



Stoke Gabriel Boating Association

Promoting community participation in sailing, kayaking, canoeing and rowing

SGBA NEWS

September 2017

News from the Commodore

Autumn colours abound around our beautiful River Dart and in our peaceful village. So it must be time for another SGBA Newsletter.

There's a lot to report from the last three months, at the height of summer. Six Sunday sessions saw a good number of sailors young and old out on the river, but there was so much more too. Our Feva sailors brought a squad of their friends to Mill Point on Sunday 16 July for an Open Meeting of the South West Youth Sailing Academy. This brought 28 young helms from six clubs in Torbay and the South Hams (and some who made the long journey up from Restronguet near Falmouth) to race Fevas, Teras and Toppers. It was a great success and will become, I hope, a standing fixture in the SGBA's annual calendar of events.

Ashore, Roger Astley built a much-needed third toast-rack at Mill Point, which was quickly filled by eager owners of inflatables looking for a home. The big event ashore, though, was without doubt the return of THE MILLPOOL CHALLENGE to Stoke Gabriel Carnival, on Saturday 30 July. The SGBA played the leading role in this resurrection, with Nick Ager in charge and Neil Millward the manufacturer of the modular pallet run which was tried and enjoyed by so many. Nick brought the Friends of Stoke Gabriel School onboard to ensure enough hands on the day, and it worked to the benefit of both organisations. A duck race, Zorba Balls, a ducking stool and a raffle all

added to the fun. The Carnival Committee were thrilled to have the Challenge back and urge that it must not lapse again. Lesson learned – it won't!

During August club stalwart Peter Waite geared us up for an SGBA Yacht Rally to Newfoundland Cove, beyond Kingswear Castle – again resurrecting an event which was a regular in the SGBA calendar until recent years. There was a good deal of interest but in the event the weather was against us and the rally had to be cancelled. But the groundwork done will be useful for future years, when with more notice and better weather we will hopefully see another Rally come off.

There was an aspiration for a third re-launch too: to run Swallows and Amazons once again. This also used to feature in our Calendar until a few years ago. Aimed at 10 – 14 year olds, it took the form of a sailing / camping / fun and games outing over a summer weekend, staying close to Stoke but involving a degree of independence which used to appeal to many of the youngsters. Unfortunately we had no willing volunteer to organise and run it – but I hope that next year we'll do better. We have lots of experience and ideas to pass on to whoever would like to step forward.....

I am delighted that, with better luck, we ran a well supported Club Regatta this year, albeit rather pulled together at the last minute (we're all so busy!). See the report in this Newsletter on the fun we had on 16 Sept – even given no wind!

A couple of days before that, the Head of Stoke Gabriel School, Matthew Medd, and his staff brought three classes of children down to Mill Point as one event in the 'Outdoor Week' that Matthew had arranged for the start of term. Nick Ager (again) stepped up to the plate – he devised and ran a game of finding and interpreting a number of signal flags which he had placed in the vicinity of the clubhouse (one was on a navigation beacon in the Creek). The kids loved it. Well done again, Nick.

Add to all that our successful Junior and Adult Sailing Courses, and Powerboat Courses too, we can look back on a very positive summer of 2017 for the SGBA.

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Committee News

Resignations

During the summer three members left the Committee: Pam Page, social secretary; Bernard Cockfield, QM power; Mark Taylor, QM paddles. During their term of service they all contributed to the work of the Committee as well as spending much time and effort on their individual responsibilities. We ask all members to join the Committee in thanking them for all their efforts.



Pam Page



Bernard Cockfield



Mark Taylor

Now, we are all very busy - not just the Committee but the members of the Club in general - but we do need to fill these posts. If you are interested, give the Commodore a ring on 782744 or talk to any of the Committee members at a Sunday Sailing session or at one of the winter activities.

Don't be put off by thinking that the full weight of responsibility will fall immediately on your

shoulders; there are lots of people on the Committee with experience relating to the vacancies who will be only too happy to help.

