



March 2015

Registered Charity No 1154479

**Stoke Gabriel Boating Association**

*Promoting community participation in sailing, kayaking, canoeing and rowing*

# SGBA News

## 2,2,3,4

What's this - it could be an England cricket score, but is actually the monthly frequency of the Newsletters. Why the slowing down of news?

Well, it is the time of year when boating takes a back seat for many members. But, despite little activity on the water, the Committee has been busy with the demanding plans related to the new clubhouse as well as the winter talks programme, boat maintenance and planning the coming summer activities.

This Newsletter focuses on the Club's Committee. As Webmaster and Newsletter Editor I have an easy job: I put on the Website what I am asked to and scrounge enough words and photographs from other people to create a Newsletter. But the rest of the Committee has a lot of responsibility and works very hard to ensure that members have boats to sail, talks to listen to and dinners and Ceilidhs to enjoy.

It is amazing that so much is achieved by so few people. There are, of course, people not on the Committee who also help; but even they are a small band.

For a Club with over three hundred adult members it is surprising that we cannot fill the vacant places on the Committee. We do need more Committee members especially when the new clubhouse is built.

The AGM is on Thursday 26 March. Please read the papers that have been sent to you by email and reflect on the (paraphrased) words of John F Kennedy:

*Ask not what your Club can do for you, ask what you can do for your Club.*

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# What does the Committee do for you?

## The Committee's responsibilities

Now that the SGBA is a Charity it has to conform to the rules and regulations set out by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Constitution that defines the objective of the SGBA as:

"The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, in particular by the provision of facilities for participation in the sports of sailing, kayaking, canoeing and rowing"

The Charity Trustees of the SGBA, acting as a Board, carry the responsibility of complying with the requirements of the Constitution. Their scope touches all aspects of the club's activities, but they rightly do not intend to involve themselves in the management and direction of all of these. Those responsibilities are for the club's Executive Committee.

In general terms the Board intends that the Committee should be responsible for the:

- programme of activities afloat
- management of resources (boats, craft, instructors, safety boat crews)
- management of premises, dinghy park and foreshore facilities
- membership
- social activities
- fundraising, especially from activities and events
- newsletter, website, external communications, including all elements of the Development Plan appropriate to the functions listed above.

Full details of how the Board of Trustees and the Committee operate can be found on the club's website: [www.sgba.org.uk](http://www.sgba.org.uk) under "Delegation of Powers".

## Highlights from the last Committee meeting

At its last meeting the Committee discussed a range of matters: the maintenance of the Safety and

Training boats; the construction of the new clubhouse; the possible use of the Club's newly-acquired Wayfarer and the two Wanderers for some sort of Swallows and Amazons activity; and the maintenance of the new clubhouse.

The last topic underlined the need for the Committee to fill the vacant posts that exist. The Club will need a Premises' Manager and someone to be responsible for maintenance and cleaning. **The AGM is coming up so please ask yourself what you might be able to do for the Club .**



*Committee members assembling in the clubhouse*

# The building of the new clubhouse enters the next phase

After all the recent activity in which the quarry has been emptied, the boat store gone, much of the rock face tidied and a swathe of undergrowth cleared through the scrub above the quarry ready for a services trench, the building programme might appear to have stopped.

Whilst it is true that there has been little physical activity recently, the Committee and a small group of dedicated helpers have been working very hard on gaining the way leaves needed to construct the services trench and on the final aspects of the design of the building.

As this Newsletter is being written we have had the news that the final way leave has been granted and it is now possible to start the serious building work.

The building is being constructed in two parts, a lower floor for boat and equipment storage designed to be "flood tolerant" (see the picture below) and the upper floor being the club house with showers, toilets, kitchenette and a dry store in the loft. We have a preferred supplier for the upper structure and hope to appoint a contractor for the lower level shortly.

A team of club members has been working on the layout and design of the lower floor to provide optimum storage facilities, access and security for the club boats and equipment. The group has come up with a low cost, highly efficient and secure solution. With such success, we would welcome other members' input into the layout design, style, materials and contents of the other key areas: Shower and changing rooms, kitchenette, sail loft store, training and meeting room and landscaping around the dinghy park.

