their sailing clubs, class associations and members of the boating community.

This year Paul Johnson service to Rickmansworth Sailing Club has been recognised. "Paul has been a stalwart of Rickmansworth Sailing Club for nearly 25 years, having taken on two stints as Commodore, as well as serving as Membership Secretary, Club Secretary, Solo Class Captain and other roles, always exercising due diligence and diplomacy. An Assistant Dinghy Instructor and a club Racing Coach with the RYA First Aid qualification, he is always there when needed and is never afraid to 'get his hands dirty' for the good of the club. He has even worked as caretaker and grounds man, prompting his wife to comment that he never had time to do odd jobs at home because he was always doing them at the club. Friendly, approachable and dependable, Paul has promoted the club brilliantly at external events and has been a tremendous teacher of young and older sailors alike. Working quietly and effectively to support the club through good times and bad, he has influenced changes that have seen a 40% increase in membership in the last decade. The club is thriving today, in large part due to his efforts."

I'd like to pass on my and the club's congratulations to Paul for this well-deserved award and thank him again for all his efforts for the club and the sport of sailing, very well done Paul.

Refurbishment

The last three months have seen lots of activity to improve the club and make space for the extra boats being brought to the club by new members.

The first area to be improved was to the SE of the dinghy shed. In recent years this had become an area for abandoned boats and had become heavily overgrown with weeds. A week of work by Paul Hills,

Richard Foyle and Michael Grace turned this into a space for 26 lasers. The area along the shore that was completely unusable and flooded whenever the water level rose has been cleared out and we are hope to bring this area back into use at some point.



We've laid a concrete base at the corner of the area at the top of the slip way in preparation for the installation of a storage area for two of the safety boats. This will allow easy access to a number of storage slots in the dinghy shed. With luck this will be completed by the end of the year. We have also received planning permission for the workshop and replacing the windows in the clubhouse. So we look forward to getting work on the workshop underway.

Alcatraz has had a major work over with a racking system having been installed to store the 30 Toppers belonging to Haberdashers' School. We are also laying weed suppressing membranes which will make this a usable space.



The launching at the middle slipway has been improved with the removal of the floating pontoon. Other plans include more work to maintain the access road and some new security gates.



Sailing At Home

We started racing back in July and introduced two ad-hoc series. This was very much as a trial to ensure we could provide racing safely for everyone involved. The key to making this work is for someone to volunteer to run the racing and provide safety cover. Each week there is nominally just the one volunteer who does everything. Everyone going afloat needs to take responsibility for their own safety. If you are afloat and you see that someone is having difficulties please render any help you can whilst not putting yourself in any danger. The race officer has clear instructions that safety must come first and that they should abandon race management if someone is in danger.

Following the success of this trial we have decided to instigate some more formal series. The first series were finished on 27th October. The winner of the pursuit series was Paul Hills in his RS Aero and the handicap was Russell Cobb in his solo.

The October series started on 4th of October and will run to the 1st November. On the 8th November we will have a three race mini-series for the bonfire cup. The Spartan series will run from the 15th November

to 13th December, and the traditional Turkey Trot pursuit will be held on 20th December.

Please remember that from the 1st November we are in the winter season and it is compulsory to wear wet/dry suit plus a buoyancy aid.

Sailing Away

Sailing away from one's home water has been almost non-existent since the start of the pandemic with no racing happening since the end of February.

September saw the first few tentative steps being taken across the country to re-establish the away racing circuit.

Rickmansworth played its part by hosting an open meeting for Firefly class in early September, their first for many months. To comply with the Covid-19 restrictions we restricted entries to 20 boats, including a number of our own members and a previous national champion – making it the biggest entry RSC has seen in a number of years.



Every sailor was greeted with a (Covid secure) coffee and pastry courtesy of Caroline Webb, accompanied by sunshine and smiling faces as many sailors were reunited after months apart. In true tricky Ricky fashion, the first race had to be restarted as a late wind shift caused almost the whole fleet to be OCS on the first start. Our expert race officer, Jonathan Carter remained undeterred and quickly made some adjustments to the course allowing the fleet to get away at the second attempt. This race was won by RSC member Steve Greaves, crewed by his son Arthur. The fleet was of extremely high quality, making it difficult for Steve to maintain his excellent start. After three races in glorious sunshine we had

four boats separated by just two points – the sign of a brilliant day's racing. The overall winner was Jenny Smallwood from Grafham Water Sailing Club. A special mention was given to the Dingwall family who had three generations all sailing the same event!

Perhaps the best part of the day was seeing so many RSC members take to the water and participate, those sailors were: Steve Greaves, Arthur Greaves, Katie Webb, Jamie Webb, Richard Webb, Caroline Webb, Claudia Wilson, Alastair Wilson, Toby McFarlane, Ben Dingwall, Jack Dingwall, Andy Hunt and Chris Milner. If you want to see how brilliant the day is there is a drone video and images by Paul on the club's Facebook page.

These events cannot be successful without the army of volunteers behind the scenes; in this case it was in fact a small crew of six who did everything from supervising the car park, through running the racing and serving the beer. A thoroughly successful event, we look forward to hosting the Firefly's and other classes in 2021. Do get in touch with Caroline Webb if you'd be interested in taking the next step into friendly yet competitive racing.

