



**Goring Thames
Sailing Club**

Founded 1943



BURGEE

Winter 2020/21

Commodore's Report

This has been some year hasn't it? There have been, among other things: Trump, Brexit and, above all, the pandemic. The normality of the beginning of 2020 seems like the distant past now.

Our year began in the normal way with the Spring Social at Masoom's of Goring which went very well. Then we had the first and only committee meeting where we were together in person followed by a well-attended (thank you all) work party where a lot was done.

Shortly after that, on the 16th March, it all started. The beginning of lockdown!

The committee had its first Zoom meeting. All through the pandemic the committee has been meeting in this way almost every week to discuss the constant rule changes and how they applied to us. The guidelines that the RYA have given us all through this have been very useful and, as you know, there have been a host of rules sent out to the members by the committee. I must say that people have been very supportive by sticking to the rules the whole time with everyone being goodhearted, helpful and cheerful despite the inconvenience of it all. I find it strange how easily we adapted to the new normal.

In the middle of May the situation was such that we could have informal races and comply with social distancing rules. At the first get togethers there was no safety boat but after a few weeks it was put out onto the river but with no safety officer. The idea being that someone would stop racing and help out in the safety boat if necessary. I don't believe that it ever was. After a while we asked if OODs and SOs would resume their scheduled duties and they all did, so then we were as back to normal as we could be.

One change was particularly welcome as, although the clubhouse was not available for general use, the rules were interpreted such that one person was allowed in to be the bar person. The card reader was placed by the door so that people could pay without going inside. From then on, the social side of our Sundays was much more pleasant!

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The year continued with normal racing and a very well attended season for Saturday sailing. Our best day was the 13th September for Barts Bash where we had 24 boats on the river. By the beginning of October, the rain started, and the red boards appeared. The last race was on the 25th October.

At the end of November there was the AGM which had to be by Zoom of course. I think that by this time people has used it so many times that they all knew what to do and it went very well. I'll talk about tech stuff for a bit.

As you no doubt know, there are now three cameras and they are turning out to be very useful. Several times we have seen people and boats that should not be there, and we have been able to do something about it. Seeing several boats mooring up without permission is the reason that we now have a "No Mooring" sign displayed.

We now have high speed broadband at the club, so the quality of the images is much better and the picture has stopped dropping out all the time.

Our SB2 – as was – had been giving us problems for a while and we have replaced it with a new Rigiflex with its own new engine. It's a robust plastic boat that is easy to launch and recover and is very manoeuvrable. It has its own boarding ladder as has SB1. The fuel tank will be kept permanently on board in the front locker and the engine in the garage.

Unless it is decided to change this the boats are now called:

Dory	SB1
Rigiflex	SB2
Rib	SB3

Unfortunately, the New Year's Day race had to be cancelled because of the weather.

That's all for now.

I hope your Christmas went well and here's hoping for a better 2021.

All the best,

Simon Lidbetter
Commodore

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Sailing Secretary's Report (from the AGM)

This year has seen interruption to normal service, due to Red Boards and the Coronavirus Lockdown. However, we did get a lot of sailing once the season got underway in May.

As we started to see restrictions being lifted, we made changes to the Calendar so that we could ensure Cup competitions from the earlier part of the year that would otherwise have been lost were brought into the revised calendar. In that way we could (we thought) award some silverware at Prize Giving later in the year. Little did we know then that we would still be facing issues which would prevent us all gathering inside so that the Prize Giving/Social could not be held.

The cup competitions that we brought back into the revised calendar were:

- King George Fund for Sailors Trophy
- Moulsoford Cup
- Presidents Bowl
- Commodore's Cup.

The first cup race of the year was the King George Fund for Sailors on 24th May. 15 boats turned out and the race was won by Andrew Darke.

The next cup race was the Moulsoford Cup on 7th June. This race was over 2 hours in length up to the Moulsoford bridge and back. It was run in 3 categories: Fast Fleet, Slow Fleet and Junior Fleet. Over 20 boats took part.