Whilst the main contractors will erect the building there are many other jobs to complete the building that will need the involvement of members. Some of the tasks include:

- Laying service pipes - but no trench digging!

- An expert at making sewer connections needed
- Labour and expertise to casting the concrete base for the club house, 3 truck loads!
- Building block work walls up to 1m high, Cutting and fitting timber cladding
- Creating gabions for walls
- Specifying floor and wall coverings for all areas including showers and locating suppliers/contractor
- Decorating, carpentry and finishing
- For a real challenge - disposing of the large concrete blocks in the dinghy park
- Cleaning the slipway, mud moving and washing

If you would like to help, even if it just a little bit, or just take an interest in the project please do not hesitate to get in touch with [Roger Stobbart](#) or [Neil Millward](#).



*Mill Point flooded at the recent exceptional high tide*

### Another successful winter programme draws to a close

Sarah Hunt, our Social Secretary, is standing down at the AGM and must have thought she had escaped having her picture in the Newsletter as part of our regular "Meet the Committee" features. Hard luck Sarah: here you are helping out with the refreshments at the open garden event in support of the new clubhouse.

We must say thank you to Sarah for the marvellous job she has done over the past year. She was dropped into the deep end with the Laying-Up Ceilidh and we all know what a great success that was.

Then there was the job of arranging the winter talks. These included a presentation by Beverley Langley who spoke about how the book "Dove" inspired many sailing adventures; a talk about the National Coastwatch Institution; a description of what goes on behind the scenes at the Met Office and a talk about undersea cabling.

Most recently, Admiral Jonathon Tod described his adventures as skipper of the aircraft carrier, *Illustrious*.

#### Please come to the final two winter meetings:

On April 16 when Anne Davis will build on the presentation in January by our Met Office expert to help you get a closer feel for the weather, and how you can use the forecasts most effectively.

On May 7 club member Nick Ager will be recalling tales from a four year trip around the World in his yacht Kika.

If you have enjoyed the winter program why not have a go at being Social Secretary? Sarah will be available to offer advice and support so you will not be unsupported and you will find that the Committee is also full of ideas and encouragement.

Please let the [Club Secretary](#) know if you want to take the job on and she will arrange a proposer and seconder.





## Summer Sailing

Summer sailing starts on Sunday 26 April. For the first few Sundays, we will have to launch from the foreshore opposite the pontoon. Boats will be stored there - sufficient to meet expected demand. There are plans for making other equipment (spars, foils etc) available. When the early stages of building work have been completed, it will be possible to move back to Mill Point. Further information will be emailed and put on the website as soon as it is available.

The table, below, shows the proposed sailing dates for your diaries but remember, sailing cannot take place without an OOD and a Safety Boat crew.

The definitive status of a sailing day is shown on the [Sailing and Events web page](#)

Sunday 26 April	11:00
Sunday 10 May	10:00
Sunday 24 May	10:00
Sunday 7 June	09:30
Sunday 21 June	09:30
Sunday 28 June	14:00
Sunday 12 July	14:00
Sunday 26 July	12:00
Sunday 9 August	12:00
Sunday 23 August	10:00
Sunday 6 Sept	11:00
Sunday 20 Sept - Regatta	09:30
Sunday 4 October	10:00
Sunday 18 October	09:30

The SGBA can only work successfully if members play a part in helping to run the the Club's activities.

Nowhere is this more important than the Sailing Events which can only take place if we have the necessary people to run them i.e. OOD and safety boat helm & crew.

We need to find three names for each event before it can go ahead - so, if you can help, please contact the [Sailing Secretary](#).



### Another Successful Sea Urchins

Last year the Club put two bugs into the pool at Devon Hills and got eight young members to paddle and row and learn how to handle a boat.

This February Anne Davis and Neil Millward organised a repeat adventure but this time we had three boats and twelve young people.

Judging by the noise and the amount of water flying through the air it was a thorough success.

