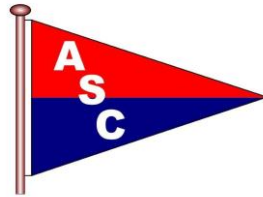


Ashlett Sailing Club



Annual Report 2024



Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd. Company Number 07252021

Ashlett Creek, Fawley, Southampton SO45 1DT

Commodore's introduction

Where did those 5 years go?

When I put my name down for Commodore, I had in my mind changes that I wanted to make but I was always conscious that there is always a danger that the balance of things can be changed and not for the best. I mean that Ashlett SC has always been a special club in so much that it has its own characteristics be it the place itself or the membership within and the secret is to move forward and improve things but not take away what the club is about. I hope you know what I mean.

My goal was to try and make Ashlett a happier place and a bit more harmonious as well as to move it forward, I feel that has been more or less achieved by listening to people and their needs and trying to implement those things.

When I took over as Commodore, we hadn't long been a limited company following the demise of the old Waterside Sports and Social Club and I was very fortunate that I inherited a pretty financially stable Club largely due to Mike Cooper and his committee.

New Tractor 2019

One of the first things we did was to go out and buy a new Tractor , it was two fold in so much that our original little Red Tractor was a tough little thing but not big enough or safe enough to carry out the tasks demanded of it but also I had in mind that we would be requiring a boat lifter (still undecided at the time) and it would need a substantial tractor



with the power, four wheel drive and hydraulics to work it. We formed a small study group and went in search of a new tractor with an agreed budget and eventually we found one near Devizes that we felt satisfied the Clubs needs and bought it.



Covid

Covid was if nothing else interesting, what a strange ime for us all, the Club closed down for quite some time but we as a Committee were quite active and when rules allowed we were out and about organising and rraning the build of the new Jetty , boat hoist and groundworks.

Jetty June 2020

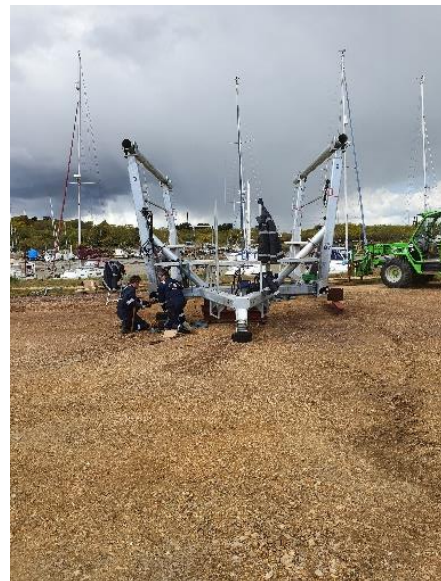
In the background whilst all this was going on was the requirement for a New Jetty because the old one was deemed unsafe and was taken down. Phil Crossland took on the task of organising and Project Managing the build of the Jetty and I think it took years off him with



all the red tape and hoops he had to jump and fight through. It seemed a simple enough task but that wasn't the case, how long should it be? how wide?, how close to the slip could it be? How deep the piles? and so on. Nevertheless, he persevered and eventually planning was given and Niccols were engaged in the building of a fantastic jetty built out of New Forest Oak

Boat Lift

As I mentioned my plan was always for the Club to have its own Boat Lift and this was for a number of reasons, mainly that the Crane was becoming more expensive, it was getting more difficult each year getting the crane down the lane, the fact that all the revenue was going to the crane company and not us but mainly to allow us to become totally independent. It is so much better for everyone being able to have a choice about when you want your boat lifting out. So, we formed a work group, and we carried out a lot of studies, but we had the advantage that The Axe Yacht Club who I knew quite well had already gone down the same path we wished to go so why not a bit of plagiarism and learn from their mistakes. We then went on several visits to various locations to see examples of Townsend Engineering boat hoists (Axmouth, Lyme Regis and Bridport) and finally decided that what we wanted would closely resemble the West Bay Hoist which was the latest built by Townsend and with a few tweaks that would suit us best.



