

TROY

TIMES



Commodore's Comments

I said at the start of the last Troy Times that the year was not turning out as expected, and so it has continued.

A major concern three months ago was the financial situation facing the club with the loss of all of our summer revenue raising activities. The predicted loss for the year was £5000. We then received two unexpected grants: one was from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) which gave us £500 to help support our training activities, and the UK government gave us a grant of £10,000. We also do not have any rates to pay until April 2021 which will give us roughly another £1500 saving this year and a similar amount next year. The net effect of all this is to secure our financial position this year. Due to the expected limited recruitment of new members this year your committee are still concerned about how matters will develop next year.

The world then sprang another surprise on us in the form of an email from Aldenham Sailing Club, who were looking for a new home as it had become impossible to sail on their lake. After a lot of hard work by the committee we have been able to welcome Aldenham to Troy Lake.

Adapting to life with Covid-19 has also been providing some further challenges. We started out with the club completely locked down along with the rest of the country. We then saw the relaxation of the restrictions which allowed people to start sailing again. The clubhouse remains closed and there is no safety boat cover, but we regularly see members taking to the water, particularly at weekends. During

the warm sunny days of May it seemed that some people could be found at the club almost every day. I am pleased to observe that everyone is maintaining social distancing and staying out of the clubhouse. Members have also been taking part in activities online with a weekly quiz and a virtual bar accompanying the twice weekly e-racing.

Aldenham Sailing Club

Aldenham is a village on the other side of Watford and the sailing club has been in existence since the 1920's.



Unfortunately earlier in the year the owners of their lake lowered the water level by a metre which has made sailing impossible. With no prospect of the level rising again the club has been forced to quit the site. There is another lake nearby which the club considered moving to but this cannot happen immediately, and if everything went well it might be possible to establish a new site in 18 months. In the meantime they looked for somewhere to continue sailing. After they approached us we agreed to help them out. But, after a visit by some of their members, they decided that as Troy Lake was such a nice place to sail, they would wind up their club and many of their members would join us. Initially we

will be welcoming 60 members and 35 boats into the club. AS you may imagine, putting all those boats on to our site is going to be quite a struggle, so we are going to have to move many boats around to create the necessary space – this means that the club will be have to be closed from the 29th June for a week so that this work can take place safely. There is on-going work to make space for all of the new boats. We also want to integrate the Aldenham members into the club, so please welcome them to our club when you see them. We can expect to see them cruising on a Saturday, racing on a Sunday and helping with Trojans and RYA training.

Zooming Along

Some at RSC grew up in a Hogwarts like world using carrier pigeons with a message attached to their leg. You then waited for a few days for a reply. Lovely really, peaceful, no telephones intruding on you. No pings and rings from mobile telephones.

Now modern technology has taken over running our lives. One has ZOOM, SKYPE and TEAMS for conference calling. Tracker apps on mobiles: to see where your loved ones are. We have security cameras at the club so we can see who is coming and going. Be warned 'Big Brother' is watching you.

Young people seem to move and adapt so quickly. However, some older folk do not find it so easy. It's important that we try and keep up to date and learn these new skills.

Coming back to your Committee, last winter we were holding long meetings at the clubhouse. Brrrrr, cold is not the word. Then drive home in the dark with cold rain lashing down.

Now it's a Zoom Internet Conference Meeting. Our dear leader Jonathan Carter sends us an e mail with a message 'click here' at 1930hrs on Tuesday. Us oldies think, OK let's give it a go. Well, it worked.

What tickled me was everyone was sitting in a warm home, some with a glass of wine. The meeting 'stuck' to the important issues and we covered most within 2 plus hours. Hopefully, we will not have any more cold nights at the Club house!



I concluded that the pigeon can be retired and we can all zoom along on the internet.

Liam Dowling.

Grounds for Concern

As many of you know Paul Hills regularly attends the club to keep his eye on things and take care of the many small routine jobs that are required to keep the club running smoothly. During the early days of the lock down he spent even more time to keep the grass and weeds under control as most members were not allowed on the site. The first change in the government restrictions enabled a degree of support by other Committee members who undertook a working party. A Saturday afternoon 12 till 5PM of hard work was spent getting on top of all of the maintenance. The reward for all of this hard work was someone taking advantage of their access to the club.



