



## Stoke Gabriel Boating Association

Promoting community participation in sailing, kayaking, canoeing and rowing

# SGBA NEWS

October 2016



## The new Clubhouse is officially open

The clubhouse was officially opened by Roger Jobson, Chairman RYA South West, on Saturday 10 September. More than 150 members and guests attended the ceremony, where they heard Mr Jobson congratulate everyone involved in the project and go on to encourage and enthuse all the club's younger members to become modern-day "Swallows and Amazons", and maybe even grow into Olympians one day. He unveiled a commemorative plaque and everyone toasted the Club's future with bubbly in souvenir tumblers before enjoying a celebration tea.

For those involved in the project, unveiling the plaque brought home just how much had been achieved in three years. The Club was helped enormously by a grant from Sport England of £67,500 which covered a quarter of the total cost. £14,875 was received from South Hams District Council, £7,500 from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and £1,000 from the Whirlwind Charitable Trust. But the most amazing thing is the £153,000 from the SGBA and its members.



*The Official Opening*

Not only did the membership dig deep into its pockets but many members literally dug deep into the ground to help build the Clubhouse. Many members gave up enormous amounts of their time to help: fundraising, digging trenches, painting, building steps, cladding the outside ..... the list is endless. These key workers and others right down to the child who gave up a week's pocket money to the building fund, all have their reward in the satisfaction of being part of a magnificent project.

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## Clubhouse Official Opening



Photographs by Eleanor Stobart

A complete set can be found at: [www.eleanorstobart.co.uk/sgba](http://www.eleanorstobart.co.uk/sgba) using the password sgba



## Barbeque and Jazz Band

# The first social event at the new Clubhouse

At the end of July the Club held a barbecue at the Clubhouse accompanied by the music of Sam Massey's Jazz Band.

We were fortunate to have excellent weather and over eighty members enjoyed a DIY barbecue. Although the Clubhouse itself has only limited catering facilities this was a good example of the opportunities that exist for making use of the Clubhouse for social events.





# Another close win for the SGBA



Dittisham at the wicket

The SGBA and the Dittisham Sailing Club played their annual cricket match on Middle Back on Sunday 18 September.

Confident of victory this year Dittisham turned up with fewer than eleven players but the generous members of the SGBA loaned them a few of our spares. We also allowed Dittisham to score as there had been protests last year that the SGBA scorer (John Bradbury) had left his spectacles behind.

The captains tossed and Dittisham elected to bat first. They made a steady start but some short bowling and skilled pitching of the ball into a puddle slowed the run rate. Frustrated by the SGBA's devilish work with the ball, Dittisham threw caution to the wind and wickets began to tumble as the SGBA held a series of magnificent catches. Their captain generously walked when caught by a spectator and the next man in was almost run out by a dog before slicing a leg cutter to fine leg where our Commodore had cunningly positioned himself for a catch.



Determined SGBA bowling .....



..... and equally determined Dittisham batting



## Middle Back Cricket

There were several appeals for run outs and stumpings but the Dittisham umpire and scorer declared such methods of dismissing a batsman underhand and not allowed.

Dittisham were all out for 19 runs and it was our turn to bat. We made very slow progress and reached 4 runs for 4 wickets; the tide was beginning to creep up the side of the bank; there were anxious faces at the tea table that was gradually sinking under the weight of cakes and buns. Was the SGBA going to lose or were we all going to be submerged before the end was reached?

No. Our worthy Commodore came to the wicket and was joined by the man from the press. Together they put on 8 runs before falling to some very lucky catches on the boundary. Only eight more runs needed and we got them with two wickets remaining. The winning run being scored by a very young member who was not a lot taller than the stumps.

Afterwards, we all gathered round the table for nourishment and conviviality until someone pointed out that there was very little left of Middle Back and we started to shuttle people back to land.



*The winning run*



*An SGBA member bowling for Dittisham*



*A lavish tea*



# The SGBA wins a prize at the Carnival

This year the Club entered a float in the Stoke Gabriel Carnival. With much industry, Anne Davis and Geoffrey Pocock aided and abetted by Anthony Showell, put a topper on a trailer with a jury-rigged mast and very realistic waves!

We were supported in the procession by an unruly mob of water pistol-toting pirates organised by Nick Ager and everyone was delighted to be awarded a third prize.



*The SGBA Carnival float*



*Proudly displaying our prize certificate*



## For Sale and Wanted

### Wanted

Peter Johnson wants a trailer for his Bonwitco 375.

Tel. 01803 782669

### Books written by Members

Nic Compton and a past Commodore of the SGBA, Tom Woodfield, have both recently published books that may be of interest to members.

#### **The Shipping Forecast: A Miscellany** by Nic Compton.

Published with Radio 4 and the Met Office, The Shipping Forecast is the official miscellany for seafarers and armchair travellers alike. It features fascinating facts alongside lyrics from Seamus Heaney, Carol Ann Duffy, Radiohead and more. From the places themselves – how they got their names, what's happened there through the ages – to the poems and parodies that it's inspired, this is a beautifully evocative tribute to one of Britain's – and Radio 4's – best-loved broadcasts.

#### **Polar Mariner: Beyond the Limits in Antarctica** by Captain Tom Woodfield.

Captain Woodfield made 20 seasonal voyages to the Antarctic on three research ships between 1955 and 1974. Starting as a Junior Deck Officer he worked for The Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey which in 1964 became the British Antarctic Survey. He played a paramount role in the gradual change from using under-powered and poorly-equipped ships to the professionally-managed and sophisticated vessels of his last command. The arts of exploration and survival during his early years in this majestic but unforgiving continent are described as attempts were made to establish research stations, support science, and survey in totally uncharted, ice-filled waters amidst often ferocious weather. Dramatic stories are featured such as the near loss of a ship in pack ice, the stranding of another in hurricane force winds and the collapse of an ice-cliff onto the vessel.

**Both are available from Amazon.**



## SGBA Committee and Trustees

### Committee

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