

Commodores Report 2020

Good evening everyone and welcome to the 49th Annual general meeting of Lower Halstow Yacht Club. I'm pleased that so many of you could attend.

It has again been a busy year with lots going on both on and off the water.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow and we have more members now than we had at this time last year. We still have some interviewees in the pipeline ready to join. This puts us in a good position for the coming year.

Communication

John Williams has continued to do a great job in compiling and producing our newsletter UP The Creek in colour with some lovely photos. If any of you have any technical or voyaging stories near or far I am sure John would be pleased to receive them for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter.

Club Facilities.

Both work party weekends were well attended and a lot was achieved. We have continued to maintain and improve our facilities. A group of committee members repaired the fire damaged hammerhead of the jetty, the wave break boards on the north side of the jetty have been extended toward the shore. The yard layout has been changed to allow a dedicated area for the increasing number of trailer boats. A new larger kitchen has been installed in the

clubhouse. Led lights have been installed throughout the yard as well as many other smaller improvements.

Moorings

Graham Leighton has continued to be our Mooring Master and I would like to thank him for his hard work over the past year. His report will follow shortly delivered by Myles Stewart as Graham cannot be here tonight.

Lift out

The lift out and in have continued to be organised by yardmaster John Knight up until May last year when he resigned. Thankfully he has stayed on in a temporary basis to assist Lawrence Newing who was co-opted as mooring master. Since then the yard movements have continued to work smoothly despite some difficulties with the lifting cradle which were overcome with the skills of Lawrence and other club members. As mentioned last AGM the tractor has been professionally serviced by Haynes the main dealer. Our thanks go to John and Lawrence for their hard work.

Sailing events and races

Last years sailing races did not go so well due to the vagaries of the weather and personal circumstances. Despite this the Round The Island Race, Red Sands Race and Pursuit race were completed and a small number of Top of the Tide Races. The Charity race could not take place due to the weather but the few members that turned up for the BBQ still managed to raise £78 for Macmillans and the British Heart Foundation. Mike Hegarty was the BBQ

chef who did a sterling job in the conditions, thanks go to him. I hope that 2020 will give us fairer winds.

Past Members

Sadly last year we lost 2 members, Dave Clarke a fairly recent member and Ray Govier. As I wrote in the newsletter Ray was one of the founder members of our club and was a big influence on me in becoming involved in the club. Our thoughts go to their families, they will be greatly missed.

General

Roger Elkington has continued to organise the laying up and launch suppers at The Three Tuns. Thanks to him for his continued involvement.

Dave Metalfe has continued to run and improve our website as well as being our representative with Natural England in discussions regarding the coastal path. This looks to be passing through our site along the sea wall. This does have serious implications for us for site security and safety issues. Discussions are still ongoing and we will keep the club informed of developments.

Dave Quigley continues to look after membership matters, Dave Youdle looks after lifting equipment certification, Ray Cracknell assists the mooring master. Mawson Knight looks after our finances and will report on the years accounts shortly.

Ken Milburn has decided to step down from the committee due to other commitments and I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past few years.

As I stated at the last AGM my intention was to stand down as commodore at this AGM. The vice commodore Myles Stewart is now able to stand for commodore .

I would like you to know that all committee members make a positive contribution both in committee and in actions for the club and I would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and efforts over the last year..

Finally

Some of you may know that 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of our club. The committee are hoping to come up with an event in the summer to celebrate this, I hope that as many of you can will attend to make it a memorable occasion, Perhaps if any of you have ideas of how the club could celebrate our 50th anniversary please let a committee member know. We will keep you informed of plans via the website and newsletter.

All that remains is for me to wish you all fair winds and look forward to a good sailing season ahead.

Graham Osborne
Commodore