

CSSA Annual Report 2019

5 Kingdoms Sailing Club (5KSC)

YNOT celebrated her 10th birthday with replacement of her standing rigging. An upgrade of the navigation equipment over the coming winter will make YNOT more attractive for club members. An early replacement of Ynot is being considered pending bequest funding.

The cruising year started in May with a month in Conwy – followed by a delivery cruise to Largs on the Clyde. June was spent on the Clyde, and then July and early August were busy with crews going to around and from the Western Isles.

Ynot raced on the Mersey in the Venture fleet with the Liverpool Yacht Club in January, February and again from September through to March 2020. These sessions are very popular despite the cold weather. Administrative errors in CSSC caused a hiccup in autumn taster sails and recruitment.

In September, a crew from 5KSC and Jumbles SC entered a ladies' race with Liverpool Yacht Club, coming 4th out of 6 but we felt a great sense of achievement after getting around marks against the wind and tide.

With some CSSA funding, 5KSC became an RYA Recognised Training Centre. Plans are in progress for a 2020 RYA practical training programme on the Clyde.

East Coast Yacht Division (ECYD)

We sailed Freyja to La Rochelle via the Solent and the Channel Islands for a few charters and then back up to Brest before finishing along the South Coast from Falmouth through the Solent and back home to Shotley.

Channel Sailing Division (CSD)

Sea Essay had a busy season. We again held a successful summer cruise to France; this season as far as La Rochelle. Day Sails and Sea Times have again been well supported.

The CSD mentoring scheme continues to connect experienced skippers with members who would like guidance and support in developing their sailing skills. We hope this will continue to grow in 2020 and details of how to participate can be found on the CSD website.

The club's ability to consistently offer RYA training continues to be a challenge in the absence of its own in-house sea school. CSD has made some progress in identifying a chief instructor, which is a pre-requisite to re-establishing the RYA sea school, and contact has been made with members who are already RYA instructors or who we know are interested and well placed to train as instructors.

The 2020 sailing programme will offer a mix of events and opportunities, with a return to the favourite cruising grounds of France, the Channel Islands and West Country in 2020.

2020 will be the sixth season for the Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 incarnation of "Sea Essay". We are working to identify a replacement yacht for the 2021 season.

Portsmouth Offshore Group (POG)

John Ainsworth was voted in as POG Commodore at the March AGM. Our previous Commodore, Mike Childs retired from the post after 19 years of service to the Group. This very significant service to the club was recognised by a very well attended luncheon held in Mike's honour in May including a presentation by the CSSA Commodore Graham Dalton.

The new lift launch facility has proved to be a considerable success. We lifted the first group of boats at the end of November 2018 followed by further boat lifts and relaunches in early 2019. In addition, we undertook a short-term lift and launch for a few Group members in the Spring of 2019 with a further lift of 42 boats being lifted for the Winter 2019 period.

We had an excellent turnout by our volunteers for the Spring and Autumn work parties. These events are key to the success we have in keeping our mooring and other charges low and allow us to catch up on all those jobs that gradually accumulate over the year.

We have continued our programme of club rallies and races, the "Folly Jolly" rally in June continuing to be as popular as ever with a turnout of 16 boats and 42 crew. Our ever popular "Nab and Back" race became a "Not the Nab and Back" with a course amended due to a prediction of high winds for many days beforehand.

Early in the year, entry to our Wicor moorings through the Fleetlands Aerospace site was under threat. Considerable effort from a few of our members negotiated a way forward so this risk has been considerably mitigated.

CSSC and POG are continuing discussion of an early replacement of the current Land Lease.

A new series of winter talks have been very well attended and included guests from RNSA and Gosport Cruising Club.

Inter-Departmental Offshore Regatta (IDOR)

Fifteen crews gathered in the Hamble on Sunday the 9th of June for the 2019 IDOR. The event continues to be well received, despite the challenging conditions on Thursday. The only incident was a man overboard during the passage back to the Hamble on Friday highlighting the need to remain alert at all times.

A marked increase in entries on previous years is a positive sign, a number of individuals from various new departments allowed a second CSORC entry to be filled. Hopefully this will lead to new Departmental and Club entries in the future.

The main prize is the Eric Seal Memorial Trophy which was awarded to the overall winner of the combined "Inshore" and "Offshore" races. This will be presented to the Diamond Light Source B team at the CSSA AGM in April. The 2019 top three were:

1. DLS B: 10 points
2. HASSRA B: 18 points
3. NCA 1: 20 points

IDOR 2020 was planned to the now well-established format for the 31st of May to 5th of June 2020 but COVID restrictions have forced postponement. Feedback and ideas from this year's event will be applied and increased CSSC funding makes a large reduction in the entry fee an option which will hopefully lead to more entries.

