

Report of the Sailing Secretary 2017-2018

The 2017 season has again been a challenging year for Papercourt incorporating our usual mix of club racing, open meetings, one day events, the ever important training and other sailing activities.

For the third year running we have had over 5,000 sails - No mean achievement given the natural restrictions placed on us this year. We have done incredibly well just to keep the lake open this year. More on this a little later.

We have many things to be rightly proud of: Our first Aero Open, introduction of the Scow class to the club and what can only be described as the best and most hospitable reception to our visitors. The Solo open a particular highlight this year with over 30 competitors and of course the Topper and Oppies being large fleet events and squad qualifiers.

Our Youth section is still the envy of all clubs and our reputation around the UK never ceases to amaze me. We are still exploring ways to encourage our youth sailors to carry on into club racing before leaving home and going to university etc. Recently in a place called Sunderland, somewhere north of here, I was standing on the beach at the Laser European Qualifier and a complete stranger walking his dog came up to me and started asking how Charlie and Julia Beck were and what a great place Papercourt is. Our warmth and welcome to all is renowned and something we can be very proud of.

Of course the club would not run if it were not for the sailing and the team of volunteers who ensure the lake is properly managed and crewed. A big thank you to the Duties team ably organised by Jill Hamment and Michaela Saporona. As many of you will know we are

now using Sailing Club Manager as the Duties administration vehicle, which has not been without its challenges over the year. Jill and Michaela do such a great job, thank you. The advantage of using SCM is that all the member records are integrated however does mean that SCM has to be continuously updated and developed and improved. All selflessly carried out by Alan - Thank You.

Sailability:

A big thank you to John Beynon and the Sailability team. Tremendous accolade and now recognised with Guildford Mayor's access to Sport Award. Sailability is sailed on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday From April through to October and I know is really appreciated by those who participate, their carers and equally rewarding for our volunteers. We have 67 registered sailors of which 30 sailed with us more than five times which equates to 296 sails. I would encourage any members who have spare time on a Friday to come and get involved in this worthwhile charity.

Sailathon:

This is becoming an annual event and we in our fourth year now. This years Sail a thon, which is open to all members to participate though largely dominated by the junior fleet was held in Honour of Simon Hall who had been a long standing member of the club and past Feva Class Captain. We miss Simon but his presence is still felt as Catherine, Dom and James are frequently seen around the Club. This years charity was for the RNLI which also drew out the local RNLI branch to support the day and add to the festival. We raised sail in the company of Storm Brian, I don't think many clubs managed to sail that day, and raised over £2,000. A great achievement. We have supported to date: Teenage Cancer Trust £6,000 The Guide dogs £4,500 'Ripley' and this

years RNLI. Any suggestions for next year please don't hold back, we are always keen to support charities that have a relevance to the club.

Training:

An important part of our activities is training both adults and Junior. It has been and continues to be one of the things Papercourt can be most proud of. Our regular safety boat training courses are always over subscribed and a thank you to the Chris and his team for ensuring we have a steady flow of qualified SBO on hand. On my travels around the country we are the envy of many clubs due to our very active training and qualification programme.

Ladies Sailing, the Spring Course and Carry on Sailing course were again very well supported. Clearly you need to book early to avoid disappointment and a testament to our trainers who continue to make our sport fun, welcoming and sociable. Thank you to Jane, Tom Key, Peter Lytton for spearheading and continuing to do such a sterling job for the club.

A big thank you to Peter who is stepping down as chief instructor this year.

We must remember that all our sailors are ambassadors for our club. I would like to congratulate, too many to mention, all who are now out competing on the circuit and representing our club.

Our Youth training team programme could not run without the endless enthusiasm and arm twisting of Jeremy. It takes a committed effort year on year to keep Papercourt Youth as the envy of all others with our commitment to training, coaching and ensuring all those who want are able to become AI's DI and even return to coaching. What more proof do you need to demonstrate what a successful formula we have

and that it is very much appreciated by our younger sailors. This year we have more sailors in the Oppie squads than any other club. A tremendous achievement and creates a really strong support unit on the circuit. Well done to all of them and their mums and dads. It is a commitment.

Results:

Results are a necessary evil at the end of racing and this year Jain Hayden has taken on the role of sorting out the slight problems that some race officers leave when they go home - not an easy one but essential for smooth running - thank you. We now have the results from the new equal calendar programme, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Feedback has been generally positive as it allows more sailors to qualify for club series and hopefully collect some silverware. We will be repeating this programme for the 2018 season including the Class Championships which might be slightly tweaked for next year. A big thank you to Alan Fuller and his team for their continued dedication. Life has become much easier when you find all you have to do is input the results as Alan has already uploaded the race/event into the system.

So what for 2018:

We can look forward to another successful year at Papercourt. Our reputation is enhanced and the investment into the club will only bring its own rewards. As mentioned where we are limited with the size of the lake this is more than made up for with our enthusiasm and friendliness - A hallmark of Papercourt.

Enough from me.

Thank you.