

# SailTime

Dec 2020

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Welcome to SailTime - Dec 20  
Thornton Steward Sailing Club  
Member's magazine

As we approach the end of a turbulent year,  
we're looking ahead to more favourable  
opportunities for enjoying our sport....Read  
about plans for the Club in 2021.



# Chairman's message



## ON COURSE FOR 2021

The festive season approaches, and a new year follows. Speculation about what the new year might bring is more challenging than ever before. As the last edition of SailTime reported the Club is well prepared

to cope with the continuing pandemic, and everybody is of course eager to resume normal activities on the water. For the moment the Clubhouse will have to stay closed, apart from access to the toilets, but 'exercise' sailing, for the hardier, can continue.

While the social aspects of the coming AGM will be lost this season, it will nonetheless be an occasion for the membership to take stock of the state of the club and to raise issues for the Committee's attention. More details of how this is to be done will be made available closer to the 10 FEB 21.

It's important that the TSSC Committee should not be seen as somewhat separate from the membership. Far from it! The more folk bringing their ideas, their skills and their viewpoints to the Committee discussions the more vibrant the TSSC as a Club will be. The ambition is a steady flow through of Committee Membership with only the Officers spending more than a year or two in place. If you are interested in helping or want to find out more then please drop an email to myself, Nick Hatch or Mike Smith.

At present it is planned that the Summer Season 2021 will start with a Work Day. It's feasible to do this with social distancing, and if necessary, with shifts of just six helpers at a time throughout the day. The Club premises look a little unloved after a year of neglect so there will be a need for cleaning, grass cutting, and possibly a painting party as well as the usual tidying up of the boats and the boat park. Here's hoping for an early and warm Spring!

As an enforced armchair sailor this year I have been avidly following the Vendee Globe Race. The fleet is now in the Roaring Forties in the Southern Ocean dealing with 5 to 7 meter waves, and constant 20 to 30 knot winds. In the last week four boats have had to retire as a result of hitting unidentified floating objects. Technology today gives the spectators around the world the ability to not only track the individual boats and the conditions they are experiencing, but also to see on board the boats.

I find it awe inspiring. The extent and detail of the preparations are phenomenal, but survival, and hopefully success, in the end comes down to the teams supporting the individuals driving these boats.

The challenges facing TSSC in the uncertain future of 2021 are nowhere near as daunting as this! In the same way though, the Club only survives and prospers through the application and efforts of its Members.

*Thank you one and all, and best wishes to you and your families for the festive season and the coming new year.*

*Phil Gamlen  
Commodore*



## A PERSPECTIVE ON THE PANDEMIC

The aspects of the pandemic that give TSSC most problems in its operations are the need for social distancing and the rule of six, and the need to disinfect/ventilate the premises, and to disinfect shared equipment.

The first means there is a problem with the launching, operating and recovering the larger safety boats; with training beginners who aren't ready to go out on their own, and with the numbers of people who can be trained at one time.

The second, the lack of COVID secure premises is a problem particularly with shelter/catering in bad weather. The Club can provide COVID secure toilets.

A successful vaccine is unlikely to change the situation in the near future, say within 6 months. A vaccine may stop folk getting sick but it will take around six months to be able to tell if it is preventing transmission. It will take a much longer time for any herd immunity to reach a level when TSSC doesn't have to worry about social distancing or sanitising/ventilating indoors.

A resumption of activities will have to be gradual in 2021. There is a way forward with the smaller safety boat that should enable the Club to start some racing, some weekend cover, and some low level training. The Sailing secretary has provided more details of how this will be approached in this edition.

Thanks you for your patience, and your discipline in helping the Club to keep its members safe.

# It's membership renewal time!

As this unusual sailing season draws to a close, we're thinking ahead to next year and returning to a hopefully more relaxed and busy 2021 season. Because of the Pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions, some members have actually used the club more this year as a result of forced spare time, whilst others have not been able to enjoy our facilities.

On a positive note, we have welcomed a number of new members during the season, including paddle-boarders, Windsurfers and Model Boat members all using our booking system to keep within the government's social distancing rules.

Around this time it is the membership secretary's job to remind members that our special early membership renewal **-£10.00\*** discount scheme is in full operation, running from late November until membership renewal deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, (*\* applicable to Full Family and Single Adult membership types*).

Once again our membership fees remain unchanged for a further year. Boat berth fees stay at an annual charge of £25/craft, representing one of the lowest charges around!

The club relies on membership fees as its main source of income and with big plans afloat for 2021, we appreciate all early renewals to keep the club in a viable financial position.