Boat Park and Real Estate Alterations Whilst buying a boat hoist we had to consider how we would operate such a large piece of equipment within the confines of the Sailing Club, we had to make sure that the hoist could be manoeuvred freely and to that end we decided that a one way system should be adopted and both the Tractor and Hoist would

have to go through the compound which meant the road needed widening and strengthening as well as the gates made wider.

I've always been conscious that we are a business and that we have to use every bit of our real estate to its full potential and I had always thought that we should push out to the Club boundaries so we undertook some serious groundworks and cleared back to our fence lines and a by-product was the removal of years of rubbish and junk that had accumulated , this has allowed the Club to increase significantly its winter storage area and of course increase revenue.

This also allowed us to divide Cruisers and Sailer Trailers into designate areas and again maximise pound space, with a lot of hard work from Martin Lucas and Barry Andrew.

Dredging 2022

Pretty soon after I became Commodore ESSO approached me about doing some dredging and I will be honest I don't really know how it actually came about they, ESSO, claimed we asked for it but I know I didn't, but I wasn't going to argue.

It was explained to me that Ashlett Creek would be a small part of a Capitol Dredge which means Esso would dredge around the Terminal and we would be a byproduct. As it happened the Capitol dredge never happened, but the Ashlett dredge did, this eventually happened but not until after a long wait whilst all the red tape was completed. Since then we have managed to get the creek pressure blasted to maintain our depths and areas thanks mainly to Carl Sharman negotiating with the dredging company. Because we have had dredging done we are allowed a licence exemption providing we stick to the MMO guidelines. I think everyone is in agreement that it has allowed us more flexibility to our coming and going from Ashlett.



Moorings

As with the Boat Park maximising our assets has always been paramount on my mind to keep a good revenue flow and this also goes with our moorings, and you will have noticed how hard the team has worked in clearing the Creek of years' worth of old ground tackle. Then relaying new moorings in a more economical way, I mean by this that we are not wasting space and sharing mooring blocks , creating more moorings and putting as many moorings as close to navigable channels as possible and ridding ourselves of useless shallow moorings.

Clubhouse

I think one of the nicest things to have happened within the Club was the renovation of the Clubhouse. I had always thought that it had always looked like a Café, having visited so many other Sailing Clubs ours seemed a poor relation. So whilst in conversation with Alan Morrison I asked him what he thought if we went and bought some second hand leather sofas he said he was up for it and then we started thinking about décor. The rest they say is history, but Al got stuck into the decoration Sam Savage the lighting and I arranged furniture and voila! Since then Jacky Morrison with help from others have really looked after the place and safe to say you the members have benefited.



Toilets

Finally the toilet situation at the Club has deteriorated quite rapidly these last few years , I think I can remember over 30 years ago talk of upgrading the toilets and showers. I can remember Tom Hatch and his mate Brian welding up the septic tank , the building of a wall around the building , installing a pump and it goes on , I suppose it's the old saying that you can't make a silk purse out of a sows ear! Well finally a new toilet is on the way and should start to be installed around November of this year, I won't steal anyone's thunder about describing it but suffice to say it will be a vast improvement and thanks must go to Ade Lumb and Simon Lovelock for their hard work.

The Committee

All of these things I've written about could not have happened without the Committee and I have been very lucky to have had a fantastic collection of people who have formed the Committee over this last 5 years or so , sadly a few of them are no longer with us , Sharon Geary Harwood our treasurer, Sue Doyle who had served on the committee not just with me but many times including as Commodore and last but not least a good friend who really knocked a few of us for six when he passed, Martin Lucas, I can't talk highly enough of Martin he was such a grafter, full of ideas , nothing was ever too much and he was also for me personally a great sounding board . im Hopwood is moving off the Committee as well as myself and yet another great servant to the Club as well as a wise old Owl keeping me on the straight and narrow, he has kept the Club running for many years, so special thanks go to him.