From the security cameras that were installed to protect the club during lockdown we know when the dumping happened. We also have the registration number of the vehicle.

There are three ways that we can deal with this:

1. The rubbish is removed by the person who put it there and no action will be taken.
2. The person concerned can contact the commodore and make a donation of £120 and the matter can be forgotten. This will enable us to get a skip in to dispose of the rubbish legally.
3. The club can pass the information to the local council, as they are responsible for dealing with fly tipping. There is a potential fine of £50,000 for this offence.

A touch of colour

Monday the 15th June 2020, was a beautiful morning with the sun shining brightly across the lake. Two swans with four babies were sitting on the grass having a picnic. The peace and quiet was disturbed by two visitors to the club. Then a very special man appeared!

One was Michelangelo P. Tobin, and Jonathan van Gogh da Carter. Both were due to meet with Joe Pablo Picasso Gregory who was going to paint our club house.

Michelangelo and van Gogh explained the colour scheme and where the 'frescos' were going to be placed. Michelangelo handed out his drawing instructions whilst van Gogh turned his head around saying... what's this ear!

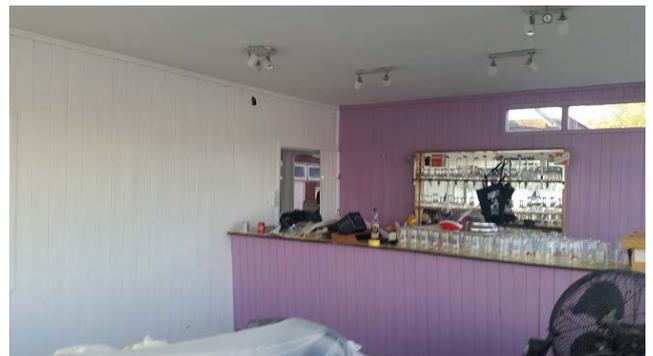
Liam da Vinci Dowling decided to let the great masters continue to debate the numerous questions about the quantity of brush strokes, the sizes of paint tins and whether he was going to spend a lot of time on his back!! Unlike the Sistine Chapel we will not paint the ceiling declared van Gogh da Carter. Why asked Picasso Gregory. We hope to take down the ceiling soon and open it all up to create a wonderful sense of space., just like St. Pauls Cathedral replied van Gogh da Carter. I have visions

of the heavens above and bat angle's flying in the rafters smiled Michelangelo P. Tobin. The rafters could be a lovely pink and blue colour to inspire the very young members.

Upon that note the 'old masters' agreed a plan. All wagged their brushes at each other and departed.



Joking apart, and since our recent survey your committee has been very active in responding to your concerns. The road way and car park has been rebuilt under the watchful eye of Paul Hills Your Club house, main hall, ladies and gents changing room, plus the bar has been completely redecorated. Plans are on the table to rebuild part of the club house. Yes, there is always something to do or repair at the club. If you have a few hours to spare, any time, please call Peter Tobin and join his small crew of 'repairers'. Everyone will be welcomed.



For a free quotation to paint your property, inside or out, cover barge boards, replace gutters, please call Joe Gregory on 07388826847

Quizzers United

David and I decided that to try and keep the members of our lovely club together we would host

a couple of quiz nights, titled the “Covid Series”. They were so well attended that they ended up being a weekly thing. We did 7, by the time we were on week 7 numbers were dwindling as the Lockdown had been relaxed. So we decided to stop on a high.

We had between 5 and 13 teams on each of the nights. There became a regular core group who attended every week and there was a great battle between the teams!

The final results are:

	Total
Foiling Moths	10
No Hoppers	18
The Commodore	23
Hawkinators	39
Dorset Duo	40
Steve	47
Sinking Feeling / Marie Celeste	52
Canal Folk	62
Capsized Again / Just Afloat	64
Playing Possums / Sail, Bail, Fail	68
The Young Ones	68
Vee Bees	74
The Enterprise Set	78
Endeavour	80
Common As Muck	81
Andrew	82

The Foiling Moths won 5 out of 7 and romped away with the “Covid Series” Win! Followed in a strong second by the No Hoppers, then The Commodore.