Membership Class	2020	Renewal before 31/12/20 (available from 01/11/20)
* Adult Membership	£100.00	£90.00
* Family Membership	£130.00	£120.00
Social Membership	£12.00	£12.00
Junior/Cadet Membership	£30.00	£30.00
Boat Berth Rental	£25.00	£25.00
Model Boat Membership	£30.00	£25.00

## A few reminders....

Please check your boat insurance is up to date and the details have been stored on your "MYMEMBERSHIP" record page.

Boat berth numbers were re-arranged during the year; Therefore check the berth allocated to you is correctly marked against your membership record.....

A plan of the boat park can be accessed from the website or by following this link:

<https://www.thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk/boat%20berths.htm>

Please advise if your boat berth is incorrect and I will update.



## On line membership - is a cinch!..

Simply visit your "MYMEMBERSHIP" page from either the website Join Us page link or directly here:

<https://membermojo.co.uk/tssc/youmembership>



Log in with your e-mail address and select "Renewal", follow the process

through and payment can be made via a PayPal account, Debit Card, Visa, MasterCard or if you prefer to pay by BACS transfer from your own bank, all account details are displayed on the renewal page.

If you joined us part way through the sailing season this year under a specially created membership (eg "Covid-19 membership"), you'll need to select a different membership type from the available drop down options for the coming year.

## And finally....



Looking for a personalised Christmas gift?

Look no further than our own TSSC shop, for Sailing Caps, Hoodies and Sweatshirts with embroidered TSSC Logo in a range of colours and sizes.

Orders are being taken for delivery in December (if you're quick!) and can be selected and paid for on-line on your members page....Choose "Visit Store" option to order. Or...Visit the shop page on our website for images of our personalised Sailwear

### TSSC Shop

New for 2020 - Logo Branded Sail-wear individually logo'd by our partners at Ribble Valley Signature. Sweatshirts, hoodies and caps are available to order on-line now at the TSSC [membership page](#). Or...download an order form [here](#).



# Winter Sailing

## THE WINTER SEASON

On the matter of the Winter Season your Committee face a number of significant and conflicting issues. For the Summer Season the Clubhouse and Toilets were kept closed, except for a very few, highly controlled, occasions. This coming Winter;

- Yorkshire Water have mothballed the Fishermen's Toilets.
- The COVID pandemic is unabated.

Lockdowns and restrictions, whilst local, continue across the UK. For members, access to the Club Toilets and the Clubhouse becomes increasingly desirable with the deteriorating weather and the increasing cold of Winter.

Assuming that TSSC operations are not curtailed by Government regulation, the question becomes how best to provide that access in a COVID Secure manner ?

As it is anticipated that the number of users in the Winter will be small the Committee is proposing to go ahead and open up access to the Clubhouse toilets for a trial period until the end of DEC 2020. The trial will assess the level of usage, and the practicality of the proposed way of working.

The existing Booking system and the Club Boat loan system will continue in operation with no changes for the moment.

Please scan the QR code (at the entrance) if you are using the NHS Tracking APP. Access to the Clubhouse will be via the main door using your member's key.

Only one person/'bubble' should be in the building at a time. The responsibility for cleaning and sanitisation will rest on the individuals using the facilities. Cleaning/Sanitising Materials will be made available for cleaning all contact points when you arrive and when you depart. Please dispose of blue paper towels in the black bin sacks provided.

Wear a mask in the building other than when eating and drinking, but there will be no access to the Lounge and Kitchen area. The facilities are open for toilets only. With no changing room use please come prepared wearing a suitable wet suit or equivalent for winter sailing.

The Committee will review the trial before deciding what to do after 31 DEC 20, or if the Regulatory situation changes.



### A note from the Bosuns.

Our new engine is already requiring a service in preparation for another 100 hours usage. Hopefully ready for a season of safety boat duty in the spring.

Syd & Bob have visited the club on a regular basis and have taken time to bail out members boats, tie down securely and replace a number of boat covers.

Don't forget to check your boat during the winter, but Bob says beware the Queen wasps that can be found hibernating under boat covers. He's got stings to prove it!