Being Commodore of Ashlett Sailing Club has been a privilege for me so a big heartfelt thank you to everyone; it's been fun.

Chris Brown



Treasurer's Report November 2024

- Year end accounts and covering letter for yearend 31.12.2023 can be found in the "Members Area" on the club website.
- Current financial position. See separate sheet.
- High interest Savings account giving good income (approximately £1800 this year). (However, taxed at 20%)
- All accounts are up to date without any major outstanding Debtors or Creditors.
- We have ordered a new toilet block at the cost of £76,223 (deposit paid £38,112)
- Septic tanks purchased at the cost £4,224.
- Further budgeted expenditure for the above project is £15,000 (Decking, services etc.)
- We do not have any other planned major expenditure at this time.
- For information our Electricity tariff with Scottish power is fixed until March 2025
- Our Fixed assets list has been updated. Thanks to Simon Lovelock
- Our boat lifter and crew continue to generate good income.
- Our change to a new waste disposal company last year has been problem free and making big savings.
- Our change to a new Accountants company last year, has given us a good service through the year and "year end accounts"
- Lastly your committee has decided to increase membership and services fees for 2025/26 by 4% to keep up with inflation and build up funds for future projects.

Adrian (Ade) Lumb

Treasurer Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd



Financial Position at 14th October 2024	
Cash at bank Current A/c	£1,968
Cash at bank Savings A/c Business Reserve a/c	£61,822
Cash at bank Savings 3 month liquidity a/c	£15,702
Forcast income (Autumn Liftout)	£3,000
Total available Funds	£82,492
Less	
Expected running costs prior to membership renewal year end (5 months)	£10,000
Toilet block project balance	£38,111
Toilet block project decking & services (estimate)	£15,000
Hardstanding improvements (estimate) awaiting invoice	£3,500
Less returnable Key Deposits	£7,000
Total liabilities	£73,611
Balance in hand	£8,881

Profit and Loss for the year ending 31/12/2023

	2023	2022
Turnover		
Boathouse Inflatable / Canoe / Kayak / wooden boat	608	720
Christmas Meal	0	50
Compound / Hardstanding Boat and Trailer	12,464	11,729
Inflatable	540	990
Wooden Boat in boat house	66	88
Hardstanding Boat and Trailer	1,324	1,877
Donations	(220)	10
Family Membership	3,234	2,880
Hoist use	0	(180)
Interest Income	2,306	0
Joining Fee Single	2,910	1,965
Junior / Student Membership	30	32
Lift In/Out	9,000	7,345
Mast Rack	34	60
Mooring Fee – North	4,277	3,772
Mooring Fee – South	7,329	7,116
Mooring fee – Water	7,245	6,875
Regatta	0	2,078
Sailing Dinghy in Compound	488	350
Senior Family	1,133	752
Senior Membership	2,116	2,164
Single Membership	8,022	7,205
Social Income	111	0
Social Membership	87	49
Tender	900	1,360
Tractor/trailer use	90	220
Regalia Sold	415	550
Visitors Fees	490	439
Total Turnover	64,999	60,496
Cost of Sales	0	1391
Gross Profit	64,999	59,105