We have decided it was such fun that we will be hosting a Monthly Quiz Night with Guest Hosts. We have had a couple of volunteers for this, if you'd like to host a night please let us know.

We want to say thank you to everyone who took part. We absolutely loved running the Quizzes and it was really strange to not be running them anymore and we can't wait for the next one which will be on Friday 3rd July at 7pm. We will send out the Zoom details nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you again then!

Amy

Sailing Away

With racing abandoned on the water a small group took to electronic means to continue club racing at simulated locations around the globe. A total of 13 members took part in the 16 events that were run.



The usual format was a series of four short races each evening in something reasonably slow, followed by a fun race in something very fast. We made use of zoom for everyone to talk to each other and the race organiser was able to share his screen so that anyone just wanting to watch could see the action. The slow boats tended to give closer racing particularly downwind. The final event saw several races won by less than a boat length. To win, one needs to get a good start, stay clear of other boats and find the shortest route while finding the best wind. Much like in a real race, practice helped. Three helms, the Commodore (as he was hosting the events), Steve Forrester and Amy, managed to take part in every event. A good showing was made by David Hurst. The Webb family showed good performance early in the series. But the end of the series was dominated by the Commodore and Steve. With 9 of 16 events to count the top six places were:

- 1st Jonathan Carter
- 2nd Steve Forrester
- 3rd Amy Francis
- 4th David Hurst
- 5th Nigel Heller
- 6th Alan Richards

Locked Down

We have had several problems recently with non-members getting locked into the site.

If you think you're the last member to leave but see any cars left in the car park, please do your best to check that their owners can get out when you've locked up and gone. If they shouldn't be there and won't be able to get out, please ask them politely to leave so that you can secure the site. If you can't find them, please lock up anyway. You should ensure that the compound is locked, and you should lock the barrier along the north bank. The final barrier should be locked unless Marble and Granite are still open.

To prevent people accidentally coming on to the site we recommend that you relock any barriers that you open immediately after you've gone through them. This is much less hassle than you having to deal with someone who is on the site when they should not be there. It also saves a fellow member having to go back to the club to release someone who is locked in.

The current locks to gain access to the club have been giving concern for some time. Every week at least one member complains that they are unable to open one of the locks. We have therefore decided that we need to change the locks. Switching to new locks and providing everyone with a replacement key would be prohibitively expensive. So we are going to change to using combination locks. Initially this is for a trial period as we assess the impact of the change. The use of combination locks will slightly lower the security at the club. So if you have a key please keep it safe in case we need to switch back to the older locks.

Covid-19

Government regulations continue to make it impossible for us to reinstate any organised activities and the club programme therefore, remains suspended. You cannot use the clubhouse to change in, so you must come to the club ready to sail. There is no food or water available at the club, so you must bring with you anything you need. We have not had time to assess how the latest changes announced by the government will affect access to the club. Once this has been done we will send out an email to all members.

We are pleased to say that the toilets will be opened from Sunday 5th July. There will be a strict access and use protocol, which will be sent to members separately.

Members of the club may access the grounds of the club and make use of the lake for any purpose, alone or with members of your household. So individuals and family groups can go sailing. There is no safety cover, so sailing is at your own risk. Members must follow the club's rules and bye laws relating to safety. In particular you must have on board a buoyancy aid for everyone on board. You can also work on your boat, maintaining social distancing.

Please use the club in a sensible fashion and do not put yourselves or others at risk.

Club Boats

We are also pleased to say that club boats may now be used but that is subject to booking the boat you want to use and observing the conditions for doing so. There are new menu options on the club web site so that you can access the booking system or you can use this link

<http://www.rscsailing.org/boatBookingCalendar.php>



Whatsapp Group

If you have a question about the club, need some help or just want to know what is happening the clubs "whatsapp" page might be the thing to join. We currently have 42 members communicating via the app. You can join at

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LoMgvL5wiLWC0tfundnKC1>