Give it some thought please.

Quartermaster Sailing and Boat Park Officer

Luckily for us all River Lovejoy is still serving on the Committee in two roles as QM (Sail) and Boat Park Officer. As QM he works tirelessly behind the scenes to fix defects on our various dinghies, and check sails and fittings too. As Boat Park Officer he keeps the foreshore in order and sees that we make best use of the quarry area. Thank you River!

And having thanked River for all his hard work, here are a couple of notices from him,

From the Quartermaster Sailing

We have decided to buy some Stand Up Paddle Boards (SUP boards) for next year as they seem like a lot of fun and many members have asked about them. However which ones to buy? Long, short, wide, narrow, rigid, inflatable, Starboard or Red paddle Co, or..... brand. The choice is wide and my knowledge narrow.

So I need some help and would really like those of you with views on the subject to get in touch. If I was going to hand you someone else's money which ones would you buy?

Contact me on 07523 544986 (text is best) or email r.lovejoy@open.ac.uk

Following the decision to buy some SUP boards we have decided to discard most of our large collection of windsurfing equipment. We will be keeping one (currently in the clubhouse) for general use but there are masts, sails, fins and a range of other bits as well as boards all in variable condition. You are welcome to any of it for a small donation to club funds. To view or to get more info please contact me as above.

From the Boat Park Officer

Over the winter I will be renumbering all the berths, as the new Clubhouse and other changes have taken chunks out of the current number system. So next year those who have rented spaces will get a new number. Nobody will have to move unless they want to. Your boat will also get a tag with the berth number on it.

We will also be making more space for members to rent for kayaks, canoes and paddle boards.

Valentine's day 2014 was the last big blow and many boats ended up on top of each other or against the rock face. We may have another one this winter

It's the season of big tides, strong winds and rain. So please make sure your boat is tied to the chains and ropes, has a really good cover with a ridge pole/high bit, has its bung out so if the cover blows off it cannot fill with rain and break its back or its trolley. And ensure that the boat is tied to its trolley so when the boat floats off on the high tide the trolley goes with it.

Better still, if you can, take it home; otherwise, please check it every two weeks.



Our RYA connection

Anne Davis, our RYA Principal, explains the SGBA's relationship with the RYA

The RYA is the national governing body for sailing dinghies, keelboats and other sailcraft, and also powerboating. The SGBA is an RYA Recognised Training Centre (RTC).

What does this do for us?

It allows us to run formal courses using RYA qualified instructors. We can offer courses on the water and also theory courses, both to members and non-members.

Students receive RYA certificates of competence; this is a start to gaining sailing experience which is essential to build confidence on the water.

The teaching on our courses is currently lead by Senior Instructors Peter Joscelyne (Dinghy Sailing) and Ian House (Powerboat). All RTCs must have an RYA Principal, who is ultimately responsible for standards of teaching and facilities including safety on courses.

To qualify for our RTC status we have to adhere to demanding standards of teaching, facilities and safety; we are inspected each year to ensure that we comply.

At the moment we run junior and adult dinghy sailing courses and also Powerboat Level 2 (PB2), and Direct Assessment for PB2 for those helms who already have appropriate skills and simply need to acquire PB2 certification.

We are considering further courses next year, such as the RYA First Aid course and the Marine Radio Short Range Certificate.

We also hope to run Safety Boat courses. The range of skills taught is very detailed; if you've ever been involved in a real emergency on the water you will know how essential they are. If you have PB2, and carry out Safety Boat duties for the SGBA or elsewhere, please get Safety Boat qualified if you can- it's really valuable!

Our course fees are very competitive as we use the valued time and skills of volunteers such as course organisers, Safety Boat drivers, shore based helpers; and members of the Executive Committee whose responsibilities include care of the Safety and Training Boats and dinghies among the many tasks needed to run courses.

Courses will be advertised for 2018; but if you're keen to do any particular course - or you would like us to consider offering different teaching - or you would like to volunteer in any way (!) please do email Anne via the contact list on the SGBA website.