<u>Administrative Costs</u>		
Advertising & Marketing	98	0
Audit & Accountancy fees	1,395	1,327
Bank Fees	(120)	240
Bed leveling (Dredging)	9,000	0
Bin - Rubbish bin empty	1,498	2,235
Block lifter running costs	819	612
Boat Hoist Expenses	202	162
CCTV	604	497
Cleaning	4,094	3,783
Clubhouse maintenance Note: 2023 refurb of interior	3,334	945
Clubhouse Misc	910	561
Corporation Tax	531	44
Entertainment - 0%	0	43
General Expenses	(330)	3,703
Health and Safety	436	2,495
Insurance	2,659	2,522
Interest Paid	7	0
IT Software and Consumables	172	0
Light, Power, Heating	3,260	3,518
Moorings	198	4,478
New Clubhouse project 2022	1,750	1,122
Operating Lease Payments	2	0
Pontoon Expenses	586	0
Portacabin refurbishment	0	126
Printing & Stationery	0	91
Professional Fees	371	35
Rates	540	0
Regalia Purchases	610	1,010
Regatta Expense	230	1,453
Repairs & Maintenance	2,425	2,129
Site Maintenance - Compound	69	2,343
Site Maintenance - Outside Compound	1,457	430
Subscriptions	589	569
Telephone & Internet	1,079	878
Tractor running costs	1,073	6,348
Waste Disposal	1,964	1,659
Water	936	574
Total Administrative Costs	42,448	45,931
Operating Profit	22,551	13,174

Bosun and Vice-Commodore – Simon Lovelock



As bosun, I keep a general eye on the work boats, dinghies, block lifter, boat hoist, tractors, power washers and associated bosun store equipment.

Here are a few examples of this year's activities so far:-

Equipment inventory and maintenance schedule updated.

Regularly restock supplies of petrol & diesel.

Pump out work boats and repair manual bilge pump.

Oil, grease and refuel tractors and work boats.

Serviced boat hoist, grease bearings, slides and ram ends.

Serviced / replaced mowers and strimmer's.

Organised annual LOLER inspection and purchased certified lifting equipment as required.

A regular member of the boat hoist and block lifter teams throughout the year.

I've also been busy assisting with the design, procurement and groundworks for the new shower / toilet block.

Secretary

It's been a quiet year with no major issues. Produced agendas and minutes for eleven committee meetings and the AGM. Issued 22 newsletters and switched to WebCollect distribution. First Directory issued. Renewed our insurance policies. Safety Policy and Complaints Procedure reviewed and approved. Reviewed Rules and proposed changes. Information Commissioner's Office renewal fee paid.

Maintained membership of SWSA and RYA. Confirmation Statement filed with Companies House.

Jim Hopwood



Membership

This has been an interesting year for me as the Membership Secretary. The introduction of Webcollect, our new membership system was no mean feat, and despite 18 months of work, there were still a couple of teething issues. However, we now have a very stable membership subscription platform, which helps us to account for our membership and boating subscriptions, all in one place. It is also integrated with our accounting software, so that the Treasurer has instant eyes on where the money is coming into the Club. Webcollect is now integrated within the Club website as ashlettsc.org, so everything is available at the one place, but you can still log on through the original portal if you wish.

Currently you are able to buy your subscriptions for memberships, moorings, and the boathouse, as well as lift out for cleaning your boat and the Winter lift out program,

I hope to introduce more features throughout the year, and hopefully, by the start of next season you will be able to book social events and buy club regalia.

We are also using Webcollect to send you information, so it is really important that you update your account with any changes – email address, phone number and physical address

We have couple of membership enquiries each month, but often we are not able to accommodate the application because their boats are simply not suitable for the Creek, either too long or having a deep fin keel. We are also becoming limited because of mooring space, and this is likely to lead to a waiting list very shortly.

We currently have 18 probationary members, that is members who have been with the club for less than a year, some of those will become full members in the next couple of months.

We have 218 members, including those in family groups. 174 total memberships.

The RYA census has been filed and we will get the results of that at some point in the future.

Adrian Barnes

Membership Secretary



MAINTENANCE / BOAT LIFTING & CLUBHOUSE



Maintenance duties this year, included repairing the blue tractor shed making it safe for use and preparation work in the compound for the siting of our new toilet block, assisting Simon. We also ploughed the creek around pontoons and jetty.

General tidying up of the site and grounds keeping all carried out with the very kind help of Sam Savage, and other members getting stuck in. Thanks guys.