Rickmansworth representation at Grafham Water

Saturday the 3rd of October was the day the UK broke all the records for average rain fall with 31.7mm. The lake was more than 700mm above its normal level and the access bridge from the car park was almost under water.



Most people were wisely staying indoors out of the rain. However nearly 100 hardy sailors (*and parents in tow*) could be found at Grafham Water Sailing Club taking part in the RS 200 Inland Championships. Rickmansworth was represented on the winners' podium with Rheanna Pavey and Claudia Wilson becoming Ladies Inland Champions. In a class as competitive as the RS 200 this is a major achievement, well done Claudia!



Alastair has been caught owning many boats, forcing the sale of his much loved RS200, 1023, with first opportunity being given to club members. A proven boat both at Rickmansworth and on the National Circuit, it's fully equipped and ready to race – you can even have a few days training thrown in if you wish! £3500 ONO – please contact Alastair on awilson@jilakin.com for a chat or further details.



Locked Down

Over the summer we have been experimenting with using combination locks on the access route. This became necessary as the previous key based locks had become so worn that members regularly found themselves unable to open them. We chose some heavy duty locks from a reputable manufacturer as we did not want any problems.

Unfortunately, things did not go quite as we had hoped. Several of the locks failed to open as expected when the code was entered and had to be cut off by Paul Hills. After discussions with the manufacturer they have supplied us with a completely different design. So far we have not had any problems with the new locks. If you should forget the code it can be found in the members' area of the website.

Security around the club continues to be of concern. To enhance matters we are planning to install a new gate and fence and we will periodically change the code for the locks. To help protect the club it is important that the barrier across the access road is kept locked during the week, even if you plan to be on site just for a few minutes. Unfortunately, just a few minutes is all it took someone to drive on the site, break into a vehicle and steal some phones. Fortunately such incidents are extremely rare. You can help protect everyone by locking the barrier down. At weekends it is generally ok to leave the barrier up during the day. But you do need to close the lock and change the number so that it remains something only known to members.

Covid-19

Keeping abreast of the ever changing covid-19 regulations can prove challenging. Over the summer we were able to restart some limited racing. This has consisted of a pursuit race followed by a handicap race. The object has been to stop overcrowding in the launch areas and on the pontoons. With the staggered start times of the pursuit people are able to spread out during launching. We have the reverse process at the end of the day with staggered finishing. The situation kept under review, but it is likely that this pattern will need to be continued.

On shore we need to follow all of the same regulations as everyone else. At the time of writing this means that we cannot have groups of more than six and that people need to maintain at least 2m gaps. The club house is remaining closed as we do not have the capability to make it a covid secure environment. The toilets can be used, but only one person at a time can be in the toilet area. Wipes and sanitizer are by the door as you enter. The changing rooms cannot be used as changing rooms. So you either need to change outside or arrive ready to go on the water. Our bar manager, Steve Forrester, can serve drinks to people outside. We need to follow all of the standard rules, so it is table service and no walking around with your drinks.

The most important issue is the requirement to comply with the track and trace regulations. If we are found to be in breach of these then the club could face a fine of £10,000.

We may also then be forced to stop all access to the site. So it is vitally important that you help us comply with the track and trace regulations. We need you to record on the club web site every visit you make to the club. This needs to be done every time you visit. You might be the only one on the site, but you need to record that you were here, however short your stay was.

At some point we can expect someone to attend the club who turns out to be covid positive. I will be required to supply to NHS track and trace the details for anyone who was on site at the same time. Making this information available is an important step in reducing the prevalence of the disease and protecting everyone in the community. All you have to do is log on to the club web site where you will be presented with the following, just click the “Log a visit” button.

After 21 days you will be given the opportunity to remove the record of your visit. We also have a QR code you can use if you have the NHS app. This is to be found in the window of the bar. **You must still record your visit using the club website even if you use the QR code.**



Tracking visits to RSC

From Friday 18th September we have to keep a record of people coming to the club to comply with the latest legislation.

If you come to the club on or after this date **you must record your visit.**

If you are accompanied by others you need to indicate how many people are in your party. If you have invited or are hosting guests please ensure that you have contact details for them.

After 21 days from your visit we no longer have to keep the record and you can remove it if you want.

Your recorded visits

Date	Arrived	Left	Additional people	Delete
------	---------	------	-------------------	--------

You can then enter the details on this page

Log your visit to RSC



You're logging a visit as: Jonathan Carter

Date of visit:

Time arrived:

Time left:

Number of people with you:

Log your visit

Club Boats

We are also pleased to say that club boats may now be used but that is subject to booking the boat you want to use and observing the conditions for doing so. There are new menu options on the club web site so that you can access the booking system or you can use this link
<http://www.rscsailing.org/boatBookingCalendar.php>

WhatsApp Group

If you have a question about the club, need some help or just want to know what is happening the clubs “whatsapp” page might be the thing to join. We currently have 50 members communicating via the app. You can join at
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LoMgvL5wiLWC0tfundnKC1>