



CARDIFF BAY YACHT CLUB

2024 AGM

Commodore's Report.

A lot has happened over the last 12 months, including some changes in COM roles, and I would firstly like to thank all those members who have contributed to the improvement of our club by volunteering their time, whether serving on COM, running the various sections or providing their skills for the benefit of the club- it is much appreciated -thank you.

We have a great club, in a great location with access to sheltered water and a fantastic waterfront and almost 24hr access to the Bristol Chanel.

Our facilities are better than some commercial marinas, at a fraction of the cost and we have some superb, friendly and helpful staff.

We ran the membership survey again last year with an increased response rate. Thank you to the 203 members who completed the survey.

You can find a summary of the results on the website, or by following this link

[CLICK HERE to access survey results](#)

Overall, the results were positive with improvements seen in Membership services, Training, The Marina and Yard. The results for the Bar & Restaurant were disappointing with dissatisfaction with the standard of food, menu variation food quality and consistency. We have listened to the feedback, the standard of food has improved, a new menu created and, special offers introduced.

Increased opening hours for the Bar & Restaurant are to be introduced in the spring in line with the increased usage of the club.

Members should realise that it is extremely difficult to balance service against costs in the winter with few members visiting the club and it would be helpful if members could remember sometimes that the role of COM is to manage the club for the benefit of the whole of the membership, and not just a few.

I appreciate that there will always be members in a club that feel that they should have special treatment, but we have sought, over the last 12 months, to introduce processes that treat all members fairly and equally. This has not always been popular.

There has been considerable change, mostly regarding the operation of the yard and it is fair to say that the yard operation is much better. The waiting lists for the yard have disappeared, as well as the continual complaints. These changes were introduced to encourage members to be better organised and to reduce clogging up of the yard. The free lift outs at lunch times, introduced as a service to members and to ease pressure on the yard are popular. It is also the first time in many years that the marina maintenance, including the pressure washing of the pontoons and control of the weed, is on

target, although I do appreciate that this is ongoing. Our thanks should go out to the Marina Team including Simon, Paul and Wasiu.

Please see the individual officers' reports for more detail, but below is a general progress report.

The training school had a tough time last year with the loss of Sam and the bad weather. However, Richard continued with the outreach programme, obtained the funding to train additional instructors and is running very successful keel boat training courses. We now have use of a small fleet of keel boats, and this all helps in producing additional crew for the cruisers and meet our mission statement. We need to encourage young people to move up from dinghies, and this is a great way to do it.

The Dinghy section is growing, and my thanks to Nick for chairing the section. It is good to see the increased activity around the club on the weekends with the commencement of the racing. The Marina Team and Office are working on the management of the dinghy storage area, including ideas to increase capacity and it is great to see Matt & Richard working with parents to create a youth section.

The Cruisers had a successful year, including a full race series, a well-attended presentation night and a well-run Shanghai cup. However, some of the skippers do sometimes struggle for crew, so if you are interested in having a go, please contact our sailing secretary.

There has also been considerable change in the Fishing section. The Species Hunt and the introduction of catch and release have both proved to be a huge success. This has resulted in more members & visitors fishing the competitions. The Cod Comp was well run and attended, and I know that the fishing committee has some great events planned for 2024/25.

The TARS & Gaffers continue to have an active section and I was honoured that we received the BCYA award for the club of the year for the second year running.

We have had a strong Social Committee this year, who have laid on some superb entertainment including top acts, a children's pantomime and a free Michael Bubl  tribute act, my thanks to Alan Thorne who has been the driving force behind this success.

The Club House redevelopment proposal is still ongoing, and we should thank the members of the subgroup for the considerable amount of time and effort they have given to the Club.

Last year's AGM approved a proposal to pursue the redevelopment of the club in accordance with previously advertised designs.

The project was progressed through appointing the design team to develop the design to a position which would enable tender documents to be prepared and appropriate tenders invited. In parallel the club was obliged to obtain a planning consent and subsequently to discharge planning pre-conditions related to subsoil and environmental issues. Alternative considerations related to sustainable energy were also explored. Some design resource was used to evaluate the greater club demise to understand the impact of boundary changes potentially arising from discussions with neighbouring developers.

A first tender was invited but did not receive sufficient contractor interest due to a reluctance to accept the level of design responsibility/risk required given the prevailing, fragile market conditions. The design was progressed further to meet these market expectations and a further tender process was undertaken and tenders were received.

Progress continues, and we hope to produce some proposals which will be put to COM and then to the members for approval.

We do need to invest in our facilities some of which desperately need upgrading and to future proof our clubhouse for the next 20 years.

You should also be aware of the proposed development of the land between us and the swimming pool. Master developers have been appointed by the Council and have started a public consultation process pending a planning application. We have already had meetings with the developers and have organised a sub-group to identify the opportunities and threats to the Club and prepare a strategy. I am grateful to Roger, Charles and Derek, for volunteering their time to help the Club.

The development will happen and will bring a huge opportunity for us to gain members who wish to be by water, and ultimately support the club, not only from a social perspective but also by supporting the sections. We will need to support and encourage this.

The land swap with the Council has been delayed and now depends on the boat yard operator gaining planning permission. I personally don't believe anything will happen within the next 12 months.

Regarding parking. I must admit that we made a mistake with the introduction of the parking proposal, with the communication to members and the timing (over the Christmas break). But we continually receive complaints about parking from members when the club is busy and we had been working on the proposal for many months to negotiate a contract to introduce a system which we believed was fair to all members and allowed the club to manage the facility at zero cost.

Unfortunately, it was communicated poorly which led to a fury on social media and the subsequent spread of miss information, including personal attacks on COM members. COM members give up vast amounts of their time to serve the Club for no reward and this behaviour in my view is inexcusable.

The present parking system is basically a free for all and is very difficult to manage. We have sought views from the membership. The survey results can be found here.

[CLICK HERE to review survey summary.](#)

We need to work out a system which hopefully will be acceptable to the majority, and I hope that the new COM will tackle this in time for the summer. My thanks to all members who completed the survey and emailed me with their views.

From a community perspective, we once again raised substantial funds for The British Heart Foundation and the RNLI, we also helped various good causes including MacMillan Cancer Support, Celtic Capability Sailing and others. My thanks to all those members who organise and run these events.

Earlier last year, you may have seen a Trans-Atlantic Rowboat around the Club, "Ace of Blades" crewed by 4 women who have just completed the 3000 mile 'Atlantic Challenge' row from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua. A fantastic achievement and they have promised to come back and give us a talk on their experiences.

I would like to thank all the members who give up their time voluntarily to help with maintaining and running the Club and all the different sections, without you, we would not be such a rich and diverse club.

I would also like to thank all the staff who work very hard in sometimes very difficult situations, please remember that they are an asset to our Club.

Finally, I will be standing down at the AGM having served as Treasurer and then Commodore for the last 5 ½ Years. The time has flown by and I have made some good friends and had tried new experiences such as racing in Keel boats, Cruisers and sports boats along the way. Thank you to everyone for their support.

Kind regards

Simon

Simon Watts

Commodore

12th February 2024