

## SCRA Chairman's Statement

January 2020 AGM

This has been a year of progress for the SCRA, albeit from a near standing start. We didn't achieve all of our goals most notably we didn't step up communications with members as much as we had planned to. Our financial position remains strong, despite a small loss this year as a result of the planned expenditure on the website upgrade. Our income stream was as planned and we expect 2020 to show a turnaround in the trading outcome.

Your Council are confident that the Association remains relevant to sailing in the Solent and that the clear goals laid out herein for the Association will deliver value to members and Solent sailors generally.

2020 review

The Association has continued in its leadership role with regards to interacting with harbour authorities, particularly in relation to safety and the use of yellow Solent racing marks. The Solent Area Safety Advisory Committee (SASAC) which is a sub-committee of the SCRA continues to be the go-to organization for interaction between the Harbour authorities around the Solent and leisure sailors.

Our last meeting was in November and on a purely statistical basis the harbour authorities reported a reduction in notifiable safety incidents in 2019 and I am pleased to be able to tell you that the SCRA has received credit from the harbour authorities for the work undertaken with our members clubs and classes in helping achieve this.

We owe a debt of thanks to Peter Bateson who, despite standing down from the SCRA council continues to manage the very detailed work of managing the racing buoy list.

In the safety management role the Association has worked extremely closely with the harbour authorities across the Solent to introduce a new event notification system. This entirely online system automates the filing of event notifications to the relevant authorities as well as links the approval of events to the submission of appropriate risk analysis.

Over 150 events are currently listed and most yacht clubs are now at least loosely familiar with the process of submitting an event. We intend to further develop the system and our goal is that it becomes the single gold-standard for event notification for all on-water activities in the Solent. That will require access for non-members on a cost-effective, one time basis, something we are working to put in place as soon as possible. Clearly we want to deliver great value to our members but open access for one off events will solidify the SCRA system with the harbour authorities and thereby secure the SCRA's position at the same time.

A completely revamped website has been launched towards the end of 2019 and that includes a considerably easier to read fixtures calendar format. We intend to publish the 2020 fixtures calendar on the same layout rather than the previous poster design. In the fullness of time we hope to make this electronically interactive so events upload to competitors online calendars automatically.

## Goals 2020

One of our objectives for 2020 is to move as much communication as possible online so that we can both improve the efficiency and timeliness of communications as well as reduce cost. We would encourage all members to ensure that they communicate email addresses to Kristen Lloyd who runs our administration function ([admin@scra.org.uk](mailto:admin@scra.org.uk))

Clearly we will also continue our drive to recruit both individual and corporate members, the latter vital as we seek to build on our existing strengths.

I think it is important that we remain tightly focused on the areas we work, partly because our own resources are somewhat limited and partly because we want to deliver strongly in those areas rather than have a diluted outcome in a wider scope of functions.

## Longer term goals

I therefore outline our goals for the forthcoming 3 year period.

- 1) Leadership of safe leisure sailing in the Solent and a very close relationship with our local harbour authorities through SASAC.
- 2) The roll out of the event notification system and the continuing automation of that online.
- 3) Re-establishing the fixture list planning meeting which we used to run and which will be a vital tool as we seek to work with our member clubs in creating a more cohesive racing schedule which reduces overlaps in event offerings and strives to deliver high quality racing with strong entry numbers for key Solent events.
- 4) Cooperation between clubs to ensure that the Solent remains a great place to come and hold world championships with an understanding that we need to work together to secure and deliver those events with gold standard regatta delivery. This might mean a strong commitment from all to ensure that certain race areas are sacrosanct

for those regatta's. Create a (low cost) marketing campaign that promotes the Solent as a leading competitive race location in world sailing.

Longer term the SCRA might be able to offer a different level of assistance to member clubs if they so wish, perhaps a Solent Boat and Owner database which could form the basis of a single entry system to simplify entries for both owners and clubs.

In closing I would like to thank Adrian Saunders who stood in as Honorary Secretary for the last year and who led the website upgrade to great effect. His energy and commitment will be much missed and we wish him well in his new endeavors.

The next AGM will be held at Regatta House in Cowes at 1030 on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Laurence Mead  
Chairman  
SCRA  
January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020.