



January 2021.

Getting-Going: Commodore Guy reports on priorities and progress in the Club's first Executive Committee meeting

Planning for the 2021 season is all-go despite the pandemic's restrictions. This was our focus in the first meeting of the new Executive Committee on zoom in the first week of the year. We *must* be optimistic; we must be – and be seen to be – a club which can hit the ground running if – *when* - lockdown is lifted this spring. We are being realistic, however. All plans are provisional: we will create a programme including training, Family Week, some Open Days, racing and socials – all with COVID-19 protocols in place, of course – under the warning: "*subject to possible change.*"

We are pleased to welcome new officers and new blood on the committee. You have already met me in my first blog. Jacquie Layton is our Vice Commodore – she joined the Club, learned to sail and race – all from scratch in the recent past. *No sense of "Old School" here.* Richard McCulloch's become a Flag Officer as Rear Commodore. He's played a great role in further developing our COVID-19 Protocols and is turning his analytical eye on how we can improve our presence in social media. These are both important and sizeable jobs. We're delighted to welcome relatively recent Club-joiner Paul Atwell to the Committee. He has immediately started to approach Club challenges from new angles. And finally, we welcome John Mason to the Committee. One of our most loyal and regular sailors, we look forward to his insights.

New to the role of Sailing Secretary, Nicky Griffin has long been a member of the Club, but she brings welcome expertise, knowledge of sailing's wider world and - above all – intense enthusiasm. Already we have a draft programme for the year: reading it compels you to reach for your kitbag in *Lockdown.*

The Club's finances are sound – in fact the Committee agreed to return the members loans drawn to support the purchase of the 3 new Comet Trios purchased with a Sport Wales grant last year. These boats give us another reason to look forward to the season. A fleet of 7 Trios enables us to be more creative about their use. Our finances have also been supported by some funding associated with COVID-19 resilience. Training Principal Lorina Walden successfully applied for funding to sustain medical-hygiene resources which help us sustain our COVID-19 protocols.

Health of the Club's finances boil down to membership. (New) Membership Secretary, Claire Taylor proposed a subs structure which offers the best possible value for renewal and new members. These are very competitive compared with other sports and other sailing clubs. We're confident that members will feel renewal is well worthwhile – and new members will look to join us. We will post details soon.

Unfinished business? Yes, plenty. We are looking at prospects for children's sailing and the Commodore's mission has been for us all to don our thinking-caps about teenagers' and young adult attraction to the sport at Llangorse. And then there is the site. We have ditches to clear, herbage to cut, fences to mend (thankfully real ones, not metaphorical ones!) – And we have some maintenance to carry out on the clubhouse. We are also optioneering protection of the front bank from flood erosion. And finally - yes, the site's been inundated again, but we have seen how quickly it can recover – since Christmas it has already receded considerably. In fact, the "moat" is a helpful source of security.

The Committee meets again in about 4 weeks' time. Members will be pleased that momentum's not been lost, and we're committed to deliver a season in 2021 – whatever the little green spikey virus has in mind.

Guy Davison, Commodore.