The juniors were started first and the rest of the fleet was started 5 minutes later.

Strange winds upriver saw the juniors come to a stop. The rest of the fleet joined them, all converging on the same piece of the river creating a virtual bridge – boats from one side of the river stretching to the other.

Eventually the blockage cleared as boats managed to break through and sailing could get going again. The fast fleet was won by Don Francis; the slow fleet by Andrew Darke and Junior Fleet by Will Almond.

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Carnage in the narrows

The Summer Series racing got underway for Adults and Juniors and Wednesday Evening Racing then started.

Ladies Cup was held on the 8th August and raced by five of our lady sailors. Deidre Smith who sponsors the Ladies Who Launch and Beginners and Improvers provided this report of the Ladies Cup race:

The Ladies cup was held on one of the most gruelling days weather wise with a fickle breeze and over 30 degrees in temperature. The lady sailors battled it out with the last woman "standing" - sailing - being Mel Holman, who was a very worthy winner.

If we get more sailing days next year the Ladies who Launch should continue on some sessions of their own - they definitely entice some ladies onto the water who would otherwise not come out. All to the good!

We have some fantastically experienced and capable lady sailors now and we have all improved in skill and confidence from a couple of years ago.

The Ladies and the Beginner and Improver Group informally combined this year because of the lack of sailing days but there were still one or two sessions when only ladies turned up!

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Saturday sailing events were well attended this year and thanks go to everyone involved in organizing and helping with these and also with Adult Improvers and Beginner events.

In the Laser Cup and Singlehanded events, the Laser Cup was won by Mark Hayzelden and the Singlehanded by Andrew Darke

In the Double Handed Championship, despite best efforts to get more boats out, only 2 boats sailed on the day. I think a combination of the weather conditions and still uncertainty with Covid put off many people. Mark Foster with Simon Reed as crew won.

We extended the Wednesday Evening race season, adding 5 races by bringing the start time forward from 6.30pm to 5.30pm. This enabled us to continue racing for longer into the year when the nights were drawing in. The series was won by Alan Beeton.

Then we had 2 consecutive weekends of Cup races with the President's Bowl and the Commodore's Cup. Unfortunately, we could not enjoy the normal teas that are held with these two races. 14 boats sailed in Presidents Bowl; Alan Beeton took the honours in the Adult Fleet and Anna Foster in the junior race.



Sailing the combined Commodore's Cup and Barts Bash

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The following weekend saw the Commodore's Cup. This year the date coincided with Bart's Bash, so we combined the races. We held 2 races; the first one as a Pursuit which decided the positions for Bart's Bash and the scores from the first and a second race determined the winners of the Commodore's Cup. 24 boats turned out – an excellent sight.

In our Bart's Bash event we aim to raise money for the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation. This year we raised over £116.50.

Winners were:

- Bart's Bash – Tim Wakefield; the highest placed Junior was Jacob Hathaway.
- Commodore's Cup – the Adult Fleet was won by Andrew Darke and Alice Hathaway won in the Juniors.

Later casualties of Red Boards and Lockdown 2 were the remaining races in the Autumn Series, Junior Series races and the Washing Up bowl.

Those we were able to race in the Autumn Series resulted in a win by Mark Hayzelden and in the Junior Series by Will Almond.

Inter club racing with Island Sailing Club was cancelled this year. We hope to pick this up next year.

Our Regatta day was also lost this year.

Prize Giving

Prize Giving couldn't go ahead due to restrictions so we will attempt to award the prizes sometime in the New Year when conditions and restrictions are lifted.

In summary a very strange year and one that I hope was a complete One Off.