**DO NOT COME TO THE RESERVOIR IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID OR HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO MAY HAVE COVID.**

**IT IS EXPECTED THAT MEMBERS WILL OBSERVE THE RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN FORCE IN THEIR LOCALE, WHICH MAY BE DIFFERENT TO THOSE AT THE RESERVOIR.**

**YOU SHOULD NOT TRAVEL TO THE CLUB FROM A TIER 3 AREA**

*If you're unable to check your boat due to tier 3 travelling restrictions and would like a member to check on your behalf, please advise and we will assist.*

**IF YOU DEVELOP COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN 5 DAYS OF VISITING THE CLUB PLEASE ADVISE THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

**A Merry Christmas to All  
Keep Safe - the Bosuns**



“AGM Arrangements this year will likely be an on-line meeting”



## AGM - 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and we're planning that this will be an on-line meeting due to the continuing COVID -19 Pandemic restrictions probably being in place at the time.



Committee meetings this year have all been conducted using the well known video conferencing APP - ZOOM.

This software allows an unlimited number of participants to take part in a meeting from their own desk or armchair using a PC, Tablet or a Smartphone. If this proves to be the case, we will issue instructions on how to join us for the formal part of our AGM nearer the time.

Download the ZOOM App in preparation

[HERE](#)

### Have your Say!

#### Want to ask a question or add an item to the AGM agenda?

Under the rules of the Club, any member may submit a question for the meeting. This must be done no later than 6 weeks prior to the meeting date of (10<sup>th</sup> Feb).

Therefore the deadline for questions to be submitted is:  
30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020

Don't forget you'll need to have renewed your membership by that time too to take part and vote in the AGM.

### Nominations now open

An important part of the AGM process is the election of members to serve on the committee. If you would like to nominate another member.....Or offer your own services, we would welcome any nominations. The AGM will include a voting process for the election and/or re-election of the working committee.

Please send any nominations to membership sec [HERE](#)

# 2021 Programme



Ah! Remember those days!!

It's hard to imagine that this time last year we were in the throes of developing a full sailing programme for the year ahead, but barely 3 months later it was all ripped up. So what are the prospects for 2021? Well I've asked Santa for a crystal ball this Christmas, but just in case he's run out (I hear there are supply problems due to an unforeseen high demand...), we have to make some plans as best we can based on current knowledge and experience to date, sprinkled with a bit of cautious optimism.

Obviously we will need to remain flexible in case circumstances change and be able to evolve, potentially adding to a basic plan as and when that seems sensible and is allowed.

Another major consideration is how to provide Safety Boat cover while social distancing remains in place, given we have very limited numbers of potential same household crews to draw on and the larger Rigiflexes need a team to launch and recover, especially when the water level is low. Realistically, we expect social distancing and limits on group numbers to last well into 2021. Our purchase of the little blue power boat gives us scope to provide a degree of safety cover with just a single crew, but it is obviously more limited than if the larger boats were used with two crew and their more powerful engines. When provided, its focus will very much be on looking after people (which of course is always the priority); its ability to retrieve equipment/tow boats will be limited, especially in a blow.

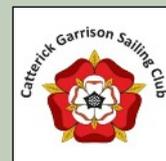
So, with these things in mind and assuming sailing will continue to be allowed as a grassroots, outdoor sport and permitted exercise in all but a most stringent lockdown, the plan for 2021 looks like this:

- Work day (socially distanced) in March to prep for the coming season.
- Safety boat cover (single manned) every Sunday April - October (subject to getting enough trained volunteers in place). This is to provide cover for all water users, families etc who prefer sailing/windsurfing/paddling when there is safety cover in place and (on Regatta days) racers.
- Safety boat cover Wednesday evenings late April to mid September (single manned, trained volunteers from the racing community). To cover the Wednesday racing and any other water users.
- Regatta racing first Sunday of every month April - October
- Sunset racing - Wednesday evenings late April - mid September. (Race Officer volunteers drawn from racers).
- Training - a programme will be offered in conjunction with CGSC which will be heavily dependent on the level of any future restrictions and availability of instructors. It's likely to be focused on improvers rather than novices due to social distancing but we will keep this under review. This will include Junior activities and a resumption of powerboat training for safety boat helms. We will also look at bringing in a paddleboarding instructor for those wishing to try out the sport, subject to demand.
- Social activities - obviously hard to plan at present, but we hope to introduce some social events such as BBQs, regular 'social sail' sessions etc over the course of the year as social distancing eases. Rather than fix them in a programme now, they will be planned in an 'agile' response and advertised as and when we can proceed.

2020 proved that for many, the reservoir was a place where we could still retreat and enjoy the simple pleasures of messing about in a boat (or board) despite what was going on in the world. Indeed our membership by the end of this year was the highest it's been in a long time. I hope we can carry this forward into a new year with some new hope of a 'near normal' or at least a 'new normal' that will enable us all to get back on the water safely and in the way we want.

