

Minutes of Chairman's Presentation to AGM

Held at
Surrey Docks Watersports Centre, 2 pm 24th January 2016

Stuart thanked all members and volunteers for their continued support throughout 2015.

Achievements in 2015

Great success was achieved in 2015 throughout all areas of the club and charity, starting with increased membership which currently stands at 50 sailing members, 13 volunteer members and 6 juniors.

With our increased sailing activity on weekdays and Sundays we now have over 70 active sailors (people who sail more than 3 or 4 times a year; many come weekly). We provided over 1000 sailing sessions in 2015.

Our reliable volunteer workforce has given over 1,500 sessions. Special thanks go to Elena Balycheva, Mark Firth, Andy Hussey, Dave Shill and Ken Tao who have all given over 100 sessions; that's more than one day a week. Thanks to our OODs Souter Harris, Dave Shill and Chris Todhunter. Thanks also to our Safety Crew; Noirin O'Sullivan, Mark Firth, John Griffin, Tony Henley, Lesley Philips and Simon Whiteley.

We have developed special days to grow activity with Bede House, Headway and Oak Lodge. This has been down to the tireless efforts of John Griffin.

There has been team success in competitive events with Melvin and Lesley winning silverware. Glynis Dawes has recently joined the team and has had a very promising start to her racing. Thanks to Hugh Rowland for his coaching and to Kate Tierney for supporting the team.

We have run several events including river trips to Tower Bridge, taking part in the Medway Marathon, our own regatta and Bart's Bash (we donated £200 to the foundation).

There has been a balanced budget, however this is dependent on active fundraising through corporate and livery company donations for non-specific grants.

There have been a few changes to the fleet over the year including a new Byte CII, Hawk accessibility upgrades and a Martin 16 which has been adapted for servo accessibility.

The boatshed received a temporary roof fix whilst a planning application was submitted to the council to expand. It is hoped this will be granted in February. Thanks to David Connearn and Chris Todhunter for their efforts in the design/plans.

Members have improved their skills by attending courses in RYA first aid, dinghy instructor, race coaching, powerboat and safety boat, disability awareness training as well as a weekend with UKSA.

Improvements in communication with our supporters has been achieved with the newsletter and redesigned website. www.tidewaysailability.org.uk

There haven't been many disappointments during the year. It is the efforts of the members who made the club what it is, so if there ways in which you think improvements could be made do let a trustee know.

Our current position

Our mixed fleet of 35 boats are well maintained. We do however need to think innovatively regarding usage of the 2.3s.

Our membership and sailing numbers are secure and we have adequate cash reserves (£40,000 - £50,000) with minimal restricted funds (£5,000 from N Suffolk Environmental Trust for boatshed improvements and £1,500 from Norton Rose for youth sailing projects). We are well positioned for measured development in 2016 of at least 10% in all areas. We have a good pool of experienced and qualified volunteers and good relationships with RYA, SDWC and Southwark Council.

What's in store for 2016

In 2016 we are aiming for continued growth of midweek sailing with the possibility of a 3rd day based on demand and development of Sunday sailing.

There will be further support for racing and we will be hosting the TT series in August, something which has not happened at the club for a number of years.

We will retain our current fee structure of:

Volunteers £1 + £10 per session

Members £60 + £5 per session

Members Annual £110

Non-members £10 per session

Special rates can be negotiated for group special days.

Budget outlook 2015/16 and indicative plan for 2016/17 were distributed; showing £10,000 income from sailing fees, £16,000 expenses. Income will be supplemented by grants and donations. The surplus is based on meeting our fundraising targets. The increase in budget for 2017 is based on the 10% and possible savings.

What we need this year

2016 will need continued support from members and volunteers with further training and skills refreshing, particularly for OODs and safety crews.

To increase fundraising by expansion of our donor base (aim for £15,000).

To increase number of active sailors, especially individuals, this will require new forms of promotion.

To widen the skills set of the trustees; finding a Treasurer and a Company Secretary.

Ideas for how we can increase our social benefit.

How can we do even more with what we have?

Questions Arising

- Evening Sailing – Would need to ensure volume and appropriate skilled volunteers for any additional sessions and would be run on the same basis as Sundays. There are possibilities for this to be offered to corporate firms and be linked to our fundraising targets for 2016.
- Saving Money – To remove Hawks from the water each day to save on mooring fees. There could be problems regarding space and additional damage. Currently the harbour master has installed new pontoons suitable for both Hawks and has set a mooring fee, however Tideway has failed to be invoiced for two years. It should be noted money has been set aside for the payment of outstanding invoices.

- Boat compound extension – Previous plans to extend the end boat compound to the dock edge including a new clubhouse were submitted to the council but were rejected. There will be a need to upgrade the clubhouse soon; most likely this will be a bigger replacement.
- Tender – New tender documents are in the process of being agreed with SDWC and Southwark. The agreement will confirm our position with all involved parties and our physical space within SDWC. This will mean we will have secure usage of facilities and sailing days. These negotiations have taken up much of the winter season and great thanks to Stuart Lund and Simon Whiteley for their determination.
- Launching Boats – It was noted, in the past all boats were dry launched for each session.
- Space in Clubhouse compound – There was discussion around creating space in the compound, particularly regarding storage of Picos, however officially the compound is SDWC's of which Tideway has the use and therefore Tideway is unable to demand any more of the space.