Sunshine, wind and lots of activity

Well, we did have some cloudy days but members have taken lots of pictures of people enjoying themselves in splendid conditions. Since the last Newsletter the Club has held its second Junior Sailing Course, another Adult Sailing Course and the annual Regatta.

Junior Sailing

The second course ran from the 26th to the 30th of July and once again we had eighteen kids out on the water enjoying themselves but learning lots at the same time. The course was coordinated by Sophie Lonsdale-Eccles aided by a troop of keen and efficient volunteers and the Club is truly grateful to all those who made it work so well.

And a special note of thanks to the superb Senior Instructor, Pete Joscelyne.



A cluster of Bugs



Two up in a Pico

Lots more pictures can be found on our Flickr page [here](#)



On the Water

Adult Sailing Courses

The first Adult Sailing Course of 2017 was so successful and oversubscribed that the Club organised a second course which took place in September. Once again we had expert instruction from Pete Joscelyne plus lots of help from several volunteers.

The Club intends to run further courses next year; details will appear on the web site.



Some groundwork to start.....

We now have courses for our junior members, 8 to 11 years, and our adult members, 20 plus years with no upper limit, but the Club is aware that there is nothing specifically organised for teenagers.

We are planning on a "teenagers' course" next year. Its format has yet to be decided; if you are interested please contact Anne Davis, RYA Principal, via the [contact page](#) on the website.



..... then on to the water



On the Water

SGBA Junior Open 2017

In 2016 the club hosted its first ever Open Race Event. Our gleaming new club house facilities and tranquil location were a real hit with visiting sailors and so by popular demand we staged a 2017 event on Sunday 16th July.

Supported by SWYSA (South West Youth Sailing Academy) the event was part of their summer traveller race series. Sailors came from clubs including Paignton, Babbacombe, Royal Dart, Salcombe and we even had a competitor from as far away as Restronguet Sailing Club on the Falmouth Estuary.

Dinghy classes competing were the RS Tera, Topper and the RS Feva. Thanks to Kieran and Roger (and his yacht!) for being able race officers, much needed as the fleets were competitive. Winds were light with some useful 'dart estuary' bending gusts that benefited the more attentive sailors.

Three races of approximately 30 minutes were staged on a triangular course. The results were based on a combined scoring system over all races with one 'discard'.



Fleet winners were:

TERA PRO	Evie Booth (Salcombe Sailing Club)
TERA SPORT	Will Meek (Salcombe Sailing Club)
TOPPER	Mark Ripley (Paignton Sailing Club)
FEVA (Training rig)	Ben Brown & Ryan Blackler (RDYC)
FEVA (XL Rig)	Max & Trixie Morrell (SGBA)

Prize giving and the ever popular Mill Point BBQ lunch followed the racing to complete a memorable day of which the SGBA and its members should be proud.

Highlight of the day must be Max and Trixie Morrell ripping up the Feva Fleet with amazing light wind boat speed! Thanks to all who supported the event and we look forward to the same in 2018.

Please note SWYSA is running an excellent value coaching programme for junior sailors (ages 10-15) this winter and it might not be too late to join. If you are interested please email Bex Partridge bex@swysa.org



The 'salmon village'-inspired trophies





The SGBA Regatta

It was a wet and almost windless day on Saturday 16 September but nonetheless a good number of sailors and spectators turned out for the SGBA Regatta that afternoon. 18 dinghies took part in two races, with a Senior and a Junior class in each race; a third race, for Bugs only, had to be abandoned when the wind finally died altogether.

The dinghy races were around a triangular course marked by the excellent buoys recently made by Roger Astley (which should serve the club well for many years). Dinghies of all sizes raced in the Senior class – Toppers, Lasers, Fevas, Wanderers and the Wayfarer, together with Tad Urbanowicz's Graduate. Toppers, Picos and Fevas raced in the Junior class. Guy's laptop was put to good use in working out the results, using PY handicaps. In both the Senior and the Junior classes, just a few seconds separated first and second places.