Rather than use DutyMan in 2021 I'll be putting out calls for volunteers soon for the Safety boat and race officer roles and resorting to a more manual process for drawing up the rosta. So please watch out and help out if you can! And if anyone has ideas for new events or activities which you'd like to see (or even better, organise!) then do please get in touch.

*Best wishes for the festive season and I look forward to seeing you at the club in 2021*  
**Annabelle Le Page - Sailing Secretary**



## News from CGSC

### CGSC

2020 must go down as a year to remember and we can only hope that the 2021 sailing season will be better. It looked promising back in March 2020, we had at least 7 of the units in the Garrison expressing strong interest in sailing; we had been asked to host 2 Regattas, one for all UK based Royal Engineer units and one for all the Army units in the North of England. They were going to use the combined Fusion fleets of CGSC, TSSC and hopefully Carmel College, up to 14 dinghies. We were looking forward to Youth courses in the Summer Holidays and running a Dinghy Instructor course.

It was also encouraging to find an RYA Senior Instructor and 3 Dinghy Instructors who came out of the woodwork, and to top it all an application for funds to buy new dinghies and refurbish the Laser 2000s and the Laser Stratos was successful. The lockdown happened just as we took delivery of the 2 new FUSION Pro Gens, the ones with the asymmetric spinnakers! What a season 2020 was to be.

We all know what happened but we did manage to salvage some sailing. A number of individuals and families took advantage of our dinghies on loan, the weather was so kind that they all very much enjoyed the alfresco experience of no club facilities. We worked out how to conduct socially distanced training for some of the more experienced youngsters from both TSSC and CGSC. Teaching beginners was just not possible. That led us on to Improver sailing for all comers on some Saturdays in late September and early October, ably supported by Martha, Syd and Bob. Fairly windy conditions throughout - and certainly not something the students would have contemplated on their own - meant finesse in boat



handling was limited but their survival sailing is much improved.

For 2021 who knows, there is ongoing uncertainty as to what can be achieved, everything we had hoped to achieve in 2020 could potentially happen, youth courses, women's mid-week courses, powerboat training, DI course etc. In addition, the Army RYA Regional Coach Darren Kirkham wants to try out foiling on the reservoir. It is his intention that a 6 pack of foiling dinghies on their own road trailer will be available to Service sailing centres. The 6 pack can travel to the approved centres and qualified instructors can then run courses. Despite being a 'vulnerable person' in COVID terms he is determined to get me foiling. I think I will need an adrenaline jab to try that out!



We want to explore the involvement of youth based organisations with a military connection in the local area. 2 Combined Cadets Forces from Yarm and Wensleydale are keen to get started and we are going to approach Army Cadet units from the Reserve Forces. Additionally other local schools in the Garrison are keen to come down

and experience what we have to offer.

What we do hope is that we can achieve some sailing if nothing else to give us some income. CGSC is not funded from the public purse. Our income comes primarily from units and individuals paying a membership fee and from the minimal cost we charge for running training for service personnel and their families. We are able to apply for funds for new purchases and maintenance as required, every 5 years or so, but not annual running costs. CGSC is unique within Service Sailing Clubs in that members are part of a civilian club, in this case TSSC. This allows a degree of latitude in sharing resources not available to others, and hence we can offer spaces to TSSC members on our courses and most importantly DI training.

All that can be said now is have as good a Christmas as you can and hopefully see you on the water in 2021 at Thornton Steward.

John Knopp  
CI CGSC





# Spot the boat names - Christmas Quiz

These clever boat names were voted the best names in 2020, by a Yachting magazine. We've scrambled the first and last names....Can you match them to complete the full craft name?

## First Names

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Actual     | Pier       |
| African    | Sea Yawl   |
| Anchor     | Seas       |
| Aqua-      | She Got    |
| A Salt     | Sails      |
| Campbell's | The Cod    |
| Carpe      | Unsinkable |
| HIGH CLASS | Three Hour |
| Hakuna     | Wet        |
| Dog        | Yachta     |
| Knot       | License to |
| Marlin     | Liquid     |
|            | Luna       |

## Last Names

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Asset      | Matata    |
| Call       | Monroe    |
| Chill      | Pressure  |
| Diem       | Queen     |
| Dream      | Sea       |
| Father     | Size      |
| Holic      | Sloop     |
| Hooker     | The Day   |
| House      | The House |
| Il         | Tour      |
| Later      | Weapon    |
| Management | Working   |



Answers by



e mail

Winners and answers to be published in the next edition of SailTime.