

Commodores Report

As we reflect on the past year, I extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our sailing club. We've enjoyed fantastic sailing moments and social events, but there's always room for improvement.

Our club remains a vibrant community, with strong participation, especially on Sundays – a great opportunity for racing, social sailing, or simply enjoying the club atmosphere. It's been fantastic to see our sailors represent the club at national events. Club highlights included the RNLI Regatta, Club Championships, a lively Bonfire Night, and the 24-Hour Race team's impressive 5th place. Let's get even more members involved this year!

Major expenses included necessary septic tank works and jetty upgrades, significantly improving accessibility for Sailability and safety for all. Areas still needing attention include changing room cubicles, dinghy park maintenance, and painting/decorating. If you can help, please speak to Ann, our Bosun, to whom we owe a huge thank you for her tremendous work.

Our “2025 Club Development Plan” is underway – please get involved if you're interested in shaping the club's future. Club finances are a key priority. We're exploring funding opportunities, including Sport England grants, and would welcome a fundraising champion. A major challenge is declining membership (a nationwide issue). While current member participation is steady, growth was slower than the previous year. We're working on recruitment and retention strategies, including earlier advertising of Discover Sailing events, reinstating the Sailing Committee, and creating subcommittees focused on Sailing, Club Growth, and Events.

We have events planned over the season including Prize Giving, Discover Sailing, Regatta Day, Club Championships, and Bonfire Night. We need more hands-on support in marketing, event planning, club maintenance, and welcoming new members. Please contact me or any committee member if you'd like to contribute. This is ***everyone's*** club, and collective effort is essential.

This year has been personally challenging, but I'm proud of my first year as Commodore. I'd love to see a dedicated events team to grow club funds, a strong sailing committee to boost participation, and the return of the Sunday galley to enhance the social atmosphere.

Thank you for your support. Let's work together to make our club even stronger!

Leanne Pilkington, Commodore