Neil Champion

Sailing Secretary

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Racing Results for 2020 Sailing Season

GTSC Sailing Season 2020 - Winners and Runners Up		
Cup/Championship	Winner	Runner Up
Spring Series	Not run	Not run
Summer Pursuit (with Points)	Andrew Darke	Mark Hayzelden
Summer Points (see above)		
Wednesday Evening Series	Alan Beeton	Andrew Darke
Autumn Series	Mark Hayzelden	Andrew Darke
Adult Improver Series	Jo Almond	Ian Paddick
Ladies Cup	Mel Holman	Jo Almond
Single Handed Championship	Andrew Darke	Peter Hunter
Laser Cup	Mark Hayzelden	Mark Foster
Double Handed Championship	Mark Foster	Don Francis
Double Handed Championship – Crew	Simon Reed	Fiona Stewart
KGFS – King George Fund for Sailors	Andrew Darke	Rob Jones
Commodores Cup	Andrew Darke	Tim Wakefield
Commodores Cup – Juniors	Alice Hathaway	Jacob Hathaway
Moulsford Cup – Fast	Don Francis	Mark Hayzelden
Moulsford Cup – Slow Fleet	Andrew Darke	Peter Hunter
Moulsford Cup – Junior Fleet	Will Almond	Holly Beer

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GTSC Sailing Season 2020 - Winners and Runners Up (Continued)

President's Bowl	Alan Beeton	Andrew Darke
President's Bowl – Junior Fleet	Anna Foster	Ellen Bradstock
Potters Points Cup (fast handicap)	Mark Hayzelden	Simon Lidbetter
Pursuit compass (slow handicap)	Andrew Darke	Peter Hunter
Hammond Plate	Jane Howe	
Junior Series	Will Almond	Chen Chen
Laser Series	Mark Hayzelden	Rob Jones
GTSC Regatta	Not run	Not run
Senior Moments	Not run	Not run
Junior Cup	Not run	Not run
Novice Cup-	Not run	Not run
Parent and Offspring-	Not run	Not run
Bart's Bash –	Tim Wakefield	Mark Hayzelden
Bart's Bash – Highest Placed Juniors	Jacob Hathaway	Alice Hathaway
James Middleton Stewart Cup	Not run	Not run
Merit Awards		
Helmsman Cup	Mel Holman	
Endeavour Award – Adult	Harry Boyle	
Endeavour Award- Junior	Will Almond	
John Whitcher Memorial Trophy	Simon Reed	

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Club Development Plan - Update

At last year's AGM (2019) I presented the Club Development Plan and extracted some key aims that we want to achieve over the next 5 years to 2024.

This year's AGM I presented the same key aims with the actions that had been completed. Below are the key points and updates.

New Safety Boat

In September we purchased a new RigiFlex Safety Boat using a Grant.

We applied and were successful in obtaining a grant as an impact from Covid.

Replacement Visions

This is still under review. However, in the meantime we have purchased new and replacement parts for the existing boats. This will hopefully extend the life span of these boats for a few more years.

Grant Funding

Already mentioned how we were able to buy the new Safety Boat using a Grant.

Increase membership numbers

We have an aspirational target of +5% growth on membership numbers year on year.

We still have a focus on this and will continue to work to recruit new member numbers. One means is the Open Day, but this year unfortunately saw this cancelled as a casualty of lockdown restrictions.

However, we did recruit new members during the year – as indicated from the Membership Secretary's report - showing there were 9 new Family member units and 4 Joint member units.

Continue building links to wider community

We had planned to hold 14 events where Local community groups could use the club and facilities. Sadly, lockdown put a stop to these.

We will continue to add in events for Local Community groups when we start work on the Calendar for 2021.

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Finish surfacing boat parking area

A lot of work has been done on this but is ongoing.

Replace OOD Hut with combined OOD Hut/'Wet Boathouse'

Very much an aspirational project and would require a lot of funding but it's in the Development Plan so we will constantly review this item.

Neil Champion

Sailing Secretary

The New Safety Boat

The new safety boat has arrived. It is a Rigiflex, plastic and tough like a Topper. The engine is 9.9HP compared to the 15HP for SB 2 and 25HP for the Dory.

It's light and gets up on the plane in seconds. The engine can be lifted onto the boat, when it's mounted on the trolley, quite easily by one person. Pulling it out of the slipway is difficult with one person but easy with two. The company recommended tying the engine to the boat so there is a cord on the engine to do that.