The date of the Regatta had been in the Events calendar in the Newsletters for many months, but perhaps buried a bit too deep. A flurry of publicity in the preceding fortnight brought forth a very satisfactory number of entries – and of volunteers to help run the event. Significant amongst these were Guy Gillmore, who acted as Race Officer, and Frank Vond, who made his PUFFIN available to act as the Committee Boat. All the competitors were grateful to these two, and the OOD and safety boats crews and all others involved either afloat or ashore, without whom the Regatta could not have taken place.





The Regatta Trophies

Peter Dingley-Brown is to be commended as the sole kayaker who turned up to enter the kayak races – a disappointing turnout from our paddling members. One competitor cannot make a race on his own, so special thanks to Mark Edwards who although a novice kayaker, there only to watch son Joseph in the sailing events, offered to enter a race against Peter and so save the day.



Winners of the double-handed Pico - Willow and Riley Sentance

The race was a long one: Mill Point – Langham woods – Pighole Point – Mill Point but the two finished within half a minute of each other.

The Regatta did not provide the only excitement that afternoon. Both safety boats, and many people ashore, were involved in rescuing an elderly couple who had capsized their small dinghy about 300 years downstream from Mill Point. Wet and cold, they were landed to the clubhouse where they were provided with hot showers, hot drinks, and dry clothes (special thanks to Barbara Deacon for providing those). Their swamped dinghy was bailed out on our foreshore. The grateful crew were later returned to their start point at Dittisham Sailing Club, and the dinghy too.

The Regatta concluded with a BBQ, when we looked back with satisfaction at an afternoon well spent. Prizewinners are listed below.

There will definitely be a Regatta in 2018, but would it be better in June or July than in September? And might different types of events be included – some just for fun? The Commodore would be interested in your views on this – so don't be shy, give Julian a call (01803 782744).

SGBA REGATTA 2016 – THE PRIZEWINNERS

Sailing Races (results are the aggregate of two races)

Senior Class

1st: Tadeusz Urbanowicz and his crew, sailing a Graduate

2nd: Nick Hardy, sailing a Feva

Junior Class

1st: Max and Trixi Morrell, sailing a Feva

2nd: Jacob Gillmore, sailing a Pico single-handed

1st Double-handed Pico: Willow and Riley Sentance

1st Topper: Joseph Edwards

The Kayak Endurance Race

1st: Peter Dingley-Brown, in a time of 35m 7sec

2nd: Mark Edwards, in a time of 35m 29sec.



12 months on the campaign trail

Albert Gillmore, aged 13, learnt to sail on the Dart at the SGBA and RDYC. Here he shares some news of his national and international exploits in the RS Tera Class.

In September 2016 I was selected to join the Class National Squad. This is a 6 weekend training camp in various locations across the country during the winter months. Apart from Hayling Island all the venues were inland waters including Draycote, Oxford and Northampton Reservoir. The squad sailors come from all over the country including Scotland and the Isle of Man but many come from the East Coast clubs and of course Hayling Island. We are coached by ex-champions and I learnt a load of new techniques.

This coaching prepared me for a busy summer of 2017 competing my Tera against some very fast sailors. Events included the Inland Championships in Rutland where I came 13th in class and the Nationals at Weymouth where I came 7th in class.

But the highlight was a week sailing in Carnac in Brittany for the World Championships. We decided to use it as an excuse for a family holiday and we drove to the venue via the ferry from Plymouth to Roscoff. The conditions were challenging with winds gusting 20 knots most days. The course was big and was set far out to sea so there was the added challenge of the swell, however I have learnt the technique of planing down the waves on the downwind legs. This technique can gain you lots of places particularly over the reservoir sailors who tend to be quick in the light wind conditions. My brother Freddie also competed in the Worlds in Carnac. Freddie did really well coming 10th in the PRO rig class. I finished 7th overall in the SPORT rig.