Another busy year for our Boat Lifter, with storage throughout the winter months, and also six week lift outs for routine maintenance.

The clubhouse is run by Jackie, proving very popular as a meeting place on Sunday mornings getting members together for a good old chit chat, enjoying cakes and hot drinks. Some of our members and wives enjoy baking cakes and donating them to the club.

Jackie enjoys organising the occasional social evening, having fish n chip or curry nights with live music by the Hedgehogs.

The Regatta went really well this year with the evening meal organised by Karen Sharman, and we had had live Sea Shanty music by Amy Hopwood.

Jackie is organising our Christmas evening, with a Cheese and Wine Function and live music on Friday 13th December.

Alan Morrison

Pontoon, Slipway and Jetty

All has been well on the Pontoon, slipway and Jetty. The Dredger that wintered over on the pontoon has helped keep the end of the South side of the pontoon deeper, and we are waiting on hearing if they wish to berth here again this year. If so I will hopefully get them to move up towards the club house to ensure the end of the pontoon is left free for winter Sailors.

Mud is cleared from the slipway regularly to ensure it is clean and safe to use.

We installed a new security gate at the pontoon which has helped control entry onto the pontoon solely for members. Also, new signs put onto the end pontoon piling and also on the east side of the Jetty detail the updated use of both the pontoon and Jetty.

It has been noticed that some vehicles have been left parked at the top of the slipway just past the entrance to the pontoon. This area is only to be used for a quick drop off/pick up. No more than 20 minutes and Vehicles should not be left unattended ie parked whilst members are away sailing/boating.



Dave Waters

Boathouse

The boathouse has been ticking over nicely in the last year. There are currently no more spaces for kayaks and only one space available in the dinghy rack. All those of you who have new dinghy rack spaces, could you please complete the boathouse application from the website and send it to me so that I can pass it on to our membership secretary.



Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the boathouse for the Regatta – which once again was very successful. Thank you also to those who helped on Sunday morning to pack down and put it all back in order.

An event worthy of note was the extremely high tide, which you may recall, happened in April this year. You can see below from the photographs what a mess it made in the boathouse, with objects floating around. Check out the tide line on the wall by the entrance! Sorry if I put anything back in the wrong place.



I stayed on Binah during the night when the tide was full. I thought I was dreaming when I got up in the middle of the night to use facilities and found myself standing in a lake!



Welcome to all our new members and thank you to everyone who participates in work groups, particularly the lift team!

Neil Howarth

Regatta

All the usual fun afloat followed by a hog roast and a sing song.





Moorings and Creek

The end of the year has seen the completion of the mass refurbishment of the club moorings.

The team have lifted, refurbished with new chain, shackles and buoys, re-laid and dug in 47 moorings.

Over 22 old redundant blocks have been lifted from the creek, often involving forced water jets to break the suction of a great many years of clinging Ashlett mud! A huge amount of old rope, chain, buoys and other hazards were heaved into the skip.

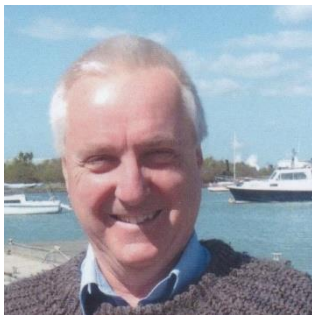
Whilst of course, we still have to navigate around the ever-changing creek mud, the areas of free water have been enlarged and improved.

There are still a couple of small projects that will be worked as time and weather allow. Some repositioning of the first few moorings on the old East bank and maybe another two moorings laid alongside the sedge.

All moorings, 97 of them, are, at present, taken so a waiting list is in operation. There are two spaces for very shallow draught boats of perhaps twenty feet in length.

We are constantly evaluating the area with a view to squeezing in extra moorings but I think the creek is now full.

A big thank you to all who have helped us over the last few years in what is a very muddy job!