As well as a throttle friction nut there is a friction lever to adjust the ease of steering the engine. When the lever is at the far left (looking from behind) it locks the steering so beware.

The anchor is not tied to the boat if you ever have to use it.

Enjoy using it.

Simon

Commodore

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GTSC Junior Jottings



2020; *The Bad News* for the Juniors at GTSC;

- No opening Party
- Junior training cancelled
- Youth Club cancelled
- Thames Challenge cancelled
- NSSA Regatta cancelled

The Good News;

Nevertheless, our Juniors went from strength to strength with Sophie, Dan, Alicia, Jacob & Holly ALL off their own backs becoming qualified Dinghy Instructors which involves a pre assessment, Power Boat Qualification and First aid and that's just for starters

It's always been our aim to not just teach youngsters how to sail, but then to nurture them, to then upskill them so they can sail single and double handed boats, to race on their own, to team race, to train and race outside the club and ultimately to return the favour by becoming instructors and inspire the next generation.

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For 5 juniors to achieve this in the year of Covid is amazing; all have in turn already supported training events at GTSC this year and we are delighted to also support them financially by repaying half of their course fees in return for them instructing at GTSC for at least 4 days. We

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give, they give back and crucially inspire whilst developing their confidence often way beyond their years. Congratulations to them all.

Anna is one of several youngsters geared up to train as a DI next year. 3 years ago we supported Anna in applying for a brand new Topper from the John Merrick Sailing Trust. Having been racing and training regionally with the Topper for the last 3 years, in her final event she achieved a personal best of 2nd.



Now Anna has inspired Will Almond, who with his Sister Beth to embark on the circuit complete with Alicia Condi's double trailer.

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Whilst the beginning and end of the season were curtailed, Saturday Sailing was really well supported when it restarted on 18th July leading to an amazing 2 weeks of a sell-out Summer camp, the first week being water sports based, followed by a week of RYA Training

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With 23 Juniors attending, our new Senior Instructor Mike was a legend albeit a bit taken aback by the huge number of motorboats that confronted him and the juniors each day, for he was used to teaching on a gravel pit.

Supported by juniors Emily, Holly, Anna, Dan, Jacob, as well as adults Simon Abbot and our Commodore, with staycations being order of the day, GTSC ironically benefited from Covid. So many thanks to all those who supported the fortnight, for although our fees were only £30 a day, with the volunteer juniors the club made a modest profit even after the instructor's fees had been paid for Saturday sailing.

And the figures; despite it all look at these stats for race participation by juniors.

(2019 figs: 2020 figs)

Moulsford Cup - 0:8

Commodore's Cup - 6:7

Junior series - 10:12

To conclude, when we do welcome new prospective members, I stress we are more than just a sailing club, more than a facility for juniors to learn to sail. For sailing as structured at GTSC offers so much more than just a sport

At GTSC we are surely unique in developing skills, friendships, fun and a pathway that offers so many opportunities in the future

So, hope you adults and juniors alike can commit to next year, for you will get so much out. After all there's no other club that can claim to have produced the youngest skipper in last year's Sydney Hobart Race...Sam MacCracken did just that at the age of 20 and flew our Club Burgee (see pics)!

All the best, stay safe and stay (dreaming of) sailing

Rob

Junior Development Officer

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GTSC Burgee flown on a yacht at Sydney Hobart Race, courtesy of Sam MacCracken

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About Burgee & Editor's Notes

This is the first issue since Summer 2020. Burgee is normally published quarterly at the ends of March, June and September and in December following the Prizegiving and AGM. While activities continue to be curtailed by the precautions to limit the spread of Covid 19, Burgee will be published less frequently. We aim to publish at least twice a year until the situation improves.

Fresh material is always welcome. Material for publication should be emailed to the editor at least one week before the publication date. Please send it to gtsc.burgee@goringthamessc.org.uk

Burgee is currently posted to all members as a paper document and is available on the club website for viewing online or downloading.

Happy Sailing

Robert

Burgee Editor



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