With the help of three parents in the water the children learned to paddle, row, balance dinghies and picked up general boat sense. We had races, a tug of war and a treasure hunt.



To follow on from this on 9 April Neil and Anne are holding a rowing session on the river where our youngsters can develop their rowing and paddling skills.

Please contact [Anne](#) if your child would like to join in.





## The SGBA has acquired four new boats

### A Wayfarer

Two members of the Dittisham Sailing Club have donated a Wayfarer to the SGBA with the intention that it should introduce some of our younger members to sailing larger boats. In accepting the gift, the Commodore wrote to the donors to thank them:

*Dear Mr and Mrs Benns*

*On behalf of the membership of the SGBA I would like to thank you for the donation of your Wayfarer to the club. I did try and look at the boat yesterday but it was already in service with some club members who were clearly enjoying their sail.*

*The arrival of the boat has enabled us to increase the number of members on our adult learn to sail program as well as provide an excellent youth training boat.*

*I have no doubt that the wayfarer with its SGBA insignia and club members old and young aboard, will become a common sight on the river for many years to come.*

*A big thank you from all members.*

The boat has been test sailed by the Quartermaster and the Dinghy Park Officer and declared first rate. It does need a little work to renew one or two tired fittings and to have strong points fitted to enable it to be kept on a fore-and-aft mooring.

The Quartermaster is indebted to the loan of two small boys who were able to crawl into the space between the foredeck and the forward buoyancy tank to help fit the forward mooring point.

She will be ready for the start of the sailing season.



*Sister ship*



*Fitting the bow strong point*

### Sit-on Kayaks

The Club has recently acquired two one-man sit on top kayaks from Tom Morris to boost our fleet of craft. They are second hand but just one year old and should prove popular with many.



### Laser 2

We also have been given a Laser 2.

The Laser 2 was an Australian design from 1979, very big over here in the 80s and 90s but the class has fizzled out and now its slot has been taken by the 420. It uses a few of the Standard Laser parts but is more roomy, stable and easier to sail though just as wet. There is also a trapeze for a bit of extra getting wet.

Roger Astley and River will be getting it ready for the first sailing day.



*Sister Ship*



## For Sale in support of new clubhouse

Metzeler Jolly S

2 Person Inflatable Tender. 8ft long x 4ft beam.

Rated for 2hp o/b engine.

Davit Eyes, Oars, Pump.

Offers invited in region £50 to £100.

Proceeds to SGBA clubhouse building fund.

Contact Robert Foster 01803 782788



## Need a boat cover

Why not support your village supplier?

See the website for more details: [www.coveredup.co.uk](http://www.coveredup.co.uk)

### Boat and Sail Covers

Sail Covers from £54.99

Dinghy Covers from £44.99

Boat Covers from £49.99

Overboom Covers from £69.99

Outboard Covers from £12.99

**WWW.COVEREDUP.CO.UK**

**Ebay Shop Boat-Covers-Direct**

Stoke Gabriel Post Office  
Paignton Road  
Stoke Gabriel  
Totnes  
Devon TQ9 6SE  
01803 782201

## Stoke Gabriel Concert Series in support of Dart Sailability

We are very lucky in Stoke Gabriel with the wide range of activities available to us. Every year Peter and Chrissie Johnson organise a series of concerts that allow us to enjoy a music spanning the classical composers - Mozart, Beethoven etc - to traditional jazz.

Each series supports a local charity and this year they are supporting Dart Sailability; an organisation well known to members of the SGBA. The concerts are held in the Church starting at 19:30 unless stated otherwise.

Season tickets are £30, available from Di Lugg, 782271, or Peter Johnson, 782669. Or £8 at the door. The ticket in includes a glass of wine in the interval. Under 16s get free entry.

- Sat 7th March: Amy Yuan Trio
- Sun 17th May: Tom Morris and Friends (5.00pm start)
- Wed 8th July: Susannah Austin
- Thur 8th Oct: Steve Banks String Quartet
- Sat 14th Nov: *Antiphon* - conducted by Matthew Cann

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