Civil Service Offshore Racing Club (CSORC)

CSORC entered two boats in the IDOR and won the CSORC Shield awarded to the best placed Club entry.

The club entered the Fastnet aboard a chartered a First 40. The required 300 miles of qualifying was completed despite retiring from one race. The Fastnet itself went well, although an injury and diversion to the Scillies meant the final result was not as good as it would otherwise have been.

We have arranged a charter for the RORC Caribbean 600 early next year.

Rutland Civil Service Sailing Club (RCSSC)

The Rutland Sailing Club (RSC) Cruiser Fleet organised a series of racing dates for the first time this year to include all Fleets. Some RCSSC members participated and really enjoyed themselves and did well. There are plans for this to become an annual event. All races are followed by tea and cake at the Cruiser Park with friends and family.

Each year our members and some RCSSC boats participate in the popular RSC Public Open Day. Members were able to help with the 2019 event, which was well supported by the public; for some it was perhaps their first time at Rutland and the opportunity to sail on a keel boat.

Rutland Civil Service Taster Days held in conjunction with CSSC Sports and Leisure once again helped make a successful summer. They take a lot of organising and rely on approved helms generously donating their time too.

RSC is a premier sailing club with a busy schedule of racing events each requiring volunteers for duties. Many RSC Club and Affiliated Club volunteers help. Our club volunteers for rescue duty, committee racing duties, gate duty or whatever is required.

Hooe Point Sailing Club (HPSC)

Membership numbers have remained broadly stable in 2019, although the Club dynamic is changing with several less active, non-boat owning members leaving and being replaced by active dinghy sailors.

The Club now has a small but versatile fleet of Club dinghies with which members can learn to sail and participate in a weekly race series. We have an embryonic but enthusiastic training team, fully authorised by the RYA, who can offer dedicated RYA courses to the membership. The challenge for the Club is to grow the use of both these valuable assets by attracting a 'new to sailing' membership as well as already experienced and boat owning new members.

The Club's 2019 Open Day attracted new members who are now confidently sailing their own boats and actively participating within the Club.

The highlight of the year was the CSSC Dinghy Championship held in September. 22 boats took part and many visiting sailors enjoying both the excellent racing and the social events that were laid on over the two days. The event was a credit to the club and its volunteers.

The majority of club moorings were utilised throughout the year, with a waiting list in place. More than 60 vessels are accommodated on deep water and drying fore and aft trots, and mud berths.

Additional pontoons were installed to replace the worst of the old wooden units. The ladies changing rooms were completely refurbished. Plans and budget are being put in place for a revamp of the male changing facilities in 2020.

Jumbles Sailing Club (JSC)

Jumbles is a club for the community, welcoming the Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets and acting as a hub for separate walking and running groups. Two of our teenagers recently qualified as dinghy instructors.

Welcome collaboration with 5KSC will supply a crew for Ynot for an upcoming ladies' race at Liverpool YC.

2019 was a season of reinvigoration for Jumbles Sailing Club. A CSSA loan enabled us to build a new pontoon. Our members dug out and laid an enlarged concrete slipway. with everyone chipping in to do their bit. Brian Hoy, one of our previous Commodores, had fun trying out the hired digger. Hard graft though and very grateful we all are at the club for those who hauled wheelbarrows.

Among other things, we now have a new double oven to cater for socials and events, new CCTV cameras and a freshened boat park. Jumbles is truly a club run by members for members.

Littleton Sailing Club (LSC)

2019 sees Littleton continue as a successful inland dinghy sailing club. Our membership has remained at the same level as 2018, and our junior section goes from strength to strength. Youngsters Afloat is a parent led activity with enthusiastic leaders supporting a great initiative. The junior squad represented the club at the NSSA in Weymouth which was a great learning experience for those who made it. We continue to see strong racing sailors at the club represent us at national events.

On the adult training side, we ran 4 RYA level 1-2 courses with over 16 successful new sailors eager to continue their sailing activities.

Our lease negotiations with the CSSC continue. There is a small adjoining area of 6-8 acres of water with shorelines that border our main lake, which has been put up for sale to the highest bidder. We have excellent relationships with our fishing friends in the Civil Service Angling Society; we are in the process of making a joint offer for the lagoon.

Membership

Overall membership grew during 2019 to over 2,500 registered members. We had 120 new members join over the 2019 summer season – a record. IDOR continues to be a major source of annual recruitment.

Proposals for increasing CSSA's appeal to dinghy sailors is in discussion.

Finances

CSSA's finances remain strong.

The prospect of receipt of a bequest to help CSSA fund ocean going yachts has improved but an end date for legal proceedings is not yet in sight. Receipt of the bequest will provide CSSA with opportunity to review and restructure its funding of dinghy and offshore sailing.