A forest of Tera sails at WPSA for the Tera Nationals



Albert planing the swell



On the Water

My final event this summer was the RYA zone champs in September. At last we didn't have to travel too far as it took place in Torbay. The fleet was small but the competition was intense and I managed to edge out my rival Will James from Paignton to win the championship. It was a happy ending to my time with the SPORT rig as I now step up to the fully battened PRO rig for the next 12 months which includes the special RS Anniversary Games in Weymouth next August which will incorporate the TERA World Championships....can't wait!



Freddie (green buoyancy) in the PRO fleet at The World Champs, Carnac, France



The Millpool Challenge

The Millpool Challenge

It's back again

After a break of several years the Millpool challenge was re-instated as part of the Village carnival programme. Thanks to the efforts of Neil Millward we had a brand new, and considerably safer, "pallet run" and Nick Ager aided by Rob Fisher organised the Ducking Stool, Zorba Balls, a duck race and a raffle. Lots of other members contributed in a variety of ways and the Club is truly grateful to them.



The Pallet Run



The Ducking Stool



SGBA Winter Activities

Thursday 16 November

"400 Years of Support to the Royal Navy at Plymouth". An illustrated talk by Cdr Charles Crichton RN. 7.30pm, The Old School Room, Stoke Gabriel. £2 with a glass of wine.

Sunday 10 December

SGBA Christmas Dinner at Emma's. Welcome drink at 6.30pm for 7pm. Bring your own wine for dinner. 32 places; book yours with Anne.

Saturday 6 January

A Sea Shanty Evening with The Nauti Buoys Shanty Band. Venue TBA

Thursday 11 January

"Trinity House". An illustrated talk by Rear Admiral David Snelson who sits on the TH Management Board. 7.30pm, The Old School Room, Stoke Gabriel. £2 with a glass of wine.

Thursday 15 February

"Scandinavian Summers: sailing in Northern waters". An illustrated talk by Anne Davis. 7.30pm, The Old School Room, Stoke Gabriel. £2 with a glass of wine.

Thursday 22 March

SGBA Spring Social Evening and Annual General Meeting. Come and meet your committee with drinks and nibbles. 7.30pm, Stoke Gabriel Village Hall.

Saturday 17 March

"Weather, Tides and getting out on the water". SGBA Clubhouse at 10am (time TBC). An interactive winter seminar lead by Nick Ager and Anne Davis. A 4 - 5 hour Saturday event with a sandwich lunch.

Saturday 14 April

Safety Boat Training Session. With videos. For any member who may get involved with rescue, especially those with or aiming for PB2. SGBA Clubhouse (time TBC).



SGBA Committee and Trustees

Committee

Commodore	Julian Williams	782744
Vice Commodore	Roger Stobart	782434
Secretary	Lesley Jenkins	782094
Treasurer	Andrew Morrell	01803 550066
Membership Secretary	Gaye Astley	782152
Quartermaster (sail) and Boat Park Officer	River Lovejoy	07523 544986 Text during office hours
Quartermaster (paddles) and Oars & Paddles Officer	Vacant	
Quartermaster (Power)	Vacant	
Sailing Secretary	Roger Astley	782152
Social Secretary	Vacant	
Facilities Officer	Georgina Foss	782018
Communications Officer	Geoffrey Pocock	782044
Junior Sailing	Vacant	
RYA Course Principal	Anne Davis	782235
Committee Member	Nick Ager	782234
Committee Member	Brian Deacon	782582
Assistants - not generally required at Committee meetings		
Lockers	Gaye Astley	782152
Bosun	Tom Morris	782702/07799 403788
Powerboat Chief Instructor	Vacant	
Legal	Anthony Prowse	782442
Independent Examiner	Peter Waite	

Trustees

Chairman	Neil Millward	782981
	Julian Williams	782744
	Robert Foster	782788
	John Bradbury	782012 / 782010
	Matthew Halkes	782063
	Roger Stobart	782434
	Anthony Showell	782940