

## COMMODORE'S REPORT – APRIL 2024

Writing this report gives me the opportunity to reflect on the last twelve months. It is wonderful to see how well the club has bounced back since the end of lockdowns. We have welcomed over 60 new members to the club since the beginning of 2023. We have increased our fleet of club owned dinghies with the purchase of 3 RS Visions, and 1 RS Tera and “adopted” a GP14 into the fleet, taking our double-handed dinghy fleet to 7, and single-handers to 10.

All our interest groups are thriving, from the kayakers/paddlers, cadets, rowers, adult beginners/social sailors to our dinghy racers and yacht cruisers. It has been particularly exciting to see the size of the WOD fleet expand in the last year too, as they prepare for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club's “One Design” in 2025. This is in large part due to the dedication of Rob Maloney who has tirelessly traced and restored many of the fleet in his role as head of the WOD Owners' Association. An impressive 10 of the original 19 boats raced at the Town Regatta last year, and I know the goal is to get even more on the water for 2025. The view from the club would not be the same without the sight of the WOD fleet on their moorings, so we are indebted to all the WOD owners who maintain and sail these classic dinghies. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Rob for all he does for the WOD Owners' Association, and also for his many years of service as Sailing Secretary on the committee.

The club have hosted a number of memorable large-scale “on-the-water” events this year, including the Club Regatta and Club Open Day last Summer and the Harkers Yard Gig race in January 2024. We have also had a year-round sailing programme for the dinghy racers with a high level of participation on even the coldest, windiest and calmest of days! Our thanks go to all the supporting volunteers, especially Carolyn our trusty OOD, and all the safety boat drivers/crews who watch over the racing, and also our ever-expanding social-sailing programme. All of this activity has been expertly supervised by Dave Souch, who has been a fantastic Vice-Commodore. I thank Dave for all

the work he has put into the role, and know he will be missed by all of us who remain on the General Committee and on the Sailing Committee.

We are very lucky to have a strong Sailing Committee who assist the VC. The Cadet leaders run the extensive cadet sailing programme which requires a large team of volunteers to helm and crew the support boats, helm and train the less experienced cadets in the dinghies, and provide cake and hot drinks ashore. Kevin Hosking runs the Lifting Group and Chris Wood manages the Boat Park, while Stuart Bannerman and Simon Newman have recently jointly taken on the role of Moorings Secretary. I am most grateful for the roles you all play in ensuring the smooth running of all of these vital tasks. Of course, this list would not be complete without me extending my thanks to Tony Higbee for his many years in the role of Moorings Secretary.

Of course, many of our “on-the-water” events would not be complete without all the onshore work of the “house team” who provide the catering and bar services. Sunday lunches for the Winter and Frost-bite racing series are always welcomed by the sailors (and lunchtime drinkers too.) Then there are the many social events throughout the year. Friday Karaoke, Quiz Nights, a Vinyl Night, Live Music Nights and Cocktail Nights have all proved popular. The House Team are always looking for fresh ideas, so do add your ideas to the Poster in the clubhouse. Bernie’s Curry Night, The Annual Dinner, Laying-up and Fitting Out Lunches, Burns Night and St Patrick’s Day Lunch were all hugely appreciated by the many people who attended. A great addition to the team has been Joanna Terry who has taken on the role as Bar Manager. She together with Claire O’Toole have supported the reintroduction of cask ale and lager on-tap. They were also instrumental in planning and running the St Patrick’s Day lunch which must surely become a regular new event in the club calendar! Alan Tyne, our Rear-Commodore has expertly managed all of this (and the many maintenance issues such as replacing the alarm system, and glass washer) over the last year. I take this opportunity to thank Alan for all that he has achieved, and am most grateful that he has offered to remain in the role a further year. Alan is however keen to pass on his wealth of knowledge and

experience if anyone is interested in working alongside him in an apprenticeship capacity!

My thanks also go to Eric (Treasurer) and Bill (Membership Secretary/Website Calendar Manager) as they have both provided huge support and expertise in their roles on the Committee over the last year. I am also grateful to the rest of the General Committee for their input into the year's constructive meetings and for their general support fulfilling club duties (safety boat helms, bar duties, taking minutes, sending out Alerts are just some of the tasks) it has been a real pleasure to work with you all. Particular thanks go to Nel Mooy who has been such a valuable member of the committee, who is standing down for a well-earned break after serving for a number of years.

Whilst reflecting on the many highs of the last year, I pause to remember the sad losses of former and present members of the club. It has been the club's honour to host several of the wakes and it was lovely to see photos passed around amid conversations of happy times shared with those we have lost. And that's what we are creating here at the club, whether on the water or in the clubhouse or boatpark, a set of memories to treasure and look back on fondly. Whether you have been on the water, popped into the bar for a drink, or attended a social event, whether you have helped out around the club, or been helped out by someone, thank you for being part of this wonderful club. It has been an honour to be the club's Commodore, and subject to your vote at the AGM I am really excited about serving another year. I look forward to seeing you all around the club and creating more fantastic memories in the coming months. The club reaches its centenary next year which will truly be something to celebrate.

Julie-Anne White  
Commodore