Keith Guy-Gbbens



Carl Sharman



Southampton Water Sailing Association

2024 has seen another successful season for SWSA events. Ashlett Sailing Club retain the trophy



for the Evening series. This consisted of 10 races with 5 to count. It was a very close competition with Tearaway (sailed by Bob Gardner, Simon Lovelock and myself) vying for 1st place with Eternity from Southampton Sailing club. Tearaway won the final race and the overall series. Bob also retains the single handed trophies. We have had a successful passage race and rally series. We welcomed Paul Askham and Nauti to the Cowes event and the Yarmouth race/ rally was a resounding success with 16 boats from a number of different clubs, enjoying sailing to and from Yarmouth as well as a lively social scene involving BBQ's and other gatherings. This year's RTI was unfortunately cancelled due to a lack of wind, which was a real disappointment as we had a good team of boats from Ashlett entered.

Out thanks go to the Ashlett boats who have represented the club this year attending our SWSA events: Pendragon, Nauti, Puddle duck, Sarah Jane 2 and of course Tearaway.

We are busy planning next season's programme!

Pursuit Race/ Get Afloat Day/ BBQ

The weather was good to us and we held all three events that were planned. It was great to see so many members coming down to the club and enjoying it in the way they chose, from motor



boating to socialising with the day culminating with the BBQ.

The pursuit races were enjoyed by all. There were lots of stories and much leg pulling to be heard floating around the sailing club. A total of eighteen boats took part. The winner of the overall, Peter Lee trophy was Beruna sailed by Gary Boles, Bob Gardner and Andy Maskell.

This event only runs with a team of people taking on different roles. There is Jackie running the Clubhouse Bistro with her team, the budding chefs, Carl, Karen, Tomaz and family, who have manned the BBQ and of course Jeff Curtis my right hand man on the committee boat. Our thanks go to all of you who have helped.

And finally thank you to all of who have come along and taken part! It has been fun!

Debs Boles



Compound and CCTV

It's been another busy year in the compound and as the majority of you probably are aware by now, I look after the running and organising of the compound and the club's CCTV cameras. So if you have any questions or ideas about the compound or cameras please let me know.

Can I ask all of you, please clearly mark your boat and equipment as this is a club requirement. One the more interesting tasks within the compound is keeping up to date with who owns what! When a boat is sold either outside the club or to a member within the club we, the committee are not always informed, or sometimes the last to find out. On the odd occasion a boat sometimes just appears, so I have to do a bit of detective work to find out who owns it. So, if you change or sell your boat please let me or a committee member know, and they will inform me.

I have a list of all the spaces with the owners and boat details which is regularly updated and I also have a plan showing all the spaces which is kept in the Bosuns Office on the wall. If you would like a copy of the Compound showing all the spaces and numbers, just email me.

We have cleared off all the paving slabs which identify the individual spaces and I am planning to number each space when we have good weather to do this. This will assist for identification purposes.

As a gentle reminder, can all members who have boats, trailers and equipment in the compound, please ensure it is clearly marked up. If any member is looking to store any boat in the compound please keep me informed so I can locate you a space and not just occupy a free space as it may be another member's space!

During the year we have improved some of our gardening equipment to make sure we keep the general areas of the compound tidy, weeds down and grass cut. I have had a number of mini work groups during the year with assistance from members and friends carrying out tasks within the compound.

During the year I organised the upgrade of our CCTV recording equipment and the installation of some additional cameras within the compound so we now have 9 cameras and have improved our overall coverage of your club and your boats. I am hoping to increase the coverage within the club over the next year or so. The live CCTV feed can be viewed by all members via the Hik-Connect app on your mobile phone which we encourage and if you notice anything unusual, which needs to be looked into further, please contact me or a Committee Member. If you are experiencing any issues with the Hik-connect app contact me I will be happy to assist.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all the committee members, members and friends that have helped me looking after the Compound over the last year as all your efforts are really appreciated, thank you.



Barry Andrew