

**Littleton Report 2020 / 2021**

2020 has been a year like no other in our history. Like the rest of the world COVID has affected our activities at the club for the season. It would be easy to look back and say that we were closed for much of the year with little or no sailing going on. The reality was encouragingly different. We were able to get people sailing for large periods of time, something that I was very pleased to see.

After the first lockdown in May, we saw large numbers of people coming sailing, to just wanting to be at the lake which was great to see. Some weeks we saw 50 or more boats afloat at the weekends which was better than many previous non lock down times.

Buddy sailing remained popular during the week for most of the summer and into autumn. Most summer days saw groups of people out sailing and enjoying the lake.

Racing continued. To start with groups of racers ran their own self starting races with short 1 lap races which proved popular. So popular, that perhaps we can learn from this style and include more along this style in our calendar.

Duty teams were slowly re introduced over the summer, starting with just the safety boat cox, then an OD and finally more AODs were introduced. We respected the wishes of anyone not wanting to attend through self-isolation or general concerns over COVID safety.

To help our management of the situation, we introduced a (temporary) subcommittee called Incident Response Team or IRT, with the brief to help shape our response to the pandemic. This temporary team remains in place today, and is a hybrid group of various committees plus a few others. We are fortunate to have very experienced people with relevant experience from many working environments that we were able to harness and make use of. Their combined knowledge really helped us to shape our response, meeting regularly to discuss what we need to do and amending our risk assessment as necessary, so a big thankyou goes to Andrew Lewis, Andy Bennett, Alan Povey, Andrew Selves, Stephen Lemmon, David Lambert, Martin Johnson who have and continue to support me by giving up many Monday evenings for long discussions.

We introduced a COVID plan for the clubhouse, restricting use, introducing a one-way system, and implementing sanitising stations. We all had to learn a new way to act, so Littleton became included in the new way of doing things.

We were lucky with the weather last year, with a long warm summer, making it pleasant for most to spread out on the lawn eating their own lunches etc,

We have a national champion in our club! Simon Derham won the Solo e-nationals. This was a very different event to normal because the usual sea bound regatta was not held. Clubs were invited to set up a measured course with all the results fed into a big sheet with the Solo Association. Simon Johnson who is new to the club, did all the hard background work to help us participate (so thankyou Simon). Simon Derham came out on top of all the events held across the country with the fastest measured time, with Julian Rickards close on his heels. We are assured that these results can be viewed as accurate because Vanda was measured as the fastest lady helm, something that she often picks up at the normal events, so Vanda was a very good benchmark.

We are seeing somewhat of a resurgence of 2 handed boats at the club which is really fantastic to see. 2 handed sailing offers crewing opportunities for those who want to learn a bit more from experienced sailors. We now have a growing fleet of Enterprise, Wayfarer, GP14 and Lark amongst others. I am delighted to see and be part of this resurgence and look forward to the expansion of this when we can.

The website played a part in keeping everyone updated. Louise Veryard developed a very neat graphical traffic light representation of all the club elements. This makes it very easy to see at a glance what was open and what had restrictions.

Finally I would like to thank all the members who are responsible in their approach to COVID and adhered to our alterations necessary. Without your support we would not be able to function at all.

**Membership numbers**

As you would expect, we have not been able to run any of our regular recruitment activities or our training programme which really help to recruit new members. Last year we lost about 66 members from some 61 memberships, which was hardly surprising from the situation. Despite the pandemic we did recruit some new members, around 18 in total, so a very warm welcome to our new members. Although we are down in numbers overall, I believe we are in a good place to build for the next year. There was a steady trickle in enquiries for new members as well, so we are optimistic we can recover our numbers.

**Lagoon**

The CSSC’s re purchase of the lagoon on our Eastern edge was good news for us. After much activity, with outside interested parties making serious offers, the lagoon went to auction and the CSSC were successful in the purchase. This is really good news, not only for us but also the Anglers as it secures our perimeter and more importantly we control the exit weir of the lake which flows out through the lagoon.

We need to say a huge thankyou to the CSSC who stepped in to buy the lagoon at a competitive auction. Without their support we would have lost this to a third party which would have thrown up all sorts of neighbourly issues.

**Building for the future**

We remain in uncertain times, but there is reason perhaps to be optimistic about the next year with the vaccination increasing in numbers. Our efforts focus on growing Littleton and re-establishing our club as a premier location for dinghy sailing in our area for all.

Tim Hore, Commodore Littleton SC